



NEWS FROM THE HEART

April 2026

Gretna United Methodist Church

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

Sunday Worship

9:30 Worship
Sunday School
10:30 Fellowship Time

Pastor

Michael Park

E-mail:
pastor@gretnaumc.com

Church Office:

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
8:30am—4:30pm

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

Office Administrator

Shannon Novacek

office@gretnaumc.com

Accompanist

Jerri 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

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Easter is a time filled with real hope. It's not just an idea or a story we remember—it's something we experience through a living relationship with our Lord. Because Jesus is alive, our hope is alive too. Even when life feels heavy and uncertain, Easter reminds us why we can still have joy. Jesus has already overcome every evil and defeated every enemy we face. That truth gives us a deep, unending, and unshakable hope. In Christ we don't just survive, we live with a joy that continues to grow no matter what comes our way.

Easter is not just a day that comes once a year and then passes. It is a living and endless source of joy, hope, inspiration, and transformation in Christ. This is what the followers of Jesus truly experienced. Their darkest days were changed into moments of joy, hope, and the promise of eternal life. Because of this, they were no longer afraid, discouraged, or hopeless. Instead, their hearts were filled with a living joy and a deep hope in the risen Christ.

My prayer for you is that you will continue to experience the true spirit of Easter—receiving fresh joy, renewed hope, and new life in Jesus Christ each day.

This prayer was composed by the Rev. Michaela Youngson, the Methodist Church of Britain.

When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, your love broke through. Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold. The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst forth with resurrection light. Gracious God, we praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus. We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection. We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today. We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

See you in Worship!
Rev. Michael Park

Miscellaneous Information

Coming up in April at

Gretna Public Library

Mental Health Day

Thursday, April 16th | 3:30 - 5:30

Join Gretna Public Library teen services for a day focused on your brain. Enjoy a mental health day featuring guided meditation, mental health resources, zen tangles, relaxing crafts and vibes. No library card or registration required.

Fiber Arts Friday

Friday, April 17th | 5:30-7:30

Work on your fiber art projects while enjoying the company of others. Register online or with a librarian to save your spot.

Retirement Seminar

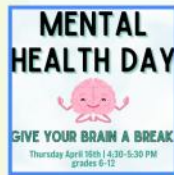
Thursday, April 23rd | 6:00 - 7:00

Learn how Social Security timing and taxes may impact your retirement income. This no-cost workshop led by Ryan Shaughnessy with Trinity Financial Group. Register online or speak to a librarian.

Super Mario Party!

Saturday, April 25th | 1:00 - 3:00

Celebrate the world of Mario with fun activities for ages K-8. Drop in anytime, no registration required.



And so much more!

Check out more events on the library calendar by scanning the QR Code!



• Adult • Teen • Children • Multigen



Follow Us On Instagram

@gumc_ne

Gretna United Methodist Church can also be followed on Facebook!

PRAYER CHAIN

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU WOULD LIKE SHARED WITH THE PRAYER CHAIN, CONTACT JAN SPURGEON AT 402-332-3088 OR JANSPURGEON23@GMAIL.COM 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.

POWER OF PRAYER



THE TOY ZONE IS AVAILABLE DURING SERVICE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS.



Miscellaneous Information



**EASTER
INFO**

APRIL 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY-
SERVICE 6-7PM
APRIL 3 GOOD FRIDAY-
SERVICE 6-7PM
APRIL 5 EASTER-
7:30-8AM SUNRISE SERVICE
8-9AM BREAKFAST
9:30AM SERVICE



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FYI

**No Boomers event
in April. Moved to
May 3rd. More info
to come.**

Why does Pastor Michael have to go to Junction City, KS? For what??

[Great Plains UMC 2-Year Residency Program]

A support program for newly ordained or commissioned pastors transitioning into full-time ministry. Pastor Michael, ordained in the Korean Methodist Conference in New York, is currently participating in a two-year residency program to transfer his order and credentials to the Great Plains.

