



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



July 2019– Volume 30– Issue 7

## MEMBERSHIP CALL TO ACTION

This past week you should have received a letter from the church to remind you how important you are as a member of the Gothenburg United Methodist Church and as part of the body of Christ. If you did not receive a letter, please contact the church office and one will be forwarded to you. In the letter we asked you to prayerfully consider how you can help in the mission of the United Methodist Church.

**We are a church connected globally:** We are asked to become a member of The United Methodist Church, a global web of local congregations. All members of every congregation are joined to all others across the globe, which is an exciting part of what it means to be the church. Take for example “Rise against Hunger” and “Operation Christmas Child”. Though we may never meet one another, we are making great things happen. Lives are being changed in ways no one of us, nor any single congregation, could do on our own.

**We are a church connected locally:** We ask new members to commit to the people with whom they worship every Sunday. We vow to be part of the body of Christ in our local community, and to support it as well.

**As members we take vows.** Each of us was asked to do all in their power to support each member. We vow to take Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and to believe in the Christian faith as contained in the Old and New Testaments. **We promise to live a Christian life and to support the United Methodist Church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.** Church membership is not about privileges, such as assigned pews or getting to the front of the line at our church dinners. Rather it is a call to participate as part of a fellowship of followers of Jesus Christ who seek to make the world more like the Kingdom of God.

We need your contribution to the church by being in fellowship one with another and your financial contributions to continue the work of the church globally and locally. Summer time is filled with so many activities we sometimes forget that the church needs each one of us.

There are many ways you can contribute to the needs of the church. The Trustee’s have several projects that could use your help. Contact the office and volunteer a bit of your time. Various groups need help with babysitting during church activities or a couple dozen cookies for a fellowship meeting. Financial contributions are needed to keep the air conditioning and lights on. Repairs of some kind are always needed. If you cannot attend but wish to contribute monetarily please consider Online Giving through Givelify, ACH bank withdrawal or send a check by mail.

## The Beat

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Gothenburg First United Methodist Church

United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your continued support of the Gothenburg Backpack Program. The donations in 2018 allowed us to pack 100 Backpacks!

Thank you again,  
Kendra Boyd

Education Committee,

Thank you for the nice saying, bookmark, magnet, flashlight, and wooden emblem! I appreciate your support and prayers.

Thank you  
Claire Vincent



United Methodist Church Members,

We appreciate your sponsorship of the movie "BREAKTHROUGH". What a wonderful story of God's power, faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness and more. There was so much good packed into that movie. What a gift you gave to everyone who attended. Thank you for honoring God and encouraging others.

Pat and Deb Hecox

Thank you for sponsoring the senior breakfast and the devotional book.

The breakfast was much appreciated and the devotional book will be used to help me grow throughout the next few years.

Thank you again,  
Evan Peterson

## July Birthday's

1— Kevin Lunkwitz, Pat Ambler

2— Kendra Humphrey

7— Lindsey Tederman, Shane Houchin, Ross Ostergard

11— Addison Bartels, Micha Edson

14— Anne Anderson

17— Kayla Weyers, Paul Peterson

18— Gracie Stienike, Phil Kuhlman

19— Becky Boson, Bella Sabin

21— Alexandra Abramson, Christian Houchin, Shannon Peterson

22— Wendy Bartels

23— Devyn Ostendorf

24— Gary Garner

25— Carmen Ackerman

28— Janet Kranau

30— Jack Loostrom

31— Tasha Kruse





# Pastor's Perspective

Our Praise Band rehearses almost every Tuesday night—even during the summer months. Last Tuesday, when we had finished rehearsing the music for worship on Sunday morning, someone mentioned that one of the songs from the previous Sunday had been running through their mind all week. “Could we sing ‘You Say’?” this person asked. So, even though it was already 8:00 p.m., everyone else smiled in agreement and we pulled it up on the screen. We sang with enthusiasm and at the end we were quite certain that we had done a fine job of praising God as we sang together. It was a great rehearsal.

As I walked home, I reflected on how much I enjoy singing with this Praise Band. I enjoy the ways we sound together, yes, but it is so much more than that. It is the times we laugh together, and I love how we work collaboratively to figure out the best way to present each song. We work with our amazing Tech Crew in the sound booth—who are often providing drum beats as well as helping us blend well. Occasionally, we even get help from the sound booth personnel with singing when we are a little “thin” up front. I appreciate that the members of the Praise Band welcomed me and made room for me to sing with them, especially since I knew virtually none of the music we sing when I came to Gothenburg two years ago.

