

May 2017

Buffalo United Methodist Church



If I Only Entertained Them*

by Bishop Laurie Haller

The spiritual practices of Lent have ended, Holy Week now seems far away, and the joy of Easter has moved into that season of the year when new life in nature is exploding all around us. But I'm still fixated on Easter, and the magnificent music of George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* lingers in my heart.

I had the opportunity to sing in the *Messiah* several times as a teenager, not to mention the dozens of times we've sung the Hallelujah Chorus in Easter services over the years. This Easter I worshipped at Old South Church in Boston, where each worshipper was given a white strip of cloth. Whenever the words "Alleluia" or "Hallelujah" were said or sung during the service, we were all asked to wave our white cloth in the air.

It was glorious, and the entire service was permeated with one hallelujah after another.

Huge streamers, waving cloths, a bagpiper, choir, organ, brass, call and response during the sermon, a time just for children, offering our gifts, blessing the marathon runners and each other. It was one huge God moment!

It also reminded me that we often use the word "liturgy" to talk about what we do in worship. Liturgy is how we order worship. Many churches have design teams that spend countless hours crafting multi-sensory and participatory worship meant to touch our hearts and invite us to be transformed.

Do you know what the word liturgy actually means? "Liturgy" comes from the Greek word, *leitourgia*, which we often translate as the "work of the people."

However, *leitourgia* literally means "an act of public service." So the liturgy of worship is not entertainment.

It is not something that worship leaders "do" on behalf of the congregation. Nor is liturgy designed simply to make us feel good. The liturgy of worship is meant to inspire us to be public servants. After all, in worship we are not the audience and God, the choir, band, preacher, or organist the actors. Rather, congregation members are the actors and God is the audience.

Could it be, then, that the future of our world begins right here, in our places of worship, where we do liturgy, which is actually public service? Could our future be activated when the gathered faith communities in Iowa, the United States, and every country in the world praise and glorify God so that creativity leads to renewal, which leads to justice, which leads to peace? For we are not here to be entertained by the preaching, drama, music, and prayers. We are here so that hearts touched and transformed through worship will share the good news in such a way that others will experience wholeness and be prompted to act justly in their own lives. . . .

**This is an excerpt from a recent blog posting by Rev. Haller, Bishop for the UMC's Iowa Conference. Near the end of her essay, Bishop Haller explains her choice of title: "At the first London performance of the Messiah in 1743, King George II stood up as soon as the Hallelujah Chorus began, thus beginning a 274-year tradition. When the performance was over, someone asked Handel, 'How does it feel to finally be a success?' He replied, 'I should be sorry if I only entertained them. I wish to make them better.' A link to the Bishop's weekly blogs, including the complete text of this essay, can be found on the "Connections" page of the Buffalo UMC website, buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com.*

Pastor Kathryn's Lending Library

As United Methodists, we come from a long legacy of readers. John Wesley was a lifelong reader and writer, and became one of the first big publishers of religious books in order to make them available to his followers. The circuit riders in Colonial America were renowned for carrying one saddlebag of personal clothing and one of books and hymnals. Not only were they the first preachers on the frontier, they were the first "bookmobiles." Cokesbury Publishing was one of the first projects that Methodists and Evangelicals started, and it is still in operation.

Recently we've all heard that books are dying out, that social media and the entertainment world are all anybody learns from. In truth, book selling has rebounded to new levels, and current research indicates that we *need* to read in order to learn new information and skills. It involves neural pathways that lead to greater retention. In other words, this particular older way is still the best.

The UMW has a Reading Program that encourage women to read selected books in certain areas:

- World missions
- Church History
- Spiritual Formation
- Bible Study
- Faith in Today's World.

I want to encourage everyone to do some religious reading this year. It is one of the spiritual disciplines, and is a great way to deepen your faith and your understanding of the Church. THIS IS NOT ONLY FOR WOMEN. One of our goals for the entire church this year is to improve in our spiritual disciplines, to grow our faith and our ability to share it with others.

I have selected some books that fit in these categories. They're from my personal library, but I am more than happy to share them. While I would ideally like to get them back, if they speak to you and are meaningful, I won't sweat it if I don't see them again. In other words, I'm prepared to lose them in order to reach a larger goal. These books are in a hot pink metal carryall in the meeting room. Please select one and stretch your mind and your faith a little bit. Some of them are even funny! If you don't see one that interests you, look on the bookshelves in my office. There is bound to be at least one that will intrigue you.

