



GOTHENBURG FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
1401 LAKE AVENUE
GOTHENBURG, NE 69138
REV. JAMIE NORWICH MCLENNAN

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2018...WHAT A YEAR!!!



JOIN US!!



Acapella & Away In A Manger

Kids Christmas play practice is underway! The kids will continue to practice on Sunday Dec. 30 from 9:30 to 10:30 am and Friday Jan. 4 from after school until 6 pm.

The performance of “Acapella & Away In A Manger” is set for Sunday Jan. 6 at 9:30 am (there will be 1 combined service for this day). Cinnamon rolls and a light breakfast will be served after the program. Please come and bring your families to this show to hear about the wonder of the season!



January Birthday's



Happy Birthday

- 1— Shelby Loostrom
- 5— Ty Hotz
- 6— Josee Hotz
- 8— Devlon Blauvelt
- 9— Ava Weyers
- 10— Joan Anderson, Brady Harrison
- 11— Connor McCoy
- 12— Margaret Vance
- 13— Gary Anderson
- 14— Shannon Sell
- 19— Eton Stebbins, Judy Jensen, Morgan Weaver
- 21— Glenn Schlichenmaier, Jordan France
- 23— Jamie Weyers, Sonya Gugelman
- 25— Steve Ostergard
- 27— Merril Jane McMichael, Arissa Ackerman
- 28— Keela Leichleitner
- 29— Adam Davenport
- 30— John Olmsted
- 31— Loree Thomsen, Madison Weaver





Pastor's Perspective

Love...Tell Our Story...Share

This is what we committed ourselves to for the coming year—a very shorthand way to say that we are going to live our lives in a loving relationship with God and one another. We are going to learn ways to tell the story of our faith and we are going to act in the world by sharing our time and talents so that we can be a part of transforming the world. We pray this every time we pray “The Lord’s Prayer” and say...“Our Father...”

Those are lofty commitments. But they are a strong foundation for living our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. During September and October, we began to develop habits to help make this happen—BELLS (Bless, Eat, Listen, Learn, Sent) offers us simple, step-by-step approaches to practicing loving God and others and then sharing the story. One of the gifts of community is that we can get together and talk about what is working and what is not. We can encourage one another and continue along the path of holiness that John Wesley preached and was how we settled and transformed much of this country.

January has always been a month of new beginnings for me—and for many in America. The topic of conversation at work, school, and often at home is: “Have you made any New Year’s resolutions?” Of course, those resolutions are out attempt to change something about ourselves, the way in which we operate in the world, and perhaps they are a way to transform our world as well. One of my favorite quotes is This is us; Jesus lived this way and invited us to do the same. But there is nothing this way of living in the world. We have to understand what motivates have a vision of “The Kingdom/Reign of God” that helps us to name the tices that we would shape. And then the hard part is actually putting by all of our thoughts, words and deeds. The phrase “What Would Jesus Do?” (WWJD) comes to mind as a shaping question and BELLS practices help to live it out. And we know that we fail far more often than not.

Be the change you
want to see in the
world.

Gandhi

an invitation to
ing easy about
us. We have to
values and prac-
that into action

This year you will be invited into a variety of small groups. These will vary in size; some may be for a one-time opportunity conversation, others may be the beginning of a group that will continue to meet. Some groups may decide to “gather” mostly online, some may meet monthly, others weekly. The choice will be yours, discerned and shaped by the makeup of the group that forms. Watch for opportunities to join newly developing groups—even better, start one of your own! (contact Pastor Jamie and we will talk so that we know best how to support and encourage you in your work...)

These groups will help us care for one another, learn to share the stories of how we have interacted with The Holy, how we have been transformed, and how we are being sent into the world to make a difference; often the groups might meet someplace other than the church. In this New Year, I invite you to be open to the calling of the Spirit to deepen your relationship with God through the life of this congregation and beyond. God bless us All as we live and love and work in the grace of God and the promise of Jesus. God is with us! Alleluia! Amen.

Blessings, Pastor Jamie

Sunday School Scoop

Thanks to these time-taking volunteer who helped with Sunday School in December: Laron & Alice Peters, Joan Windrum, Jami Brundage, Lisa Jorgenson, Lindsey Tederman, Danette Anderson, and Kristi Connolley. The students of all ages are being led by many talented and gifted leaders.

