



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

November 2020– Volume 31– Issue 11

# THANKSGIVING FOR ALL



Thank you to any and all who have already donated to this cause and a special Thanks to the Gothenburg Food Pantry for their generous donation. If you haven't had a chance too, that's ok, there is still time! Groceries will be purchased, boxes will be assembled and delivered the week before Thanksgiving. This is the third year for this ministry and with the current covid-19 situation, the need may be greater than in years past. If you know of someone who would benefit by receiving a box, please let Becky know in the office. All names on the list will remain confidential.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Cornerstone Bible Church is now the drop off location for our community. Collection week is November 16-23. You are encouraged to drop off your gift shoeboxes at any of the following times:

- November 16: 10-12
- November 17: 4-6 pm
- November 18: 10-12
- November 19: 4-6 pm
- November 20: 10-12
- November 21: 9-11 am
- November 22: 12-2 pm
- November 23: 9-12

Please contact Diane Wahlgren at 308 529 1352 or Chivonne Daum at 308 746 2846 or Cornerstone Bible Church at 308 537 2261 with any questions.





## GOD'S GRACE

When brother Ted died and went to heaven, he was met at the front gate by St. Peter, who let him know that he needed one hundred points to make it in the pearly gates. “You tell me all the good you have done, and I will give you points according to your deeds. When you reach hundred, I will swing open the gates.”

“Okay,” Ted reported, “I was head usher at my church for fifty years.” “That’s wonderful,” says St. Peter, “that’s worth two points.”

“I was married to the same woman for almost sixty-five years and never cheated on her.” “Remarkable,” Peter declared, “here are three more points.”

“Only three?” Ted frowned. “How about this? I started a soup kitchen in the inner city and worked in a homeless shelter.”

“Terrific, and here are two more points.”

Ted’s eyes opened wide, and he yelled, “Two points! At this rate, the only way I’ll get into heaven is by the grace of God!”

“Come on in!” Said St. Peter as the gates swung open.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1– Karla Bartruff, Kully Harrison

2– Lael Greenlee

5– Paul Advey

6– Becky Dishman

7– Alice Peters

11– Karina Kelly, Samantha Stevens

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

30– Jenna Anderson

Happy Birthday!





# *From the Pastor's Desk*

May this message find you and your loved ones safe and healthy. I continue to hold you close in thought and prayer during these unsettling times of global pandemic, economic challenges and contentious political climate. There has not been a year like 2020! Nothing will be the same in 2020 – Halloween will not be the same, Thanksgiving will not be the same, and Christmas will not be the same. The lack of control and uncertainty has been long. My prayer is that like the children of Israel, laboring through wilderness, together we will make a way forward with God's help. I am certain that better, more promising days lie ahead. I write this part of our newsletter a few days before election day and maybe some of you have already cast your votes. Given the divisive relic this election season, I want to share with you John Wesley's counsel on Oct. 6, 1774, to the Methodists as they considered which candidate would gain their vote. He advised Methodists to:

1. Vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy.
2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against.
3. And, to take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.

How appropriate for us to hear that counsel a time like now. Is it possible to refrain from speaking evil toward the people we vote against and refrain from holding hateful feelings against those that vote on the other side? I believe it is possible with God's help.

## **Prayer for a Pandemic**

A couple months ago I came across this prayer of a pandemic that I would like to share with you this month. May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake. May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable. May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent. May we who have the flexibility to care for our children and grandchildren when their schools close remember those who have no options. May we who had to cancel our trips, remember those that have no place to go. May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all. May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

When we are tempted to complain about anything, may we remember those who will have an empty chair this Thanksgiving because their loved one is no more as a result of Covid-19 or from other causes. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us continue to find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

# The Beat

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Gothenburg First United Methodist Church



## FAMILY MATTERS' FUN CONTINUES

Where can you find delicious food, hungry youth and adults, gracious prayers, Bible lessons, crazy games, and caring adults? At Family Matters on Wednesday evenings. Counselors from Camp Comeca lead the junior and senior high youth who attended Fields of Faith at the Rodeo Grounds. Lynnette Stevens and Sarah Anderson give life lessons through Bible Stories to the pre-k families taking part. Come and see what Family Matters is about. Pictured below are Beckett Anderson and Kendrick Connolley.

## SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH RETIREMENT GROUP

LUNCH BUNCH RETIREMENT GROUP – CANCELLED! Due to the increasing Covid-19 cases and quarantine cases we are canceling Lunch Bunch for November. Please check Decembers newsletter for a possible meeting then. Have a super Thanksgiving and sorry for any inconvenience but we feel we need to stay safe.



*Happy Thanksgiving*

## FACTS AND FIGURES

General Giving Thru Oct. 31 Actual: \$131,249.80 Budgeted: \$168,598

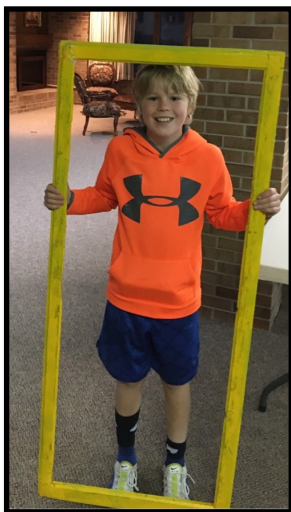
Percent of Budgeted: 79.5%

Paid Apportionments Thru Oct. 31 Actual: \$8,017 Budgeted: \$16,034

Percent of Budgeted: 50%



**Average Attendance for Oct. : 40**



## 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 can't 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!!