

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



October 2019– Volume 30– Issue 10

## Harvest Festival Edition!!!



Pictured are from left to right: Kevin Hinds, Jodi Hinds, Pastor Jamie, Anne Anderson, Alice Peters, and Laron Peters.

From pretzels in the park, lunch at the church, a float in the parade AND we sponsored and worked a special showing of a movie...all in a weeks time!!! **WE WERE BUSY** during Gothenburg's Annual Harvest Festival!! On Wednesday September 18th we sponsored a special showing of the movie "Overcomer" at The Sun Theater. We sold out the theater!! And what a fun way to spread the news of Jesus than with 250+ fellow believers. We went right from that to decorating the float. Mark Boson designed our float this year and with the help of a handful of others, it was decorated beautifully, while others were preparing the food for the meal to be held following the parade and setting up tables and chairs. The day of the parade came and we were everywhere!! Thank you to everyone who had a part in making it a successful weekend. Thanks again to Mark for the wonderful design of the float, and to Wendy Ristine, Anne Anderson, Jodi and Kevin Hinds and Laron Peters for help in decorating. Special thanks go to Duane and Ryan Sukraw for the use of their trailer and again to Laron for the use of his Quonset for staging and storing the float **AND** also for driving it in the parade, and to Alice Peters, Kevin Hinds and Anne Anderson for walking with our float and handing out our "goodies". Thanks to Kris and Leah Loostrom for the pretzels in the park, and to Joan Windrum for organizing the menu and the cooks who helped prepare and serve the meal. Thanks to all those who donated pies as well...I think we are famous for our pies! All of this would not have been possible without you, acting as God's hands and feet in the world.

## THANKS!

Thank you for the popcorn and drink when we attended the movie “Overcomer” at the Sun Theater. It is a wonderful thing to be able to take my family to watch a Christian movie. Thank you for spreading the news of Jesus to others.

The Fleharty Family

## EXCITING NEWS!!

The Mission Outreach and Evangelism Committee and the Education Committee are joining forces and will still be MOE...But the “E” will stand for Education. We are finding ourselves working towards the same goals and focuses and so as we move forward we will be working together to bring outreach not only to our own church, but to those outside our 4 walls as long as education for all!!

## A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

Everyone enjoyed the Old Fashion Church Picnic that was held on Sunday September 15th at Ehmen Park. Many thanks to all who came and especially to Mark and Becky for providing the delicious pulled pork. God provided us with beautiful weather and everyone enjoyed the fellowship. I think you’ll be seeing more of these in the future!!

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAY’S

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1– Eldon Haynes                                   | 30– Mike Koubek, |
| 4– June Sabin, Tom Shea                           | 31- Brian Weiss  |
| 7– Greenlee Jeffries                              |                  |
| 10– Jami Brundage, Mike Ackerman, Carolyn Simmons |                  |
| 11– Mike McVay                                    |                  |
| 14– Amy Harrison                                  |                  |
| 15– Maddy Anderson                                |                  |
| 16– Dennis VanOverbeke, Matt Ostergard            |                  |
| 21– Cedric Bryant                                 |                  |
| 22– Lynn Vass, Tim Fecht                          |                  |
| 23– Barbra Franzen                                |                  |
| 24– Tyler Stienike                                |                  |
| 25– Susan Kirkpatrick                             |                  |
| 26– Randy Burge, Chaseton Blauvelt                |                  |
| 27– Allen Fickenscher, Angela Easterday           |                  |
| 29– Marilyn Erlandson                             |                  |





# Pastor's Perspective

## A Transformed Church...The Fresh Start Movement

Over this past year, we have been talking about a new movement in the United Methodist Church; it is called “Fresh Start” and focuses particularly on new ways/places/times for being the Church. Many of the new beginnings grow out of small groups of people who meet for activities other than what have traditionally been called “Church.” Out of these small groups, opportunities grow for sharing our faith stories and new ways of worshipping God. In some places, the new beginnings only take place after there has been another kind of transformation: the loss of “Church-As-We-Know-It.” Ted Kooser, a former National Poet Laureate from Nebraska, wrote a poem that does a good job of depicting what that might look like across Nebraska. The title of the poem is: The Red Wing Church.

*“There’s a tractor in the doorway of a church  
in Red Wing, Nebraska, in a coat of mud  
and straw that drags the floor. A broken plow  
sprawls beggar-like behind it on some planks  
that make a sort of roadway up the steps.  
The steeple’s gone. A black tar-paper scar  
that lightning might have made replaces it.  
They’ve taken it down to change the house of God  
to Homer Johnson’s barn, but it’s still a church,  
with clumps of tiger lilies in the grass  
and one of those boxlike, glassed-in signs  
that give the sermon’s topic (reading now  
a bird’s nest and a little broken glass).  
The good works of the Lord are all around:*

*the steeple top is standing in a garden  
just up the alley; it’s a hen house now:  
fat leghorns gossip at its crowded door.  
Pews stretch on porches up and down the street,  
the stained-glass windows style the mayor’s house,  
and the bell’s atop the firehouse in the square.  
The cross is only God knows where.”  
+ Ted Kooser*

There are some haunting images in this poem. I am particularly struck by the image of pews on porches up and down the street, because there aren’t any places other than churches that people ever sit in pews. Many newer churches use chairs rather than pews to allow for more flexibility in seating people—whether in rows (pew-like) or in small groups or circles to facilitate conversation.

As we continue to be in conversation about new ways of doing/being church, you might think about some of the images in this poem. What is it that makes a building a church...or a barn? If God is everywhere, most especially when God is in you and me, what is the function of the buildings we name church? How can the spaces in which we find ourselves become holy? What might make any place not holy and reflective of God who created all things? And is any time more sacred than another time?

