



# NEWS FROM THE HEART

May 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](http://www.gretnaumc.com)  
[www.greatplainsumc.org](http://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**

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Every morning, before the noise of the day finds me, I pause. I breathe. I remember. I hold in my heart the ancient words of the Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition. And then, I let them become my own prayer before I take a single step into ministry or life. From the moment I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ — receiving Him as my Savior, my Lord, and my Redeemer — this prayer has guided, shaped, and walked with me. It has followed me into hospitals, into hard conversations, into seasons of joy, and into valleys of grief. Wherever I go, whoever I meet, whatever I face, these words rise like a quiet flame in my chest: Lord, I am yours. Use me today. "Here am I. Send me." Isaiah 6:8. Like Isaiah, who stood in the holy presence of God and offered himself completely, fully, and truly without condition. I have dared to pray the same prayer. I am yours, Lord. Use me. Send me. Even when it costs me something. That kind of prayer changes you slowly and deeply, like water shaping stone. Now, I want to be honest with you — because honesty is part of the covenant too. Within this beautiful prayer, there are two very different kinds of phrases. Some feel natural, others feel like a quiet test of everything I think I believe.

### **THE EASIER PARTS**

Put me to doing...  
Let me be employed for you...  
Exalted for you...  
Let me be full...  
Let me have all things.

### **THE HARDER PARTS**

Put me to suffering...  
Let me be laid aside for you...  
Brought low for you...  
Let me be empty...  
Let me have nothing.

If I am truly honest, the first one comes easily to my lips. The second one? It takes something from me each time I say it. To pray "let me be empty" — that asks something deep. To pray "let me have nothing" which is a surrender of the self that doesn't happen in a moment. It is a daily choice. Some mornings, a costly one.

Which side feels natural to you — and which side feels like it asks too much? Where are you in your spiritual journey right now? Friends, I don't know exactly where you are standing today. Some of you may find the easy parts difficult — perhaps life has been hard enough that even hoping for blessing feels like a risk. Some of you may sit uncomfortably close to the harder phrases — you are walking through pain, suffering, and challenge right now, whether you chose it or not. And some of you may still be deciding if this prayer — if any prayer — has anything to do with the life you are actually living in this post-Christian, post-COVID, post-disaffiliation world. I see you. Wherever you are, I see you. And so does God.

But here is what I want to say to you as your pastor, your spiritual companion, & your fellow pilgrim on this road: Don't just pray the comfortable half. The Covenant Prayer was never meant to be a menu from which we choose only what satisfies us. It is a whole prayer — and it is in the wholeness that transformation happens. The easy parts teach us to receive grace with open hands. The hard parts teach us to trust God even when our hands are empty. Both halves together form the shape of a life fully surrendered to God. And a life like that — even a messy, imperfect, still-figuring-it-out life like yours and mine — is a life God can use in ways we cannot imagine.

Therefore, I gently, kindly, and lovingly encourage you: this year, let this prayer find its way into your mornings. Say the easy parts with gratitude. Say the hard parts with courage. And say all of it knowing that the God who called Isaiah is the same God who calls you today — by name, with purpose, with love that will not let you go. May your life be fully and beautifully poured out for God's kingdom — not because it is painless, but because it is His. And may you walk each day with Jesus Christ, who walked the hardest road of all, so that you would never have to walk alone.

### **Wesley's Covenant Prayer - Original Version**

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

See you in Worship!

Rev. Michael Park

# Miscellaneous Information

## Coming up in May at the Gretna Public Library

No library card required

### Finals Party

Saturday, May 23 | 1:00 - 3:00

You crushed it! Celebrate the end of the school year with a chill Finals Party. Cookie decorating, crafts, vibes and good tunes included. Grades 6-12. No registration required.

### Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 2 | 1:00 - 3:00

Get your geek on! Pick up free comics, make your own superhero mask, and get free character sketches. Featuring The Ghostbusters, the 501st and Rebel Legions, and more.

### Genre Book Club: Westerns

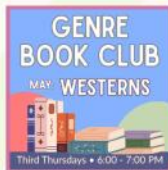
Thursday, May 21 | 6:00 - 7:00

Read a book within this month's genre and discuss it and the genre as a whole with other readers. May is Westerns! Speak to a librarian for suggestions. No registration required.

### 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Ongoing

Help your child get ready for school and earn prizes along the way. One thousand books is only 3 books/day for less than a year! Stop by the library to join the fun!