Purpose: Help pastors grow in practical skills, receive mentoring, develop pastoral identity, and navigate church leadership challenges. Pastor MP will continue to acquire knowledge in mentorship, cohort learning, supervised ministry, and spiritual formation until the conclusion of 2026. Pastor MP will attend three additional Residency meetings in the fall of 2026.

Missions Opportunities

Heartland Hope Food Pantry Donations

Thank you so much for your continued generosity to meet the needs of the Heartland Hope Mission Food Pantry each and every time we ask. The current needs are the following:

Pasta sauce

Sides like Mac & Cheese or

Hamburger Helper

Cereal

Canned fruit

Canned corn

Full size hygiene products such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, deodorant and dish soap.

If anyone is interested in serving at the food pantry on Tuesday evenings, Thursday afternoons or Saturday mornings, please contact Sheri Farrar 402-598-9022. Several of us go on Thursday afternoons and we'd be happy to show you how it all works.



GRETNA NEIGHBORS FOOD PANTRY
107 Cort Plaza, Gretna NE 68028

(West side of Highway 6/31, in the strip mall beside Casey's gas station)
FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAY MORNINGS OF EACH MONTH
9AM -11 AM

SECOND WEDNESDAY EVENING OF EACH MONTH 6PM-7PM
OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS THAT HAVE LIVED IN THE GRETNA SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR 1 MONTH. ID AND PROOF OF CURRENT ADDRESS REQUIRED AT EACH VISIT.

Scan Below For Cash Donations

Most needed items-

Canned Corn, Beef Soups, Chicken Soups, Cream Soups & Canned Fruit!



Volunteer Opportunities

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT ON SUNDAY MORNINGS? VOLUNTEER TO BE AN USHER, GREETER, ATTENDANCE TAKER OR WORK THE SOUND AND COMPUTER. IF WILLING TO HELP, PLEASE CONTACT THE SPURGEONS. CALL/TEXT, 402-290-4857 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO JANSPURGEON23@GMAIL.COM.

BLESS THE BADGE
SNACK DONATION REQUEST -

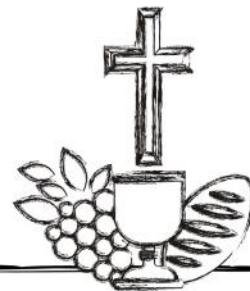
WE ARE CURRENTLY RUNNING LOW ON SNACK DONATIONS FOR OUR BLESS THE BADGE PROGRAM. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP, PLEASE BRING SNACK DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH.

YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED AND MAKES A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE FOR THIS AMAZING CAUSE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SERVING COMMUNION 3 OR 4 TIMES A YEAR PLEASE CONTACT:

CAROL DOOLITTLE
402.657.1184
NANADO03@GMAIL.COM



Please also let Carol Doolittle know if you are interested in leading a Scripture reading on a Sunday.

Midweek/Study Nights/Youth Group

JOIN US FOR GUMC

YOUTH GROUP

- APRIL 8 FROM 6-7:30PM
- APRIL 15 FROM 6-7:30PM
- APRIL 22 FROM 6-7:30PM
- APRIL 19 YOUTH SUNDAY

Reminder ↓

**JOIN US FOR
MID-WEEK NIGHT!**

WEDNESDAYS.
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 10TH.
MEET FOR DINNER, WHOLE
GROUP WORSHIP AND ALSO
GATHER TOGETHER IN
SMALLER GROUPS.

Fun for everyone!

x x x GUMC x x x

GUMC Memories!



GUMC Memories!



GUMC Memories!