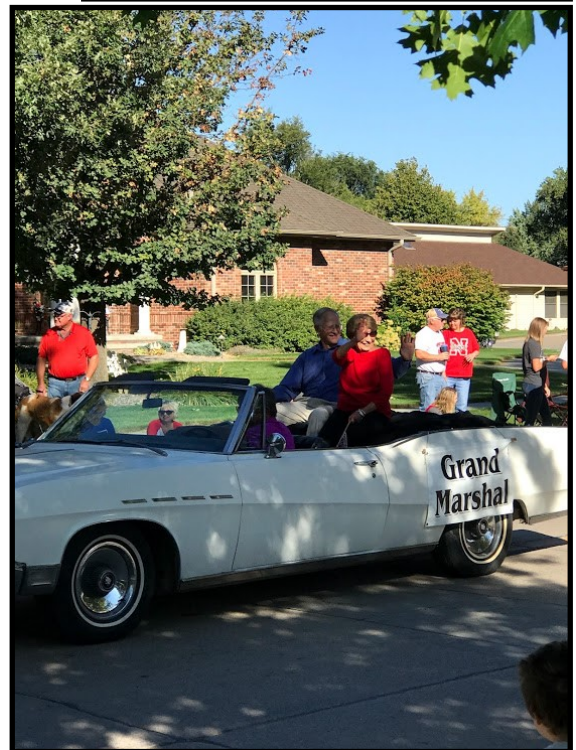
I know! Too many questions, especially about things we think we know...so said my pastor when I was taking Confirmation classes the first time around....May God be in our questions and may our answers bring us new understanding of the opportunities that are now before us. God bless us all! Pastor Jamie



## The Beat

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## Harvest Festival Continued!



Smiles all around!! The fellowship hall was full and so were our tummies after lunch!! Dick and Connie Larson were honored as Grand Marshal for this year and what a deserving couple. They are always willing to lend a helping hand . We are blessed to have them as members of our church family.

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"So let each one give as he  
purposes in his heart, not  
grudgingly or of necessity;  
for God loves a cheerful  
giver."

~2 Corinthians 9:7

## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

### September Highlights

**Third Graders received Bibles**— On September 15th, the third graders received a Bible from the church. Sunday School attendance, leadership, and other types of service were recognized during both worship services.

**Family Matters**— Worship, Wednesday School (formerly known as Sunday School) and Youth groups on Wednesday evenings. The evening begins with a meal.

**Two Sunday Services**— Traditional at 8:30 am and Contemporary at 10:30 am.

**Movie**— Our church sponsored the movie "Overcomer" at The Sun Theater. We **SOLD OUT** the theater!

**Harvest Festival Parade:** Mark Boson showed off his creative skills and prepared a float with cross and flame decor. Good fellowship preparing the float and lots of fun participating in the parade. This provided an invitational opportunity to the community to come and see what is happening in our church.

**Harvest Festival Dinner:** We again served lunch during the Harvest Festival on Saturday Sept. 21 following the parade. We had a great crowd and were able to raise \$1800 + to help with ministry. Thanks to all who made this possible. A big thank you to Joan Windrum who helps to organize and make sure we are prepared.

**Pretzels in the Park:** Kris and Leah Loostom and Lynnette Stevens sold pretzels and pretzel dogs in the park during Harvest Festival activities. They raised around \$800 to be used for church ministry. Hallelujah!!

**Celebrate Recovery goes to jail:** Celebrate Recovery is now offered in the Daswon County Jail as well as on Saturday evenings in our church at 7:00 pm. To learn more about both services contact Kevin Hinds. Kevin would love to have other join him in this important ministry to those with hurts, habits, and hang-ups.

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

### October Opportunities:

**Small Groups:** Small groups still gather for Bible study. New ones are encouraged. Please check with the church office for more information regarding existing groups or to begin a new one.

**Trunk or Treat:** will be held on Wednesday October 23rd during our Wednesday Night Family Matters. Contact Jodi Hinds if you wish to help.

**End of June General bank balance: \$- 10,063.21**

Giving has trailed off again. The tow fundraisers mentioned above will help but we still need you. Please be prayerful regarding what God is leading you to do. Our church is doing great ministry. The greatest hope in the world, a relationship with Jesus Christ, is offered though church ministry.





## Mark your Calendars!



### RETIRED PERSONS LUNCH BUNCH

Senior Lunch Bunch will meet Wednesday, October 2nd at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We welcome all seniors to come join us for a time of fun, fellowship, and great food. Bring your favorite fall food item. Our final offering this month will be combined with what we have received the last 2 months. This will be donated to the Thanksgiving Meal fund to help with supplies. See you all soon. Happy Halloween!!



**GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.**

Operation Christmas Child 2019 is coming to town!!

**NOVEMBER 18-25** Mark your calendar! Save the Date!

Shoe Boxes will be provided for you to fill to the brim. A young boy or girl would love to receive a gift from you. Please pray today that each gift brings the good news of Jesus Christ to a child and their family. Contact Alice Peters or the Church Office for more information. Thank you!

### TRUNK OR TREAT

This year will be an exciting adventure. We will be doing it on our Wednesday Night Family Matters on October 23rd, starting with a soup supper and moving on towards our trunk or treat with fun and games included. Contact Jodi Hinds if you are interested in helping or having a Trunk or game. Hope to see you all there!!



### HUNGRY? T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

If you are interested in getting one of these t-shirts, you can! They are available in the church office in various sizes and if we don't have your size, we'll get one!! Prices are very reasonable: MED - LG - XLG: \$12.50; LG-TALL \$13.50; XXXLG \$16.50. Thank you to our gracious models for showing us the front and back of the shirt. Mark is wearing a large and Anne is wearing a medium.