And so much more!

Check out more events by scanning the QR code!



• Adult • Teen • Children • Multigenerational



## 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

A colorful poster for a boomer game night. At the top, there are illustrations of a pool table, playing cards, and a board game. The background is green with a grid pattern. The text is in bold, black, sans-serif font. A red banner contains the date and time. At the bottom, there are illustrations of a checkers board, dice, and a board game.

**BOOMERS  
GAME NIGHT**

**MAY 3RD @ 5PM**

**TABLE GAMES & DESSERT**

CONTACT CAROL DOOLITTLE WITH ANY  
QUESTIONS @ NANADOO3@GMAIL.COM  
OR 402-657-1184

A purple poster with a white circle in the center. The text "WOMEN OF FAITH" is written in a white, sans-serif font, curving along the top of the circle. Inside the circle, the text "SUNDAY, MAY 10TH NURTURE/ MISSION COMMITTEE WILL BE CELEBRATING 'WOMEN OF FAITH' DAY." is written in a white, sans-serif font.

**WOMEN OF FAITH**

SUNDAY, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>  
NURTURE/  
MISSION  
COMMITTEE WILL  
BE CELEBRATING  
"WOMEN OF FAITH"  
DAY.

A white poster with a light blue brushstroke background behind the text "Thank You". The text is in a black, cursive font. Below the brushstroke, there is a paragraph of text in a black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a signature in a black, sans-serif font.

*Thank You*

We would like to thank everyone for all of their prayers, cards food, phone calls & offers of help. Everything is very much appreciated. We feel very blessed to have such a wonderful & supportive Church Family.

-Gary & Kathy Boring

A red poster with a white polka-dot pattern. A large white circle with a scalloped edge is in the center. The text "National Day of Prayer" is written in a black, serif font. Below it, the text "May 7th Resurrection Church 9am All are Welcome!" is written in a black, serif font.

**National Day  
of Prayer**

May 7th  
Resurrection Church  
9am  
All are Welcome!

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# Vacation Bible School



**[HTTPS://VBSPRO.EVENTS/P/DC401F](https://vbapro.events/p/dc401f)**

**THE QR CODE AND LINK PROVIDED GIVE  
INFORMATION ON VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.  
HERE YOU CAN FIND DATES, SIGN UP, ETC.  
ALSO, ONLINE DONATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED  
ON THE WEBSITE UNDER ONLINE GIVING WHEN  
CHOOSING VBS.**



# 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



## What is a meal train?

A meal train is an organized system where friends, family, or community members coordinate to provide home-cooked or delivered meals to someone in need, such as surgery, illness, or bereavement. It uses a shared calendar to ensure a steady, non-duplicated flow of food, helping recipients manage daily life during stressful times.

If you are in need of assistance with meals please call/text Ellen Burgeson @ 402-740-6851 or send an email to [eburgeson@msn.com](mailto:eburgeson@msn.com)

Please contact Ellen if you are also interested in volunteering to prepare a meal for someone in need.



## 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!



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](mailto:JANSPURGEON23@GMAIL.COM).

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

CAROL DOOLITTLE  
402.657.1184  
[NANAD003@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NANAD003@GMAIL.COM)



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

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# Midweek/Study Nights/Youth Group

JOIN US FOR GUMC

## YOUTH GROUP

- MAY 6 FROM 6-7:30PM
- MAY 13 FROM 6-7:30PM
- MAY 20 FROM 6-7:30PM
- MAY 17 YOUTH SUNDAY

Reminder ↓

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

**WEDNESDAYS,  
5:30-7PM**

MEET FOR DINNER, WHOLE  
GROUP WORSHIP AND ALSO  
GATHER TOGETHER IN  
SMALLER GROUPS.

Fun for everyone!

