



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



September 2019– Volume 30– Issue 9

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

EVERYONE is welcome to Celebrate Recovery! If you're curious and not sure about coming, Celebrate Recovery is a Bible based 12 step Christ Centered Recovery Group aimed at ALL "hurts, habits, and hang-ups", including but not limited to high anxiety, co-dependency, compulsive behaviors, sex addiction, financial dysfunction, drug and alcohol addictions, and eating disorders. The purpose of CR is to fellowship and CELEBRATE God's healing power in our lives through the 12 steps and 8 recovery principles. We meet each Saturday evening at 7 pm here at the church...join us.



WE NEED YOU!!!

As we start a new and exciting chapter in our church with Wednesday night church, Family Matters, we have a need for donations for suppers. Everyone is invited to eat with us every Wednesday night at 6:00 pm. There are several ways that you can help us with this. 1.) If you wish to give monetarily, you may do so by designating "Wednesday night meals" on your preferred donation method, 2.) There will be giving envelopes available soon specifically for meals, 3.) Desserts can be furnished each week. Thank you so much for your continued generosity, we are so blessed to have you all on our team!!



THANK YOU

Thanksgiving in August was held again this year on August 18th to raise money for food baskets to be distributed in November to local families in need. Many people from the community came through our doors, even some folks who were in town for the Livin' Out Loud concert came and enjoyed the meal! Thank you to Mark for making all of the wonderful noodles, thank you to Anne for the beautiful decorations, and thank you to everyone who supplied us with yummy desserts. Thanks to everyone who helped serve, clean up, etc., know that you are appreciated. Thank you also, to everyone who came and ate with us and supported this project, your support is greatly and truly appreciated more than you know. Are you ready for next year?!?!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 2— Madeline Jorgenson, Donna Morris | 29— Lois Bellinger |
| 3— Jennifer Nelson | 30— Patricia Andrist |
| 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 | |





Pastor's Perspective

John Wesley was a great believer in making life better for people—particularly for people on the margins of society. Because of that, he worked tirelessly to address the social ills of the society in his day. He helped to bring about the change in labor laws for children—no longer wanting kids as young as four being sent off to factories where their tiny little fingers could access spaces that adult fingers could not reach. Besides working to change labor laws that put young children into the workforce (12 hours/day, 6 days/week) to help feed their families, the Wesley brothers and the early Methodist movement began to address the issue of literacy. Public education was not yet in place in England—and certainly not in the “colonies”—and only the children of those who could afford tutors or private schools were being taught to read and write. To address this issue, John and his friends worked to establish Sunday Schools.

In the beginning, Sunday School’s purpose was to teach children to read. Because books were very expensive and not easily available, Bibles were seen as the primary resource for reading material. Of course, the purpose for choosing the Bible was two-fold; not only to teach children to read, but to teach them the stories of the Bible and introduce them to the Christian faith as well. Sunday was the day chosen for these schools because it was the only day when these children did not work, so it was the only day available for such an activity. One schedule for the day was class time from 10:00-1:00, a break for a bit to eat and time to worship, and then time to return to class. Time was not limited to just learning reading from the Bible, but also learning to write and work with numbers. Children were encouraged to take their lessons home and share them with their parents (because John Wesley believed that the home had an important part to play in educating a child). Through this practice, many adults also learned to read and write, and so the practice of sending a child to Sunday School even if the parent did not attend church regularly, was born.

Because John Wesley felt that learning was so important, the Methodist Movement began to establish schools that would educate adults as well. As the

changing work climate unfolded, Sunday Schools also adapted and changed, eventually becoming the active programs of the 1950s-2000s, including the addition of Vacation Bible School and summer camps. Our world looks very different than the one in which John Wesley felt it was important to begin a place and time to teach all children to read...write...and “do numbers”. It has also changed a great deal from the Sunday School that shaped me and many of the adults in our congregation.

Why the history lesson? Because we are in the process of changing “Sunday School” once again! In response to changes in our society and different needs for educating ourselves in the Bible and Christian Formation, we are establishing Wednesday night programming for all ages, particularly focusing on the needs and schedules of our families. We are calling this program: Family Matters. In John Wesley’s England, the work week was pretty rigidly set to 12 hour days, 6 days a week; work on Sunday was strictly forbidden (some even argued against Sunday School for this very reason). Sunday was set aside as a day for church and family. This is very much not our day, where work is often far less defined, likely to spill over into weekend time, as are school and sports events; chaotic schedules are the norm, Sunday School’s purpose is not to teach our children to read and write, and our SS teachers are unpaid volunteers who are often working full-time jobs with their own chaotic schedules.

