



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



November 2019– Volume 30– Issue 11

# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TOP 10 LIST

1. The Methodist Church began as a reformation of the Church of England
2. Wesley did not intend to split from the Church of England
3. John Wesley taught 4 key points fundamental to the United Methodist Church
  - A. A person is free not only to reject salvation but also to accept it by an act of free will
  - B. All people who are obedient to the gospel according to the measure of knowledge given them will be saved.
  - C. The Holy Spirit assures a Christian of their salvation directly, through an inner “experience”.
  - D. Christians in the life are capable of Christian perfection and are commanded by God to pursue it.
4. Methodists are known for their rich musical tradition.
5. The United Methodist Church is the largest American mainline denomination with nearly 12 million members in 42,000 congregations worldwide.
6. The Methodist denomination grew from 4 people to over 100,000 in Wesley’s lifetime.
7. Wesley believed in the importance of “social holiness”, where we could only grow in a community, surrounded by people of similar faith.
8. John Wesley coined the term “Agree to disagree”.
9. John Wesley wrote one of the bestselling medical texts of all time called “Primitive Physick”.
10. John Wesley rode 250,000 miles on his horse...that’s far enough to circle the earth 10 times!!



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church™**





The Gothenburg TeamMates Mentoring Program believes every student deserves a mentor. Now, in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, there are 53 mentor-student matches who meet once a week during the school year. A mentor is a caring adult who shows a young person support and friendship with the goal of graduating from high school and pursuing post-secondary education, a meaningful job, or a military career. This school-based mentoring program was founded by Dr. Tom & Nancy Osborne and is now in over 165 schools in Nebraska and many others in Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota, and Wyoming. TeamMates serves over 10,800 students. If you are interested in becoming a mentor in Gothenburg, please call Coordinator Lynnette Stevens at [402-615-4096](tel:402-615-4096) or email [gothenburgteammates@gmail.com](mailto:gothenburgteammates@gmail.com).

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

- 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, Mary Plisek
- 30– Jenna Anderson







# Pastor's Perspective



November. In my mind, this is a month of Traditions: All Saints' Day, Thanksgiving, family gatherings, travel and end-of-the-year events. I would like it to be a time of slowing down a little bit so that we can enjoy the experiences of time with family and giving thanks, but like the rest of the year it seems that we just do the traditional things a little bit faster so that we can add more.

Maybe that is my own personal nostalgic longing for days long past. I will admit that this is the time of year that I am most susceptible to such longing for the past—and to be fair, the traditions to which I have already alluded lend themselves to “looking back” more than “looking forward.”

In the church, we begin November by remembering the Saints who have gone before us. We honor those who have passed away in the last year by reading their names and a short biography of each. For those of us who have lost someone dear during this year, this can be a powerful moment of memory when our church family surrounds us and our loved ones by remembering. We also use this time to remember and celebrate all the saints that have come before, and on whose shoulders we stand as we continue to serve God and one another in this particular church.

Memory plays a big part in the big “Theme” of November—Thanksgiving—because we are encouraged to look back at the previous year and share with others the things for which we are particularly thankful. While we tend to treat Thanksgiving as more of a family tradition, giving thanks and thankfulness are very important themes in our faith tradition as well. This year, Gothenburg UMC is blessed to be hosting the community Thanksgiving Worship Service on November 24th at 4:30. The Ministerial

Association hopes that this special Sunday service will give the Gothenburg community an opportunity to come together across various denominations and celebrate the year we have shared together. I hope that you and your family will make this an important part of your family Thanksgiving celebrations this year.

Also in the church, November marks the end of our year. Each new church year begins with the season of Advent—the four Sundays prior to Christmas. Advent usually begins with the Sunday of the Thanksgiving weekend (meaning that Advent often starts in November), but this year because Thanksgiving is so late, the Sunday after Thanksgiving is December 1st. While it may not feel like the end of the year to you, this is still a good time for us to be looking back over the year and giving thanks for the people, places and experiences with which we have been blessed.

A month of giving thanks. I like that this year especially because I have been reading so much about the value of approaching life with gratitude. I am trying to be increasingly aware of the many things for which I can give God thanks and praise...and not only God, but the many people in my life. I feel very fortunate that there are so many wonderful folks in my life and this month will be a good time to strengthen my practice of giving thanks. I am grateful to the people of Gothenburg who have welcomed me in; I am thankful for the kindness many of you show me as I learn to let go of the things which I can no longer do; I am thankful for the creativity many of you use to make our church family a place that welcomes in others and who loves to feed the world!

I look forward to the rest of the month and this growing practice of thankfulness and gratitude. I pray that you experience a season of warmth in giving thanks and sharing that with others. May God bless us all as we are grateful to one another! Have a great month! Pastor Jamie



## The Beat

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**Trunk or Treat!!**  
It was a cold night but many cool trunks were on display. Thanks to everyone who participated.



Pictured are from l to r: Carolyn Simmon, Ruth Walla and Jodi Hinds. Come eat with us on Wednesday night...food is so good!!



