

MARCH 2024



# MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

McCook, Nebraska

**Making disciples of Jesus Christ who Worship  
Passionately, Love Extravagantly, and Witness Boldly.**

**Have you visited the Church  
Library lately?**

"Postcards from the Widow's Path" is a book giving help and hope to all widowers experiencing difficult times. This book



*Postcards from the Widow's Path*  
Gleaning Hope and Purpose from the Book of Ruth

Ferree Hardy

illustrated the difficult times Ruth & Naomi experienced in the book of Ruth. A pastor's wife who went through losing her husband wrote this book illustrating her struggles, accepting and climbing out of her loss. She compares her loss to

Ruth & Naomi. This book was given to me by a friend & it really helps to understand how losing a spouse affects you. There are study questions at the end of each chapter. Some can be very difficult and I had to stop for a few days. I hope that you will give this book a chance and I pray it will help you to heal. God Bless

## JOIN US

### Every Sunday

Contemporary Service 8:45 am

Adult & Children  
Sunday School 9:50 am

Traditional Service 10:45 am

3:16 Youth (6th-12th) 7:00 pm

### Mondays

Praise Band Practice 7:00 pm

### Wednesdays

Men's Bible Study 6:30 am

Women's Bible Study 9:00 am

Prek-8th grade classes 6:00 pm

WORD 6:30pm (Fresh & Soph)  
7:30pm (Junior & Senior)

### Thursdays

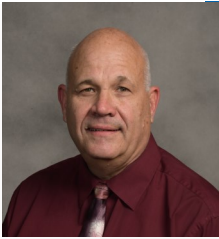
Community Supper 5:30 pm

### Saturdays

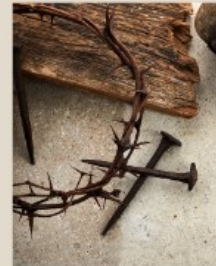
Men's Bible Study 7:00 am

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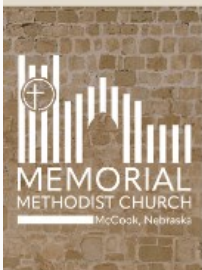


## From Jeff's Desk



# Holy Week

O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?



PALM SUNDAY MARCH 24

SERVICES @8:45AM & 10:45AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 28

SERVICE & COMMUNION @7PM

GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 29

SERVICE @GARDEN PRAIRIE CHURCH 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 31

SUNRISE SERVICE @6:45AM/AIRPORT

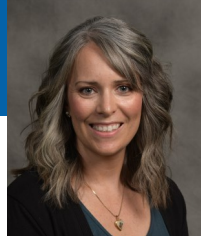
POTLUCK BREAKFAST @7:30AM/FELLOWSHIP HALL

SERVICES @8:45AM & 10:45AM

*I wish you Jesus*

To receive Pastor Jeff's Daily Devotions please email pastor at  
[pastorjeff@mccookumc.org](mailto:pastorjeff@mccookumc.org)





**VBS** -Hey Volunteers! Come aboard for an epic adventure at VBS! May 20-24 from 9am to 12:45pm (lunch is provided) we will be on an adventure from Genesis to Revelation. We will sail along on a fun jungle cruise, stopping at the 7 C's: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. If you are able to volunteer your time contact Julie Cuellar or Kelli Jensen!

**New Directory** - We have been told in the next 3 months the new directory will be here! We will let the congregation know when it arrives.

## **Outreach -**

What is the church's definition of outreach and/or community outreach? That is the question I have been asking myself and others on repeat since the beginning of 2024. There are so many needs and support to meet within our own church family and our own communities. Where do we start, Lord?

We start with prayer. A personal conviction has brought me back to the simple beginning. It is funny how we like to overcomplicate things in this earthly world! Prayer; the bookends of all great and meaningful acts of the Lord. Before I get too many irons hot or re-invent the wheel or start doing things my own way instead of the Lord's way, I have been reminding myself to be still and be in prayer. This stillness has caused a stirring and excitement of what the Lord has in store.

