



Buffalo United Methodist Church

November 2019

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



A New Creation in Christ

by Bishop Laurie Haller

World Communion Sunday was yesterday, and I couldn't wait! I never received the sacrament of Holy Communion until I was 15 years old, so I'm still catching up. I was raised in the General Conference Mennonite Church and attended church every Sunday [but] it never dawned on me that communion could be for all people because children and youth in my church could not participate in communion until they had professed their faith, were baptized, and joined the church. And we could not be baptized until we had gone through two years of "catechetical class" in 9th and 10th grade. The equivalent would be confirmation class, although it was much more comprehensive than many confirmation classes in UMC churches today.

The Mennonite church practices believers' baptism, as distinguished from infant baptism. Rather than see baptism as a sign of God's grace, given to all free of charge, Mennonites want to make sure that those who are baptized understand the meaning of and freely choose baptism. I feel fortunate that I remember the day of my baptism and how powerful it was for my pastor to place his hands on my head in front of the Holy Spirit stained glass window. . . .

As the years go by, I yearn for communion more and more, knowing that it is only by God's grace that I can represent that grace to others. Every time I receive the sacrament, I remember these words from 2 Corinthians 5:7 (CEB), "So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!" I am reminded through communion that I

am not only a disciple and Christ-follower. I am a new creation in Christ.

A few weeks ago, at a meeting . . . in Ohio, our devotions included these words from Bishop Francis Enmer Kearns. . . . In August 1968, Bishop Kearns reflected on the [recent] formation of The United Methodist Church through the merger of The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church and the abolishment of the Central Jurisdiction. It was a time of coming together after many years of division, including the 1939 segregation of African-American Methodists into what was known as the Central Jurisdiction. The words that Bishop Kearns wrote in August of 1968 bear an uncanny resemblance to our world today.

"We are living in a new world characterized by technological advance, increasing urbanization, a growing gap between the 'have' and the 'have-nots'. The tendency in this world of accelerated change is to dehumanize, to underestimate the worth of the person, to grow callous toward human need, to allow millions of our citizens to live in ghettos without a genuine concern for them.

"A new church is one that has become 'a new creation in Christ,' responding to 'the ministry of reconciliation' given to it by its Lord. The new church finds itself in a world where social structures, racial prejudices, economic orders, and international relations threaten human dignity and freedom.

"Our new church must find new ways to minister to people, in both urban and rural areas, who are living in frustration and without hope of breaking their bondage. The summons is for us to discover new

forms of Christian community in which the love of Christ will become a reality. The Uniting Conference summoned the new church to be 'a dramatic sign of hope and a symbol of compassion.' . .

"An understanding of 'the Word' at its deepest levels by church members will enable the church to be more effective in its planning and participating in mission. In The United Methodist Church each local congregation will be given greater flexibility and freedom to determine and carry out its own particular mission in the community and in the world. Every church member is called upon to become involved in the mission of the church, to work for constructive changes in society and to be a witness for Christ in his(her) daily life and work. . . .

"The problems which confront The United Methodist Church are common to all Christians. If we are to fulfill our mission, then we must make an ecumenical thrust in which Christians of all communions demonstrate that 'we are fellow workmen for God.' A new church will bear witness that through Christ it has become 'a new creation.'"

Fifty-one years after Bishop Kearns' wrote those words, are they not still relevant today? During those years, Methodists have continued to wrestle with what it means to be a new creation, both individually and collectively. After all, the history of the Methodist movement has always been one of "moving on to perfection." When you and I are "in Christ," we are not only a new creation, but we are continually seeking out the marginalized and the excluded. We are continually moving out of the comfort of our churches into our communities to meet people where they are and offer hope and grace.

What is the new creation that God wants to birth in you? What new creation is God birthing in The United Methodist Church right now? How are the millions of United Methodists around the world who received communion yesterday making a difference today? How will you offer Christ to your neighbor and your co-worker as well as to the one with whom you differ around immigration, gun safety, health care reform, or human sexuality? Can we become a new church, a new creation in Christ, that responds to the ministry of reconciliation given to it by our Lord?

[The complete text of this October 7 essay is available on the Bishop's blog, the *Leading from Heart*.]

