

September 2017

Buffalo United Methodist Church



Pastoral Letter

August and the start of the school year has for me always been the time for new beginnings. Forget New Year's with its snow and cold winds. Who would want to take on a new project then? But the fall . . . Done with the summer growing season, we have a chance to thoroughly plan our new lives during the winter's dormant season so we're ready to go when Spring comes round again. If you are a gardener, you know the joy of looking through seed catalogues and choosing all the new plants you want to try out. Heirloom tomatoes? Check. Purple pole beans? Check. That new hydrangea for the corner of the house? Check. There is hope, and expectation, and promise, along with the satisfaction of completing the previous season.

I was always more than ready to start school in the fall. New books, new pencils, and one special new dress my mother had made for me. Now that I'm starting what will hopefully be my last "first day of school" for awhile, I'm still excited by the process. My calendar doesn't have any frantic scribbling on it yet, and I can dream I will be caught up or even ahead for the entire semester.

I'm also excited to be looking at new projects for the church. We have a window of opportunity to do some planning and dreaming, thinking about where we want our congregation to be going in the short term and the long term. The Trustees have made arrangements for the outside of the church building to be painted, finishing a long list of projects that started when this congregation moved into this building several years ago. They planned, budgeted, and monitored to be sure they ended up where they wanted to be. We have several new projects taking shape at Buffalo this fall, including the following:

- Hosting a YPN parenting class called "Love and Logic"—a six-week course targeted for (although not limited to) the African refugee community living at

Cedarwood Hills apartments. YPN will supply the van, child care, class instructors, and the cost of food. We are responsible for providing volunteers to drive (no special license required), share hospitality, and cook. We need 8-10 volunteers to participate, and volunteers need not participate every week. Please let me know if you would like to help out. There are some simple volunteer forms to fill out for YPN.

- Initiating small group/education/outreach possibilities. We are seeking volunteers willing to take any children out of worship at the offering time in order to share with them age-appropriate materials, including some great learning packets assembled by Chris Gochenauer. The non-family adults who took an interest in me while I was growing up impacted my faith tremendously. Can you be that person for someone little? We are also looking at the possibilities for a short-term Bible study or topical study. We'll probably start with a short study and evaluate how well it is working for everyone. If we don't try, we'll never know what is possible! We are also considering a Sunday night program primarily focusing on Coe College and Mt. Mercy students. This is another opportunity to reach out to new groups with whom we have not had much contact.

- Developing new worship opportunities. Bob and Margie Marrs have agreed to conduct a Taizé service, perhaps during Advent. This is a beautiful and incredibly moving style, with candlelight and music. You also earned the chance for another hymn sing during the Great Peanut Butter Challenge. In addition, there will be opportunities to sign up and participate in our worship services: music, reading Scripture, drama, leading worship, and helping me prepare for worship. Please search your heart for ways that you can contribute to our worship as a community.

{conclusion of pastoral letter}

• Doing something physical. God gave us these incredibly complex bodies, and we owe it to Him to make the best possible care of them. I would like to see us start something like an arm-chair yoga or aerobics class, a walking group, or comparable activities that would help us be good stewards of what God has given us. This is a conversation—all too easy to ignore--that we need to be having as a congregation.

The Bible is full of new starts and fresh beginnings: Genesis. Noah and the flood. Joseph and his brothers. Jesus' entire life. The early Church, as told in the Book of Acts. The Resurrection (now there's a fresh start!). God calls us to change and grow, using the spiritual disciplines to undergird our efforts. Where can we go if we dream with faith?

~Pastor Kathryn



United Methodist Women Four Upcoming Meetings

#1: Come join us at 9:30 am on Thursday, September 21 for a brief business meeting and an interesting lesson. Everyone is welcome. Rose White will provide the lesson, and Ada Olmsted will provide the treats.

#2: This year's East Central District annual meeting will be on Saturday, September 23, in Clinton, Iowa. Registration starts at 9 am and the meeting at 9:30. The theme for this year's event is "We Are Called." There is a charge of \$7 for lunch. In addition to a Basket Silent Auction fundraiser, the district will be collecting dish soap, laundry soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, socks, and toilet paper. Let Judy Hackney know if you can attend.

#3: The UMW Fall Mission event will be October 20-22 in Marshalltown. The application deadline is September 10.

#4: The UMW Iowa annual meeting is October 7 at the Washington United Methodist Church.



Golden Age Potluck

Come join us at 11:30 am on Thursday, September 14 at the Buffalo UMC for fellowship and good food! Bring a friend (or friends) and a dish to share. Place settings and beverages will be provided.

