

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



October 2017– Volume 28– Issue 10

Cook it– And they will Come

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7. Saturday September 16th, we hosted the Annual Harvest Festival Dinner. Around 300 hungry people came to enjoy sloppy joes, turkey sandwiches, or hot dogs, chips, pickles, a drink, and of course...PIE!! We are always glad to have guests enter our building, but we could not do this without the members of our church who work so hard to make it all possible. From set up, cooking, serving, clean up, tear down, and pie donations, THANK YOU!! A special thank you to Joan Windrum, who once again took the lead on this wonderful fundraiser for our church, and also to the Finance Committee who worked and sponsored the event! Big Thanks also go to the men of the Trustee Committee for setting up the tables and chairs Thursday after their meeting.





Sunday School Mission Project

The Sunday School Mission Project for this year is the Back Pack Program. This program is a local organization that helps feed the hungry in Gothenburg. A child takes home a backpack each weekend filled with food so his/her family can have healthy, free options to feed whoever may need it. The average cost for a family for a year is \$250. The average backpack per week is \$8-\$10 depending on the size of the family. The United Methodist Sunday School 2017-2018 mission goals is to collect \$500 and feed two families for a year. Please join the children in uplifting this organization this year in prayer and any offering you might feel inclined to give.

October Birthday's

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1— Eldon Haynes | 30— Mike Koubek, Tre Ostergard |
| 4— June Sabin, Tom Shea | 31- Brian Weiss |
| 7— Greenlee Jeffries | |
| 10— Jami Brundage, Mike Ackerman, Carolyn Simmons | |
| 11— Mike McVay | |
| 14— Amy Harrison | |
| 16— Dennis VanOverbeke, Matt Ostergard | |
| 17— Bob Andrist, Thelma Peterson | |
| 18— Lois Alberts | |
| 21— Cedric Bryant | |
| 22— Lynn Vass, Tim Fecht, Joe DeMarco | |
| 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

On Sunday morning after worship the Praise Band gathered together microphones, wires, amps, stools, instruments, sound board and God alone knows what else; we transported our belongings and selves to Camp Comeca where we had been invited to help provide the entertainment for the afternoon of the annual Buffalo Barbecue fundraiser. (If you think that sentence was convoluted and full then you get a good feeling for what the effort was like!) I held my breath as I turned off the highway and started up the gravel road toward the camp, fish tailing on the slippery mud that was churned up under the gravel. When I got to the parking lot outside the dining area I was met with a young man in a covered golf cart—and I gratefully accepted a lift the rest of the way.

Inside the Dining Hall, there were wonderful smells of pulled pork and barbecued buffalo. People were moving about, smiles on all the faces. I saw friends and gathered hugs and remembered fun times spent in those rooms over the years. Camp Comeca is one of the first places I spent time as I considered moving to Nebraska. It was good to be back—I have been looking forward to that connection ever since I moved to Gothenburg.

While I was schmoozing, the Praise Band had put together our equipment and was preparing to start the entertainment for the afternoon. My mind struggles with the concept of Praise music and “entertainment”, but we certainly had fun singing and the crowd enjoyed listening. Some of them were able to join in with us and sing along, but many were unfamiliar with the songs (like me until the Praise Band taught them to me!) We had an interactive crowd, with several people wanting to know more about how we organized worship...how the congregation responded to the music...how often we took our show “on the road”. Afterwards I found out that we even got offered a steady “job” as the Praise Band for Cozad’s early worship service!

We are very blessed by the music program here in Gothenburg. We have fine musicians with generous spirits, happily sharing their musical gifts. We have volunteers who look/listen for music that we can learn and that fits with the scriptures of the day. But we also have great “support staff” in those who develop our slides and who work behind the scenes to make technology work for us. We have Trustees who know the value of good equipment and a Memorial Committee who helps to fund some of the work. What you see on Sunday mornings is great—but is the “tip of the iceberg” for making all of that possible.

Our music helps us worship and praise our God—this is why I have a difficult time thinking of our music as “entertainment”; but I have a much harder time imagining worship in which music does not play a part. But worship and church needs so many other skills than those just tied to the making of music. And, thankfully, we have a variety of different gifts that God needs and uses to care for others and transform the world. As we prepare for Charge Conference this month, we will be considering the gifts of our particular congregation—and the gifts that each one of us bring—so that we can participate in God’s work of transforming the world.

Thanks be to God! Amen...Pastor Jamie

Sunday School is in Full Swing!

Fruits of the Spirit was the Bible story taught by Lorri Weiss, Danette Anderson, and Ann Foster during the first four weeks of Sunday School. Thanks to them for their creative experiences for the youth. Ask some of the SS youth if they can tell you the fruits of the spirit.

Lisa Jorgenson used Lessonmaker with the Jr/Sr high youth. She creates lessons from the Bible verses read in the church service, so the lessons work wonderfully with Pastor Jamie's sermons. Thanks Lisa!

It is wonderful to see the 2 adult classes deep in discussions during the Sunday School hour also. Thanks to Joan and Laron & Alice Peters.



October Sunday School Update

We serve a God of
SECOND CHANCES.
“...and the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time...”



