Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

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

August 2019– Volume 30– Issue 8

YOUTH 2019

Youth is NOT the future of the church, the youth IS the church now and they want it to be kind, merciful, forgiving, youth-friendly, a community, compassionate, among other things; the Genesis creation story has a pattern to it; there are lots of bible stories that have been "Sunday school-ified" or had a "social media" filter put on them; more than half of Christians are not regularly in the word outside of church (daily or even weekly); and the importance of learning to Love God, ourselves and others Well!

Want to know more about their trip?? Ask a youth!! FYI– More pictures of the event can be seen on our Facebook page...check them out...what an awesome experience. Thanks to Lisa Jorgenson for photos from the event

BIG BIG THANKS!! Brad and Lisa Jorgenson were the brave chaperones for this trip, as well as most of the "leg work" to get the trip organized from a place to stay, food, drivers etc. Fundraising was a very important piece to make this all happen. To any and all who donated money for the kids to experience this, THANK YOU!! This is a memory they will have for the rest of their lives. Your thoughts and prayers are also greatly appreciated.

"Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity"

~1 Timothy 4:12

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WE ARE BUSY!!

Rise Against Hunger: will once again be selling walking tacos at the LOL concert in August and they are asking our help in purchasing the ingredients. A bucket will be placed on the table during Fellowship Time after church for you to have an opportunity to donate to this cause. This group has sent over one hundred thousand meals in the last 4 years to needy countries and needy children. Your help and generous hearts are appreciated.

Harvest Festival Float: We will be having a float in the parade this year and it will be highlighting the United Methodist Church and our Harvest Festival Lunch. The MOE Committee has some wonderful ideas but we are needing volunteers to be in the parade with us. Talk to Mark or Jodi if you are interested!

School Supply Donations: As school approaches, cannot believe where summer went, we have the opportunity to help children that need us. There is a table for your donations and a list of suggested items. If you would rather give money, please simply write "school supplies" on the memo line of your preferred donation. Thank you for your generosity and making a difference in other's lives.

Livin Out Loud: will be held August 17th and 18th and is being held at Lake Helen and hoping for 15 to 20 thousand people! The opportunity to be on fire for Christ with that many people is amazing. God is so good. We are excited to be a part of Livin Out Loud again and the opportunity to have a sponsorship. This concert is put on purely by donations and sponsorships and is a free will offering concert. This is a family friendly event and there will be numerous food vendors and it will be a wonderful time. Non-Christians have a chance that night to come to the altar and ask Christ into their lives. God has put us here to serve and to bring others to Him and this is our opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. We will be taking donations until August 11th for this amazing opportunity. Please search your heart to see if God is leading you to help donate to Livin Out Loud. Thank you and God Bless.

August Birthday's

1– Cheri Wilson
2– Kyam Ristine, Boone Tederman
3– Maxine Fickenscher
7– Kinley Foster
8– Todd Larson
9– Sydney Sell
10– Karen Oliver
11– Monty Bowman
12– Irvin Williams
13– Emma Peterson
14– Ian Ackerman
19– Kris Loostrom
21– Travis Holm, Curt Carskadon
22– Sarah Anderson
23– Carsten Graves, Eric Ostendorf
24– Jacob Burge, Wyatt Hotz
Patrick Peterson
25– Gerald Jobman, Terry McVay
26– Gerald Kranau, Amya Ackerman
27– Evelyn Bartlett
31– Devin Brundage

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Pastor's Perspective

August! Who could imagine that we are already facing the month of August? When I was growing up, August was the end of the summer, yes; but there was yet an entire month that stretched before me! It was a time of hot days and not-so-cool-nights; a time of being bored—and almost ready, but not quite—to go back to school. And that was good, because school did not begin again until after Labor Day Weekend, so that we didn't begin school… attend a couple of days…and then have a three day weekend…and then have to start all over again in September. It made sense to just wait until summer was really over before we started school up again.

But the world is very different now, and with August comes not only the rapid end to summer, but the beginning of the school year. Here in Gothenburg I am told that school starts on August 14th—which I thought was very early. And then I discovered that my daughter Bonu's nephew starts school in Ralston on August 12th! So early, it seems to me.

The school schedule reminds us that things are not always done in the same way, even if we wish they were. The school year is different…the daily schedule is different, with not every day mirroring the one before. Break times are different—and last different amounts of time. And weekends are meant for travel, sports, drama, dance, music…and a host of other activities that we used to try to cram into ever-longer weekdays.

And that last change is really impacting the church. We are used to Sundays being OUR day. "Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy…" but that no longer works well in our society, particularly for our families with children in school (and Grandparents who want to be involved in the lives of their grandchildren). And then there is Jesus' teaching about the Sabbath being made for human-kind, so that we can rest enough to be able to regenerate and be creative—as well as honor God.

