



Buffalo United Methodist Church

May 2021

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



To the Members and Friends of Buffalo United Methodist Church

In our Sunday morning worship service on April 25, Judy Hackney announced that I will be assigned to the two point charge of Anamosa and Monticello, beginning on July 1, 2021. This decision was made with the help of Rev. Moody Colorado (our district superintendent), the cabinet, and Bishop Laurie Haller. While Anamosa has previously been a full-time appointment, they are dropping to half-time following Annual Conference. Monticello is historically a yoked parish of the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ, and it's the Methodist's turn to supply a minister. The Anamosa church is supplying a parsonage, which is in a lovely subdivision in Anamosa.

This represents an opportunity for me to move to full-time work as a pastor (no more food service jobs in the secular world!) and is the culmination of my hopes and dreams since beginning seminary in 2013. I am excited, nervous, expectant, and already in prayer for the new laity with whom I will be working.

I hope that I have learned my lessons well under your cheerful and faithful tutelage, and that my experiences at Buffalo will enrich my ministry with those two congregations.

It also marks an obvious end to my responsibilities for my mother and her home. Previously, a full-time position was not realistic. You may continue to see me here in Cedar Rapids. This is the closest "big town" for both Anamosa and Monticello, and my three "grandbabies" are still located here. Also, I have no way of knowing how long my mother's home will be on the market.

While I will no longer be your pastor, I have great faith in the United Methodist system, and I encourage you not to undersell yourselves. You all are one of the sturdiest, most self-sufficient congregations that I have ever seen, and you serve Christ with joyful and giving hearts. I think the phrase that applies is "Small, but Mighty." You deserve the very best.

I want to thank you all for the many kindnesses and the patience that you have shown me in my first venture as a pastor. It's harder than it looks! With my mother's death, the pandemic, and self-isolating, this has been a challenging 18-month period. I ask for your continued prayers as I adjust to the changes in the coming months. I will miss each one of you, but change is a fact of life in the United Methodist Church. While ministers may come and go, the congregation retains its personality and strength.

With love and abiding faith in our work together,
~Pastor Kathryn A. Newhall

*"May the Lord of peace himself
give you peace always in every way.
The Lord be with all of you."
2nd Thessalonians 3:16
Common English Bible*

Buffalo UMC's Mission Statement
**A welcoming fellowship
reaching out and caring for the
community.**

B145 Committee Report to Administrative Board

At the Administrative Board meeting on April 21, an ad hoc committee submitted a proposal for a 145th Buffalo Anniversary Celebration in August. The Board approved these committee recommendations:

- Dates for the celebration: Saturday, August 14 and Sunday, August 15
- Proposed Saturday activities:
 - An outdoor camp meeting and hymn sing in the 5:00 to 8:00 pm time frame. The service would include reflections on the anniversary of the August 10 derecho and a dedication ceremony of the Hahn Memorial.
 - There would be no meal but the event would include summer-time refreshments (e.g., ice cream, popsicles, cookies, anniversary cake, watermelon, lemonade, and other drinks).
- Proposed Sunday activities:
 - The Sunday morning worship service would begin at 10:30 am, followed by a catered lunch.
 - Sunday afternoon activities might include a clown making balloon animals, musical entertainment, fire and police department representatives, drumming by the First Nations Community, etc.
 - At 2:00 pm the dedication of a Labyrinth in memory of Buffalo congregants who have passed away in the last five years. This would be a short service with songs, prayers, and recognition for individuals being honored.
- Special items for the celebration might include Buffalo fans, pens, and a professionally designed brochure the church could use for several years.
- Estimation of expenses for the celebration is \$5,000. While some funding can come from Buffalo's memorial fund, we will need substantial financial donations to cover such expenses as catered luncheon, tent rental, Saturday evening refreshments, new church brochure, mailing "Save-the-Date" post cards, etc.
- We will need volunteers to cover many responsibilities, including:
 - Everyone inviting friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers, etc to join us for this celebration.
 - Communicating with musicians, entertainers, fire department, police department, First Nations Community.
 - Helping bake cookies, prepare refreshments, serve meals, etc.

--Advertising the event (newspaper ads, communications with other organizations we support, posters, whatever it takes to "get out" the word).

- Preparing "Save-the-Date" postcards and inviting guests via phone, email, letter, and in-person.
- Helping with three services (Saturday evening camp meeting, Sunday morning church service, and Sunday afternoon Labyrinth service).
- Hiring a photographer and insuring we have a good visual record of all events.
- Making arrangements for renting tents; this may involve picking up, assembling, taking down, and returning tents.

Drawing of the proposed Buffalo Labyrinth to be located in the northwest corner of the church property. The design is based on the labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France.



