

Buffalo United Methodist Church

May 2019

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



Love Never Ends, For God is Love

Bishop Laurie Haller

You can travel in a way that brings people closer together and builds understanding, or you can travel in a way that exacerbates the differences between the rest of the world and us." Those words are from a 2011 interview with well-known travel writer and Christian, Rick Steves. I am writing this blog as I fly home from the Philippines after ten days of fruitful meetings, prayerful encounters, and transformative spiritual experiences. As a bishop, I am on the road more than I'd like to be, but every time I leave home for another adventure, I remember Steves' insight, "I believe in traveling as a way to get to know God's family. God made this great creation, and it's peopled with all sorts of interesting cultures and ways of life."

The purpose of this trip was to meet with representatives of various groups in The United Methodist Church around the creation of a General Book of Discipline. It is hoped that the GBOD will contain the essential beliefs and practices that apply to the entire denomination, leaving the other parts of our doctrine and polity able to be adapted to specific contexts.

What a beautiful experience it was to worship and dialogue with United Methodists from across the globe about what binds us together as people of faith with a common Wesleyan heritage. At the same time, we celebrated the uniqueness of different ethnic and spiritual traditions.

After several days of meetings in Manila, Gary and I had the opportunity to connect with United Methodists in different parts of the Philippines. In this and next week's blog, I hope to share with you the embodiment of a sign in the chancel area of a

United Methodist church high in the isolated mountains of northern Philippines, "Love Never Ends, for God is Love."

Everywhere we drove, we saw the familiar cross and flame of the United Methodist Church. The names of the churches were unique, among them Solid Rock UMC and Blessing UMC. What a wonderful sense of how our mission outreach extends to the far corners of the earth!

It also reminded me of a favorite travel quote from Maya Angelou, "Perhaps travel cannot prevent bigotry, but by demonstrating that all peoples cry, laugh, eat, worry, and die, it can introduce the idea that if we try and understand each other, we may even become friends."

Methodism was introduced to the Philippines after the Spanish-American War and the beginning of US colonial administration. The first Methodist Episcopal worship service was held on August 28, 1898 for US soldiers. United Methodism has grown over the years because of the commitment of Filipinos to evangelism and church growth. Other areas of Southeast Asia are home to autonomous Methodist churches.

Today, there are approximately 1,400 churches in three episcopal areas in the Philippines, led by Bishop Peter Torio, Bishop Rudy Juan, and Bishop Ciriaco Francisco. Within the three episcopal areas, which include seven thousand islands and fifty language groups, there are twenty-four annual conferences. . . .

At a time when many United Methodists wonder whether we can possibly stay together after the result of the 2019 General Conference, traveling to the Philippines has given me new eyes to see that we are

more alike than different. We have the same hopes and dreams for our children across the globe, and we have the same desire to make a difference by exhibiting charity (caritas) toward one another by singing, praying, working, laughing, and worshipping together as one body in Christ.

It's all quite simple, isn't it? Get to know God's family by loving God and your neighbor. There is no other commandment greater than these (Mark 12:28-31). *Love Never Ends, for God is Love.*

[The Bishop's complete April 1 posting can be found on her blog *Leading from the Heart.*]

Annual Rummage Sale

As you are doing your spring cleaning, please save "stuff" for the annual church sale on Thursday, June 6 (8 am to 5 pm) and Friday, June 7 (8 am to 1 pm). Donated objects can include—but need not be limited to—the following:

- Wedding gifts you received but have never used.
- Invaluable belongings residing in your attic for the last 23 years.
- Cooking utensils for baked goods you will never bake.
- 90% of all your Christmas decorations.
- Your complete set of Louis Amour western novels.
- Your priceless autographed John Wayne photograph.
- Any object in your home that requires frequent dusting.

Items for the mini-bake sale will be particularly appreciated because the baked goods disappear quickly. We will serve a hot dog lunch for both days. Donations of chips, hot dogs, buns, veggies, fruit, bars, or cookies are appreciated. Invite your neighbors to come join us for lunch and buy everything that was once in your attic.

United Methodist Women

On Thursday, May 16 at 9:30 am in Buffalo's Meeting Room, we will join together in fellowship. Following a short business meeting, the program will be provided by Rose White. Becky Durand will provide the treats. We are also planning to donate \$50 towards Pictured Rock Camp near Monticello.

Progress on Outdoor Worship Center

At the March 2019 Administrative Board Meeting, the Marion sculptor Cara Briggs Farmer gave a presentation on her design for an outdoor worship center. She brought a scale model of her proposal, which can be seen in the church's meeting room. The design features stylized prairie grass and a Gothic window based on the stained glass windows in the Old Buffalo Church. The steel structure will be anchored on a concrete slab. In order to reduce costs, the previously discussed fire pit was not included in this current design.

