



NEWS FROM THE HEART

May 2024

Gretna United Methodist Church

11457 South 204th Street
P.O. Box 96
Gretna, Nebraska 68028

Sunday Worship

9:30 Worship
10:30 Fellowship Time
10:45 Sunday School

Pastor

Brian Kemp-Schlemmer

Pastor Brian's Cell Phone:
480-220-2571
E-mail:
brian@gretnaumc.com

Church Office:

Office Hours

Monday—Friday
8:30am—4:30pm
Closed Daily from 11:30-12:30

Office:(402) 332-3213
Fax: (402) 332-2547
Internet Site:
www.gretnaumc.com
www.greatplainsumc.org

Office Administrator

Kaitlyn Goehring

office@gretnaumc.com

Accompanist

Jerrri Niver

GRETNA UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH is a
community of Christian faith
where God's family grows
together through:

*genuine CONNECTION
*inspiring WORSHIP
*meaningful SERVICE
*Christ-Centered EDUCATION
and ACTIVITIES

From Your Pastor

It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.
—Luke 23:54-56

This is always the hardest part for a church.

For those who have not heard, it was announced on Sunday, April 21st, that I will be moving to Broadway United Methodist Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa this summer.

I am excited about the opportunities this new appointment provides, and I see the Holy Spirit at work in the coordination necessary to move me across conferences... again. While I did not ask for this move, and it is not the timing I would have chosen, I trust that God is at work in this, as in all things!

and...

This is always the hardest part for a church.

This time of knowing that a pastor is leaving, before the anticipation of knowing who will take their place. This is liminal. This is anxious. This requires active faith and patient waiting.

After years of ministry, teaching and preaching the same stories of incarnation, miracles, death, and resurrection, I often find myself looking for the stories between the stories, the quiet moments between the showstoppers, and the things unsaid. Perhaps that's why the past few Easters I have found myself drawn to Holy Saturday.

We don't know what the day between "Good" Friday (I'm sure the disciples were not yet referring to it as such) and Easter Sunday looked like for Jesus' loved ones. Nothing is written about it. How they filled that time is left to the imagination.

What we do know is that they did not know that it would only last a single day. They did not know that tomorrow was Easter and that they would once again see the man whom they were grieving. For the disciples, Holy Saturday was just the first day of their new reality of life without Jesus. Thank God we are an Easter people!

Don't mistake me, we all have our Holy Saturdays, and they are not always (read: rarely) over in a single day. Yet, unlike the disciples, we know that death never has the last word, and God is never done with us!

I am not Jesus (you know this, but I need you to know that I know this!). My transition from Gretna is not the same as the death of a savior, or even a loved one or friend. And yet, it is good to remember during this time of active faith and patient waiting that God is still at work, and God's work for and with us is only just beginning!

Your brother on the journey,
Pastor Brian

Children's Ministries



Sign up at the link or QR code (to the right) to register your child for VBS or to sign up as a volunteer.

MPK:

We have wrapped up our Wednesday evenings with our final project of Happy Birthday Pans. We made 26 of them and gave them to Gretna Neighbors.

Sunday School:

Sunday School wrapped up on April 28th and will resume in the fall.

Vacation Bible School:

Volunteers for VBS are needed. Here is the link to sign up for supplies needed: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C49AFA82AA4FC1-48831396-vbssupplies>

Please bring items to the church when you get them. I will be spending lots of time at the church over the next couple of months. I will be asking for helpers to come and help decorate as well.



Miscellaneous Information

Boomer Group

There will be no gathering in May due to graduations and Mother's Day

Thanks to Laurel Brewer, Tom and Carol Doolittle, Dennis Spurgeon, Amber Samuelson, Sheri Farrar, and Jackie Siebels for getting the sanctuary ready for the Easter season.

Summer Break

Women's Bible Study will be taking a break for the summer and will resume in the fall.

Adult Bible Study is wrapping up mid-May and then will take a break for the summer.

Mission Possible Kids and Youth Groups have wrapped up for the season and will resume in the fall.

Choir has one last session on May 15th and then will wrap up for the season. **Handbells** have wrapped up for the season. Both choirs will resume in the fall.

Dates to Remember:

On **Sunday, May 12th**, the Gretna United Methodist Church will be celebrating "**Women of Faith**" during the worship service. All women will be celebrated on this day for the things they do, for the church and beyond, to honor Jesus.

On **Sunday, May 19th**, the Gretna United Methodist Church will be celebrating **graduating seniors**, Cody Hunter and Ellarie Owen, during the worship service.

TOY ZONE

The Toy Zone is available during service on Sunday mornings for infants and toddlers. Lots of toys and fun to entertain the kiddos.

Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request you would like shared with the prayer chain, contact Jan Spurgeon at 402-332-3088 or djspurg@cox.net or contact the church office at office@gretnaumc.com. You can also add them to the streaming on Sunday and indicate that you want the request to go out to the prayer chain.

If you wish to become a part of the Prayer Team, please put your contact information on your request or contact Jan or the office.



YOU, through GUMC, in a Group, or Individually
HAVE MADE THIS A REALITY!

It's time to celebrate the ELEVATOR
at Camp Fontanelle
Olson Lodge is totally handicap accessible with this elevator!

A SPECIAL DEDICATION & CELEBRATION WILL TAKE PLACE ON
SATURDAY, MAY 18TH 9:30-11:00 AM

Come and See and Take a Ride :)

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Recurring Volunteer Opportunities:

1st Wednesdays at Open Door Mission at 1:00pm

3rd Saturdays at Heartland Hope at 9:00am

GRETNA NEIGHBORS FOOD PANTRY

107 Cort Plaza in Gretna
(Across Hwy 6/31 From Shell Speedee Mart)

First and Third Saturday Mornings of each Month
9AM - 11AM.