Administrative Board August Meeting Notes

Topics at our Wednesday afternoon meeting included the following:

- Sustainable Landscape Solutions is now planning to construct the two bioretention cells beginning the week of September 11; the work should be completed in four days. They will also do some further landscape work along the new asphalt parking lot.
- Tom Ferguson has re-roofed a portion of the shed and continues to make it more critter proof.
- Joyce Hartmann has been assembling a book of photos commemorating the church's 140th Anniversary. The book will soon be ready to enjoy.
- Bob Marrs volunteered to obtain bids on pruning several oak and ash trees and the possible removal of an evergreen at the northeast corner of the church building.
- The board discussed options for developing new adult, small-group ministry programs and a Taizé prayer service for Advent.



Submit items for the October Newsletter by Monday, September 25 to Bob Marrs (email address: rmarrs@coe.edu)

Special Offering in September

Christian Education. The funds collected will be retained by the Iowa Annual Conference to celebrate and promote Christian education and spiritual formation through grants to purchase resources, camperships at UMC camps, and scholarships for continuing education of salaried UMC educators.



The Great Peanut Butter Challenge

Pastor Kathryn's challenge: if we donated 100 jars of peanut butter for the Linn Community Food Bank, we would have a Sunday Service of Hymn Singing and no Sermon.

Members' Response: Inspired by the negotiating skills of Faye Reynolds, our small congregation donated 200 jars (an average of almost four jars per church member). We also raised over \$300 in support of the Food Bank's mission.

Singing Hymns of Praise: Our first Hymn Sing Service was on August 20; a second Hymn Sing will occur in Advent when we can sing all our favorite Christmas songs.



Moving Rocks

Looking for some good exercise? The rocks around the new asphalt parking lot need to be gathered and moved. The small rocks can be scattered in front of the big church windows on the 30th street side of the church. The large rocks should be moved to the concrete slab by the shed. The wheel barrow by the shed can be used for moving the rocks to either location. Thanks in advance!

Buffalo UMC Website True/False Quiz

Which of the following statements describe information and resources currently available on the church's website?

___ (1) The website has a monthly calendar of scheduled church events.

___ (2) The Ministries Page includes information on seven different Buffalo Church Ministries? [Bonus points: how many of these ministries can you name?]

___ (3) The website has information (phone and email) for contacting Pastor Kathryn.

___ (4) The website has information on Worship Service Dress Code (did you know we had a dress code?), Playground Usage Rules, and Rental Policies.

___ (5) The website has copies of all monthly newsletters dating back to December 2016.

___ (6) The website has three Buffalo Church time lines covering the periods when the congregation was Evangelical (1876-1946), EUB (1946-1968), and United Methodist (1968-2016).

___ (7) The website has a photo of a Buffalo Church pew in the Goodyear store on Blairs Ferry.

___ (8) The website has three photo slideshows on the history of the congregation.

___ (9) The website's Bison Blog includes recent postings on the meaning of worship, our understanding of Christian "grace", the significance of recent events in Charlottesville, and the importance of doves in one's life.

___ (10) The website is full of quotes from various members of the congregation, including a great quote from Don Durand.

Answer Key: If you placed a "T" for True in front of each of the ten statements, you earned a perfect score. Website address: buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com

Bishop Haller Blog Posting on the Survival of UMC Congregations

This morning I recorded brief congratulatory videos for a number of United Methodist congregations in Iowa that are celebrating anniversaries this fall. While I would love to attend each anniversary celebration, it is not physically possible. As I checked out websites and tried to get a sense of the history and ministry of each church, I wondered. How could these congregations last for 100, 150, or even 160 years?

I wonder, will all of the churches that are celebrating major anniversaries this fall survive? As the demographics change in Iowa and other states, schools are consolidated, and small towns decline in population, can our United Methodist churches continue vital ministry to their communities? Not all of our churches make it. Some close, and remaining assets are gifted to other vital ministries. Some small churches consolidate . . . other churches reinvent themselves and continue to love, serve, and change in order reach out to their communities. Recently, I watched a video presentation by Salim Ismail, who is the best-selling author of *Exponential Organizations*, a sought-after technology strategist, and a well-known entrepreneur. Ismail notes that any company that is still designed to serve the 20th century is doomed because it is not designed for the flexibility and adaptability of the 21st century, where the pace of change is accelerating at a rate that is mind-boggling.

Every eighteen months to two years, technology in our world doubles in capacity and the price is cut in half. Most of us used to have a skill that lasted a lifetime. Now it's more like seven years. A billion people in our world were online 2010. By the end of this decade, most of the 7.5 billion people in the world will be online. The characteristics of exponential organizations in this new future that Ismail cites apply to the church as well. How can The United Methodist Church reach out to tomorrow's world in ways that make a difference?

- (1) Have a massive transformative purpose that emphasizes continuous spiritual growth for all ages.
- (2) Create a one-year operating plan that is updated in real time. Change is happening too fast for the traditional five-year plan.
- (3) Invest in the latest technology to reach out to and communicate with your constituents.
- (4) Encourage forward-thinking, risk, and flexibility.
- (5) Use a horizontal and permission-giving form of organization: there is no longer time to go through a hundred hoops.
- (6) Leverage your core capabilities in areas that will truly make a difference in your community and the world.
- (7) Spin out a successful ministry, knowing that it will not last forever.

