

Buffalo United Methodist Church

November 2021

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



Pastor Carol's Desk

Don't you think sometimes we get too wrapped up in what's going on in today's world? Sometimes we just need to stop and take a deep breath.

Those breaths can help us deal with a world where everything is changing so quickly, particularly at this time of the year. One day we need the air conditioning, the next day we are turning up the heat. These times are hard on a lot of people. Prices are going up. Many of us are struggling to carry on our lives, struggling to choose what to buy, what we can afford. And the pandemic continues to restrict our lives in so many ways.

But even in these hard times, we seem to make it. And many of the changes in our lives are most welcome. As I am writing, it is storming outside, but with this October rain, the brown grass is turning green again. One of God's miracles. Our oaks and maples are turning beautiful reds and yellows. It's the time we can enjoy preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I do have a request. I would love to hear about your favorite Christmas memories. I don't need anything fancy. Don't worry about your spelling or punctuation. Just sit down and write me a letter, sharing your story and commenting on why this Christmas memory is so important to you. You can send your letter via email or drop it off at my office or use the U.S. Postal Service. We can learn so much about each other if we share our stories with each other.

I also challenge you to bring a friend or neighbor to church. When we all work together, we become one. In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything."

~Blessings, Pastor Carol

Election Day Bake Sale

There will be a bake sale on Tuesday, November 2 for the City and School Board Election Day. A bucket will be available for money donated for the baked goods. Please put prices on your donated baked goods. The polls open at 7 a.m. so you may want to bring your goodies to the church on Monday. And don't forget to vote.

Noisy Offerings

United Methodist Student Day is one of six church-wide Special Sundays with offerings for The United Methodist Church. Traditionally scheduled for the last Sunday in November, an offering is collected to provide scholarships for qualified United Methodist applicants. Thanks to everyone who contributed to October's "Noisy Offering" (\$93.51) for World Communion Sunday.

Neighborhood Potluck

The first appearance in print of the word "potluck" occurred in 1592 and referred to a "meal available to a guest for whom no special preparations have been made." The meaning has now expanded to identify a "communal meal to which people bring food to share." Buffalo's next potluck will be at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 11. This will be a communal meal where people bring food to share but unexpected guests are certainly welcome. Beverages and tableware will be provided.



Buffalo United Methodist Women

All the noodles we prepared and packaged were purchased at the Bazaar, adding over \$100 to the UMW treasury. The next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 18. Mary Fredericksen and Joyce Hartmann will provide the program.

Soup Challenge

The Buffalo congregation donated 276 cans of soup (weighing 232 pounds) to the Linn Community Food Bank. Thanks to Barb Crawford and Sheryl Arnett for organizing the collection and taking the soup to the food bank.

October Bazaar and Soup Luncheon

We earned over \$1,000 profit from this annual event. The food was delicious with a glorious selection of desserts and baked goods. Thanks to everyone who donated those invaluable White Elephants and helped by spreading the word, preparing food, welcoming guests, serving the meal, taking money, cleaning up. A special "Thank You" to Russ Swart of *Tid Bits* for the free advertising.

The Bulbs Have Arrived

In the middle of October we received two crates full of spring-flowering bulbs for our Buffalo landscape. Weather permitting, in early November we will be planting over 750 crocus, daffodil, and tulip bulbs. If you (or any grandchildren) would love to spend a few minutes on your hands and knees putting crocus bulbs into the Buffalo lawn, please contact Bob Marrs, who owns a couple of dibblers ideal for crocus planting.

Also in November, we will be planting four more trees (hornbeam and service berry, both North American natives) around the Labyrinth. In the Labyrinth we will be sowing wild flower seeds and planting several native ornamental grasses (switch grass, side oats grama, tuft grass, and little bluestem).

Don't forget that Buffalo's Labyrinth is open for prayer, meditation, and reflection seven days a week.



Administrative Board

Report on October Meeting

Here are some of the issues addressed at the meeting of the Administrative Board on October 20:

- In the Trustee's Report it was noted that Gary Hackney has been trimming trees on the Eastern Avenue side of the church and the wiring of the shed is on his schedule. Gary will add some posts on the north edge of the property to prevent the neighbors from driving on church property. The wind chimes have been installed in the Labyrinth.
- Progress has been made in operating the software for the church's electric sign, and a new Lenovo laptop will be purchased for programming the sign's messages.
- Improved security lighting has been installed outside the building. We received a price quote for purchase and installation of a security camera system inside the building, but the Board decided to continue investigating other options.
- The Board approved scheduling a Taizé Service in the first week of Advent and a Bible Study Class for December and January (further details elsewhere in the newsletter).
- In support of the Cedar River First Nations food distribution program, Buffalo will continue to donate cookies for pickup on the Friday before the third weekend of each month. Buffalo will also contribute \$100 from the October Bazaar revenue. It was suggested that we provide envelopes for individuals to donate money whenever we have a group perform at Buffalo.
- The pianos in the worship center and fellowship hall will be tuned later in the fall after the weather temperatures become more consistent.
- Prior to the beginning of a worship service, people need to be reminded to turn off their cell phones.
- Buffalo will have a Christmas Dinner in January and invite Bertram UMC members to attend. The date and catering arrangements for the dinner will be decided at the Board's December meeting.
- It was recently discovered that Buffalo is somehow managing to operate without a copy of the current Book of Discipline (though we do have a 1956 edition of the Evangelical United Brethren Discipline). The Board decided to wait and purchase a printed copy of the Discipline after a new edition is published—which should occur next year.

November 2021

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 <i>All Saints Day</i> (ceremony on Sunday, 7 Nov.)	2 Election Day Bake Sale at Buffalo	3	4 Annual Charge Conference at Lovely Lane (6:30 pm)	5	6 Daylight Savings Time ends tomorrow
7 8:45 am Worship Service <i>Communion Sunday</i>	8	9	10 Church Cleaning (9:00 am)	11 Neighborhood Potluck (11:30)	12	13
14 8:45 am Worship Service	15	16	17	18 UMW Meeting (9:30 am)	19 First Nations Cookies (deliver to church by noon)	20
21 8:45 am Worship Service <i>Christ the King Sunday</i>	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28 8:45 am Worship Service <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	29	30	December 1	2 Taizé Prayer Service (7:00 p.m.)	3	4

November Birthdays: 3 – Kathy Houlahan 7 – Tom Ferguson
11 – Mary Fredericksen 20 – Joan Musil

Wedding Anniversaries: No wedding anniversaries this month.

Sunday Morning Worship Service Scripture Readings for November

November 7: Gospel of Mark 12: 38-44
Psalms #127
November 14: Gospel of Mark 13: 1-8
Hebrews 10: 11-14,15-18
November 21: Gospel of John 18: 33-37
Revelations 1: 4-8
November 28: Gospel of Luke 21: 25-36
1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

Taizé Prayer Service

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to conduct a Taizé Prayer Service during last year's Advent season. But now that we are meeting again as a congregation, we have scheduled a Taizé-style prayer service for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 2. This is a candlelight service with silent meditation, private prayer, the reading of scripture, and the singing of hymns. The service will be followed by refreshments, provided by the UMW. This ecumenical event is an ideal opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and family members to join with us for this beautiful Advent experience.

Buffalo Calendar

November

- 1: All Saints Day
- 2: Bake Sale for the City and School Board Elections
- 4: Annual Charge Conference at Lovely Lane UMC
(6:30 p.m.)
- 7: End Daylight Savings Time; Worship Service
Communion and observance of All Saints Day
- 10: Church Cleaning (9:00 a.m.)
- 11: Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 a.m.)
- 18: UMW (9:30 a.m.)
- 19: Cookies for First Nations food distribution
- 25: Thanksgiving
- 28: First Sunday of Advent and United Methodist
Student Day

December

- 2: Taizé Prayer Service (7:00 p.m.)
- 15: Administrative Board Meeting (10:00 a.m.)
- 24: Christmas Eve
- 25: Christmas

December Bible Study

For three Sundays in December (December 5, 12, & 19), a Bible Study group will be meeting immediately after the Worship Service for hot drinks, a few tasty goodies, and a spirited discussion of the nativity stories in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. In preparation for our conversations, we invite everyone to sit down with your favorite Bible translation and read the first two chapters of Matthew and the first two chapters of Luke.

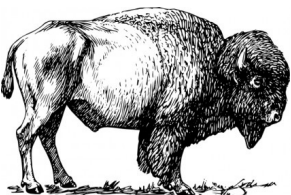
In our Bible Study group we will start by discussing the remarkable differences between these two versions of the birth of Jesus. Some of us may be surprised to discover that one gospel concentrates almost exclusively on one parent (Joseph) and in the other gospel the focus is on the other parent (Mary). We will try to understand what these and other differences reveal about the purposes of each author's nativity narrative and how their messages complement each other.

In January, we will continue with three more Bible Study sessions comparing the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew with the Sermon on the Plain in Luke—with a particular focus on each Gospel's version of the Beatitudes.

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Since 1876