250 Free Strawberry Plants

Buffalo's strawberry bed started with 12 plants; we now have 250 extras and they are all free. These Junebearing, self-pollinating, Flavorfest strawberries, developed at the University of Maryland, produce high yields of large, plump, juicy fruit. They have excellent flavor, excellent disease resistance, and are great to eat fresh or in fancy desserts. Once established, they are very tough, drought-resistant, unfazed by Iowa winters. A nursery would typically sell 25 Flavorfest for \$15-20, so 250 plants for less than a dime is a pretty darn good deal. If you would like between two and 250 free strawberry plants, contact Bob Marrs (email rmarrs@coe.edu; home phone 319-362-9494); he will be glad to dig them up and bag them for pickup at your convenience.

United Methodist Women

The next UMW meeting will be at 9:30 am on Thursday, May 20. Rose White will provide the lesson. RADA cutlery items are still available for purchase; contact Barb Crawford (826-2468) or Marlene Himes (393-3374) if you have questions about remaining items or you want to purchase all the remaining stock and set up your own business.

May 2021

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
2 8:45 am Worship Service	3	4	5	6	7	1 & 8 May Day
9 Mother's Day 8:45 am Worship Service	10	11	12	13 Ascension Day of Jesus Christ	14	15
16 8:45 am Worship Service	17	18 Cookie donation for First Nations due tomorrow	19 Administrative Board Meeting (10:00 am)	20 UMW Meeting (9:30 am)	21	22
23 Pentecost 8:45 am Worship Service	24 Wesley's Aldersgate Experience (1738)	25	26 Church Cleaning (9:00 am)	27	28	29
30 Trinity Sunday 8:45 am Worship Service	31 Memorial Day (i.e., Decoration Day)	For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead. - James 2:26				

May Birthdays: 1 – Judy Hackney 7 – Pat Ferguson 9 – Erin Terrill 29 – Larry Hartmann

Wedding Anniversaries: 25 – Bobby & Andrea Kelley 30 – Ward & Nancy Seufferlein

The Buffalo Gals

Spic & Span Church Cleaning Committee

The Gals (and their Guys) will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 26. No prior training is necessary.

May's Noisy Offering

Our Noisy Offering for May will be to support mission efforts with Native Americans and provide scholarships for United Methodist Native American Seminars.

Summer Rummage Sale

The dates are Thursday, June 10 (8:00 am to 4 pm) and Friday, June 11 (8:00 am to 1 pm). Donations for the sale are appreciated. No large items or electronics.

Baked Goods

Baked items for the First Nations community food baskets should be brought to the church by noon on Wednesday, May 19. Please put six to eight cookies in a package and label the kind of cookies on the package. Diabetic baked goods are appreciated.

Kudos and Celebrations

- To Marlene Himes and Becky Durand for vacuuming the church and sanitizing the bathrooms on Saturdays.
- To Hep Hentrich for donating a new microphone for the pastor to use during worship services.
- To church members returning for the Sunday morning worship service. We look forward to seeing more new and familiar faces.

Administrative Board Meeting

Highlights of issues addressed at the Board's two-hour meeting on April 21:

- The Board approved a revised Church Rental Policy. The church fellowship hall and kitchen are available to church members at no charge, but a donation for utility bills is appreciated. Non-members wishing to reserve the facility will be asked to provide two checks: a \$50 church rental fee and a \$50 damage fee to be returned if no damages are identified. The Board is responsible for approving church rentals.
- The Board approved the 145th anniversary celebration for August 14 & 15. It is estimated the event may cost about \$5,000. Some expenses will be covered by the Memorial Fund, but this event will require substantial financial support from the congregation.
- The dates for the Rummage Sale were set for Thursday, June 10 and Friday, June 11.
- There was a lengthy discussion of the importance of the church's sound system being ready for use prior to the beginning of Sunday morning worship services. Hep volunteered to train people in the proper operation of the equipment.

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- The Board addressed the need for improved communication involving the Pastor, the Board members, and the congregation. It was suggested the congregation renew the practice of providing a form where people can offer ideas and recommendations for improving our church services.
- The church needs a new computer to operate the electronic sign. Pastor Kathryn offered to donate a laptop computer she no longer needs.
- The Board authorized an inventory of the pew Bibles. In order for everyone in the congregation to follow the scripture readings, it was suggested we purchase new Bibles with a common, modern translation. Pastor Kathryn recommended two candidates: the Common English Bible and the New Revised Standard Version.
- The Board discussed repairing the damaged playground fence. If the reinstallation cost appears too high, the Board may decide to return the \$800 that was received from the insurance company for repair of the fence.

