



GOTHENBURG FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
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GOTHENBURG, NE 69138
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November 2017– Volume 28– Issue 11

November is Stewardship Month

Are you practicing good Stewardship?

Merriam Webster defines Stewardship as the conducting, supervising, or managing of something *especially*: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. We, then, as members of the church, would be considered Stewards of the church and also its members. To belong to our congregation is to be a steward. Some may say that "stewardship" is just a polite way of referring to financial giving to the church. But it's far more than that.

What does being a good steward mean? For the answer to that question, let's look at our vision. We want to be a 4G congregation: Gather, Grow, Go, and Give. We will continue to gather together to worship God, whether that be on Sunday morning for worship or Sunday school, for Youth Group, Praise Band or choir. Whenever there is a chance to gather, we will. By gathering together, we will grow in our faith and relationship with God. By doing this, we can go out in to our community and share the good news with others. We will be the hands and feet doing God's work here on earth, and hopefully that will bring new faces to our congregation, another way to grow.

When it comes to giving, we often turn our thoughts to our treasures, tithing or financial giving. While the giving of money is important for the church to operate, there are so many more ways to give. Many of you volunteer your time to serve on committees, but there are many "behind the scenes" people who give of their time and talents to help spread the good news of Jesus Christ and each one is important, choir, praise band, worship assistants, youth group leaders, Sunday School teachers, funeral meal cooks and servers, and too many more to mention. We did nothing to earn the hours, the days, the weeks of our lives. Time is a gift of God. How we choose to use it is a matter of stewardship. Some people lead lives of frenetic activity, always over-extending themselves to the point of exhaustion, while others sit around in apathetic boredom. Some spend all their hours serving the needs of others at the expense of their own, while others live only for themselves. As Christian stewards we try to manage time wisely and in a balanced way, and we give our time gladly to family and friends, to strangers, to the community, the church, and to ourselves.

The global mission of the United Methodist Church states: "We are to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Gathering for worship, study, fellowship, and fun; growing in depth, maturity, and numbers; going in service to others and inviting them to church; and giving of our time, talents and treasures...by being good stewards, working together, supporting one another in good times, and comforting them in hard times, this is how we, as United Methodists show our good stewardship. Are you a good steward of the church and it's people?

Pledge Sunday will be coming up in December. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to Gather, Grow, Go and Give.

Sunday School Scoop

Our Sunday School Students were blessed this past month by the teachings of Sarah Anderson, Amber Burge, Lisa Jorgenson, Kris Loostrom, and Jami Brundage. The students learned the story of Jonah and the Big Fish in many interesting ways.

Learning about the Lord's Prayer will take place during the four Sunday's of November. Kristi Connolley, Ann

Foster, and Jami Brundage will lead the younger students, while Lisa Jorgenson will teach the 7-12th grades.



November Birthday's

Happy Birthday

- 1– Karla Bartruff, Kully Harrison
- 2– Lael Greenlee
- 5– Paul Advay
- 6– Becky Dishman
- 7– Alice Peters
- 11– Karina Kelly
- 13– Molly Logemann
- 14– Perry Loostrom, Andrew Davenport, Jeff Morris
- 16– Kiley Porter
- 18– Ruth Walla
- 19– Braeden Brundage
- 21– Barry McDiarmid
- 24– Ardith Davenport, Andy Boson
- 25– Mike Wilson, Mary Plisek
- 30– Jenna Anderson



Advent Devotions by Email

Would you like to receive a daily devotion by email this year during Advent? I am Sheila Jobman, a Certified Lay Speaker in the United Methodist Church and member of the Gothenburg United Methodist Church even though I live in Omaha now. For several years, I have sent our daily devotions during Advent and Lent to over 50 people across our country. Advent begins around the first of December and since some of you are already in this group, Pastor Jamie suggested I invite others of our church to join this group. If you wish to join us, please email me (sjobman@yahoo.com) your email address and I'll add your name to the list. I will let you know a couple of days before we begin and then each morning of Advent you will receive a daily devotion in your inbox the next morning. I would love to have you consider joining this group as it is a wonderful feeling knowing that others are reading the same daily devotion each day. If you have a friend that you know would like to receive these devotions, send me their address also. This is a non-denominational group so everyone is welcome!

Salvation is free, but spreading
the gospel is not without
expense. Obedient stewards
cover those expenses.





Pastor's Perspective

How can it possibly be November? Just yesterday, it seems to me, it was July and I was moving to Gothenburg to begin a new adventure with you and God! Four months have already passed; summer is over... Harvest Days and Harvest Dinner are past and harvest has begun (are we in the middle of it yet?)...the school musical has successfully come and gone...and we have already prepared for and accomplished our first Charge Conference together. I have written a "100 Day Report" for the Bishop to tell him what we have been doing, and how we are serving God together. A third of our first year together is already past. Where has the time gone?



The calendar is one of the ways that we mark the passage of time, and it helps us keep track of a variety of events and passages in our lives. But one of the other ways is through the various seasons in our weather. We are smack dab in the middle of Autumn, my favorite season of the year. A week or so ago, a mighty wind descended upon us and blew many of the leaves off of the trees and on to the grass. I was delighted! If any of you were to have looked into my yard, you would have seen me scuffling along around my yard on the grass, listening to the sound of rustling leaves...I love that sound and the smells that go right along with it.