Administrative Board Report on October 16 Meeting

- Fourteen blinds for the church will be purchased from the Blind Factory. The work includes removal and disposal of old blinds and removal of cornices and reinstallation. Two old blinds will be placed in the storage room for the furnace room windows.
- The Bazaar went well, but the Board decided to shorten the hours next year (new hours: 9:30 am to 3:00 pm). Becky Voss from Miles, Iowa donated many wreaths and arrangements which sold very well. Becky considers this her ministry to churches in Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin.
- The Christmas Dinner is scheduled for January 5. Barb Crawford will coordinate the dinner with Sally's Restaurant in Springville. The menu will include roast chicken, roast beef, and the fixings.
- The Annual Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday, November 3. Pastor Darwin Moore of the Bertram UMC will be the presiding official. The annual meeting will include a soup luncheon.
- Our November Food Drive will focus on helping the Linn Community Food Bank fill their Thanksgiving boxes. Buffalo will be collecting boxes of stuffing and smaller cans of sweet potatoes. The donations will be collected on three Sundays: November 3, 10, and 17.
- A New Buffalo Church Directory. Jan Kittrell is willing to compile a directory. She has the software and equipment to make a bound booklet with pictures of Buffalo UMC members and friends. There will be a small fee for supplies. The book will be helpful for identification, especially for new attendees.

United Methodist Women

On Thursday, November 21 the UMW will meet at 9:30 am in Buffalo's meeting room. Mary Fredericksen and Joyce Hartmann will present the program. Everyone is welcome!

Neighborhood Potluck

Come join us for the potluck on Thursday, November 14. There is always plenty of food and good conversation. For this potluck, please consider inviting a friend or neighbor to join us in this opportunity for communal sharing.

November 2019

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p>“Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.” 2 Thessalonians, 3:13</p>					1 All Saints’ Day	2
3 8:45 am: Worship Service <i>Charge</i> Conference & Soup Luncheon	4	5 Mission of Hope: Assist Bertram UMC with Noon Meal Election Day Bake Sale	6	7	8	9
10 8:45 am: Worship Service <i>Don’t forget Food Drive</i>	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14 11:30 am: Neighborhood Potluck	15	16
17 8:45 am: Worship Service <i>Final Sunday for Food Drive</i>	18	19	20 4:00 pm: Admin. Board Meeting	21 9:00 am: UMW	22	23
24 8:45 am: Worship Service <i>United Methodist Student Day</i>	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

November Birthdays

3 – Kathy Houlahan
7 – Tom Ferguson
11 – Mary Fredericksen
19 – Marilyn Prouty
20 – Joan Musil
24 – Mary Bennett

Special Offering in November

United Methodist Student Day on Sunday, November 24 will include a collection to furnish scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities.

Garfield Backpack Program Update

The backpack program is serving 140 students every week at Garfield. If you would like to donate an hour helping us assemble backpacks at HACAP every other Tuesday at 12:30 pm, please contact Barb Crawford (826-2468). We will pop corn for HACAP once a month at Garfield to help with expenses.

Pastor Kathryn’s Office Hours

The pastor’s office hours
are on Wednesdays
(10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.)

Buffalo Facebook Group

Don’t forget we have a Buffalo UMC group on Facebook. Joyce Hartmann recently reactivated this site, reminding folks we can be using this site for sharing information, photos, expressions of support, etc.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/119279244409265>

Buffalo Calendar

Special Dates in 2019-20

November 3: Annual Charge Conference (with Soup Luncheon)
November 5: The City/School Board Elections (donate baked goods for the bake sale)
December 5: Taizé Prayer Service (7:00 pm)
January 5: Christmas Dinner (12:00 noon)
March 26 Taizé Prayer Service (7:00 pm)
March 28 Pancake Breakfast (7 to 11:00 am)
June 11 & 12 Annual Rummage Sale
July 25: Ice Cream Social (4 to 7:00 pm)

Buffalo UMC Website

A reminder that these resources are available on the church website (buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com/):

- Copies of monthly newsletters
- An up-to-date church calendar
- The Bison Blog with posts on topics relevant to contemporary spiritual and religious issues.

Church Bulletin and Newsletter Bloopers

- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
- The Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
- Evening massage – 6 p.m.
- The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.
- The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.
- The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Buffalo United Methodist Church:

A welcoming fellowship reaching out and caring for the community.

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