Jonah and the Big Fish will be the story October 8, 15, 22, and 29. Jamie Brundage, Sarah Anderson, and Amber Burge will lead the Pre-K through 6th grade students. Lindsey Tederman and Lisa Jorgenson will share the October Sundays with the Jr/Sr high students.

Music Minute



We took our show on the road— a special thanks to our Praise Band, Devin and Wendy for spending Sunday afternoon (Sept. 24) at the Buffalo BBQ at Camp Comeca— the crowd was very complimentary and appreciative. As always, I want to thank Barry McDiarmid for presenting special music at early service, our praise band for singing at late service and Devin, Shannon, Amber and Wendy for sound and Power Point.

The choir is already working on our Christmas Cantata and I would urge you to join us— we rehearse at 8:00 pm each Wednesday night— come join in the fun!

I appreciate each one of you that I am so fortunate to work with— you are all wonderful, talented people and I thank you for all you do!

~Karla





Figures and Finances



Mission Shares	Percent of Budget	77.5%
	Paid to date	\$11,068
YTD General Expenses	(through Sept 30)	\$126,620
YTD Budgeted Expenses	(through Sept 30)	\$140,926
% of Budget		87.6%
YTD General Giving	(through Sept 30)	\$117,580
YTD Budgeted Giving	(through Sept 30)	\$129,850
% of Budget		90.6%



2017 GIVING AND ATTENDANCE REPORT						
	3-Sep	10-Sep	17-Sep	24-Sep	TOTAL	
ATTENDANCE						
Early Worship	53	39	39	39	117	
Late Worship		78	70	72	273	
Sunday School		46	27	36	109	
BUDGET						
Undesignated	\$ 3,577.00	\$ 1,999.00	\$ 2,095.00	\$ 3,478.00	\$ 11,149.00	
"Local Only"	\$ 250.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 885.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 1,315.00	
"Apportion"	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 550.00	
GENERAL TOTALS	\$ 3,927.00	\$ 2,239.00	\$ 3,130.00	\$ 3,718.00	\$ 13,014.00	
Budget + or -	\$ 302.00	\$ (1,386.00)	\$ (495.00)	\$ 93.00		
NEEDED PER WEEK IN 2017 TO MEET OUR BUDGET - \$3625						
IN & OUT						
Camp Comeca				\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	
Endowment		\$ 42.70			\$ 42.70	
Harvest Fest Dinner			\$ 1,774.00	\$ 285.00	\$ 2,059.00	
UMCOR	\$ 370.00	\$ 530.00	\$ 50.00		\$ 950.00	
Produce Table	\$ 4.00				\$ 4.00	
Samaritans Purse	\$ 50.00	\$ 40.00			\$ 90.00	
SS Mission			\$ 21.55		\$ 21.55	
Silent Auction			\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 150.00	
IN & OUT TOTALS	\$ 424.00	\$ 612.70	\$ 1,920.55	\$ 370.00	\$ 3,327.25	
Memorials						
MEMORIAL TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 70.00	
ADA Restroom						
BLDG/MAIN TOTALS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL \$ 4,351.00 \$ 2,851.70 \$ 5,070.55 \$ 4,138.00 \$16,341.25 GIVING						



Mark your Calendars!

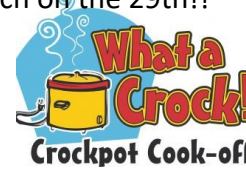
Retired Persons Lunch Bunch



Happy Haunting will take place on Wednesday October 4, 2017 at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Pot Luck will be the menu for the day. Feel free to bring your favorite Halloween food. Costumes are welcome but not necessary. All spooks 55 and older are welcome to attend. See you on the 4th. **BOOOOOO!!!**

5th Sunday Fellowship

You are invited to a Fifth Sunday Fellowship on October 29th following late service. A crockpot cookoff is planned. This is the second year for this good food contest. If you would like to be entered in the contest, you must prepare and bring your dish in a crock pot, however, any dishes are welcome!! An early "thank you" to Mark and Becky Boson for planning this fun event. The special offering will go the Operation Christmas Child to help with the cost of purchasing the boxes and shipping. Shoe boxes will be available that day for you to take and begin filling!! National Collection week is November 13-20. See you for lunch on the 29th!!



Morning Star

United Methodist Church

Celebrating 100 Years

October 8th, 2017

Morning Star Church worship

10:30 a.m.

Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr to preach

Lunch following service

Open House Dedication 2:00pm

From Callaway-7.2 miles west in Hwy 40, turn south onto Stop Table Rd, go 6 miles to Morning Star Church. Some chairs will be provided but bring a lawn chair if you would like.

Trunk or Treat



Come and join the fun on Sunday afternoon, October 29th from 2-4 pm in the north parking lot of the church. Kids are invited to wear church appropriate costumes and bring their parents to share in the

fun! Treats, games, story telling and more. We are also looking for TRUNKS (trunks of cars or pick up beds) DECORATED FOR THE EVENT! This will be open to the community so spread the word to your friends!!

All Saints Remembrance

On Sunday, November 5th, we will remember the members of our congregation who have passed on this last year. There will also be a dedication of memorial gifts given from monies that have been donated to the church in a loved ones name. This is always a special service so please plan to join us on this first Sunday in November.