As I continue to organize and piece together events, activities, or support to offer our church and community I hope you'll join me in prayer. Justin Hoehner from Camp Comeca recently spoke to our church and challenged the congregation to pray and ask God 1) Where are you working Lord? And 2) Teach me how I can be a part of it. I encourage you to join me in those daily questions! But be prepared because He might ask you to do something new or bold which can be scary. However, you don't have to do that alone. As the Outreach Coordinator it's my job to help guide and partner with others in those new and bold Jesus adventures.

Want to start a support group? Need to vent about parenting? How to help aging parents? Have an idea for the community? Want to form a prayer team? Are you in need of fellowship and the Bible? Interested in leading a Bible study? Reach out and let's talk! I'd love to learn how the Lord can guide us in all these ways!



# Youth Happenings

Please pray. That's a funny way to start any article, isn't it? Please pray. Pray for what, for who, and what exactly am I praying for?

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16&17 the Bible tells us to, "Be joyful always, pray continually, and to give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." How often do you think about God's will for your life? Another way to put it; why in the world are you here? Are we all really here just to pray as this scripture suggests? Many of you, including myself, have answered this question by breaking life down into little compartments. Perhaps you think about God's will for your life like this: Where do I go to college, where should I live, what should my career be, who should I marry, and what kind of house and car should I have? It's easy to over think what God's will is for us. Don't get me wrong, all those things I listed are important, even to God. But God said, "Keep it simple; my will for your life is to be joyful, to pray, and in all things give thanks!" That's it, that is literally God's will for you! Everything in life flows from these three things including your education, your future, your bank account, your career, and even your stuff.

When I complicate things and lose sight of God's will for my life, to be joyful, to pray, and to give thanks, my life becomes unbalanced. I lose focus of God's will for me, and my life begins to shift into these tiny compartments. So, I work too much chasing stuff, have very little joy, and my relationship with God and others begins to take a back seat. I begin to question my purpose in life, and I become discontented and ungrateful. Have you ever felt that way before? If you are unsure what your purpose is, what God's will for your life is, just remember 1 Thessalonians 5:16&17. God's will, his design from the start for us, is that our life be full of joy, prayer, and thanksgiving.

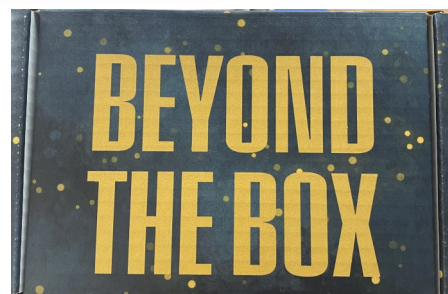
Think about it. In the garden, God designed Adam to need companionship, so God gave Adam, Eve, which gave Adam joy. Like many of us who have left our father and mother to cleave to our spouse, our wedding day was full of joy. We find joy in the relationships that God gives to us. Adam and Eve also walked and talked with God on a regular basis. You could say that their "prayer-life" was great! Because that's what prayer is, walking and talking with God on a regular basis. Adam and Eve had both joy and a good prayer life. What got Adam and Eve in trouble was not a slippery snake. It was their lack of thankfulness to God. God gave them everything they needed and more, but it wasn't enough. They wanted control. They wanted to call the shots. They wanted to be God. Adam and Eve were consumed by what they didn't have. They were discontented and

ungrateful about life. So, out of an ungrateful heart, Adam and Eve consumed what they thought would make them happy; to call the shots and to be their own god. That led to their downfall. I wish I could say I was nothing like Adam...but I am. What gets me into trouble is when I forget God's will for my life; to be full of joy because of the relationships I have with others and the relationship that I have with God through prayer. When I become ungrateful, I forget about the goodness of God and what he has given me. I consume the world's rotten fruit, becoming consumed by what I don't have. I take control of my life instead of letting God have control. I chase after material things thinking it will fill me up with joy, but it leaves me empty. I become my own god and stop talking to and walking with God. Is there any wonder why then I question, what's the point of life?