× × × See ya @GUMC × × ×

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# GUMC Memories



# 2026 May 2026

<p><b><u>Sunday Schedule</u></b>  <b>9:30am Worship</b>  <b>Sunday School Grades K-12</b>  <b>10:30 am Fellowship</b>  <b>6-7:30pm Youth Group</b></p>	<p><b><u>Tuesday Schedule:</u></b>  <b>6:30am Men's Group at Billy's Café</b></p>	<p><b><u>Wednesday Schedule:</u></b>  <b>5:30-7pm Midweek</b></p>
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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<i>April 26</i>	<i>April 27</i>	<i>April 28</i>	<i>April 29</i>	<i>April 30</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> <i>Pastor Out of Town</i>
<i>3</i> <i>Youth Group</i> <i>Breakfast</i>  <i>Boomers Game Night</i> <i>5pm</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> <i>Pastor Out of Office</i>	<i>6</i> <i>Pastor Out of Office</i>  <i>Youth Group</i> <i>6-7:30pm</i>	<i>7</i> <i>Pastor Out of Office</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>10</i> <i>Women of Faith Day</i>	<i>11</i> <i>SPRC Meeting</i> <i>6:30pm</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> <i>Midweek Night</i> <i>5:30-7pm</i>  <i>Youth Group</i> <i>6-7:30pm</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> <i>Fellowship Hall In</i> <i>Use 11am-5pm</i>
<i>17</i> <i>Youth Sunday</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> <i>Midweek Night</i> <i>5:30-7pm</i>  <i>Youth Group</i> <i>6-7:30pm</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> <i>Pastor Out of</i> <i>Town</i>	<i>27</i> <i>Pastor Out of</i> <i>Town</i>	<i>28</i> <i>Pastor Out of</i> <i>Town</i>  <i>Women's Coffee @</i> <i>Billy's 9am</i>	<i>29</i> <i>Pastor Out of</i> <i>Town</i>	<i>30</i> <i>Pastor Out of</i> <i>Town</i>
<i>31</i> <i>Potluck after Service</i>						



### May Birthdays

- 2. Claire Luthi
- 3. Bob Miles
- Maggie Miesbach
- Mark Burbach
- 9. Tom Walsh
- Lara Herboldsheimer
- 11. Sue Stingley
- 13. Brad Stauffer
- Trevor Stickney
- 19. Sallyann Willet
- Rhonda Carnell
- Chuck Carnell
- 20. Gracie Fuller
- 21. Kirk McClellan
- 22. Ruby Lee
- 23. Finn Brennan
- 28. Jay Samuelson
- 29. Denise Ott
- 31. Sharon Kluge

### May Anniversaries

- 4. Colten & Katie Ransdell
- 14. Calvin & Hannah Mak
- 27. Aaron & Michelle Wehrly
- 28. Ryan & Lara Herboldsheimer



## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

<b>May 3</b> Ushers: Greeters: Sound: Computer: Attendance Takers: Acolytes:	Tom & Cindy Walsh Charlotte VerMaas & Pam Piper Jay Samuelson Lenny VerMaas Sheri Farrar & Tricia Brewer Josie Cihal
<b>May 10</b> Ushers: Greeters: Sound: Computer: Attendance Takers: Acolytes:	Rich & Linda Noble Linda Barris & Ardis Enstrom Marcy Miles Bob Miles Sheri Farrar & Tricia Brewer Burke Wehrly
<b>May 17</b> Ushers: Greeters: Sound: Computer: Attendance Takers: Acolytes:	Youth Youth Neil Dawes Youth/ Dennis Spurgeon Sheri Farrar & Tom Walsh Josie Cihal
<b>May 24</b> Ushers: Greeters: Sound: Computer: Attendance Takers: Acolytes:	Shirley Welty & Ardis Enstrom Bryan @ Jona Van Deun Dennis Owen Brad Wildeman Donita Potter & Dennis Spurgeon Leighton Froehlich
<b>May 31</b> Ushers: Greeters: Sound: Computer: Attendance Takers: Acolytes:	Denny & Pam Piper Ardis Enstrom & Shirley Welty Dennis Spurgeon Brenda Bland Sheri Farrar & Tom Walsh Sebastian Wehrly

**Readings of the Scripture**  
 May 3- LaQuita McKibbin  
 May 10- Tom Walsh  
 May 17- Youth Sunday  
 May 24- Joan Smith  
 May 31- Bryan Van Deun

**Communion Servers**  
 LaQuita McKibbin  
 Lara Herboldsheimer  
 Linda Noble  
 Rich Noble

**May Holy Communion**  
**Epworth Family Resources**

**Hospitality Set-Up for May**  
 May 3- Youth Breakfast  
 May 10- Barris  
 May 17- Cejka  
 May 24- Dawes  
 May 31 Lyons

**Hospitality Clean-Up for May**  
 Finance  
 And if you are not on another committee,  
 Last names beginning with Q, R, S or T.

**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!**