Besides the delight of making music, what I am experiencing is the power of small group dynamics. Small groups allow us to develop relationships that are difficult to do in groups with larger numbers (like an entire congregation). In a small group we can see who is missing, and we recognize that we—as a group—are less whenever anyone is absent. We can help one another to improve when we are in a small group because we can recognize one another’s strengths—and weaknesses. We can hold each other accountable for our attitudes and behaviors...we can more easily appreciate each other and build one another up; we do so because we benefit as a group when individual members improve.

Jesus recognized the value of small groups, too. He gathered around him 12 disciples that he spent a great deal of time with. He very particularly taught

them things that he did not teach to the larger gatherings that followed him. He worked with them very intentionally because he knew that he would not be with them forever. He taught them things that he expected them to use when they eventually would establish their own small groups—growing home churches that spread the love of God around the world.

2000 years later, here we are, continually looking for ways to spread the Good News of Jesus the Christ to the world. And the answer for us is the same as it was for the early Church: meet in small groups wherever people gather; tell the stories of how Jesus has transformed your life and invite others to share their experiences. Simple. And yet so apparently difficult for us. Especially in the summer, we seem to be in so many different places, and Sundays are no longer the day set aside only for church. It seems increasingly important to me that we need to take advantage of all those other opportunities—at the lake, the ballpark, the golf course, the coffee shop, the library, the theater (or theatre), the concert hall, the Farmer’s Market and craft fairs, at camp (church/4-H/music/wrestling/YMCA/computer/etc), auctions and rodeos, the YMCA and the Senior Center, the bar, the restaurant, your class reunion and your company picnic...all those places where we go and all those places we gather...to share how God is working in our lives. It is these small gatherings that provide the opportunity to give voice to the ways God is important to us—and God can use the small group to change us all for the better.

There are so many options! Our relationship with God is no longer limited to Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings! God is not held within the confines of Temple or Church walls! We are invited to explore our relationship with God within our relationships with others, and when we do so, we find that we can share God in all times and places, and our world will be transformed! I pray that you are enjoying your summer, and that God is finding a place in all that you say and all that you do. Blessings! Pastor Jamie



## CAMP COMECA CAMPERS

As you know we have many campers from our church that will be attending Camp Comeca this summer. Again, huge thanks go out to the people who donated to the Camp Fund which makes it possible for our youth to attend. Please keep these youth in your prayers in July as they attend the camp of their choice: Raegan Widholm, Trey Bartels, Adi Bartels, Boone Tederman, Bodey Tederman, Lyndsey Anderson, Jenna Anderson, Kadie Anderson, and Axel Jorgenson. Thank you also to these parents who give their children the opportunity to worship in a variety of fun ways.

Church Family-

Thank you very much to those who volunteered in the office, unlocked in the mornings, and covered the live streaming of service for me while I was gone. We are also so grateful for all of the prayers and good thoughts for safety for all of our travels and especially for our Alex. She made it safely and smoothly to Busan, South Korea! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for letting me be there to see her off, it truly means the world to myself and our family.

Gratefully yours,  
Mark and Becky Boson

## DAY CAMP

Fifteen FUMC youth attended the Day Camp/VBS at the American Lutheran Church in early June. Delicious food, fun times, and learning about Jesus's love were part of this four day event. Scholarships were given to each youth who attended from our camp fund. Thank you to those of you who donate to our camp fund. Another Thank You to those of you who donated food items for the Day Camp. We so appreciate the opportunity to be able to attend the ALC Camp.

Dear Gothenburg UMC Sunday School,

Thank you for the spikeball, pickleball, and drum set. They will surely be enjoyed by campers and staff for years to come. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Kollars  
On behalf of Campe Comeca & Retreat Center

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!!

In last months edition, we featured the confirmation class that was confirmed on Easter Sunday. This editor inadvertently left out the name of Claire Vincent, who was confirmed at that mornings early worship service. Congratulations go out to Claire and her family on this wonderful accomplishment in her faith journey.

## *Music Minute*

**"Music is very spiritual, it has the power to bring people together."**  
~Edgar Winter

Our worship services are full of inspiring music so thanks to our band and sound crew for making this possible. We are working on some new songs for you this summer and can't wait to share them with you.