In Loving Memory of Travis Mayer



2026 April 2026

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Worship
 Sunday School Grades K-12
 10:30 am Fellowship
 5:30-7pm Youth Group

Tuesday Schedule:
 6:30am Men's Group at Billy's Café

Wednesday Schedule:

5:30-7pm Midweek /
 Advent Night

Thursday Schedule:

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
29 Youth Group 5:30-7pm	30	31 Women's Bible Study 7-8:30pm	1 Women's Bible Study 9:15-11am	2 Maundy Thursday w/ Holy Communion 6pm	3 Good Friday 6pm	4
5 Easter Sunrise Service 7:30am Easter Breakfast 8am Easter Celebration 9:30am	6	7 Women's Bible Study 7-8:30pm	8 Women's Bible Study 9:15-11am Youth Group 6-7:30pm	9	10 Gretna Public Library Event 9am-1pm	11 Fellowship Hall In Use 12-5pm
12 Fellowship Hall In Use 2-6pm	13	14 Women's Bible Study 7-8:30pm	15 Women's Bible Study 9:15-11am Midweek Night 5:30-7pm Youth Group 6-7:30pm	16	17	18
19 Youth Sunday	20 Committee Meeting 6:30-7:30pm Council Meetings 7:30-8:30pm	21 Women's Bible Study 7-8:30pm	22 Women's Bible Study 9:15-11am Midweek Night 5:30-7pm Youth Group 6-7:30pm	23 Women's Coffee @ Billy's 9am	24	25
26 Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall In Use 4-7pm	27	28 Women's Bible Study 7-8:30pm	29 Fellowship Hall In Use 8-9am	30	May 1	May 2



April Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Jackie Siebels | 16. Cindy Wennstedt |
| 3. Linda Swanson | 20. Ryleigh Warren |
| Mark Burbach | 21. Nicole Hunter |
| 4. Lyle Marquis | 23. Denny Piper |
| 7. Joe Verbeek | 26. Holly Eberhardt |
| 8. Daman Lee | Carmen Brennan |
| Gena Fuller | 27. Lynda Teeters |
| 11. Carissa Hunter | 29. Barrett Van Duen |
| | 30. Melody Cejka |

April Anniversaries

20. Brad & Mari Wilderman



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

April 5 Easter Ushers: Greeters: Sound: Computer: Attendance Takers: Acolytes:	Tom & Cindy Walsh Tom & Carol Doolittle John Hampton Lenny VerMaas Sheri Farrar Sebastian Wehrly
April 12 Ushers: Greeters: Sound: Computer: Attendance Takers: Acolytes:	Rich & Linda Noble Shirley Welty & Ardis Enstrom Denise Ott Chris Ott Tom Walsh & Tricia Brewer
April 19 Ushers: Greeters: Sound: Computer: Attendance Takers: Acolytes:	Gary, Kathy Boring & Youth Bryan, Jona Van Deun & Youth Tom Walsh Cindy Walsh & Youth Sheri Farrar & Tom Walsh Josie Cihal
April 26 Ushers: Greeters: Sound: Computer: Attendance Takers: Acolytes:	Jay & Amber Samuelson Pam & Denny Piper Craig Hunter Brad Wildeman Sheri Farrar & Lara Herboldsheimer Kyler Herboldsheimer

Readings of the Scripture
 April 5- Michelle Wehrly
 April 12- Joan Smith
 April 19- Youth Sunday
 April 26- Jay Samuelson

Communion Servers
April 2
 Joan Smith
 Randy Lyons
April 5
 Sheri Farrar
 Tricia Brewer
 Deanna Stickney
 Randy Lyons

**April Holy Communion
 Bless The Badge**

Hospitality Set-Up for April
 April 5- Shelburnes
 April 12- Walshs
 April 19- Borings
 April 26- Spurgeons

Hospitality Clean-Up for April
 Trustees
 And if you are not on another committee,
 Last names beginning with M, N, O or P.

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. Contact: Carol Doolittle @ (402) 657-1184, nanadoo3@gmail.com

**Sunday services are being streamed
 on our Facebook Page.**
**Check out our Website & Facebook
 Page!**