Happy Reading. Pastor Kathryn

Contemporary Writers/Experiences

- * Anne Lamott: *Stitches*
Help, Thanks, Wow
Plan B
- * Rachel Held Evans: *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*
Faith Unraveled
- * Barbara Brown Taylor: *Learning to Walk in the Dark*
- * Nadia Bolz-Weber: *Pastrix*
- * Jennifer Brownell: *Swim, Ride, Run, Breathe*

History

- * Richard Heitsenrater: *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*
- * John A. Nye: *Between the Rivers: A History of Iowa United Methodism*
- * Victoria Sweet: *God's Hotel*
- * Peter Marshall: *The Reformation*

World Missions

- * Bryan Doerries: *The Theater of War*
- * Bryan Bishop: *Boundless*
- * Austin Gutwein: *Take Your Best Shot*
- * Jonathan Katz: *The Big Truck That Went By*
- * Mike Slaughter: *Christmas is Not Your Birthday*

Bible Study

- * Timothy Botts: *Portraits of the Word*
- * Terence Fretheim: *About the Bible*
- * John Goldingay: *Exodus and Leviticus for Everyone*
- * Daniel Erlander: *Manna and Mercy*
- * Michael Coogan: *The Old Testament*

Spiritual Formation

- * Gary Neal Hansen: *Kneeling with Giants*
- * Stephen W. Smith: *Embracing Soul Care*
- * C. S. Lewis: *Mere Christianity*
- * Peter Traben Haas: *Centering Prayers*
- * Reuben Job: Listen: *Praying in a Noisy World*

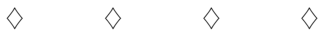
Rummage Sale – June 8 & 9

As you do your spring cleaning, please consider donating any unwanted treasures for the annual rummage sale. We have space to store donated items at church beginning in May. Hours for the sale will be Thursday (June 8) from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and Friday (June 9) from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Volunteers will be needed at all hours on both days. If you have questions, contact Chris Gochenouer at 363-5000.



Popping Corn at Garfield

The next popping date is Friday, May 19 at 8 am. Four volunteers are needed to open bags, bag the popcorn and deliver the ordered popcorn to the classrooms. This usually takes about 2 hours. If you are interested and would like to help, talk to the popcorn maker, Marlene Himes, or Chris Gochenouer (363-5000). Through March, \$466 has been donated to HACAP from popping corn.



Easter Treat Bags for Backpack Students

Thanks for the treats for 41 Operation Backpack students. The treats were appreciated, but . . .

Operation Back Pack Needs Funds

The Operation Back Pack program continues to grow every year. During this school year, 77 schools and 2700 students are being served weekly. The budget is \$450,000 but revenues are short \$135,000. While our monthly Garfield Popcorn Project helps with the cost of food, we will be collecting a special offering to help HACAP with expenses for the OBP program.

Buffalo UMC Board

Report on the April 19 Meeting

- New windows will be installed by Hometown Restyling some time in May on the east and west walls of the Sanctuary
- Tom Ferguson has volunteered to work on repair of the shed.
- The parking lot will be expanded and resurfaced in June, probably beginning the week after the Rummage Sale. In an effort to reduce the immediate runoff of rainwater to the city's storm sewers during heavy rains, two bioretention cells (similar to a rain garden) will be installed east and south of the parking lot on both sides of the entrance driveway. A substantial portion of the sidewalk along the church building will also be redone. Sustainable Landscapes Solutions (located in Coralville) will be responsible for overseeing this project. The city will help with the cost of the bioretention cells.
- Revenue from the Pancake Breakfast resulted in two \$400 donations to the RISE Program (rehabilitating newly released offenders) and the Ecumenical Center (which includes Compu-Place).

The next Administrative Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17.



Special Offering for May

Native American Ministries Sunday nurtures our mission programs with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians. A portion of this offering stays in Iowa for Iowa Conference Ministries with Native Americans.





Mission of Hope Tuesday, May 2

If you would like to serve the noon meal at the Mission of Hope, please contact Barb Crawford @ 378-4258. The Mission of Hope address is 1700 B Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

There is a box in the back of the sanctuary where you can place food items for the Mission of Hope. Please consider donating a box of cereal, a can of fruit or vegetables, or a bar of soap once a month to those in need. Monetary donations are needed to purchase the food served monthly and to pay for the Mission of Hope's operating costs. Checks can be made out to the Buffalo UMC and then a check will be sent to the MOH.