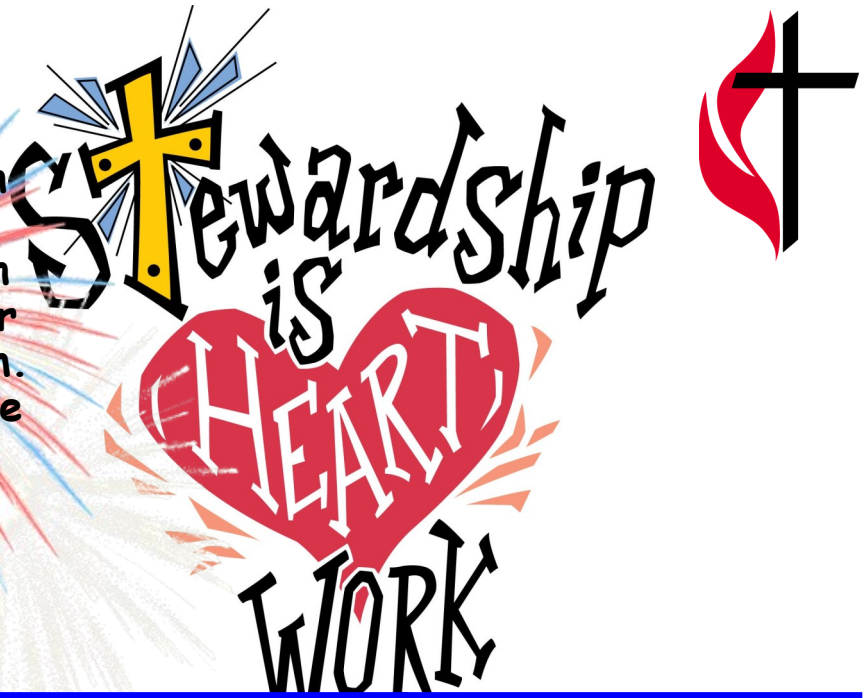


## The Beat

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Gothenburg First United Methodist Church

"Give, and it will be given  
to you: good measure,  
pressed down, and shaken  
together, and running over  
will be put into your bosom.  
For with the same measure  
that you use, it will be  
measured back to you."

~Luke 6:38



## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

### June Highlights

**Mission Shares:** Mercy and justice. Several ministries fall under Mercy and Justice. Among these are Volunteers in Mission, Mission Partnerships and Poverty Initiative.

**Other Mission Shares:** Camps in KS and NE, Lay Servant Training, Pastoral Moving Expenses, Pastoral Appointments.

**Fresh Expressions:** Celebrate Recovery— A new ministry will begin in June called Celebrate Recovery. This is a Christ-centered 12 step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind. More information may be found at [celebraterecovery.com](http://celebraterecovery.com).

**Vacation Bible School:** VBS provided for fun and Bible teaching for our children.

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

### July Opportunities:

Come and join Celebrate Recovery on Sat. evening 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 on Facebook. Fellowship Time with refreshments follows the service.

Small groups— Several small groups are meeting the summer. This is a good way to learn from others and to help others with Bible study.

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

**More Finance information is available in the church office.**

**Don't forget to check out eh E-Giving App: *Givelify***

**End of May General bank balance: \$- 9,885.23**

Yes, donations are running behind expenses that provide for the ministries of this church. Please pray about how God wants you to respond to this need. God has promised blessings for those that give.





# Mark your Calendars!

**Don't  
FORGET!**



## **RETIRED PERSONS LUNCH BUNCH**

July 3, 2019 the Lunch Bunch Retirement Group will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 am for our indoor picnic celebrating the Fourth of July. Burgers will be provided. Please contact Carol at 537-2173 if you forgot what you signed up to bring. This is sure to be a "BLAST"!



**LIVIN' LOUD**

A FREE 2-DAY FAMILY EVENT — 22ND ST & LAKE AVENUE — GOTHENBURG, NE

**NEW LOCATION!**

LAKE HELEN  
22ND & LAKE AVE  
GOTHENBURG, NE

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 | 4:45**

LIVE IN CONCERT

**FOR KING & COUNTRY  
SIDEWALK PROPHETS  
TODD DELANEY  
LOVECOLLIDE  
THE LASTING HOPE**

FEATURING MC KEITH BECKER & A GUEST SPEAKER  
PLUS, JOIN US

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 | 10:45**

FOR A COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE  
WITH SIDEWALK PROPHETS & A GUEST MESSAGE

www.livinoutloud.live | info@livinoutloud.org | AN OUTDOOR EVENT | Find us on Facebook

## **EDUCATION MEETING**

On Tuesday, July 9th, the Education Committee will be meeting at 7:00 pm in the Church Library. Our main discussion will be about Sunday School for the next school year. Anyone who has youth who are Sunday School age who would like to have input in this process/discussion/change are also welcome to attend. We are a friendly bunch!

## **THANKSGIVING IN AUGUST**

On Sunday, August 18th, following the LOL Community worship service at Lake Helen, come to the church for a wonderful meal!! Homemade chicken noodles over mashed potatoes, dinner rolls, fruit salad and dessert. This will be served from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, or until we run out of food, whichever comes first. The funds raised will be to make Thanksgiving boxes for families in need. A free will offering will be accepted.