

# Buffalo United Methodist Church

October 2023

1000 30<sup>th</sup> Street NE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



## Rain in the Forecast

*O children, be glad and rejoice in God,  
who has poured down for you abundant rain.  
The threshing floor shall be full of grain,  
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.  
I am your God, and you shall never again be put to shame.  
Then afterward, I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.*

~Joel 2:23-24 & 27-28 (NRSV, adapted)

Where there is rain, there can be growth. Where there is growth, there can be a harvest. Where there is a harvest, there can be hope. Where there is hope, there can be prophetic vision. . . . Psychologists and psychiatrists are measuring increased anxiety and spiraling depression levels across all age groups—part pandemic, part digital fatigue, part economic and social stress.

Civil rights advocates are tracking the erosion of human rights like it's a crowded evidence board: invasions of privacy, voter suppression, growing extremism, data mining, and more.

If we are without hope in the face of it all, the prophetic vision for change will not come. If we are without a harvest—without the richness of community, the resources for well-being, the fruits of wisdom—hope might not form. If we are without growth from seed to self, from fear to freedom, from apathy to love, we might miss the abundance of the harvest.

And if we are without rain—without the water and breath essential to life, without the respite of cool grace to ease the burns of struggle, without the clouds to pour over the maddening world until it stills—without rain, we might not grow.

**A Prayer:** God have mercy upon the earth, upon our bodies, upon our spirits, upon our communities. We need rain and relief—for the sake of your vision.

[This essay by Rachel Hackenberg was responding to a year of a drought and originally posted in October 2022 on the UCC's *Daily Devotional* website.]

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## October Bazaar and Soup Luncheon

If you have not done so already, mark your calendar for Saturday, October 28, the date for Buffalo's October Bazaar and Luncheon. The meal will feature our homemade chili or chicken noodle soup, ham sandwich or chili dog, dessert and beverage. The price for the luncheon meal:

Adults: \$8.00

Children 6-12: \$2.50

Children 5 and under eat for free.

The Bazaar will include a Bake Sale, White Elephant items, RADA cutlery, & homemade noodles. We open the doors at 8:00 a.m. and plan to finish by 2:00 p.m.

Individuals and organizations may rent tables during the Bazaar for a rental fee of \$25. White Elephant donations are much appreciated, but no clothing, furniture, or electronics. Donations for freshly baked cookies (which will be placed by the entrance door) will be given to the Mission of Hope.

## Order Chicken Noodle Soup and Chili

If you want to purchase jars of chicken noodle soup or chili--ready for pickup at the Bazaar--please email your order to Chris Gochenouer ([goch1970@live.com](mailto:goch1970@live.com)). A quart of soup costs \$6.00; a pint of soup is \$3.50.



## **Food Bank Challenge**

### **Think Pumpkin Pie**

For the coming holiday season, the Linn Community Food Bank is requesting donations of items that can be used for making pumpkin pies. Please consider donating the following items:

Canned pumpkin (15 oz.)

Evaporated milk (12 oz.)

Box of Jiffy Pie Crust mix

There is a table in the back of the sanctuary for your donations. The last Sunday for donations will be October 29. Thanks for making the holidays brighter for people in need.

## **United Women in Faith**

**Everyone (and by “everyone” we mean “everyone”)** is invited to our monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 19. There will be a short business meeting followed by a timely program presented by our own inimitable Barb Crawford.

## **November 7 Bake Sale**

Buffalo will be a site for people to vote in the City and School Election on November 7. As usual, we will be providing donated baked goods for that important event. The polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 9:00 p.m. Please wrap and price your donated baked goods. There will be a bucket on the table for the donations, so volunteers are not needed to watch the table. Thanks.

## **Noodles for the October Bazaar**

Buffalo's Noodles were “created from scratch” on two Monday mornings in September. We had wonderful help which made the process go much faster. Thanks for the donations of eggs and flour. Noodles will be sold at the Bazaar for \$3.00 per bag.

## **World Communion Sunday**

### **Special Offering**

On October 1 we will collect a Noisy Offering for World Communion Sunday. Our donations will support undergraduate and graduate-level scholarships in the United States for racial and ethnic-minority students and international students. The funds also provide support for non-degree in-service training programs. The September Noisy Offering for Christian Education came to a total of \$156.

## **“The Price Is Right”**

### **Neighborhood Potluck**

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 12, for a neighborly potluck. Feel free to bring along a friend, neighbor, relative, or anyone who might benefit from a good meal and good conversation. As always, beverages and tableware will be provided. After our lunch, Kim Griffith and Jo Lutz will help us play “The Price Is Right.”

## **Church Cleaning**

Prayer is a powerful force in the life of this congregation, but we all know that prayer alone will not clean the church building. This effort requires the engagement of willing bodies and a steady application of elbow grease. Fortunately, however, no special skills are required. Please feel free to drop by the church at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 11, for our monthly church cleaning ritual. We are usually done by 10:30 a.m.

## **Hy-Vee Receipts**

The math is reasonably simple. For every \$200 worth of Hy-Vee receipts that we collect, Garfield Elementary receives \$1 that can be used for purchasing essential school supplies. No matter how small, every receipt helps. You can place your receipts in the large glass jar in the back of the sanctuary.