(8) Recognize that the “immune system” of many churches will try to kill “disruptive” new ideas in order to keep the status quo and preserve a dysfunctional “culture.”

(9) Acknowledge the place of intuition and gut feelings as you lead through exponential change.

(10) Keep the main thing the main thing. People of faith still have tremendous influence in the world. Continue to share and model the unconditional, transformative, and inclusive love of Jesus, speak out against injustice and oppression, and invite all to join you on the journey of grace and hope.

To all of the congregations in Iowa that are celebrating anniversaries: God bless you as you continue to love, serve, and change.

Save Hy-Vee Receipts and Box Tops for Education

Please continue to save receipts from Hy-Vee and Box Tops for Education and place them in a glass jar located at the back of the church sanctuary.

The Hy-Vee receipts are used in the Cash for Kids program. Schools in Cedar Rapids and the surrounding area are able to earn \$1 for every \$200 worth of receipts turned in to Hy-Vee. In May of this year, Hy-Vee donated \$110,00 to 96 schools in the area

As for the Box Tops for Education, each box top is worth 10 cents. Schools are able to turn in box tops twice a year for cash. A check is sent to the school administrator. The Box Tops website lists the products that carry Box Top coupons, which can be found on General Mills and Pillsbury products, Cheerios, Hamburger Helper, Old El Paso brand foods, Fiber One bars, Hefty products, Bounty, Charmin, Puffs, Crest toothpaste, and Nature Valley.

Garfield School earns \$600 to \$1400 every year from this program. Purchases have included items such as I-pads and t-shirts for special projects.

Buffalo UMC Calendar - September 2017

September 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Keep the main thing the main thing. People of faith still have tremendous influence in the world. Continue to share and model the unconditional, transformative, and inclusive love of Jesus, speak out against injustice and oppression, and invite all to join you on the journey of grace and hope. ~Bishop Haller</p>					1	2
3 8:45 am: Worship Service	4 Labor Day	5 11:30 am: Mission of Hope	6	7	8	9
10 8:45 am: Worship Service	11 9:00 am: Church Cleaning	12	13	14 11:30: Golden Age Potluck	15	16
17 8:45 am: Worship Service	18	19	20	21 9:30 am: UMW Meeting	22 Fall begins	23 East Central District UMW Meeting in Clinton
24 8:45 am: Worship Service	25 October Newsletter Submissions are Due	26	27	28 9:30 am: NOOMA Study	29	30 Collect all your Hy-Vee receipts and bring to church on October 1

Birthdays

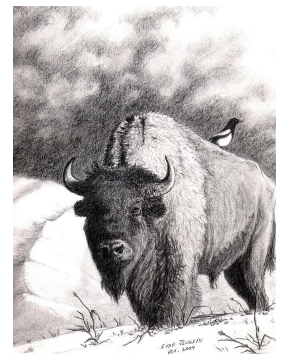
3 - Linda Otto

Anniversaries

9 - Bob & Margie Marrs

19 - Richard and Char Stanford

26 - George & Chris Gochenouer



Buffalo UMC: 2017 Events

September 11: Church cleaning, 9 am
September 28: NOOMA Study, 9:30 am
October 14: Fall Bazaar, 8 to 3 pm
October 29: Trunk or Treat, 4 to 5 pm

Bertram UMC: 2017 Events

September 17: Roadside Cleanup, 1 pm; meet at Bertram Township Hall
October 14: Fall Supper, Bertram Township Hall, 5-7 pm

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Buffalo UMC Event Schedule for 2018

- Pancake Breakfast: Saturday, April 7 (7-11 am)
- Yard Sale: Thursday, June 7 (8 am to 5 pm) and Friday, June 8 (8 am to noon)
- National Night Out: Tuesday, August 1
- Ice Cream Supper: Saturday, August 4 (4 to 7 pm)
- Fall Bazaar: Saturday, October 13 (8 am to 3 m)
- Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 28 (4 to 5 pm)

Buffalo United Methodist Church
1000 30th St
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Notes of Appreciation

Thanks to . . .

- Faye Reynolds for replenishing the “cookie tin”; there is always a tempting variety of cookies to enjoy every Sunday after the worship service.
- Bob and Margie Marrs for sharing with the congregation their garden’s fresh vegetables on Sunday morning.
- Buffalo’s own vegetable garden, which has provided us with cucumbers, beets, tomatoes, green beans, bell peppers, and fresh herbs.
- Allison Hall, our “whirlwind” dishwasher at the Ice Cream Supper.
- Tom Ferguson for cleaning the inside of the shed and arranging the tools.