Kevin got in the Halloween spirit with his light up pumpkin vest.



## ARE YOU “IN THE KNOW”?

It has been brought to our attention that some of you would like to be notified by the church (via email) in the event of a members passing. If you would like to receive an email **please** make sure that Becky has your email address and she will see that you are notified.



## FAMILY MATTERS

The Wednesday night meal and worship and youth group will continue in November with 3 evening meetings: November 6th, 13th, and 20th. We will be packing Operation Christmas Child boxes on November 13th. More information will be coming about items needed for this event. Many thanks to Judy Jensen, Jodi Hinds, and Ruth Walla for the delicious food each evening. Thanks to Lisa Jorgenson, Jared Suhler, Sarah Anderson, Pastor Jamie, and the Praise Band for their dedication to the youth of our church.

## MUSIC MESSAGE

*“There is music in the air, music all around us; the world is full of it, and you simply take as much as you require” ~Edward Elgar*

Thanks to the band and to our sound crew for all you do, I am so grateful to be able to work with such talented people.



## THANK YOU

Huge thanks needs to go to Kris Loostrom and the finance committee with their work with the pretzel stand at the Harvest Festival and the Cornhusking Contest. You are a very generous giver of your time and it has not gone unnoticed!!!



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“Do not lay up for yourself  
treasures on earth, where  
moth and rust destroy and  
where thieves break in and  
steal;”

~Matthew 6:19



## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

### October Highlights

**Trunk or Treat-** On October 23rd we hosted Trunk or Treat. A soup supper was added this year and was a huge success. Many trunks were decorated, there were games, face painting and of course treats. We brought around 150 people through our doors that night.

**Family Matters-** Worship, Wednesday School (formerly known as Sunday School) and Youth groups on Wednesday evenings. The evening begins with a meal.

**Movie Night-** We showed Hotel Transylvania for Halloween Movie night on Oct. 30th and had breakfast for supper!!

**Celebrate Recovery goes to jail:** Celebrate Recovery is now offered in the Daswon County Jail as well as on Saturday evenings in our church at 7:00 pm. To learn more about both services contact Kevin Hinds. Kevin would love to have other join him in this important ministry to those with hurts, habits, and hang-ups.

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

### November Opportunities:

**Operation Christmas Child:** Share the Good News of Jesus Christ with children all over the world. Pack a shoebox and drop it off here at the church during National Collection Week. See the schedule on the back page of this newsletter.

**Thanksgiving Boxes:** will be held be assembled and delivered the week before Thanksgiving to families in need here in Gothenburg. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please mark “Thanksgiving” on the memo line of your preferred donation method.

**Community Thanksgiving Service:** Our church will be hosting the Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday November 24th at 4:30 pm. Please join us as we welcome the community into our church.

**End of September General bank balance: \$- 7,692.56**

Work has begun on the 2020 Budget which will need to be completed by December 31, 2019.

Giving has trailed off again. The tow fundraisers mentioned above will help but we still need you. Please be prayerful regarding what God is leading you to do. Our church is doing great ministry. The greatest hope in the world, a relationship with Jesus Christ, is offered though church ministry.





# Mark your Calendars!



## RETIRED PERSONS LUNCH BUNCH

It is turkey month and the Lunch Bunch Retirement Group will be gathering for their turkey dinner with all the fixings on Wednesday November 6th at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The turkey, stuffing, and gravy will be provided. If you did not attend last month and were unable to sign up the following items are still needed: mashed potatoes for 12, a vegetable dish, 1 dozen rolls, a dessert to serve 8, and a salad. If you have any questions please call Carol at 537-2173. Please come and enjoy the Thanksgiving meal and good fellowship.



Please Join Us for Soup, Desserts and a Silent Auction!



**Rise Against Hunger  
Soup Supper**

Sunday, November 10th

Food starts @ 11:30 A.M.  
Silent Auction: 11:30 - 1:00

Gothenburg Evangelical Free Church  
Commons Building  
1721 Lake Avenue  
Gothenburg, NE

As fall is upon us, it is time for the Annual Rise Against Hunger soup supper. If you could help us out, we are asking each church to provide 5 desserts to help support this. Soup will be provided by the Gothenburg FFA. A silent auction will also be held during the supper. Please let me know if you can help provide a dessert. We appreciate your continued support.

Rise Against Hunger Chairman  
Jodi Hinds

## THANKSGIVING BOXES

It is almost that time again...making our list, shopping, assembling and delivering food boxes for families in need for Thanksgiving. We are still taking monetary donations if you would still like to give, just mark "Thanksgiving" on the memo line of your preferred donation method. Your generosity is wonderful!!

Boxes will be delivered the week before Thanksgiving this year, our goal is to have them out at the beginning for the week (Nov. 18th, 19th, and 20th) this is a change from years past. Also, if you know of a family that could use a box, please feel free to let Becky know and she will make sure to add them to the list.

This is what the boxes looked like last year. Each box contains between 50-60 pounds of food depending on family size.