Because it is important to us to be able to grow disciples of Christ that can go out into the world to share the good news of Jesus with others, we are looking for ways to help our families to care for one another and continue to learn the way of Christ. Since Sundays are increasingly used for school and other extra-curricular activities, we are trying something new. We are moving our Christian Education time to Wednesday evenings, with an emphasis on families being able to spend time together and to learn in age-appropriate settings. Our Wednesday Evenings will begin with a simple meal, followed by a brief worship service, after which all ages are invited to move into small groups for learning. We will have classes for all ages, including adults and youth.

That doesn't mean that we are giving up on Sundays! Sunday morning we will still have our two worship services and time for fellowship. What we are trying to do is recognize the challenges our families are facing and to walk with them as they work to teach their children what it means to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Parents are the first—and most influential teachers—of the children, and we are trying to change our way of navigating the week so that we can support them in the work that they do.

Change is all around us. We can deny it, complain about it, be angry about it…or we can find ways to change as well. The Early Church "moved" the Sabbath from Friday evening at sunset through Sunset on Saturday to Sunday morning; talk about a radical shift! We are continuing to recognize the value of Sabbath time and keeping it holy while we also live in our world. May God bless our attempts to change—and recognize in them the ways we are honoring God and loving one another!

Blessings for this month of transition and change…

Pastor Jamie

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What is better than a homemade chicken noodles over mashed potato dinner? Probably not much, but raising money for families in need in our community is a pretty good thing too! Please join us on Sunday August 18th from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm (or until we run out of food). A free will donation will be taken for the meal and monies raised will purchase groceries needed to assemble Thanksgiving boxes to be distributed to families in need right here in Gothenburg. Boxes will be distributed the week before Thanksgiving. Last year with generous donations from this church and others in the community we were able to supply groceries to thirty-two families so they could have a traditional Thanksgiving meal and every family was so appreciative. Each box weighs between 50-60 pounds, depending on family size. We could not have done this without your help. This is a community event so PLEASE spread the word. Sign up sheets will be on the table in the Narthex to volunteer. We will need people to sign up to bring desserts (pies, cookies, bars etc.) and we will also need help with serving and clean up. This year we will also be offering carry out! Please come and support this worthy cause...it's a "stick to your ribs" warm feeling!

Faith, Food, Fun, Fellowship, Family.

What do you think these five words have in common with the Hand? What do you think these five words have to do with you and your family? Stay tuned for more information on the "Hand"!

Music Minute

It's that time of year when I spend a lot of time sitting on my front porch listening to choir/Christmas music and begin planning for the coming fall/Christmas season. Yes, in this heat I'm hearing "Silent Night" and "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful." I'm thinking of starting choir rehearsals on August 28th. This is also my first request to invite you to join us. We practice at 8 pm on Wednesday nights and would love to see a few more smiling faces in our choir.

As always, I want to thank all who have been involved in the music at our services, the members of the band, our tech crew, and those who have presented special music.

Thanks and enjoy the rest of the summer!

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"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for <u>you</u> the windows of heaven and pour out for <u>you</u> such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."

~Malachi 3:10

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

July Highlights

Celebrate Recovery continues to grow. Please join the worship and sharing time on Saturday evenings at 7:00 pm at our church. A good time of worship and healing.

Sunday Morning combined worship. Come join us at 9:30 am on Sunday Mornings. We are also available LIVE on Facebook. Fellowship time with refreshments follows.

Small Groups: Several small groups are meeting this summer. This is a good way to learn from others and to help others with Bible Study. Please contact the church office to find out times and meeting places for each group.

Camp Comeca: July is time for church camps. It is often during these times that many commit their lives to Jesus Christ.

YOUTH 2019: Ask a youth about their trip.

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

August Opportunities:

Livin' Out Loud: A family friendly 2 day event at Lake Helen on August 17th. Come and bring friends. Our church will have a food booth. Please contact someone on the Finance committee or the church office to volunteer your help. It will be great fun and fellowship!

Thanksgiving in August: Dinner will be served on Sunday August 18th. Free will offering will be taken to buy groceries and assemble food boxes for families in need at Thanksgiving in November. Look for more information about this event inside this newsletter.

Continued Sunday Morning combined worship.

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: $- 6,446.76

Thank you to everyone who has given extra in the past few weeks. We saw in increase in donations in June and this has continued into July. This is making a difference and we very much appreciate your help. With your continued support we are able to minister in our community and to the world as God leads us.

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Mark your Calendars!

RETIRED PERSONS LUNCH BUNCH

A young child once asked his Grandma, "How old are you?", to which she replied, "I am older than dirt!" Come join us on August 7, 2019 at 11:30 am as we celebrate being a senior citizen. We may be over the hill, under construction, or slowing down for repairs but we can still have a good time and that is what we will be doing. We have a chicken casserole to share and I hear there will be "older than dirt cake" If you fall in the senior category, come join us in air conditioned luxury with good food and fun trivia. See you at the site!

Celebrate Recovery will be adding a new grief support group tied in with the existing CR program. Each Saturday following the worship hour a small group will be offered.