Kara quoted a cost of \$4,000 for the structure, which will be covered by a memorial gift from the estate of Rev. Samuel Hahn, one of Buffalo's previous pastors. Kara indicated she would not expect any reimbursement for her assistance when it came time to install the structure. A permit from the city will not be needed.

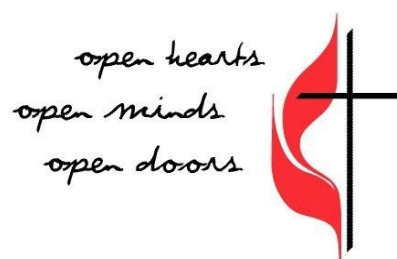
Discussion focused on such issues as the construction time line. Judy Hackney moved that we accept Kara's proposal as described. The Trustees were empowered to give final approval and authorize construction upon receipt of a written copy of the proposal (which has since been received and approved). The worship center will be located under the large oak southwest of the sanctuary. If all goes well the installation will occur during the summer.

UMC Special Offering in May

Native American Ministries Sunday nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.

Neighborhood Potluck

Join us for the monthly potluck on Thursday, May 9 at 11:30 am. There is always plenty of delicious food and lots of enlightening conversations. Place settings and beverages are provided.



May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light.</i> ~Luke 11:33</p>			1	2	3	4
5 8:45 am: Worship Service Communion Sunday	6	7	8	9 11:30 am: Neighborhood Potluck	10	11
12 8:45 am: Worship Service Mother's Day	13 9:00 am: Clean Church	14	15 4:00 pm: Admin. Board Meeting	16 9:00 am: UMW	17	18
19 8:45 am: Worship Service Pastor Kathryn celebration after service	20	21	22	23	24 8:00 am: Popping Corn at Garfield	25
26 8:45 am: Worship Service	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30 Ascension of Jesus	31	The first day of June

May Birthdays

1 – Judy Hackney
6 – Bob Marrs
7 – George Gochenouer
7 – Pat Ferguson
7 - Melissa Brown
9 – Erin Terrill
22 – Marlene Glandorf
29 – Larry Hartmann

May Anniversaries

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

Do You Know A Young Gardener?

One motivation for starting Buffalo's small vegetable and herb garden was the hope that one or more young people might want to gain some first-hand gardening experience—which could include both the pleasures of preparation and the joys of harvesting. If you know a youngster willing to spend a few hours planting, weeding, composting, and eating fresh items from the garden, please have the youngster and/or a family member get in contact with Bob Marrs (email: rmarrs@coe.edu; home phone: 362-9494).

GOD almighty first planted a garden: and indeed it is the purest of human pleasures. It is the greatest refreshment of the spirits of man; without which, buildings or palaces are but gross handy-works. . . ."

~Francis Bacon, from his essay "Of Gardens" (1625)

Buffalo UMC Events for May 2019

- May 7: Assisting Bertram UMC with preparation and serving lunch at Mission of Hope
- May 9: Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 am)
- May 13: Spic 'n Span Church Cleaning Crew (9 am)
- May 15: Administrative Board Meeting (4 pm)
- May 16: UMW Meeting (9:30 am)
- May 19: Celebrating Pastor Kathryn's graduation (immediately following Sunday Morning Worship Service)
- May 24: Popping corn at Garfield (8 am); profits to HACAP for the backpack program

Pastor Kathryn's Office Hours
Every Thursday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Phone: 319-389-3187

Annual Ladies Lunch

One Huge Thank You to Sheryl Arnett, Marlee Carpenter, Nancy Carter, Gloria Clinton, and Becky Durand for the delicious lunch. We were reminded, as Women of Faith, of our role in taking care of the land and the church. We need to continue planting "seeds" every day--our mission here on earth. Over 50 guests attended, and \$306 was donated to the church kitchen fund.

Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale

Thanks to everyone who helped at the breakfast, provided baked goods, and came to eat pancakes. After the bills are paid, our profit (probably under \$100,000) will be donated to the Linn Community Food Bank and HACAP.

Future Messages on Buffalo's Electronic Sign?

- Under the same management for more than 2,000 years.
- Prophecy class cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.
- God didn't create anything without purpose, but mosquitoes do come close.
- What happens in Vegas is forgiven here.
- iPod? iPad? Try iPray. God is listening.
- If your life stinks, we have a pew for you.

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