Second Wednesday Evening of each Month
6PM - 7PM

Open to all residents that have lived in the Gretna School District for 6 months. ID and proof of current address required at each visit.

Volunteer Opportunities



SAVE THE DATE
SCUBA VBS @GRETNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
diving into friendship with god
JULY 8-11
SCAN ME
←REGISTRATION↓
<https://vbspro.events/p/events/4a7525>

Are you interested in helping out on **Sunday mornings**?

To volunteer to be an usher, greeter, attendance taker, or work the sound and computer: contact Jan or Dennis Spurgeon (contact information below)

ATTENDANCE TAKERS NEEDED

If you would like to help out for a half an hour on a Sunday morning, consider signing up to take attendance.

See Jan Spurgeon if you are interested. You can call her home phone—402-332-3088 or text her cell phone—402-290-4857 or send her an email at djspurg@cox.net.



Pictures



April 7, 2024 Confirmands

From left to right:
Luke McKain, Claire Luthi, and Leighton Froehlich



Easter Sunday Acolytes



Baptism of Patrick Mak



Pictures

Thanks Tom for always draping the cross and Denny for always helping with ladder and altar.



Guest from Abide
Matt Pohren



Joe Verbeek

Guest Pianist
Bella Gerloff



2024 MAY 2024

Sunday Schedule

9:30 am Worship
 1030 am Fellowship
 10:45 am Illumination Adult Sunday School

Tuesday Schedule:

6:30 am Men's Group at
 Billy's Café

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<i>Apr 28</i>	<i>Apr 29</i>	<i>Apr 30</i> <i>7:00-8:30 pm</i> <i>Last Women's Bible Study for the season</i>	<i>May 1</i> <i>9:15-11:00 am</i> <i>Last Women's Bible Study for the season</i> <i>No Choir</i>	<i>May 2</i>	<i>May 3</i>	<i>May 4</i>
5	6	7	8 <i>No Choir</i>	9	10	11 <i>12:00-4:00 pm</i> <i>Fellowship Hall In Use</i>
12 Mother's Day Celebration of Women of Faith	13 <i>6:30 pm</i> <i>Church Council Meeting</i>	14	15 <i>6:00 pm</i> <i>Choir Cookout</i> <i>7:00 pm</i> <i>Last Choir practice of the season</i>	16	17 <i>6:30 pm</i> <i>Fellowship Hall In Use</i>	18 <i>8:00 am-12:00 pm</i> <i>Fellowship Hall In Use</i>
19 Celebrating Seniors	20	21	22	23 <i>9:00 am</i> <i>Women's Breakfast and Coffee at Billy's Café</i> <i>Pastor out of office though June 4</i> →	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day <i>Office Closed</i>	28	29	30	31	June 1 →



May Birthdays

1. Mark Brosamle
2. Joan Rogers
Claire Luthi
3. Bob Miles
5. Mike Enfield
7. Steve Hansen
9. Tom Walsh
11. Sue Stingley
13. Brad Stauffer
Trevor Stickney
14. Trevin Stutzman
Justin Wolff
16. David Zajac
Laurie Fountain

18. Kevin Modrell
19. Sallyann Willett
20. Grace Johnson
Gracie Fuller
22. Ruby Lee
25. Cody Thompson
28. Jay Samuelson
29. Jack Bailey
Denise Ott
31. Sharon Kluge
Katrina Moore

May Anniversaries

16. Steve & Amy Johansson
21. Mike & Sarah Caldararo
22. LeJay & Shannon Jones
23. Lane & Stephanie Barnason
24. Mark & Sandi Bennett
27. Aaron & Michelle Wehrly
31. Justin & Belinda Boelter



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

May 5 Ushers: Greeters: Sound: Computer: Attendance Takers: Acolytes:	Tom & Cindy Walsh Linda Barris & Jami Brosh Belinda Boelter Eric Berggren Sheri Farrar & Gena Fuller Leighton Froehlich & Alaine Stickney
May 12 Ushers: Greeters: Sound: Computer: Attendance Takers: Acolytes:	Gary & Kathy Boring Janelle King & Ardis Enstrom Jay Samuelson Lenny VerMaas Sheri Farrar & Tricia Brewer Luke McKain & Max Miller
May 19 Ushers: Greeters: Sound: Computer: Attendance Takers: Acolytes:	Ryan & Lara Herboldsheimer Jami Brosh & Ellen Burgeson Marcy Miles Bob Miles Sheri Farrar & Tricia Brewer Kyler Herboldsheimer & Claire Luthi
May 26 Ushers: Greeters: Sound: Computer: Attendance Takers: Acolytes:	Tom & Carol Doolittle Shirley Welty & Brenda Bland Dennis Spurgeon

May COMMUNION is for

Abide

May Communion Servers

Brad & Danette Luthi
Joan Smith & Gary Boring

Hospitality Set-Up for May

May 5: Spurgeons
 May 12: Farrar
 May 19: Borings
 May 26: Spurgeons

Hospitality Clean-Up for May:

Missions and Nurture Committees
 And if you are not on another committee,
 Last names beginning with Q, R, S, or T.

*Sunday services are being streamed live
via Facebook at 9:30am.*

Volunteering:

Chancel Guild volunteers are an important part of the worship service. The volunteers change the parament colors for the week, change the candles on the altar and the memorial candle.

They also set up communion for the first Sunday of each month.

Would you be interested in helping for a month or two during the year?

No meetings to attend.

If so, please contact Carol Doolittle at 402-657-1184 or nanadoo3@gmail.com