



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

January 2020– Volume 31– Issue 1

2019...YEAR IN REVIEW!!



FAMILY MATTERS AND SO DO YOU!

Continuing to reach the youth of the church and community, an average of 35 youth and adults meet and greet and eat on Wednesday evenings.

On December 4th, the youth were an integral part of setting up for one of our church's mission projects, Gifts from the Heart. Christmas caroling, cocoa and cookies were the highlight of the December 11th evening. We traveled by truck and a hay bale filled trailer, thanks to Trevor Anderson and Rick Zarek, around town caroling to members of our church. The movie "The Star" was shown on December 18th to the delight of kids and adults alike.

Stay tuned for January events when we start meeting again on Wednesday January 8th.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 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– Merrill Jane McMichael, Arissa Ackerman
- 28– Keela Leichleitner
- 29– Adam Davenport
- 31– Loree Thomsen, Madison Weaver





Pastor's Perspective

I find that I am surprised that we are already at the beginning of another new year...a new decade even... 2020, imagine that! The writer of Genesis provides us with the thought "As long as the earth endures, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease." (Genesis 8:22). I find that promise hopeful, even in these days of concern over changing weather patterns, rising seas and wandering river boundaries. Life will continue we are told...the seasons will change but the cycle of the mundane and miraculous will continue to unfold. It is with that assurance I continue to make plans and move forward

I hear all the time that the year is going by so fast but it still seems amazing to once again stand on the threshold of new beginnings. Thresholds are places between one thing and the next thing, and that is where we are as we look at new—and currently empty—calendars; 365 days to spend as we choose, each of us with a precious 24 hours to fill with meaningful and not-so-meaningful activities. And, as we do so, we raise the cry of the weary and overburdened, saying "I am so busy!"

So I am going to take this moment to pause and reflect on the past year, to celebrate the highs and face the failures. As I do so, I remember all who have walked with me this year and have worked to make our ministry together transformative and nurturing as well. I thank God for your faithful work and generous commitment to our shared ministry.

I also pause to dream about the new year, with all of its promises yet to unfold. I know that I want to move beyond the feeling of busyness and into a sense of accomplishment—not only for myself, but for all of

us. One of the ways we are seeking to do this is to decrease the number of meetings each week by changing the administrative committee structure to what we are calling the Common Table. Our hope is that once this is established, all the congregation will have more time to serve in our outreach ministries. As we begin this new work together, we ask for God's blessing. I invite you to pray with me:

God of ever-new beginnings,

God in whom past, present and future

Perpetually coalesce,

As a new year unfolds before us,

Through the dark days of January,

Through the vagaries of the weather,

Though storm, flood, ice or snow may

Unsettle us,

Though personal difficulties may beset us,

Help us always to remember

That your light shines through the deepest darkness,

That your love surrounds and summons us,

That your life is stronger than death itself,

And that your Grace sustains us

And is sufficient for all our needs.

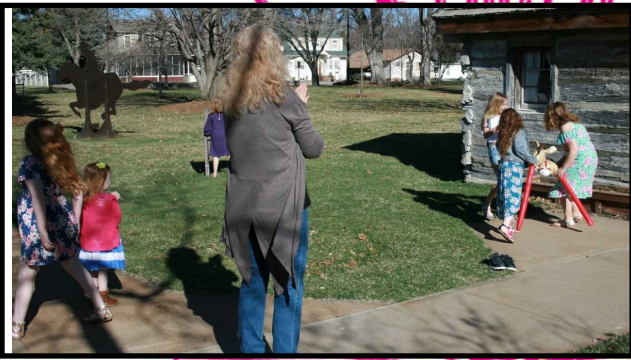
Amen.

—Katy Owen

Thank you all for the blessings in the past year together. May God continue to bless our ministries as we dance and stumble into this new year! Blessings and Peace, Pastor Jamie

The Beat

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Gothenburg First United Methodist Church



MUSIC MESSAGE

"May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home. May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam." ~Irish Proverb

Happy New Year-hope your holidays have been wonderful. Thanks to everyone who has made this Christmas season so great, the band and our talented tech crew; Barry for your weekly special music; to Emma and all those who performed and made the food for the cabaret, it was a fun evening; and to Emma and the children for making the children's program so special.

~Karla



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“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold.”

~Acts 4:33-34



STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

2019 Highlights

Sunday Morning Worship– A time to gather together in praise and worship of God and to encourage each other in Christian living.

Small Group Bible Studies– a more intimate and in-depth study of God’s word and how he relates and interacts with each of us daily.

Family Matters– a time of ministry in fellowship and study for the children, youth and adults as well.

Vacation Bible School– provided fun and Bible teaching for our children.

Youth Trip– The youth took a trip to Kansas City where they participated in worship and ministry.

Celebrate Recovery– a 12 step recovery program centered on Jesus Christ in healing of hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Although just started in June, we have already seen lives changed and relationships with Jesus Christ begun through this program.

Daycare & Preschool– these are great programs that are housed within our facilities that provide childcare and early childhood development to our community.

Confirmation– It was great to welcome the confirmands and to witness baptism during worship. It is great to walk into the church and hear the sounds of children activities.

Livin Out Loud– a Christian concert for the area. Great artists, songs and of course the hope we have in Jesus was shared. We had fun sponsoring a pretzel booth at this event.

Human Trafficking presentation– Paul and Sylvia Cummings from OMS came and presented the perils of human trafficking and encouraged us to become involved in helping to minister to those in need. But do not stop there. We must encourage to help reduce any trafficking activity.

Thanksgiving Baskets– Food boxes were assembled for families in need so that they could have a good Thanksgiving meal.

Operation Christmas Child– a worldwide effort to provide gifts and the gospel to children around the world. This is coordinated through the Samaritan’s Purse organization.

Gifts from the Heart– A time of sharing our blessings with the community.

Mission Shares– connectional ministry outreach through the UMC worldwide. To learn more about Mission Shares, please visit <https://www.greatplainsumc.org/>

End of September General bank balance: \$- 15,964.84

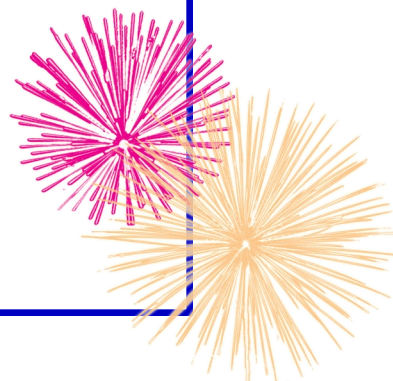
This is only a small portion of ministry carried out by this church. All require time and finances. Thanks to everyone involved and to those who gave financially to make it possible for our church to be a beacon of light to our community and the world. It is your giving that provides the ability to share the gospel of Jesus Christ for the transforming of the world.

Mark your Calendars!



RETIRED PERSONS LUNCH BUNCH

Dennis and Carol will be gone this month for Lunch Bunch but Lunch Bunch will still meet. Please help us ring in the New Year on Wednesday Jan. 8th at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite covered dish to share and join us for delicious food and wonderful fellowship. See you then!!



**2020 IS GOING
TO BE GREAT!!
WILL YOU JOIN
US IN DOING
GOD'S WORK??**