We are creating a time for families to eat together... worship together...and then at the same time to study the Christian faith in groups geared to various ages and interests. Beginning **September 4th**, we will host our first **Family Matters**, beginning with dinner at **6:00 pm**. Dinner will be followed by **Worship led by a multi-generational Praise Band**, and then groups will disburse for various **Small Groups**. You are invited to come and be part of the Family of God, gathered at Gothenburg’s First United Methodist Church! I look forward to seeing you then...Blessings! Pastor Jamie

Music Minute

“For The Times They Are A Changin’”. When Bob Dylan wrote this song back in the 60’s, it was considered a protest song, and if you get a chance I encourage you to go back and either listen to the song or read the lyrics. My take is that it’s time to accept the fact that the world has moved on and if you don’t move with it you will be left wondering where the old world went. Being non-changing in a world of endless change is not an option. I for one, am slow to accept change, and there has been a lot of that going on.

With changing “Sunday School” to Wednesday night, our praise band will participate in the worship service and will be having our practice after. Choir too is changing. I have some members who have decided not to be in choir this year, and that makes me sad but I understand. I have been struggling with what to do about having a choir, I’m not quite ready to throw in the towel yet, so I am considering some different options, such as having choir every other week and using the other weeks “choir” time to work with quartets, duets, men’s group etc. So with that said, if you want to sing but not be part of the choir, please let me know if you would be interested in being part of special music.

As always, thanks to the band, a special thanks to our tech crew, especially Devin for all the extra recording I ask you to do, and to Barry for providing special music.

~Karla



May your blessings be as
countless as

FAMILY MATTERS

Family Matters is the new Sunday School, where food, fun, faith, fellowship, and family time will take place on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 pm at the church. This will begin on Wednesday Sept. 4th and the whole family is invited and will be involved in the evening. We will eat together from 6 to 6:30 pm, worship together from 6:30 to 6:45, and then break into small groups from 6:45 until 8:00 pm according to age: pre-k through 5th grade; 6th-8th grade; 9th-12th grade; and adult. Many amazing people from our church will cook and serve the food, lead worship and music, and provide fun and learning in the small groups. WHAT AN AMAZING EVENT TO BE A PART OF!



The Beat

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"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

~2 Corinthians 9:6

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

August Highlights

Livein' Out Loud Concert— was held on August 17th and our church had a food booth. It was great fun and fellowship! We sold lots of pretzels. We did not break even with expenses but have around half of our pretzels to be sold at the Cornhusking Contest in October and it is possible that we will also have a booth at the park to sell them during Harvest Festival.

Thanksgiving in August— Dinner was served and a free will offering collected. The offering will be used to purchase groceries that will be assembled into food boxes for families in need at Thanksgiving in November. Thanks Mark, Becky and others that helped with this project.

Human Trafficking presentation: Paul and Sylvia Cummings of One Mission Society provided information regarding human trafficking around the world. The I-80 corridor is particularly vulnerable. More than 900 individuals are sold every month in Nebraska alone.

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

September Opportunities:

Family Matters and Youth Groups on Wednesday evenings.

Harvest Festival Dinner: We will again serve lunch during the Harvest Festival on Saturday, Sept. 21st following the parade. Look for sign up sheets soon on how you can help!!!

Celebrate Recovery: will now be offered in the Dawson County jail as well as on Saturday evenings in our Church at 7:00 pm. To learn more about both opportunities please contact Kevin Hinds.

More Finance information is available in the church office upon request.

Don't forget to check out eh E-Giving App: *Givelify*

End of June General bank balance: \$- 7,114.68

Giving has trailed off again. Please be prayerful regarding what God is leading you to do. Our church is doing GREAT ministry and we need your help to continue reaching out to people with the hope that only comes in relationship with Jesus Christ.

Mark your Calendars!



RETIRED PERSONS LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will kick off the Fall Season on Wednesday, September 4th in the Fellowship Hall. At 11:30 am we will gather for good food, fun, and fellowship. If you are 55 years of age or older we welcome you to join us. Bring a covered dish to share and we look forward to seeing you!!



Church Picnic



The MOE Committee thought it would be fun to have an “Old Fashioned” Church Picnic to welcome in the fall season. On September 15th after late service, bring your most delicious side dish or dessert to Ehmen Park and enjoy some wonderful fun and fellowship time. Pulled pork sandwiches and drinks will be provided so we’ll see you there!!!

COME ONE COME ALL!!

Sunday, September 15th during both the early and late services, each and everyone of you will be recognized for your leadership, attendance, service, and fun that you provide to First United Methodist Church. The third graders will receive their Bibles on this Sunday also.



We’re at it again!!! A brand new Christian movie is coming out in September and we are going to have a “Family Matters” Movie night at The Sun Theater, Wednesday Sept. 18th at 7:00 pm. “Overcomer” is about high school basketball coach John Harrison and his team face an uncertain future when their town's largest manufacturing plant shuts down unexpectedly. As hundreds of people move away, John reluctantly agrees to coach cross-country, a sport he doesn't even like. His outlook soon changes when he meets Hannah Scott, an unlikely runner who pushes herself to the limit. Inspired by the words and prayers of a new friend, John starts to train Hannah for the biggest race of her young life. Admission to the movie will be \$5 and you will receive a free medium popcorn and drink. Candy will be available for purchase. This is open to the entire community so invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy this uplifting show of faith.