## **Mission of Hope**

There is a large box in the back of the sanctuary labeled **Mission of Hope**. Donations of cereal, canned goods, personal hygiene products, and toilet paper are greatly appreciated.

## **Buffalo Landscape**

### **Sites for Outdoor Meditation**

Buffalo provides benches so visitors and members of the congregation can sit outdoors in peace and quiet—relaxing, meditating, thinking, enjoying an evening breeze or an acrobatic Monarch butterfly or a joyful songbird passing through Iowa. Options include:

- The labyrinth with three benches and wind chimes (the grass path has just been freshly mowed).
- Four new benches in front of the Hahn Memorial.
- The freshly painted bench facing 30<sup>th</sup> street, next to the worship center.
- The two red and black benches with the Little Free Library.

# October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service (9:00 am)	2	3	4 Administrative Board Meeting (10:00 am)	5	6	7
8 Worship Service (9:00 am)	9 Columbus Day (Fed. Holiday) Indigenous People's Day	10	11 Church Cleaning (9:00 am)	12 Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 am)	13	14
15 Worship Service (9:00 am)	16	17	18	19 United Women of Faith (9:30 am)	20	21
22 Worship Service (9:00 am)	23	24 United Nations Day	25	26	27	28 Bazaar, Soup Luncheon, and Wh. Elephant Sale (8:00 am to 2:00 pm)
29 Worship Service (9:00 am)	30	31 Vigil for All Saints (All Hallows' Eve - Halloween)	"Don't do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves." ~Paul writing to the Christian community in Philippi (Philippians 2:3)			

## October (and early November) Birthdays:

18 – Bobby Kelley & Shannon Kelley  
26 – Gloria Clinton  
November 3 – Kathy Houlahan

2 – Ada Olmsted

19 – Beverly Brooks

29 – Cameron Terpin

7 – Tom Ferguson

15 – Mary Richman

22 – Ivy Seufferlein

**October Anniversaries:** 14 – Judy & Gary Hackney

## Jobs Well Done

- Thanks to Dani and Judy for leading the worship service on two Sundays in September. We appreciate your faithfulness.
- Thanks to Allison for spraying the cobwebs off the front and the east side of the church.
- Thanks to our faithful plant and tree waterers--Kim and Ben and Carla and Jo and Chris.
- Thanks to Margie, Eileen, and Judy for the beautiful music that makes each worship service extra special.
- Thanks to Becky for pulling the playground weeds and delivering our donations to Mission of Hope.
- Thanks to Tom for cleaning the noodle-making equipment.

- Thanks to Gary for continuing to update the men's bathroom by the sanctuary and installing a new handicapped accessible seat. His next project is to make the toilet in the women's bathroom comparably accessible. Of course, he's doing all these tasks while also mowing the lawn and maintaining our landscape equipment. You are appreciated, Gary.

## Welcome New Buffalo Members

Kim Griffith, Ben Griffith, and Jo Lutz officially joined our church family on Sunday, September 3. They have already become important members of our community, and we are blessed that they have chosen to join our congregation.

## Buffalo Calendar

October 4: Administrative Board Meeting (10:00 a.m.)  
October 11: Church Cleaning (9:00 a.m.)  
October 12: Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 a.m.)  
October 19: United Women of Faith (9:30 a.m.)  
October 28: Bazaar, Soup Luncheon, and White Elephant Sale (8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)  
November 5: Charge Conference at Lovely Lane UMC  
November 7: Bake Sale for Cedar Rapids Community School Board Election

### Scripture Readings for Sunday Morning Worship Services in October

October 8: Gospel of Matthew 21: 33-46 & Philippians 3: 4b-14  
October 15: Gospel of Matthew 22: 1-14 & Philippians 4:1-9  
October 22: Gospel of Matthew 22: 15-22 & 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
October 29: Gospel of Matthew 22: 34-46 & 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

## Advent Study

**with Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai**

*Four sessions at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom*

*November 28 and December 5, 12, & 19*

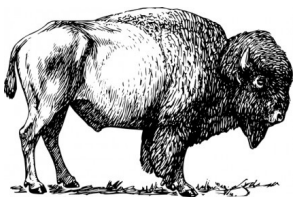
Our Bishop invites everyone to participate in this Advent study with friends from across Iowa. The sessions will focus on Bishop Ken Carter's new book, *Unrelenting Grace*. Further information and registration procedures are available on the Buffalo website's "UMC Connections" page.

## Vegetables at Buffalo

The worship service on October 8 will be the last Sunday for picking up fresh vegetables from Buffalo's country garden. Depending on the weather, it's possible that available items will include a dozen varieties of tomatoes, red and white potatoes, onions, beets, garlic, pumpkins, peppers (sweet and hot), carrots, kale, kohlrabi, Swiss chard, basil, and several varieties of winter squash.

**In Memoriam: Larry Hartmann**

**Buffalo United Methodist Church**  
**1000 30<sup>th</sup> St NE**  
**Cedar Rapids, IA 52402**



**Since 1876**

Church Website: <http://buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com/>