



NEWS FROM THE HEART

January 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

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."
—Matthew 2:1

As we turn the page on another year, we in the church are not yet done with the Christmas story. Aside from the fact that we are never finished with God's in-breaking in the world, our remembrance of Christ's birth isn't complete until we have woven his story - our story - with that of the strangers.

Whenever we come to Epiphany, remembering the Magi from the East who were neither Christian, nor Jew and yet recognized the signs of Christ's coming and heard the voice of God upon their departure, I can't help but wonder which strangers God might be weaving into our sacred stories today.

I spend the vast majority of my time thinking about the people and ministries of Gretna United Methodist Church. I think about how I can serve you all and, with you, serve the community to which God has called us. I do not spend enough time thinking about where God is already at work in the community around us. I certainly don't spend enough time thinking about who and what beyond the walls of our church God might be using to teach us how to be more faithful to who we are called to be.

And so, because we are not yet finished with the Christmas story and, more importantly, because the Christmas story is not yet finished with us, I am asking you to join me in reflecting on these questions.

Specifically here at Gretna United Methodist Church we have identified four ways in which we engage the work of God, through:

Meaningful Service;
Inspiring Worship;
Genuine Connection, and;
Christ Centered Education and Activities.

So I ask you, who in Gretna and the surrounding areas has their fingers on the pulse of service that is really transforming lives? Who is engaged in deeply spiritual practice? Who is working to build genuine connection? Who is teaching the Gospel in compelling ways?

These do not have to be explicitly Christian people or organizations for us to learn from them (remember the Magi?). The ability to see Christ in the midst of their work and infuse Christ into whatever it is we take away from our encounters with them is what we already bring to the table.

So let's draw the circle wide, think outside the box, and see how, together, we might grow in new ways in the coming year!

Your brother on the journey,

Pastor Brian

Women's Ministries



Women's Bible Study

Tuesday Evening Women's Bible Study
January 9-March 12
Meeting time 7:00-8:30 pm

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study
January 10-March 13
Meeting time 9:15-11:00 am

The Women's Bible Study groups will be doing **Better: A Study of Hebrews** by Jen Wilkin. This study has 10 sessions. Each participant will attend one session per week choosing either the evening or morning session as best fits her personal schedule.

From the Publisher:

In this 10-session, verse-by-verse study of the Book of Hebrews, Jen Wilkin explores how God "provided something better for us" in the person of Jesus Christ (Heb. 11:40).

Through stories of Old Testament heroes and practices, the author of Hebrews demonstrates how the new covenant is superior to the old and how Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of every promise. Explore familiar verses in context of the entire Bible, learning how to place your hope and faith in Christ alone.

Each week we will gather in the Library (Tuesday) or the Fellowship Hall (Wednesday). All women of the congregation and community are invited to attend. Please feel free to invite a friend and join us for this study. Study guides will be available for purchase at the first session.

Please let Joann Berggren know at j.berggren96@gmail.com or 402-660-5136 if you have any questions, if you would like to attend, and if you would like a study guide.



Thurs, Jan 4
6:30 P.M.



Let's Meet!
and greet again!

BUNCO
@ 7:00

YES, THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN!
Don't miss out on this.

contact us at
WomenAdoringChrist@gretnaumc.com

Miscellaneous Information



Altar Cloths

In memory of
Dean Bruggeman



Thank you to everyone who
dropped off a Christmas card &
gift!! I appreciate you all so
much!

-Kaitlyn Goehring

Boomer Group

Sunday, January 21, 2024

5:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Soup Supper

Gretna Public Library Events

Penguin Prom

Friday, January 26 | 6:00-7:00
Gretna United Methodist Church

Games, crafts, and a storytime to celebrate our best-dressed
friends of the South Pole. Wear black and white to blend in!

No registration required. Storytime at 6:30.

**Gretna
Public
Library**

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.

Mitten Tree

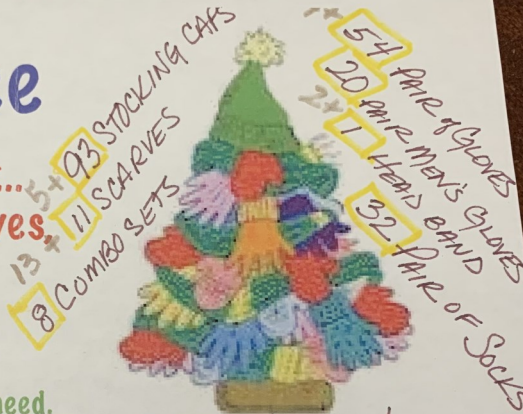
Gathering warm gear...
mittens, gloves, scarves,
stocking caps, socks

Please have items here
on Sunday, Nov 13th
So we can get them to those in need.



Got SOCKS!

PLACE SOCKS UNDER THE TREE...



THANK YOU!



and to others in need,
including Gretna area

??? - Contact Shirley Boyer 402-415-1092

Miscellaneous Information

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

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 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.

2024 January 2024

Sunday Schedule

9:30 am Worship
1030am Fellowship
10:45am Illumination Adult Sunday School
10:45am Children Sunday School
10:45am Middle School Sunday School
10:45 Senior High Sunday School

Monday Schedule

7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday Schedule:

6:30 am Men's Group at Billy's Café
7:00-8:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Wednesday Schedule:

9:15-11:00 am Women's Bible Study
6:00-7:30 pm Mission Possible Kids
6:30 pm Team 4:12 & SWAT
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsals

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<i>Dec 31</i> New Year's Eve	Jan 1, 2024 New Year's Day <i>Office Closed</i>	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4 5:00-7:00 pm Bill Dahlheim's Visitation at Roeder Mortuary 6:30 pm Women's Bunco	Jan 5 10:00 am Bill Dahlheim's Funeral & Luncheon at Gretna UMC	Jan 6
7	8 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir Resumes	9 7:00-8:30 pm Women's Bible Study Sarts	10 9:15-11:00 am Women's Bible Study Starts 6:00 pm MPK Resumes 7:00 pm Choir Resumes	11	12	13 8:00 am—2:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive
14	15 <i>Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr's Day</i>	16	17	18	19	20
21 5:00 pm Boomer Group in Fellowship Hall	22	23	24	25 9:30 am Women's Breakfast at Billy's Café 6:30 pm SPRC Meeting	26 4:00-8:00 pm Fellowship Hall In Use for Gretna Public Library Event	27 3:30-5:30 pm Fellowship Hall In Use for Gretna Public Library Event
28	29	30	31	Feb 1	Feb 2	Feb 3