Golden Age Potluck

Come join us at the Buffalo UMC on Thursday, May 11, at 11:30 am for fellowship and good food. Bring a friend (or friends) and a dish to share. Place settings and beverages will be provided.

No potluck in June because of the Rummage sale.



United Methodist Women

Come join us Thursday, May 18, at 9:30 am. After a short business meeting Judy Hackney will share the program.

Buffalo UMC: Events for 2017

- June 8 & 9 – Rummage Sale
- July 15 – Ice Cream Supper, 4 – 7:00 pm
- October 14 – Fall Bazaar, 8 am – 3:00 pm
- October 29 – Trunk or Treat ,4 – 5:00 pm

Bertram UMC: Events for 2017

- August 19 – Bertram Homecoming; Bertram City Park
- August 20 – Worship in the Park; Bertram City Park
- October 14 – Fall Supper; Bertram Township Hall

Spring Gardening

The Buffalo Vegetable, Herb, and Flower Garden is beginning to emerge. Six raised beds for vegetables have been constructed and wood chip paths have been laid out around the five herb and flower beds. Two of the raised beds have been planted with peas, Swiss chard, radishes, and strawberries.

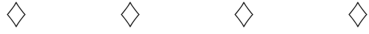
The remaining beds will soon become home to tomatoes, sweet peppers, cucumbers, carrots, beets, kale, and pole and bush beans (green, yellow wax, and purple French filet). Thanks to everyone who has provided volunteer labor, plants, and tools (including Gary Hackney's gift of a basket full of hand tools).

In the next three weeks we will be preparing the beds for native grasses and perennials along the north boundary of the church property. If you would like to help with this or any other gardening projects, please contact Bob Marrs. Bob hopes to establish the following times, weather permitting, for when he will be working on Buffalo garden projects: Tuesday mornings, 8:30-10:00 am and Thursday and Sunday afternoons, 4:00-5:30 pm.



An Amazing “Spring Fling”

Thanks to the following ladies who helped with the “Spring Fling”: Gloria Clinton, Sheryl Arnett, Nancy Carter, Marilyn Carpenter, Char Stanford, and Becky Durand. This is an event we look forward to every year. You ladies are the best!



Buffalo Church Website

Thanks to everyone who has been supporting the Buffalo Website, *buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com*. In recent weeks, the website has been averaging over 30 visitors per week., reasonable numbers for a congregation of our size.

If you have suggestions for improving the website or have any photographs or written pieces you think would be good candidates for the Bison Blog (or any other page on the website), please contact Bob Marrs.

Buffalo United Methodist Church
1000 30th St. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Save Hy-Vee Receipts and Box Tops for Education

Please continue to save receipts from Hy-Vee and Box Tops for Education. There is a glass jar in the church sanctuary for the receipts and Box Tops. Let’s fill it up!



New Buffalo Newsletter Banner

At the last Administrative Board Meeting, there was a brief discussion on creating a new banner for our Newsletter, one that might include a drawing of the church building. On the following Sunday, Judy Hackney delivers the new image--complete with church bell and street number--just in time for this current issue. Thanks, Judy.



Please submit June Newsletter items by Monday, May 22 to Bob Marrs (*rmarrs@coe.edu*).

May Calendar

May 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 11:00 am: Mission of Hope	3	4	5	6
7 8:45: Worship Service	8	9	10	11 11:30 am: Golden Age Potluck– Bring a Dish and a Friend	12	13
14 8:45: Worship Service Mother's Day	15	16	17 4:00 pm: Administrative Board Meeting	18 9:30 am: UMW	19 8:00 am: Popping Corn at Garfield	20
21 8:45: Worship Service	22 Submission Deadline for June Newsletter	23	24	25 NOOMA Bible Study	26	27
28 8:45: Worship Service	29 Memorial Day	30	31	Notes: The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Numbers 6:24-26		

May Birthdays

.1 - Judy Hackney
 3 - Don Durand
 6 - Bob Marrs
 7 - George Gochenouer
 Pat Ferguson
 Melissa Brown

22 - Marlene Glandorf
 29 - Larry Hartman

May Anniversaries

25 - Bobby & Andrea Kelley
 30 - Ward & Nancy Seufferlein