



Memorial Methodist Church

105 East E St

September

The Fire That Shaped a Movement

In 1709, a fire consumed the Wesley family's home in Epworth in the middle of the night. Coughing from the smoke, the family escaped through the flames into the cold winter's night. All except one. The neighbors spotted the terrified face of five-year-old John through an upper room window, the fire roaring beneath him. There was no time for a ladder. One neighbor climbed onto another's shoulders and pulled the boy from the window a moment before the roof collapsed in a thunderclap of flames.

John Wesley never forgot it. For the rest of his life, he returned again and again to those words from the prophet Zechariah 3:2 — “a brand plucked from the fire.” God had snatched him from the flames for a reason. He was certain of it.

That conviction shaped everything. When the Methodist movement began to grow around him, Wesley asked the same question on a larger scale: “What may we reasonably believe to be God's design in raising up the preachers called ‘Methodists?’” It is the kind of question only a man who believes in a purposeful God would think to ask. Not how did this happen? But why did God make it happen?

His answer, written into the earliest writings of the movement, was this: “To reform the nation, and in particular the Church; to spread scriptural holiness over the land.” Wesley's answer was simply this — Methodism is nothing more and nothing less than vital Christianity. The real thing, the original Christian movement, burning with the fire of the Holy Spirit. He himself warned that Methodism could become “a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power.” The fire was the difference. They were a brand plucked from the fire. They were rescued to carry the Holy Spirit's saving blaze to every corner of the land.

Prayer: Lord, You are the God who rescues and the God who sends. I thank You that You did not leave me to myself, but called me by name and pulled me from the fire. Forgive me for the times I have lived for myself rather than for the world You love. Come, Holy Spirit, warm my heart with the fire of Your love. Come, Holy Spirit, set us ablaze for the world You came to save. Make us a people who know what You have designed us for, and who carry Your blaze to every corner of the land. Amen.

Have you ever felt that God rescued you for a reason? What did that feel like, and what did you do with it? What would it mean for you to live as someone raised up for a purpose? What is one step you could take this week? I wish you Jesus.

A Word From Our Conference

by Rev. Ross Reinhiller

Upper Midwest Conference Vice Superintendent

In a few weeks our delegation from the Upper Midwest Conference will travel to South Africa for the first General Conference of the Global Methodist Church. The Global Methodists at this Conference must answer an important question: Are we a Global movement of the Spirit of God or are we an institution that is symbolically global but remains a western institution whose main concern is self-perpetuation. The way this Conference conducts business and enacts legislation will answer the question.

A movement is organic, it flows from a local need. Resources are allocated and energy expended to meet that need. The Global Methodist Church proclaims the local need in every place, and every nation, and every people is salvation for all people and the growth in holiness of every disciple. The local church fulfills its purpose when it submits to the Holy Spirit and proclaims the Lordship of Jesus Christ and fosters discipleship among its friends and members. There is nothing in our purpose that is self-preserving or self-serving. A movement is directed energy and a dynamic flow from our God to God's world.

An institution allocates its energy and resources to self-preservation. It defines and refines its image more than its outcome. The local church fulfills its purpose when it satisfies the need of the institution. The church is a good Global Methodist church when it can clearly articulate the vision of the denomination even when it does nothing to make that vision a reality. A good denomination may believe in spreading Scriptural Holiness throughout the land and never actually do it.

Our job is to pray for our delegation. Pray that with every decision they make they will ask the question: Does this decision empower the local church so that it may fulfill the mission or does this decision preserve the institution without advancing the call of Christ or the mandate of the Gospel?

God bless our delegates! Empower them with your wisdom and Spirit that all your lost children may be found and all Christ followers are disciples!

Building for the Future Our New Food Booth Project

As many of you are aware, our church will be building a new food booth at the county fairgrounds. This decision came after much discussion and prayer, when it was decided that a new building would meet our needs far greater than any remodel could ever do. Many have asked how they could be involved in supporting this effort. Thanks to those of you who have already made contributions to this effort. Plans are underway so that everyone will have the opportunity to be involved in supporting this project.

We believe that where God guides, God provides. Memorial Methodist Church has always been a generous and gracious church family.

Please be patient as we discern how best to provide the resources necessary to accomplish the goal of building a new food booth. We will do our best to keep the congregation informed about events and ways you can be involved. What we would ask is that everyone join us by praying for God's guidance as we go forward.