We have been so blessed by our God with the gift of our senses and the changing of seasons. As we enter into the month of November, we begin the season of celebrations. For many, those start with the pranks and fun of Halloween, but they rapidly move into remembering our saints who have moved from this world to the next. With the thanks-

giving that arises out of those memories, we rapidly move into the great celebration of Thanksgiving—often celebrated as a day with family and friends, for whom we give God thanks and praise.

The picture I've included is a small art piece I created as a part of my reflection here at St. Benedict's Retreat Center in Schuyler NE where I have been studying for continuing education. Our scripture lesson from yesterday and today was taken from Romans 8:11-30: "...God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go! This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike 'What's next, Papa?' God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are...."

I look forward to celebrating with you during this season. Blessings and Peace! Pastor Jamie

2017 Operation Christmas Child!

Are you ready? The collection dates are November 13-20. Boxes are available in the fellowship hall. Pick up a brochure and read all about it. Fill your box with good things for a boy or girl. Remember NO candy or toothpaste this year. Please include \$9.00 in your box for shipping costs.

Did you pray? Prayer is the exceptional thing about Operation Christmas Child. Prayer makes the difference! We pray for the child who receives this box. We pray for the family. We pray that they will know Jesus Christ as Savior. We pray for those who deliver this box. May Operation Christmas Child be a blessing to you!

Monday November 13	10-1	Friday November 17	4-6
Tuesday November 14	11-1	Saturday November 18	9-11
Wednesday November 15	4-6	Sunday November 19	9-12
Thursday November 16	4-6	Monday November 20	8-10



Music Minute

Thank you to Barry McDiarmid for special music at early service, the choir for special music at both services, the band for leading the songs at late service, and Devin, Amber, Shannon, and Wendy for all you do behind the scenes– you all make our services so wonderful. Also, thanks to Becky for streaming the services live on Facebook– I was gone one Sunday and was glad to be able to still hear the songs and the message.

The choir is rehearsing the Christmas cantata and there is still time for you to come join us–just one hour a week on Wednesday nights at 8:00 pm





Figures and Finances



Mission Shares	Percent of Budget	76.7%
	Paid to date	\$11,978
YTD General Expenses	(through Oct 26)	\$137,657
YTD Budgeted Expenses	(through Oct 26)	\$155,866
% of Budget		88.3%
YTD General Giving	(through Oct 26)	\$131,322
YTD Budgeted Giving	(through Oct 26)	\$143,169
% of Budget		91.7%



2017 GIVING AND ATTENDANCE REPORT					
	1-Oct	8-Oct	15-Oct	22-Oct	TOTAL
Early Worship	44	34	34	25	137
Late Worship	78	57	62	65	262
Sunday	39	37	30	N/A	106
BUDGET					
Undesignated	\$ 4,451.00	\$ 3,414.30	\$ 1,903.00	\$ 2,012.00	\$ 11,780.30
"Local Only"	\$ 1,100.00			\$ 285.00	\$ 1,385.00
"Apportion"	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 500.00
GENERAL	\$ 5,651.00	\$ 3,514.30	\$ 2,003.00	\$ 2,497.00	\$ 13,665.30
Budget + or -	\$ 2,026.00	\$ (110.70)	\$ (1,622.00)	\$ (1,128.00)	
NEEDED PER WEEK IN 2017 TO MEET OUR BUDGET - \$3625					
IN & OUT					
Camp Comeca	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 40.00
Endowment		\$ 43.21		\$ 66.85	\$ 110.06
Harvest Fest	\$ 20.00				\$ 20.00
Great Hr	\$ 100.00				\$ 100.00
World Wide	\$ 30.00				\$ 30.00
SS Mission	\$ 15.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 10.00		\$ 37.00
Silent Auction	\$ 460.00				\$ 460.00
IN & OUT	\$ 635.00	\$ 65.21	\$ 20.00	\$ 76.85	\$ 797.06
Memorials					
MEMORIAL	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00
ADA Restroom					
BLDG/MAIN	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 6,586.00	\$ 3,579.51	\$ 2,023.00	\$ 2,573.85	\$ 14,462.36
GIVING					



Mark your Calendars!

Retired Persons Lunch Bunch

****DATE CHANGE**** Lunch Bunch Retirement Group will meet Wednesday, November 8, 2017 instead of November 1. We will be celebrating with a Thanksgiving Feast at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Several of you have signed up to bring a portion of the meal. If you have forgotten, give Carol a call (308-537-2173). We will be having the traditional turkey so please come and participate with us for a time of thanksgiving and fellowship.



Join Us for the 4th Annual Rise Against Hunger Campaign

A Soup and Dessert Bar will be served on Sunday November 12th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Catholic Church Parish Hall. A free will donation will be taken and ALL proceeds will go to help the hungry. 10% of funds raised will go to the Gothenburg/Brady Backpack programs and 90% of funds raised will go to package meals to go to less fortunate countries. A meal packaging event will be held in January so please look for upcoming announcements!!

If you are interested in helping more with the soup lunch, they are looking for donations from all churches for soup (chili, vegetable beef, or chicken noodle-gallon of each), pies,

cookies, or dessert bars. If you would like to supply any of those things, please let Becky know as soon as possible.



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.



50/75 Year Member Recognition

On Sunday November 19th, during both services, we will be honoring our 50 & 75 year members. This is quite an accomplishment and we want to invite everyone to share it with us!

If you or someone else that you know of has been a member of a United Methodist Congregation or an EUB Member, please notify the office so you can be included in the celebration.

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." ~2 Corinthians 9:11