God, I pray that I will walk in your perfect will for my life. To be full of joy because of the people in my life. My desire is to walk and to talk to you every moment of every day by prayer. Help me to always tell you thanks for your abundant goodness to me. You have blessed me beyond measure! You are indeed a good, good Father, and for that, I will always be thankful. Amen!

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We have teamed up with Comeca Camp and Retreat Center for the "Beyond the Box" Fundraiser! We have set a goal to fill every envelope in not just one but two boxes and we need the congregation's help to make it happen! Each envelope is marked with a number ranging from 1 to 100. The boxes will be "completed" when each envelope is filled with a



donation of the corresponding dollar amount. For example the #6 envelope will have \$6 donation inside, the #50 envelope will have \$50 donation, and so on. If your preference is to donate using a credit or debit card, just take an envelope, scan the QR code that links to our campaign page and give online.

in 2023 we had 28 individuals from our congregation and 8 others in the McCook community attend summer camp; we also had three of our youth serve as counselors and helpers! Not to mention the various retreats year round that so many people have attended at the facility. Comeca is a place where the Spirit is alive and working and we feel blessed to partner with them in making it a memorable and faithful experience for children, youth and adults!

The boxes will be available in the Friendship room through the month of March between services and also available in the office during office hours. Contact Kelli Jensen with any questions!





Little Blessings Preschool is taking registrations for the 2024-2025 school year. Please call Traci at 345-6335 or go to our website to download the parent handbook and registration papers.

We had fun celebrating Valentine's Day and going on a field trip to the dentist office. We learned letters Qq-Tt, reviewed numbers, started counting by 5's, the afternoon class knows the Lord's Prayer and we are all learning John 3:16. We also heard the story of the Good Samaritan, and David and Goliath. We look forward to learning about Easter and celebrating our Risen Savior!

Blessings,  
Traci



# Bible Studies

**Weekly Men's Bible Study**—Wednesday mornings 6:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

**Men's Saturday Bible Study**— 7:00 am, contact Pastor Jeremy or Justin Jensen.

**Women's Weekly Bible Study**—Wednesday mornings 9:00 am in the Library.

**Monthly Women's Bible Study**—Dates and times vary; contact Kelli Jensen.

**Nursery**— 8:30 am until noon during Sunday services. Located on the main level towards the north part of the church.

## McCook Methodist Women

**March 14**—Unit Meeting (Sarah Circle hosts) at 1:30pm in Fellowship Hall

**March 27**—Esther Circle at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

**March 27**—Sarah Circle at 1:30pm at Kinship

## Save the Date

**GARDEN PRAIRIE  
PANCAKE FEED  
MARCH 17TH 5-7:30PM**



**HOLY WEEK &  
EASTER SERVICES  
MAR 28-31  
MORE INFO TO COME**



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
MAY 20-24 9AM-12:45PM  
\*REGISTRATION WILL OPEN AFTER EASTER\***

Care packs for displaced or homeless individuals were packaged by the WORD groups. Packs are located in the Friendship Room for anyone to handout. A list of needed items for the care packs can be found at the Information Center.



## Helping Hand Thrift Store

Monday - Saturday

1-4pm

Thursday 1-6pm



An outreach mission of the McCook  
Methodist Women

## Online Giving

Available through  
Breeze on our  
website

mccookmmc.com

## 2023 Lay Leadership

**Council Chair**– Todd Thiesen

**Recording Secretary**–Jane Shield

**Lay Member** -Gene Weedon

**Lay Leader**–Dave Winder

**Financial Secretary**–Marlene Foster

**Treasurer**–Shary Skiles

**Education Chair**–Dee Premer

**Youth Board**—Mary Jo Overton

**Community Supper**–Debra Kelley  
and Kathy Latta

**Endowment Chair**–Greg Wolford

**Scholarship Chair**–Colleen Olson

**Memorial Chair**–Kristi Clapp

**Care Team**–TBA

**Stewardship & Finance**–Tom Bredvick

**MMW President**–Marge Daniel

**PPRC Chair**–Jeff Crick

**Trustees Chair**–Bruce Wilcox

**Membership Secretary**–Kathy Eaton

If you would prefer to receive this publication via mail,  
please contact the Church Office and we will update your information.



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