Speaking of leaders!! Teachers and leaders for grades Pre-School through 5th grade are needed for 2019!!! PLEASE let Lynnette Stevens know if you can teach a class for 50 minutes a week for a week or two or three or four or until May! Curriculum is provided for you to use.

CAMP COMECA IS CALLING

The 2019 Camp Comeca camp schedule is out and ready for you to decide which camp your child will be attending. Remember that the church has scholarships that will pay up to 1/2 of your child's camp costs. Check out the website below to see the listings of camps:

<http://campcomeca.com/camps-and-events/>



Pictured from l to r (back row): Robin Stevens, Lorri Weiss, Kevin Hinds, Anne Anderson, Richard Ristine. Front row: Barry McDiarmid, Jodi Hinds, Karlene Ostergard, Cedric Bryant, and Karla Bartruff.

Music Minute

The choir presented our annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday December 16, "The Promise of Christmas." It was from a variety of cantatas and the narration was from several cantatas as well. I just put together songs and message that I felt told the Christmas Story. I thank all of you who made this a wonderful presentation, the choir for the many hours of practice, Kevin for narrating, Devin for running sound and Wendy for running the power point. Many thanks to the choir for your generous gift, I appreciate you all. Thanks also to the band, Barry McDiarmid, Jodi Hinds, and Emma Jorgenson for sharing your gift of music with us the Christmas season. Choir will take a break from rehearsing and will meet back on January 9th. Thank you all, I am blessed to work with such a talented group of people.

Happy New Year

~Karla





**“Use your God-given
talents to serve others”**

~1 Peter 4:10

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

The Stewardship and Finance report is changing. Going forward we will report the ministries your stewardship and finances support. Number and dollar information is available in the church office for those interested.

2018 Highlights

Budgeted items

Mission Shares– 100% for Year

Sunday School

-Preschool, children, youth and two adult classes

Summer Camp– Youth and Family

Small Groups– several small groups meet regularly for spiritual growth

Non-budgeted items

Bible Sticks (for Military)

Operation Christmas Child boxes

Living Out Loud concert

Thanksgiving Baskets

ADA Restroom

Gifts from the Heart

Chapel Resoration

These are only a few highlights of the many ministry activities we are involved in!!

January Opportunities:

Special Offering– Human Relations Sunday. This day United Methodist to recognize the right of all God’s children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with one another. More information may be found on line at: <http://www.umcgiving.org/question-articles/human-relations-day-faq>.

Youth Trip to Kansas City.

Mark your Calendars!

Retired Persons Lunch Bunch

Happy New Year!! The Lunch Bunch Retirement Group will meet Wednesday Jan. 2, 2019 at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite covered dish to share. We look forward to another wonderful year and invite you to become a part of our fun and fellowship. You will not regret it.



NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Small groups have been the heart of the Methodist Movement from its very foundation. We are exploring new/old ways of getting together for conversations that help us get to know one another better, share our faith and sustain us in the world. Several opportunities will be available this month—check them out and discover how God might be inviting you to live your faith boldly!

“Teach Us To Pray!” Mini-Retreat—Saturday, January 5th (Library) 10:00-12:00 The disciples came to Jesus and asked him to teach them to pray, and we received the gift of the prayer which we have named “The Lord’s Prayer.” This mini-retreat is a short introduction into centering prayer and other prayer practices that will help us deepen our relationship with God. I hope that this is just a taste of the possibilities for prayer in this congregation. This retreat is designed to help us practice the “L” of Listening in our BELLS habits.

“Who Are The Methodists?” Sunday, January 20th (Fellowship Hall) Potluck 12:00–3:00 Come and join your hearts and minds with our Confirmation Students who are exploring the United Methodist Church. We will do a bit of an overview of the history of the Methodist Movement that became the United Methodist Church we have today. We will then turn our attention to the Special Called session of General Conference that will be taking place the end of February. This will give us a chance to understand just a little bit more about the events that are unfolding in the United Methodist Church around the world.

“Hungry? Find a Methodist Supper Club”—Sunday, January 27th (Fellowship Hall) 12:00-1:30 We have joked about this at Ad Council, but here is your chance to join up and dine with those you know—and those you don’t. The Supper Club idea has been around for a long time, and continues to be a great way to begin deepening relationships. This gathering will be to talk about ideas for gathering and hosting—and signing up! These groups will help us practice the E in our BELLS habits—probably the habit that is easiest for us to develop—but come and join us and get started with a group!