



Buffalo United Methodist Church

November 2018

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa



Community

by Bishop Laurie Haller

Community. It's a word I hear a lot, especially as I travel the state leading gatherings around the work of the Commission on a Way Forward. Some United Methodists are convinced that we are better apart than together and believe we should bless each other and part amicably. Others believe that our differences make us stronger and more effective in our witness to the world. Some are not able to accept same-sex marriage and self-avowed practicing homosexuals as clergy while others are not able to embrace a denomination that denies full inclusion of LGBTQ individuals in the life of the church.

How can we stay in community with each other when we do not agree on human sexuality? What does it mean to say that United Methodists are connected to each other, anyway? In our cabinet worship last week, we read these words from Ralph Morton, who wrote them in 1951.

For we are not trying to build community.

We can never do that.

God sets us in community.

God has set us in inescapable community,

In our family,

In our neighborhood,

In all the relationships with others that life brings.

And all the time we rebel....

When we are enlivened by the Spirit of Christ

We accept community and begin to live

According to the laws of our being.

(Ralph Morton, *This is the Day*; Readings and Meditations from the Iona Community, Month 1, Day 15, Wild Goose Publications)

Morton's words were startling and provocative. For we are not trying to build community. We can never do that. We can never build community? I thought the church was supposed to be a community!

I discovered that Ralph Morton was deeply involved in the early formation of the Iona Community, which is located on the island of Iona in the Inner Hebrides off the west coast of Scotland. In 2011, I had the privilege of living for a week in the Iona Community, which describes itself as "an ecumenical Christian community of women and men who seek to live out the Gospel in a way that is radical, inclusive, and relevant to life in the 21st century."

As I participated in the rhythm of life on Iona through worship, chores, food preparation, and Bible study, I learned that I cannot "build community." That's because God has already set us in inescapable community. Community is a given: inescapable, just like yesterday's lectionary lesson from the gospel of John, where Jesus says, "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."

Notice Jesus doesn't say, "I hope you'll choose to be a branch on my tree." No, he says, "I am the vine, and you are the inescapable branches. If you want to be part of my work on this earth, you need to remain in me. If you want to bear fruit, you will need to welcome and accept that there are not only other branches but that those branches are also inescapable community."

Did you know that community and communion both share the same root: common? Think about it.

Administrative Board Minutes October 2018

There is no community if we do not hold certain things in common, such as loving our neighbors, sharing what we have with others, and deepening our faith through study, prayer, and mission. In the same way, partaking of holy communion is at the heart of our common experience of community in the Christian church.

There is another twist to Morton's quote, however. God has set us in inescapable community, In our family, In our neighborhood, In all the relationships with others that life brings. When I first read the quote, I mistakenly switched the last two words, so that it read, "God has set us in inescapable community ... In all the relationships that bring life."

Isn't that our preferred default mode as humans? We experience community when our relationships bring life to us. We just love our friends and family. But, wait! Morton says that we achieve community when we enter into relationships with others that life itself brings. In other words, community becomes real when we do not choose relationships that are easy or comfortable. Inescapable community becomes real when we intentionally enter into the relationships that life brings to us, such as a homeless family unexpectedly knocking on our door, or several refugee children arriving for church school one Sunday, or the opportunity to advocate for racial justice when a shooting takes place down the street from the church, or when a gay couple visits the church and asks, "Are we welcome to worship here?"

Then Morton gives us a reality check. And all the time we rebel. It's the human condition. You and I rebel against inescapable community. In Thomas Merton's book, *The Hidden Ground of Love; The Letters of Thomas Merton on Religious Experience and Social Concerns*, he writes, "The deepest level of communication is not communication, but communion. It is wordless. It is beyond words, and it is beyond speech, and it is beyond concept. Not that we discover a new unity. We discover an older unity. My dear Brothers [and Sisters], we are already one. But we imagine that we are not. And what we have to recover is our original unity. What we have to be is what we are."

[The complete text of this blog entry, posted on April 30, 2018, can be found at Bishop Haller's blog "Leading from the Heart":

<https://www.lauriehaller.org/>]

Some high points of the October 17 meeting:

- Concerning the Little Free Library, there is a shelf in the meeting room where books for the library can be placed. The Board voted to purchase and install memorial plaques in honor of Dale Seylar, Don Durand, and Sheila Roberts. Todd Tomkins of TNT Woodworking will be placing a sign on the back of the library indicating he designed and constructed it.
- Despite a scheduling conflict with the Iowa football game, the Bazaar did well, bringing in \$1400.
- The Board decided to change the name of the Golden Age Potluck to the Neighborhood Potluck.
- The Board discussed ways to help the hearing impaired, but no action was taken.
- The Board discussed various options for catering the Christmas Dinner in January, but decided the UMW should make the decision since the UMW has traditionally been the sponsor of this event.
- The Board agreed to have the sanctuary and meeting room carpets cleaned. Marlene will be responsible for obtaining bids from local firms.
- The Board agreed that Verna could use the community room for her great grandson's 1st birthday party on November 24.
- The Board authorized the hiring of college students to provide child care during the Taizé Prayer Service in November.
- Concerning the disposal of leaves on the church property, Bob volunteered to construct new compost bins, and the Board will look into the possibility of purchasing a sweeper attachment for the lawn mower.
- The 2019 church budget was approved, with only minor changes from the 2018 budget. There will be an increase in our apportionments, over which we have no control.
- The Board decided to collect a special offering in December for the victims of Hurricane Michael.
- The Board meeting ended with a discussion of issues to be covered in the Charge Conference on Sunday morning, October 28. Since the congregation is expected to produce a statement clarifying how we intend to fulfill our church's core mission, the Board will need to offer at the Charge Conference a plan for how we intend to proceed on this task.

United Methodist Women

Come join us at 9:30 AM on Thursday, November 15. The short business meeting and program will be provided by Mary Fredericksen and Joyce Hartmann. There will not be a meeting in December.

A bit of UMW history:

In 2019, the United Methodist Women will be celebrating its 150th anniversary. According to an email recently sent to Pastor Kathryn, "On March 23, 1869, eight women gathered at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, and organized the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, what would become United Methodist Women. Those women raised money to send a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries to serve the women of that nation.

"Since then . . . United Methodist Women has evolved to become the largest women's faith-based service and advocacy organization, underwriting programs that provide life-changing opportunities for women, children and youth."

An impressive story, reminding us of what can be accomplished by a small group of passion-driven Christians. Buffalo's UMW can feel good about its commitment to that long tradition.

Neighborhood Potluck

Mark your calendar for the potluck at 11:30 am on Thursday, November 8. Everyone is invited. There is always plenty to eat and lots of good conversation. Place settings and beverages are provided.

Bazaar and Soup Luncheon

The soup was delicious, the baked goods were scrumptious, and we had some wonderful items for sale. The Bazaar was definitely a success, raising over \$1400 (including our donation of \$39 to the Henry Davidson Youth Center). Everyone who contributed or worked deserves a big thanks. A day such as this could not happen without so many joyful, hard-working, dedicated volunteers.

Bertram Fall Supper
Saturday, November 3, 5-7:00 pm
Bertram Town Hall

Aprons, Leaf Sweeper, Cross and Flame

- The green aprons with the Buffalo stitching have been purchased and were proudly worn at the recent Fall Bazaar. If you would like to buy one for yourself give your \$15 (cash or check) to Chris.
- A leaf sweeper has been purchased for the John Deere lawn tractor. Thanks to Gary and George for putting the sweeper together. New compost bins will soon be constructed in the northwest corner of the property, enabling us to produce substantial amounts of compost for our flower, herb, and vegetable gardens.
- The installation of the cross and flame, donated by Asbury UMC, will soon be completed and visible for anyone passing by the church. Thanks to Tom and Gary for the painting and installation of this dramatic United Methodist symbol.

Noodles for Sale

We have homemade noodles available, a 12-ounce bag for \$2.00. These noodles are perfect for that chicken noodle soup you will be making once the snow flies.

Garfield School Projects

Thanks for the donated treats for the 50 backpack students at Garfield. The students are happy to get the bags of candy and other items. We continue to pop corn once a month at Garfield School. The students can purchase a bag of popcorn for 50 cents. After popping corn in October, our contribution to HACAP reached \$103.50. Kudos to Barb Crawford, Carla Lindball, Pat Ferguson, and Chris Gochenouer—our October corn poppers.

We will be asking for monetary donations in December for the Garfield School Library. Cedar Rapids schools do not have a budget for new books for the libraries so money comes from book fairs or other fund raising events. There will be a container in the back of the sanctuary for those of you who wish to donate money for book purchases. Your support is deeply appreciated.

*"Live in charity and steadfast love.
Live in charity; God will dwell with you."*
~Words of the final song in the Taizé Prayer Service

Disaster Ministries Update
A Message from the Iowa Conference
Communications Ministry Team

The ministry team calls upon all of us to provide support and assistance for the people of Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas—areas devastated by the destructive power of Hurricane Michael, which made landfall near Mexico Beach, Florida on Wednesday, October 10. The team suggests various ways we can help the people in these southeastern states deal with the disheartening challenges they will experience in the coming days, months, and years.

→ **PRAY.** Prayer is how we unleash God's power for one another. Pray for all in the path of the storm, including the responders there to help those in need.

→ **DONATE.** The best way to donate is through a financial donation to The United Methodist Committee on Relief where 100% of your donations will go to help disaster survivors. A personal check can be sent to the Iowa Annual Conference (please indicate Special Advance #901670 on the memo line). The Iowa Annual Conference will send your donation on to UMCOR.

