

**Buffalo Church  
Timeline**

**The United  
Methodist Years**

**1968-2016**

**1969:** The spring and early summer were unusually wet. On a Friday in the middle of July, water started coming into the Buffalo church basement. The next morning, Marlene Himes reported the water was two feet deep. Arrangements were made to rent a sump pump. Larry Isaacs, who was renting the parsonage, assisted in obtaining the equipment and pumping out the water from the basement. That Sunday morning there were still two inches of water in the basement and the Sunday School was cancelled.

**1970:** New restrooms were installed at Buffalo, made possible by money bequeathed by Mrs. Orval Quaas. Paul Pate was chief carpenter and Fred Himes the plumber.

**1971:** In June, Rev. Wilber Truscheim became Buffalo's new pastor, accompanied by his wife Marilyn and infant son Stephen.

**1974:** A mini-100th Celebration was held, honoring Rev. William Kolb, the first circuit rider preaching to the people of Monroe Township. Music for that celebration was provided by several performers, including the Buffalo Jills (Marlene Himes, Dawn Himes, Sheryl Weis, Marylou Stepanek, Marilyn Trusheim, and Franny Witt).

**1976:** At the time of Buffalo's centennial, the church had 54 members. The membership list included Esther Bizek; Mystle Blair; Russell and Lenore Elson; Forrest and Doris Groat; Fred, Marlene, Dawn, and Vince Fredrick Himes; Samuel and Gladys Miller; Jerry and Helen Morris; Paul, Velma, Daniel, and Donald Pate; Dean and Sandra Rundall; Eldon Schrimper; Leula Stevenson; Roy and Verna Tull; John and Aloe Waterbury; Hugh, Neva, Sheryl, and Dean Weis; and Francis Witt

**1978:** In October the District Superintendent sent a hand-written letter to Rev. Max Hall indicating the District Board authorized the Buffalo congregation, contingent upon a vote of the congregation, to purchase a parcel of land adjoining the property to the south and west at a cost of approximately \$20,000.

**1981:** Rev. Gilbert Dawes, who had been serving the United Methodist Church at Camanche, was appointed as the new pastor for Buffalo and Faith, two churches in the Evangelical United Brethren tradition. He replaced Rev. Max Hall, who had been experiencing major health problems and was unable to continue his pastoral duties. Rev. Dawes had already established a reputation as a controversial pastor when he openly supported strikers at the Clinton Corn Processing Company and opened the doors of his church in Comanche to the Communist activist Angela Davis. His appointment resulted in an article in the *Gazette* on the arrival in Cedar Rapids of "liberation theology." Here is an excerpt from the *Gazette* article, written by Sandra VanAmburg, a *Gazette* staff writer.

*God has revealed himself in history for thousands of years as being concerned with downtrodden people, Dawes said [in a telephone interview]. "You can see it in the freeing of the slaves in Egypt. . . the words of the prophets to the people . . . in the teachings of Jesus."*

*Dawes takes Jesus' words in Luke 4:18 to heart: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he*

*has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed. . ."*

*Dawes intends to continue practicing "liberation theory" in Cedar Rapids.*

*"I don't think there's any way we can claim to be Christian and not be concerned about what is happening to our brothers and sisters," he said.*

**1982:** A rummage sale was held in conjunction with Faith UMC to help fund the purchase of a new 16 mm. projector to show films for the Youth Fellowship (started by Rev. Dawes in '81). Over \$600 was raised from the sale, and there was support for making the rummage sale an annual event.

**1989:** A new United Methodist Hymnal was published.

**1990s:** The following pastors served at Buffalo in the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century:

Gilbert Dawes (1982-1993)

Marcia Acord (1993-1997) Buffalo's first female pastor.

David Wise (1997-1998)

Marilyn Buchanan (1998-2012) Pastor Buchanan's 14 years is the longest time of service for any minister at Buffalo.

**1996:** October 26 issue of Cedar Rapids *Gazette* published an article focusing on second-career seminar students, noting the average age of students at U.S. theological seminaries was 32. One example of such a student was Marsha Acord, a social worker for over ten years who chose to become a United Methodist pastor. Here is an excerpt from the article:

*Acord said she chose social work as her first career because she likes to work with people and wanted to make a difference.*

*By age 33, the social worker wanted to become social healer, looking at the whole community, not just individual families.*

*The ministry, Acord said, was the natural step for her.*

*She entered UD [University of Dubuque] seminar, commuting between home in Mount Vernon and school in Dubuque.*

*She had three young children then. Her husband, Bob Campagna, is a free-lance photographer.*

*For five years, the family made do without her steady second income. Bob took over with the children, the youngest one in preschool. Campagna was the only dad at playgroups. He cooked. He did the laundry.*

*Campagna saw it coming. Ministry was mentioned once before the couple married and he said fine.*

*"It wasn't a thunderbolt," said Campagna, who is Catholic. "It was in process."*

*And he supported her. "I felt that she had a calling and a gift, and if you have it, you ought to try it," Campagna said.*

*The transition was still a daily crunch. "It took a lot of people to get me to seminary every day," Acord said.*

**1998:** The officers for the United Method Women in 1998:

President: Marlene Himes  
Vice-President: Chris Gochenouer  
Secretary: Mary Lou McGrew  
Treasurer: Verna Cartano  
Nominations: Betty Desotel  
Secretary of Planning & Spiritual Growth: Mary Fredericksen  
Education & Interpretation: Judy Hackney  
Social Action: Joan Patterson  
Membership Nurture & Outreach: Mystle Blair

UMW received the District's 5 Star Award.

