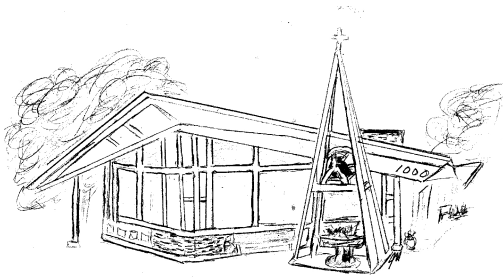


Buffalo United Methodist Church



May 2018

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa



And So Shall We

by Bishop Laurie Haller

It was a part of every membership inquiry class in twenty-eight years of pastoring United Methodist churches. I would pass out a copy of the Social Principles to each person, and we would go through it together. Oh, how spirited the discussions were!

I decided to become a United Methodist as a young adult in part because I loved John Wesley's insistence that the social aspect of holiness is essential to the Christian faith. In the Preface of Wesley's *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1739), he writes, "Solitary religion is not to be found there. 'Holy Solitaries' is a phrase no more consistent with the gospel than Holy Adulterers. The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love, is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection."

My intent in spending time with the Social Principles was strategic. I wanted those who felt led to become part of United Methodism to understand our roots in both evangelical piety and a passion for imitating Jesus by "preaching good news to the poor, proclaiming release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, liberating the oppressed, and proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

Many times, I would remind participants that United Methodism strives to be a theologically, economically, socially, and spiritually diverse denomination that welcomes people from all walks of life. More than once I used George W. Bush and Hillary Clinton as examples of how United Methodists can belong to different political parties and still claim a common Wesleyan spiritual heritage. Of course, we didn't always agree with one another, but, time and again, I heard these words, "I want to be part of a church that wrestles with integrity about difficult issues, encourages people to come to their own decisions, and honors differences while remaining united in mission."

[After noting that the "Social Principles is one of United Methodism's greatest gifts to Christianity," Haller summarizes the historical evolution of Methodism's Social Creed and highlights passages in a proposed revision of the Social Principles being considered by the General Board of Church and Society. Haller's complete text, posted on April 23, is available on her blog, <http://www.lauriehaller.org/and-so-shall-we/>]



A Column of Thank You's

Annual Spring Fling

Thanks to Sheryl Arnett, Marlee Carpenter, Nancy Carter, Gloria Clinton and Becky Durand for a delicious lunch and a timely reminder about the Christmas Story and what it means to us all year through! More than 50 ladies attended the event, producing a donation of \$324 to the church kitchen fund. The Linn Community Food Bank received four boxes of food items and over \$200.

Justice for Our Neighbors

"She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. . . ." (Proverbs 31:20)

Thank you so much for reaching out to the "poor and needy." It is always moving to see how people in the community are so willing to prepare a meal for Justice for our Neighbors. It unites us as neighbors and as brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for sharing this delicious meal! ~Margaret Nelson

Rose Studt Family

Thank you to everyone involved in preparing the fantastic meal following our mother's service. The service was excellent and our mother was proud to have been a member of the church. [Our families] would personally like to thank you for the donation to the church in our mother's name. She will be greatly missed, but she's in our hearts and minds every day. Thanks again. Dennis, Terry, & Keven Studt

Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale

Many, many, many compliments were received about the breakfast and baked goods. THANKS to everyone for their support. We will send \$200 to the Africa University Scholarship fund and provide up to \$500 so David Seufferlein can participate in the youth mission trip to Houston, Texas.

Administrative Board Minutes

April 18, 2018

- **Trustees Report.** Marlene said the boiler inspector had come and although there is a small drip, everything is ok. The termite inspector will be here on April 26.
- **Window Blinds.** The cordless blinds have been ordered from The Blind Factory and will be installed in 2-4 weeks.
- **No Smoking.** Nancy has made the signs, and Gary was assigned the responsibility of getting them up.
- **Little Free Library.** Bob spoke with Todd Tomkins of TNT Woodworking in Iowa City about constructing an LFL for Buffalo. Todd is working on a design for a library that would resemble the Old Buffalo building on Blairs Ferry.
- **Recruiting.** There was a lengthy discussion concerning strategies for increasing our church membership. Things we now do include (1) taking "Welcome Bags" to new residents when a home is sold in the area; (2) organizing and advertising such events as the Pancake Breakfast, Annual Yard Sale, Ice Cream Supper, Fall Bazaar, and Trunk or Treat; (3) participating in the Neighbors Night Out project. Our special events are well attended, but attendance at these events has not translated into attendance on Sunday morning.

It was noted that we need to listen to God as the guiding spirit for our actions. We need to recognize and use our strengths to inform our outreach efforts. There was some discussion of developing new activities (such as short-term Sunday School classes) which might appeal to non-members. Pastor Kathryn recommended beginning discernment on an individual level by reading passages in the New Testament (such as the book of Acts, Ephesians, and Colossians) which focus on efforts in starting the first Christian churches.

Golden Age Potluck

On Thursday, May 10, at 11:30 am, join us for fellowship and good food. Place settings and beverages will be provided. Because of the rummage sale, there will be no June Potluck.

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Special Offering in May Native American Ministries Sunday nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians. One half of the offering stays in Iowa for Iowa Conference Ministries with Native Americans.		1 May Day Mission of Hope: 11:30 am	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Golden Age Potluck: 11:30 am	11 Popping Corn at Garfield: 8:00 am	12
13 Mother's Day	14 Clean Church: 9:00 am	15	16 Administrative Board: 4:00 pm	17 UMW Meeting: 9:00 am	18	19
20	21 Submission Due Date for June Newsletter	22	23	24 NOOMA Bible Study: 9:00 am	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31	<i>You can safely assume that you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do. -Anne Lamott</i>	

May Birthdays

1 – Judy Hackney
 3 - Don Durand
 6 – Bob Marrs
 7 – George Gochenouer

7 – Pat Ferguson
 7 - Melissa Brown
 22 – Marlene Glandorf
 29 – Larry Hartmann

Anniversaries

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

Important Dates on Buffalo's Horizon

April 30: Alexander Technique (Individual Sessions with Margie)
May 16: Administrative Board Meeting (4:00 pm)
May 17: UMW (9:30 am)
June 5: Election/voting at BUMC
June 14: Yard Sale with lunch (8:00 am-5:00 pm)
June 15: Yard Sale with lunch (8:00 am-1:00 pm)
August 4: Ice Cream Supper (4:00-7:00 pm)
October 13: Fall Bazaar (8:00 am-3:00 pm)
October 28: Trunk or Treat (4:00-5:00 pm)

United Methodist Women

Come join us on Thursday, May 17 at 9:30 am for a brief business meeting and a lesson. Pastor Kathryn will provide the program and treats. We look forward to the lesson and fellowship!

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Annual Rummage Sale in June

As you are doing your spring cleaning, please save unwanted items for the sale on Thursday, June 14, and Friday, June 15. No televisions, computers, or bulky items, but white elephants are welcome. We plan to serve a hot dog lunch both days for a donation. Donations of baked goods--always appreciated--will be sold at the sale and as part of the daily lunch.

Primary Election, June 5

A table will be set up for baked items during the election hours at church on Tuesday, June 5. This is an easy way to help finance potential church projects, such as the removal of a tree on 30th Street, construction of the Little Free Library, and assistance with various garden/landscaping projects.