→ **CLEAN-UP BUCKETS.** These buckets (formerly called flood buckets) consist of a 5-gallon bucket filled with clean-up supplies and sealed with a lid. You can contact your District Disaster Response Coordinator (Pastor Andrew Happ) or your District Office for more information on the items to be included in a bucket and a drop-off location.

→ **VOLUNTEERS.** Volunteer workers in the affected states are not yet needed but information about opportunities for volunteering will be announced at a later time.

Buffalo's Special Offerings Collected in 2018

January: Human Relations \$47.50
February: Disability Awareness \$30.50
March: UMCOR \$272.00
April: Golden Cross \$38.00; Hispanic Ministries \$27.52
June: Peace with Justice \$114.58
July: Flood Recovery \$190.00; Rural Life \$114.50
August: Goats for South Sudan \$222.45
September: Christian Education \$161.50
October: World Communion \$137.50



Buffalo
United Methodist
Church

*"Reading gives us someplace to go
when we have to stay where we are."*
~Mason Cooley

Take a book,
share a book.
Acquiring wisdom,
nurturing the spirit,
creating a community.

The Buffalo
Little Free Library
1000 30th St NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

For more information on Buffalo, visit our website:
<http://buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com/>

Little Free Library
Book Marks

We have created a series of ten different book marks, each with a quotation about reading. We hope the book marks will not only help inspire readers, but also remind library patrons of other ways in which Buffalo is serving the local community.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 2018				1	2	3 5-7 pm: Bertram Fall Supper
4 8:45 Worship Service	5	6 Election Day Bake Sale	7	8 11:30 am: Neighborhood Potluck	9 8:00 am: Popping Corn at Garfield	10
11 8:45 Worship Service	12 9:00 am: Cleaning the Church	13	14	15 9:30: UMW Meeting	16	17
18 8:45 Worship Service	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25 8:45 Worship Service	26	27	28 7:00 pm: Taizé Service	29	<i>Let all who are thirsty come. Let all who wish, receive the water of life freely. Amen, come, Lord Jesus. ~The words of the first song in the Taizé Prayer Service</i>	

Note: No Administrative Board Meeting in November

November Birthdays

- 3 – Kathy Houlahan
- 7 – Tom Ferguson
- 11 – Mary Fredericksen
- 19 – Marilyn Prouty (Becky's Mom)
- 20 – Joan Musil
- 24 – Mary Bennett

A Buffalo Word Search (should not be solved during the sermon)

T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I
A	C	Z	L	U	K	E	O	F	N
I	R	U	M	W	B	Y	W	O	G
Z	P	R	A	Y	E	R	A	O	Q
E	J	E	R	I	H	S	H	D	B
P	O	T	L	U	C	K	A	J	A
W	E	S	E	L	E	Y	L	W	N
J	O	H	N	J	F	P	L	H	K
T	C	G	E	O	R	G	E	U	B
B	I	S	O	N	M	A	R	K	T

Word Search Words:

- | | |
|---------|--------------|
| AZURE | BISON |
| EUB | FOOD BANK |
| GEORGE | HALLER |
| IHS | IOWA |
| JOHN | LUKE |
| MARK | MARLENE |
| POTLUCK | PRAYER |
| TAIZE | THANKSGIVING |
| UMW | WESLEY |

Buffalo UMC November Dates

- Nov. 6: Election Day Bake Sale
- Nov. 9: Pop corn at Garfield School (8 am)
- Nov. 12: Clean church (9 am)
- Nov. 15: United Methodist Women (9:30 am)
- Nov. 28: Taizé Service (7:00 pm)

Bertram UMC November Dates

- Nov. 3: Fall Supper, Chicken & Noodles (5-7 pm)
- November 6: Mission of Hope, preparing/serving Lunch (11:30 to 1:00 pm)

Taizé Prayer Service

Wednesday Evening, November 28

The service of scripture, prayer, music, and reconciliation will begin at 7:00 pm and should last about one hour. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and fellow workers to join us. If each of us invites one person to participate in this beautiful candle-lit service, we will be guaranteed a memorable evening of love and communion.

2019 Buffalo Calendar

- Christmas Dinner: Sunday, January 20
- Hymn Sing Songfest: Wednesday, February 13 (7:00 pm)
- Taizé Prayer Service: Wednesday, March 27 (7:00 pm)
- Ash Wednesday, March 6 (first day of Lent)
- Easter Sunday, April 21
- Pancake Breakfast: Saturday, April 6 (7:00 to 11:00 am)
- Yard Sale: Thursday, June 13 (8:00 am to 6:00 pm) Friday, June 14 (8:00 am to 1:00 pm)
- Ice Cream Supper: Saturday, August 3 (4:00 to 7:00 pm)
- Fall Bazaar: Saturday, October 12 (8:00 am to 3:00 pm)
- Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 27 (4:00 to 5:00 pm)

Pastor Kathryn's Office Hours
Every Thursday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Phone: 319-389-3187

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1000 30th St

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

