



Memorial Methodist Church

105 East E St

August

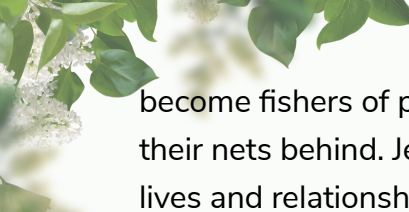
Over the last several months, I have been preaching through a series of sermons concerning Psalm 23. In many ways one could call the entire Old Testament a sheep herding expedition. The primary exemplar is a shepherd. So what about the New Testament? I would call the New Testament a massive fishing expedition. But why did God call fishermen instead of shepherds? It is quite a change. I have wondered about this. I think I finally understand.

It's because in the shift from the Old Testament to the New Testament, God is not looking to add a lost sheep here and there. This shift from the old covenant to the new covenant means the hope of adding to the community every non-Jewish person in the world. God's plan is global in scope. It always has been. It took sending his Son to fulfill the plan. God's plan has always been to raise up a people, a community living in covenant relationship together with him, through whom he could reveal himself to the world and reconcile them in relationship. This new work is not about adding a few stray sheep from the Hebrew people. God is concerned about the whole world. Yes, this is a massive fishing expedition.

Growing up I had another misconception. When Jesus said his followers would be fishers of people, I immediately assumed he meant cane poles and rod and reels replete with live bait and artificial lures. Yes, I assumed he was talking about bait fishing. It turns out, New Testament fishing was all about net fishing. Now, here's the kicker. In this massive, New Testament-fishing expedition, the people of God would become the net. Now, let me ask you, what is a net? It is quite simply a collection of knots. And yes, the knots are our relationships. The knots are not just any relationships though; as though Facebook friendship level would suffice. No, the knots are covenanted relationships. The knots are friendships in the tradition of the friends of Jesus. The knots are relationships; people learning to love one another with the very love of God.

It turns out this is how other people get caught up in the net. They become enfolded into our relationships and in time they become knotted in. I believe the greatest biblical symbol of the New Testament church, the covenant community of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the symbol we have largely left behind: the net. When those first disciples responded to Jesus's call to follow him and





become fishers of people, it says they left their nets behind. Jesus would transform their lives and relationships into that net and then he would throw them out like a net into the deep waters of the world.

It's time we pick the net up again as the sign and symbol. The success of our church will depend on the supernatural strength of our relationships therein. Our relationships are the mission. Awakening depends on the strength of the knots.

Ten years ago, I was introduced to one of the places where Memorial Methodist Church casts its nets. On a hot July day, I ventured to the county fair and discovered a group of people who were frantically working to

prepare food for those attending the fair.

What I didn't know, but soon discovered, was that in that hot, crowded space, people were building community, they were developing relationships.

Over the years I have gotten acquainted with people I saw on Sunday, but never really knew, until we stood shoulder to shoulder grilling hamburgers or making taco salads, or pouring iced tea. It was there that I discovered not only their names but details about their lives and sometimes during a much-needed break, I heard the story of their faith commitment to Jesus Christ.

Our food booth is not just a place where our youth make a little money to support their activities. It's a New Testament call to make "fishers of people." -Pastor Jeff Kelley

The Physical Reason to Re-Build the Food Booth

The initial reason for this project was the food booth needed to expand because we have been using a trailer for both storage AND cooking. Also, anyone who has worked at the food booth during busy times knows that the preparation area is simply too small for the number of workers in the building.

The existing building is 30 years old. As we looked at this, the building also needed all new serving windows, the electrical service was too small for the number of appliances being used, the building is set too low and has water issues when it rains, the building is uninsulated, making it extremely hot in the summer, and the building has frequent sewer backups. Considering all the issues, it was decided it made more sense to build a new building and fix all the problems.

The new building is significantly larger at 30' x 60'. (The existing building is only 20' x 40'.) It has an expanded preparation area as well as a dedicated storage area. It will also have a dedicated mechanical area, getting those fixtures out of the preparation area, and it will be fully insulated, allowing for cooling to make the building more comfortable. Also, the budget includes a fire suppression hood of the grill, making it significantly safer.

The project budget is \$300,000. The Endowment fund will provide \$150,000 in direct funding and will finance the remaining \$150,000 until that money can be raised through donations.

- Food Booth Project Team



Memorial Methodist Plans Larger Food Booth at Red Willow Fair

Memorial Methodist Church will replace its longtime Red Willow County Fair food booth with a new 1,800-square-foot building and updated kitchen after this year's fair.

Article by Lori Sughrue, McCook Daily Gazette

McCOOK, Neb. — Visitors to the Red Willow County Fair will see a major change at the Methodist food booth next year.

Memorial Methodist Church plans to replace its longtime fair building with a larger structure designed to better serve the thousands of people who stop by each summer.

The new building will more than double the booth's size, expanding from 800 square feet to 1,800 square feet, according to Jeremy LaBrie, youth and family pastor at Memorial Methodist Church.

Construction is expected to begin after this year's county fair. The project will include updated kitchen equipment and a completely new facility.

"We're starting over from scratch," LaBrie said.

At its current building, the church has been serving homemade pies, hamburgers and other fair favorites since the 1960s. LaBrie estimated the booth serves thousands of customers during the fair, based on cash register sales.