Thank you and God bless you,
The Food Booth Project Team

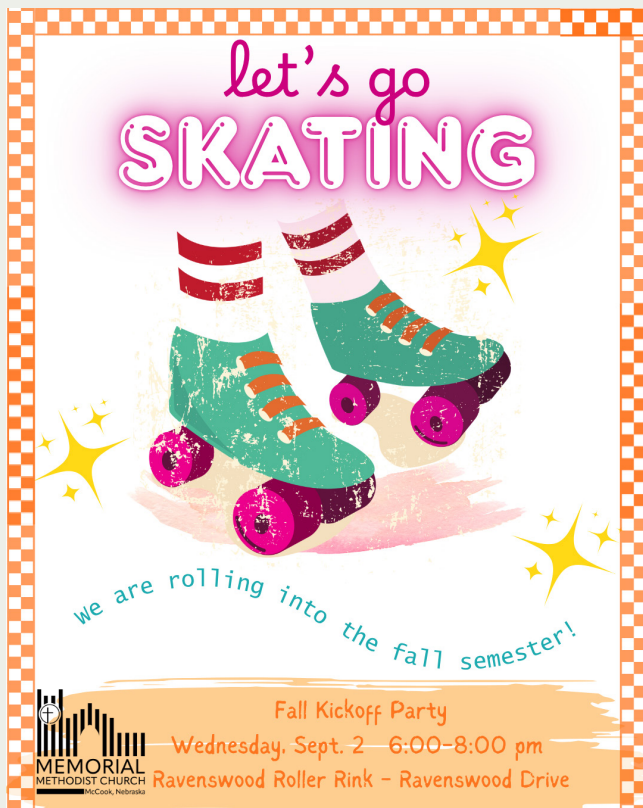
Children's Ministries

We are so excited to kick off the semester in Children's Ministry! Lots of things have been happening behind the scenes to prepare for children being back in classrooms. We have a fantastic group of teachers and helpers, who have committed to sharing the love of Jesus and the Word of God through song, scripture, activities, and building positive relationships. Our curriculum will journey along with Peter and we will spend the semester diving into Jesus' love, teaching and the truths it holds for us.

We will again be preparing a meal on Wednesday evenings. Not only is this a great opportunity to fill tummies, but sharing a meal with a group of children can really fill up the hearts of all at the table. If you'd like to come share in the meal, help with drinks, and converse with the kids, we have a spot for you! Chelsey Benes will be heading up the kitchen for us, and the menu items look delicious. We will still be needing 2-3 volunteers each Wednesday night to help in the kitchen and serve.

If it has been on your heart to get involved on either Wednesday evenings or Sunday mornings, please reach out.

We would also like to remind everyone to join us for the Fall Kickoff RollerSkating Party on Wednesday, September 2nd from 6:00 - 8:00 pm



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept 2: Fall Kickoff Skating Party

Sept 9: WOW begins

Sept 13: Sunday School begins

Oct/Nov: Parent Bible Study

Oct 31: Trunk or Treat

Nov 18: Family night &
Packing Shoe Boxes

Youth Ministries

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 1:3-6)

As we begin another year, it's important to remember why we, collectively, get to do youth ministry ...or any ministry for that matter. It is because of the *"good work"* that God has begun in each of us. And this good work, by the power of the Holy Spirit, is what has the power to effectively change lives for Jesus Christ.

It is such a blessing to partner with all of you in the gospel. I am convinced that what makes any youth ministry *"successful"* are the people who decided to partner in the gospel of Jesus Christ and lead courageously. Not because they are qualified to do so, but because they are willing, and God uses the willing (Isaiah 6:8). Besides, I would rather be an unqualified shepherd like David and be used by God, than a qualified king like Saul and be brought to ruin.

Recently, pastor Jeff has challenged the members of our church to become prayer partners and by doing so you become a partner in the gospel! Friends, prayer has the power to change lives, specifically your life! Consider this quote by Soren Kirkegaard, *"The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays."* God does not need our prayers to impact His Kingdom, we need to pray so that we are impacted by the Kingdom of God, which resides within us (Luke 17:21). If you commit to partner in the gospel and pray every day for the youth of our church, your life will be changed!

God is on the move in the life and ministry of Memorial Methodist Church, and it is so fun to be a part of! Let us continue this good work that God has started in each of us and partner in the gospel of Jesus Christ. *"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen"*

Summer Youth Night at Norris Alley



Youth Lake Day at Red Willow Lake





We are so excited to welcome our students on Sept. 2nd! I'm also very happy to let you know that Crystal Smith is our new assistant at Little Blessings Preschool. She is kind, caring, and brings 20 years of experience. It's going to be a great year! We're going to start at the beginning, Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth." Isn't it amazing how God took the darkness and made this beautiful world for us to enjoy? We praise Him for all He has made and done for us!

We will also start with beginning writing strokes, counting, fine motor and gross motor skills. We will start learning our alphabet and phonemic letter sounds. Pastor Jeremy will visit each week and share Jesus with us, Mrs. Patty will teach our afternoon class Spanish, and Mrs. Diane will be here from the library to read to us each month. We look forward to class pictures at the end of the month too.

Please pray that faith seeds will be planted and that our students will grow in their faith and knowledge this year. Thank you for your support of the preschool ministry.

Blessings,
Traci

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 | Sept 13 | 9:50-10:40 am
Adult Sunday School | 10-10:40 am
3Sixteens | 6-12th | 6 pm

MONDAYS

Praise Band Rehearsal | 7 pm
Gen Z Bible Study | 7:30 pm

WEDNESDAYS

Men's Bible Study | Sept 23 | 6:30 am
Women's Bible Study | 9 am
W.O.W. | PK- 8th | Sept 9 | 6-7:30 pm
W.O.R.D. | 9-12th | 7 pm

THURSDAYS

Community Supper | 5:30 pm

SATURDAYS

Men's Bible Study | 7 am

MEETINGS

September 3 | Trustee Meeting | 7 pm
September 8 | Care Team | 9:30 am
September 10 | MMW Unit Meeting | 1:30 pm

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Newsletter Articles Due

FALL KICKOFF PARTY

September 2 | 6 pm
Riverside Rink

Helping Hands Thrift Store

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the parking lot project at Helping Hands Thrift Store. From lining up contractors to moving the Conex trailer and everything in between, we are so blessed by our church family and all the support that made this possible.

This improvement will make the area much safer and easier to work with. We truly appreciate everyone who donated their time, effort, and expertise to help bring this project to completion.

Thank you for reading!

MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH



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