**2001:** At the January meeting the UMW committed the group to producing 18 Ingathering Kits per year: 6 Dorm, 6 Health, and 6 School Kits. Verna Cartano would serve as coordinator for this activity. Individuals who wanted to produce a sewing kit could do so on their own. Verna would also continue to be responsible for selling Rada Knives as a UMW project.

**2007:** Buffalo UMW members agreed to provide the following pies for a fall supper at Bertram: 3 apple, 2 blueberry, 1 coconut cream, 1 raisin, 1 mince meat, 2 peach, 3 cherry, 2 pecan, and 2 pumpkin.

Judy Hackney's childhood church in northwest Iowa donated to Buffalo a Lowry organ (valued at \$12,000). Buffalo was to pick up the organ in February, "preferably in a covered vehicle."

**2010:** Buffalo congregants who passed away during the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century:

Mystle I. Blair (February 28, 2000)  
Russell Elson (b: 1913; d: June 8, 2001)  
Lenora V. Elson (b: 1914; d: February 4, 2003)  
Harold Lee Nost (b: October 21, 1912; d: January 17, 2003)  
Patricia Fish (b: March 2, 1942; d: April 9, 2004)  
Neva (Geneva) Reed Weis (b: August 26, 1922; d: October 17, 2004)  
Esther H. Bizek (b: August 31, 1915; d: August 18, 2005)  
Lloyd L. Mentzer (b: February 11, 1923; d: December 14, 2005)  
Hazel Darlene Mentzer (b: September 8, 1922; d: April 3, 2006)  
Aloe Waterbury (b: September 10, 1915; d: June 8, 2006)  
Richard Lee "Dick" Fredericksen (b: July 2, 1936; d: November 29, 2007)  
Leona E. Reynolds (b: February 7, 1925; d: August 15, 2008)  
Frances L. Witt (b: October 20, 1933; d: September 30, 2008)  
William "Bill" F. Bennett, Sr. (b: March 6, 1932; d: October 27, 2008)

**2012:** On September 9, a Deconsecration Service was held at the Buffalo UMC at 4009 Blairs Ferry Road, and a Consecration Service occurred at the new Buffalo UMC at 1000 30<sup>th</sup> Street NE in Cedar Rapids. Earlier in the year, Jennifer Seylar became the congregation's 40<sup>th</sup> pastor. The 30<sup>th</sup> Street property has had an interesting history. The land where Buffalo UMC is now

located was part of an 80-acre parcel given to Joseph and Sarah McKee in May, 1843, the document signed by President James Polk. Eight years later the land was sold to William & Jess Steward for \$120 and in turn the property in 1854 was sold to George E. W. Leonard. The land stayed in the Leonard family until 1902, when it was sold to John Blaine. Over the next 24 years, the property was in the possession of four more owners: N. M. Hubbard (1903), Lucy Sampson (1904), H. and Bertha Hillerege (1911), and Walter and Helen Potter (1926). In January 1943, the property (now much smaller than the original 80 acres) was purchased by Laurence and Esther Van Note for \$3500. In August 1956 the Iowa Conference of the Evangelical Brethren Church bought the land and house for \$9,000. The building was known as the Faith Mission. Two years later the name was changed to the Faith Evangelical Brethren Church—at a cost of \$1.00 to the congregation. There is no record at the recorder’s office when the church became Faith UMC.

**2014:** In November the old Buffalo Church building on Blairs Ferry was demolished, to make way for a Goodyear Tire store.

**2016:** In July, Kathryn Newhall was appointed as the Buffalo’s new pastor. Jenny Seylar became the minister of the United Methodist Church in Tipton.

## Buffalo Pastors

### Evangelical Pastors Prior to Building Buffalo Church in 1876

William Kolb  
Joseph Buzzard  
Bishop Dubs

### Buffalo Pastors from 1876 to 2016

C. W. Anthony (1876)	J. R. McNichols (1911-1914)	Ray Howland (1962-1964)
J. W. Waggoner (1877-1878)	L. E. Crippen (1915-1917)	Elmer C. Boom (1964-1969)
J. E. Stauffacher(1878-1879)	David Lang (1918-1922)	James Fouke (1969-1970)
L. F. Yerger(1880-1881)	W. C. Brauch (1923-1924)	Wilber Trusheim (1970-1974)
W. King (1882-1883)	E. J. Knopf (1924-1926)	Max I. Hall (1974-1981)
D. W. Fink (1884-1887)	L. J. U. Smay (1927-1928)	Gilbert Dawes (1982-1993)
G. Kolb (1888-1890)	J. R. Nolte (1929-1931)	Marcia Acord (1993-1997)
A. Goetz (1891-1892)	G. A. Kite (1932-1933)	David Wise (1997-1998)
L. F. Smith (1892-1895)	H. F. Yingst (1934-1935)	Marilyn Buchanan (1998-2012)
W. F. Buttman (1895-1898)	H. L. Sunderman (1936-1939)	Jennifer Seylar (2012-2016)
L. N. Day (1898-1901)	E. E. Pencook (1940-1941)	Kathryn Newhall (2016- )
G. L. Heilman (1901-1904)	Ellis Russell (1942-1944)	
Jacob Wirth (1904-1907)	L. T. Olson (1945-1952)	
J. W. Zimmerman (1907-1909)	M. E. Stambaugh (1953-1955)	
F. J. Lantow (1910-1911)	Samuel J. Hahn (1956-1962)	