



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

December 2020– Volume 31– Issue 12

# GIFTS FROM THE HEART WILL HAPPEN THIS YEAR!!



## GIFTS FROM THE HEART

GIFTS FROM THE HEART IS A MISSION OUTREACH PROJECT AT GOTHENBURG FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THAT HELPS MEET THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. ALL ITEMS ARE DONATED FROM THE COMMUNITY AND ALL SHOPPING IS FREE WILL DONATION. PROCEEDS GO TO THE GOTHENBURG MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION.

### Interested in Donating?

Donations can be dropped off at the Methodist Church. **All drop-offs will be contactless.** Park in the north parking lot. You can leave your donation inside the first set of wooden doors, or you can call or text (308)-529-0790 and a volunteer will come to your vehicle and take your donation inside the church for you!

#### Donation Drop-off Times:

- ♥ Friday, December 4th - 4:00 - 8:00pm
- ♥ Saturday, December 5th - 12:00 - 3:00pm
- ♥ Sunday, December 6th - 4:00 - 8:00pm

#### We are in need of "New" or "Gently Used":

- ♥ Toys, puzzles, games, and books for all ages.
- ♥ Winter outerwear for children and adults.
  - ♥ Coats, hats, gloves, and boots.
- ♥ Kitchen and bath items, and cleaning supplies.
- ♥ Home décor and decorations.

WE FEEL FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE TO HOLD THIS EVENT THIS YEAR. WE THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS MINISTRY!

**Gothenburg First United Methodist Church**  
1401 Lake Avenue  
Church office: (308)-529-2560

### Interested in Shopping?

**It's going to be a bit different this year!**

- ♥ Shopping will take place on December 12th at the Methodist Church and begin to wrap up around 2pm.
- ♥ Starting at 8am, individuals or groups of immediate family members of 8 or fewer can come in the north wooden doors to shop.
- ♥ Tables will be 6ft apart and only one family per every other table will be allowed to shop at a time.
- ♥ If you arrive and we are full inside the church, our greeter will ask that you please wait in your car until a volunteer notifies you that you may begin shopping.
- ♥ We ask that you stay together as a family and follow the arrows on the ground to direct you through all tables.
- ♥ All shoppers will be required to wear a mask at all times while shopping and use hand sanitizer prior to shopping.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE UNFORTUNATELY CANNOT PROVIDE THE USUAL GIFT WRAPPING AND REFRESHMENTS THIS YEAR.



## The Beat

December 2020– Volume 31– Issue 12

Gothenburg First United Methodist Church

# SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR

The week before Thanksgiving, groceries were purchased, names were gathered, and boxes were filled with all the fixin's to make a Thanksgiving dinner. They were then delivered to families in need through out Gothenburg. 26 boxes were delivered, and approximately 115 people were fed. While on one of the deliveries, the man came to the door and a look of shock and surprise came on his face. We wished him a Happy Thanksgiving and his response was, "Thank you! Thank you! How did you know we needed this??" Thank you to all who donated and for allowing this ministry to happen. We are **SO** ready to do it again next year, Dinner and ALL!!



Photo credit: Lynnette Stevens

## FAMILY MATTERS

The last night of Family Matters was held on Wednesday November 4th. Having fun for their final meeting are Kohen Jonas, Jenna Anderson, Kadie Anderson, Maddy Anderson, Emma Christensen, Kathryn Bartruff, and Talon Johnson. Plans are to resume when the church can open again safely.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1– Sharron Mathieu
- 2– Kay Olmsted, Noah Gugelman
- 6– Susan Lunkwitz, Taci Bartlett, Lorri Weiss
- 7– Uriah Blauvelt
- 8– Terri Moore, Brodee Gugelman
- 9– Luke Edson
- 12– Duane Sukraw
- 15– Megan Edson, Javan Ristine
- 17– Melissa Sabin
- 18– Ava Foster
- 20– Sam Advey
- 21– Evan Peterson
- 22– Richard Ristine
- 23– Phylis Garner, Stacy Jefferies
- 24– Virjean Foster, Robin Stevens, Lynn Taylor, Penny Holm
- 26– Harry Brown
- 30– Bodey Tederman
- 31– Cliff Bartlett





# *From the Pastor's Desk*



Advent and Christmas greetings y'all,

I pray and hope that you are staying safe and hopeful these challenging times. Few of us would have imagined that by now, during holidays and as 2020 comes to a close, we would not only still be dealing with the pandemic, but actually experiencing a resurgence in coronavirus infections. It's understandable that we are tired, frustrated, anxious and disheartened.

The need for hope is most often expressed in times of crisis. Everyone experiences days when life is overwhelming. Countless sources of despair assault us. Violence, health crises, too much work or no employment, broken relationships, death, a sense of meaninglessness, and an unspecified but sustained anxiety are a few of the realities that keep coming. Though we marshal our energies to resist them, they persist.

Yet even when the forces of despair are succeeding, hope abides. As the apostle Paul wrote: "We are afflicted, in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

Despite our pain, anxieties, and failures, hope abides because hope is not just the creation of our feelings. Hope is a force at work to enliven us even when we feel overwhelmed. The emphasis upon crisis does not mean that hope occurs only in situations of distress.

I recently read an Excerpt from "The Work of Hope" by Luther E. Smith Jr. Luther writes that "... Crisis amplifies our need for hope, but hope is essential to living the ordinary days. Like a drowning man gasping for breath, the air so desperately needed was just as crucial when he lived his days in routine. His lungs deprived of air intensify his desperation. But his need to breathe was no less acute when times were tranquil. Likewise, hope sustains us even when we are unaware of our dependence on it. Hope is essential regardless of circumstances."

Our challenge is to be always enlivened to life—on the days of trauma and the days of great ease. Living as persons of hope in ordinary times can be foundational to the spiritual formation that enables us to be persons of hope in crisis.

Wishing each of you a truly hopeful Advent season and a meaningful Christmas.

Pastor Grace Gichuru.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will be offering a Christmas Eve Service somehow. More information will be shared in the next week. Please check our Facebook page or call the office.

If there is enough interest, the pastor is willing to offer a Blue Christmas /Longest Night Worship With those who mourn also. Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other dis-ease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people. This year the need for this kind of service is greater. Many of us might need this more than the usual Christmas service or attend both. Interested or know anyone who could benefit from this service? Call the church or send an email to Becky.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2020

27 boxes are filled for a girl or boy.  
They may have books or many a toy.  
From Gothenburg Methodist Church they go,  
To children afar, God's love to show.  
\$491.00 and more we sent,  
For shipping-we hope without a dent.  
How grand it is to share God's plenty,  
In this year of 2020!

Poem written and submitted by Alice Peters



Photo credit: Alice Peters

## FACTS AND FIGURES

General Giving Thru Nov. 30 Actual: \$141,657 Budgeted: \$188,203  
Percent of Budgeted: 75.3%  
Paid Apportionments Thru Nov. 30 Actual: \$11,224 Budgeted: \$17,638  
Percent of Budgeted: 63.6%



## In Memoriam

*Lois Shea*

*May 8, 1963~October 5, 2020*

*Glenn Bartels*

*May 14, 1939~November 24, 2020*



## 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!!