

GOTHENBURG FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
1401 LAKE AVENUE
GOTHENBURG, NE 69138
REV. GRACE GICHURU



September 2020– Volume 31– Issue 9

REMEMBER WHEN??



Retired Persons Lunch Bunch.
Photo circa “Pastor Joel era”
Photo credit to Carol
VanOverbeke

It is our desire that we will soon be reunited enjoying each other’s company and great food. Please know that you have not been forgotten but instead you have been greatly missed. So hang in there, remember our great times, and hopefully very soon we will again be able to visit and meet with one another. Meanwhile, stay safe and see you soon!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are on schedule for 2020! Shoebox gifts will be collected in November. For the past six years we have served as a drop off center and taken a trailer with gifts to Kearney. This year we will collect gifts from our church as we did previously and deliver our gifts to a near by drop-off center. These shoe box gifts are an opportunity to introduce Jesus to children and youth worldwide. Boxes will be available for you in October. You can also choose to fill a box online at any time. The Samaritan’s Purse website gives information on tracking and online shoebox gifts. Updates will be given if any instructions change due to Covid-19.

Thank You,
Alice Peters



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

CR is now meeting each Thursday evening at 7:00 pm. They have also added a Zoom option if you don't feel comfortable or cant' attend in person. If you need more information or have questions please contact Kevin or Jodi Hinds. Also, if you are willing and interested in providing snacks (pre-packaged) please let us know!!

COLLEGE ADDRESSES

If you have or are a college student, either at home, online, or on campus, please send your addresses to us so we can keep in touch with our students!! We would also love it if you would share your email addresses with us as well. You can submit them to the office at:
secretary@gothenburgumc.org
or stevens.lynnette@gmail.com



GRANDPARENTS DAY CHUCKLES

A little girl sat on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she'd reach up and touch his wrinkled cheek. Then she'd touch her own cheek thoughtfully. Finally, she spoke, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered. "God made me a long time ago." "Did God make me too Grandpa?" she asked. "Yes indeed honey," he answered. "God made you just a little while ago." She touched his face again, and then her own. "He's getting better at it, isn't he?" she asked.

Blessed are those who snuggle, and hug, spoil, pamper, boast and brag, for they shall be called Grandparents. **Happy Grandparents Day!!**

Pastor Grace

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2– Madeline Jorgenson, Donna Morris
- 3– Jennifer Nelson
- 5– Lunden Groene, Michelle Stienike, Kendrick Connolley
- 6– Sandy Widholm
- 7– Noah Larson, Merle Block
- 8– Matthew Shea, Reagan Jeffries
- 9– Levi Peters, Dennis Davenport, Christopher Shaffner
- 12– Sally Trimble
- 13– Bettie Haney
- 15– Bertha Kuhlman
- 16– Joe Humphrey, Kalli Koubek, Lisa Jorgenson

- 17– Leah Loostrom, Eric VanOverbeke, Holli Koubek
- 18– Wyatt Stebbins
- 19– Chesney Bartlett
- 20– Janet Williams
- 21– Ed Foster, Cathy Kennicutt
- 22– Aliyah O'Keefe
- 25– Deric Lunkwitz, Connie Klemm





From the Pastor's Desk

ASKING FOR HELP

I think of you all – those that I have met in person as well as those I am yet to meet, with a prayer and hope that each of you is safe these challenging days of social distancing. One thing that has become so clear for me these days is how much we need each other. From a listening ear, a smile, a phone call, someone to help pick groceries, to prayers. We need each other now more than ever before.

At the same time, we are part of a culture that emphasizes self-sufficiency, so much that many people will not ask for help even when they desperately need it. We have that 'I can do it on my own mentality'. Sometimes it is because we do not want to feel like a burden, sometimes we do not want to be turned down, sometimes we just want to be in control, and some people hate anything that feels like a handout.

There is a story that goes back to the days of the Industrial Revolution. In one of those early factories – a woolen mill – there was posted over every piece of machinery a prominent sign: "If the threads become tangled, call the foreman."

It so happened that on her first day at work, a new employee found the threads on her machine badly tangled. Immediately she set to work untangling them. Unfortunately, it only made matters worse and at the same time slowed down the work of others. Finally, the foreman walked by and scoped out the situation. He sternly asked, "Why didn't you call for me?"

"I didn't want to bother you, sir," the new millworker replied. "I was simply trying to do my best."

The foreman looked kindly on the frightened woman and explained: "Doing your best includes calling the foreman."

That is the way God looks on us as well. We love to imagine we are completely self-sufficient in this life: but we are only fooling ourselves. No matter how gifted, how intelligent, how self-disciplined we may be, always there comes a time when our resources run out. In such an hour, there is nowhere else for us to turn but to the Lord.

James 1:5 encourages us to ask help from God "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking".

Ziad K. Abdelnour once said "Be strong enough to stand alone, smart enough to know when you need help, and brave enough to ask for it".

I want you all to know that I am here – an email, a phone call away. While I will not offer a hug yet, I can listen, visit outside keeping a safe distance and a mask on, even pray for and with you. Above all else, the ultimate foreman is always available as the Psalmist sung in Psalm 46:2 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

Stay safe, hopeful and blessed.

Pastor Grace.



The Beat

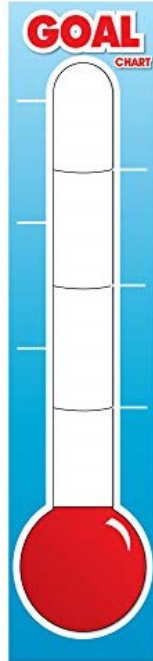
September 2020– Volume 31– Issue 9

Gothenburg First United Methodist Church



FUNDS FOR A FURNACE

Fundraising is still ongoing to help cover the cost of a new compressor and other repairs for the unit that supplies our fellowship hall with climate control. Our goal is to raise \$9,999 which will cover the cost of the new compressor and then give us some “left over” to save for a new unit...because that is coming!! These units are old and in need of attention, so if you want to donate to the cause, please mark “furnace” on the memo line of your preferred donation method and help us raise the temperature on the thermometer and track the progress in the Narthex!! If you have any questions about this please contact any member of the Trustees.



BECOME A VOLUNTEER - MAKE A DIFFERENCE



“The Greatest gift you can give someone is your time.”

Learning Adventures Learning Center is looking to have people who are willing to interact with the kids at the center occasionally. In the past, our members have read books, done music time, and things of that nature. The kids really enjoyed that time and have been asking to get back into those activities. We are aware that for some, navigating the stairs can be an issue. The fellowship hall can be used if needed.

FACTS AND FIGURES

General Giving Thru Aug 22 Actual: \$103,875 Budgeted: \$132,172
Percent of Budgeted: 78.6%
Paid Apportionments Thru Aug 22 Actual: \$4,810 Budgeted: \$12,414
Percent of Budgeted: 38.7%



Average Attendance for August: 48

NEW ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH

Effective immediately! Monday through Friday during office hours, entry to the church may be gained through the west wooden door. This door will be locked again when the office is closed. The daycare will be responsible for locking their entrances AND the north glass doors at 6:00 pm when they close. Meetings that occur after 6:00 pm will have a designated person with a key that will be responsible for locking after the meeting.