That popularity has created challenges. For the past five years, food supplies have been stored in two trailers parked beside the booth because of limited storage space inside the building. The shortage also slowed service at times, with customer lines stretching 10 to 15 people deep.

Church leaders originally considered adding a separate building to the south side of the current structure. After discussions with congregation members and the fair board, they decided a completely new building would be a better solution.

Funding for the project will come from church fundraising efforts and existing church resources, LaBrie said.

"Current and past members are very excited about the project," he said.

Lead Pastor Jeff Kelley will oversee the capital fundraising.

Working with local subcontractors for plumbing and electrical, church members will build the structure itself.

"We have some amazingly talented people in the church," he said.

But the project is about more than just expanding food service, LaBrie said. For years, the booth has served as a place where volunteers connected with fairgoers and built relationships within the community.

"New relationships are made each year by church members working the food booth," he said. "This will give more opportunities for our youth to serve the community Christ calls us to."

Members of the church on the Food Booth Project Committee are Greg Wolford, Dave Winder, Dave Dame, Sandra Gray and Mary Jo Overton.

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Upper Midwest Conference

My name is Gene Weedin and I am the lay leader for the Memorial Methodist Church in McCook. A lay leader is a representative of the church whenever an annual conference is held in which business is conducted which will affect the local church. Recently I had the privilege of attending the annual conference for the Upper Midwest Conference of the the Global Methodist Church in America. This conference was held in Sioux City, Iowa.

The Upper Midwest Conference is made of 192 Global Methodist Churches in the seven states of Montana, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota. There are over 21,000 members in these churches. There are over 7,000 Global Methodist churches throughout the entire world. Our Global Mission is the church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to spread scriptural holiness across the globe. Our Purpose is the Upper Midwest Conference of the Global Methodist exists to create a culture of discipleship and mission by supporting local churches and clergy by shepherding, connecting, and equipping local congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

One focus of the annual conference was how can the conference grow? First of all we are raising the next generation of religious leaders. Second, we are developing Wesleyan leaders. John Wesleyan was the founder of this movement called Methodism. The Global Methodist Church follows Wesleyans' doctrine. And finally each local church must be cultivating a culture of multiplication. This means we are to be a discipline who make disciples who in turn makes more disciples.

Another focus of the conference was challenging the local churches to go beyond the walls of the church and to reach out and serve the surrounding community. When we break down the walls of our church building, we aren't changing our theology, we are fully practicing it. Have we been saved to maintain, or are we sent on a mission?

Children's Ministries

Sunday, August 9th – Blessing of Backpacks will be during both worship services 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. (You don't have to attend both, just one.) The children can bring their backpacks and the leadership team will pray a special blessing over them as we prepare our hearts and minds for the school year!

The following will also be receiving Bibles that morning: Lettie & Nikki Bose, Sienna Dorothy, Axel Haarberg, Mila Morgan, Vincent Pianalto, Landen Schafer, Josiah Scherbarth, Marshall Thompson, and Jacoby Zuinga. If you know of a child not on this list, that will be in 3rd grade or a child that is older that hasn't received a Bible from the church, please contact the church office.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug 9: Blessing of Backpacks
& 3rd Grade Bibles
Sept 2: Kickoff Party
Sept 9: WOW begins
Sept 13: Sunday School begins
Oct 31: Trunk or Treat

Outreach Ministry

Another summer is wrapping up and our church was able to make 17 people's summer that much sweeter by sending them to church camp! Thank you to everyone that gives monetary gifts to the children and for the Methodist Women who help with the camp scholarship fund. Thank you for the gift of summer camp and blessing the children with memories of a camp filled with Jesus!



Thank you to everyone that helped make Praise in the Park a success! It was a beautiful morning with perfect weather! Being in nature and out of the building was a great reminder that WE are the church, the building is just a gathering place. It takes many hands to make an event run smoothly and that is another reminder that we are ALL the church; big or small, five minutes or five hours, everyone working together to bring Jesus to others is so special.



U p c o m i n g E v e n t s

SUNDAYS

Worship Services | 8:45 & 10:45 am
Nursery | Infants-PK | 8:30 am-12 pm
Sunday School | 9:50-10:40 am | Sept 13
Adult Sunday School | 10-10:40 am
3Sixteens | 6-12th | 6 pm | Aug 30

MONDAYS

Praise Band Rehearsal | 7 pm

WEDNESDAYS

Men's Bible Study | 6:30 am
Women's Bible Study | 9 am
W.O.W. | PK- 8th | 6 pm | Sept 9
W.O.R.D. | 9-12th | 7 pm | Aug 26

THURSDAYS

Community Supper | 5:30 pm

SATURDAYS

Men's Bible Study | 7 am

MEETINGS

August 6 | Trustee Meeting | 7pm
August 11 | Care Team | 9:30 am
August 11 | Ad Council Meeting | 5:30 pm
August 14 | MMW Unit Meeting | 2 pm

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Newsletter Articles Due

YOUTH LAKE DAY

August 8 | 3 pm

LIVIN' OUT LOUD

August 15 | 4 pm

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS 3RD GRADE BIBLES

August 9 | 8:45 & 10:45 am

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Garden Prairie
August 23 | 5-7 pm

W.O.R.D. KICKOFF PARTY

August 26

3SIXTEENS KICKOFF PARTY

August 30

FALL KICKOFF PARTY

September 2

Thank you for reading!

MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH



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