

Sunday Worship

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

If you have not been vaccinated for COVID-19, please wear a mask (age 5+)

Stream Worship Live

You can watch our Sunday 8:30 a.m. worship service live on YouTube through our website.

www.southgateumc.org/video

You can also watch anytime on our website or YouTube channel. Search on YouTube for South Gate UMC Lincoln.

Sermon by Phone

402-261-0325

Recording available after 12 p.m. on Sundays.

Next Key: Aug. 1

Deadline: July 22

Engage • Act • Grow

South Gate United Methodist Church
The Key
3500 Pioneers Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68506
Return Service Requested

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July 2021

The Key

A newsletter of South Gate United Methodist Church
3500 Pioneers Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68506
website: southgateumc.org
email: office@southgateumc.org
www.facebook.com/southgateumc
Phone: 402-489-1641



Rev. Amy Slater, Pastor

Julie Snyder, Administrative Assistant

Dear Friends,

Have you ever wondered what it means to be made in the image of God? The creation story in Genesis 1 talks about how on the 6th day God created humanity in God's image. What does that mean when each of us is so different from one another? Throughout July and part of August we'll be exploring this question in worship in the series: Reflections of God.

Each week we'll be exploring a characteristic of God's nature and how humanity at its best can reflect those same characteristics. We'll be exploring the stories of real people, some found in the Bible and some contemporary individuals, and how they demonstrate one of these characteristics of God in their own unique ways:

Creativity
Power
Love
Justice
Grace

When you look in the mirror, do you see God's love reflected back at you? When you encounter people throughout your day, do you recognize their worth as fragments of God's precious creation? Over the next several weeks, as we explore the stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things, it is my hope that you will see yourself reflected in these stories, and embrace your value as one of God's beloved.

Blessings,

Pastor Amy



Summer of Kindness

This summer South Gate is helping make the world better by spreading kindness. Here are a couple of ideas from our Kindness BINGO.

- Compliment people
- Tell someone how important they are to you
- Call, Send a note or text encouragement to someone
- Ask someone to tell you a story about their life
- Create art (or just use words) to share in your yard or on a window

South Gate Quilters

The South Gate Quilters are a church group who work to create warm quilts for those in need. We have donated quilts to Project Linus (hospitalized kids), The Center for People in Need and Quilts for Valor (veterans). We have lots of donated fabric but need funds to purchase batting to complete the quilts. If you would like to help you can donate on Sunday morning or online at

southgateumc.org/donate

Thanks for helping provide warmth and comfort!

Connection Point

In July we are collecting laundry detergent for Connection Point. Smaller sized containers are preferred so they can distribute them to more people. If you're a bargain hunter, you may already know that you can purchase small containers of laundry soap at Dollar Tree for one dollar. What a deal! You can also purchase larger containers of laundry pods, and they will split them up into baggies.

Pack the School Bus

June 13 – July 18

South Gate is collecting backpacks and school supplies for The Child Advocacy Center. The Missions Committee is collecting the following items:

Backpacks (plain with no theme)
 Spiral notebooks
 Pencils (mechanical or regular)
 Washable markers
 Elmer's glue sticks
 Stretchable book covers

Items can be placed in the yellow school bus in the narthex or make a financial donation to South Gate and designate Child Advocacy Center Backpacks and we will do the shopping.



July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Randy Thompson
 3 Hazel Arnold
 3 Grace Fuhrman
 8 Todd Schopp
 9 Ronald Bailey
 10 Ardell Kerl
 12 Scott Higgins
 14 Gwen Bell
 14 Chad Bailey

19 Gregg Stokke
 19 Barb Sibley
 23 Kathy Bailey
 26 Melzie Rademaker
 26 Dave Brothorst
 26 Chris Robbins

Anniversaries

22 Bruce & Carla Mieth
 31 Ralph & Julie Snyder

Thank You Note

Thank you for the use of your sanctuary to record a portion of Annual Conference. The virtual conference allowed us to invite participants into many of our churches. We are grateful for the use of your space.

*Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr.
 Rev. Nancy Lambert,
 (Director of Clergy Excellence)*

Tues. Lunch Bunch

The Tuesday Lunch Bunch will meet on July 20 at noon in Memorial Hall. Bring your lunch and join us for lively conversation. Everyone is welcome.

Give To Lincoln Day Results

We are all so grateful to the South Gate congregation, preschool families and Martha Circle for donating to Give to Lincoln Day 2021. Our total donation was \$1,689.69. Your generous giving helped us to achieve our goal to expand our playground and replace our play structure with a commercial set. A big thank you to all of you that helped us. We are excited to share our completed project with you this Fall!

*Mary Tisdale, the Preschool Staff
 and all the children that will
 enjoying the new playground.*



Preschool Now Enrolling

Our Preschool is enrolling students for fall 2021. Our program is designed to enrich each child's life spiritually, physically, socially, intellectually and emotionally. Registration forms, parent hand-books and a description of our program may be found on our website:

southgateumc.org/preschool

Or email:

preschool@southgateumc.org

Photos Needed

We are seeking photos of people at church events for our website, social media and to project on Sunday mornings. Take a picture of your church friends or yourself at worship, the garden, volunteering in the community or engaging in an act of kindness. Email your picture to the church office. Please include a description and identify the people in the photo.

office@southgateumc.org

South Gate Giving

Thank you for your continued support of South Gate. You can give online at:

www.southgateumc.org/donate

You may also drop off a check on Sunday morning, during church office hours or give by mail.

Amazon Smile

If you shop Amazon, using AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support South Gate. Simply go to **smile.amazon.com** to make your purchase and when you check out, you will be asked to select a charity to receive 1/2% of your purchase. To select South Gate, enter "**south gate lincoln**" in the charity search field. For information, including how-tos, go to:

smile.amazon.com/about

Finance Report

Operating Funds: Jan. - May

Income	\$ 90,876
Expenses	\$ 92,337



ENGAGE, ACT, GROW - Finance Committee

Music Ministry in our church is, and always has been, so very important to the South Gate congregation! Over the years, there have been many opportunities to participate in choirs, in small groups or duets, and even as a soloist. The most exhilarating sound, though, is when the entire congregation is singing together!

When the pandemic struck and altered our worship services, we heard loud and clear how people missed getting together, especially missing the music. While we could do nothing immediately about getting together, Barb Nelson, Pastor Amy, choir directors, and accompanists made plans to incorporate more music back our services. Thanks to the participation by many choir members and our tech team, numerous videos were created to help fill that large void.

We are **so** excited to be making plans to get our choirs back together this fall after the long 'break'! Our choirs provide many opportunities for those who want to participate in worship by singing and/or playing bells. The different groups include; PraiseRingers (the bell choir), Spirit Singers (featuring our talented youth), Brothers In Harmony (a group of bass clef singers), and Celebration Singers (a combined group of adults). Singers of all talents are always welcome to join these groups! Maybe this is the year YOU want to give it a try?! So...put Monday, Aug. 23 (bells) and Wednesday, Aug. 25 (vocal) on your calendars!!

Our financial giving supports the Music Ministry of our church; the directors, accompanists, pianists/organists, and the purchase of new licensed music. Hopefully, music in our worship services can help provide each one of us with new energy and inspiration for the week!

Continue to communicate your ideas with members of the Finance Committee (Dave Brolhorst, Dennis Duckworth, Diane Lamb, Rex Newsham, Emily Schoenleber, Alfred Stark).

Ephesians 5:19

speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.
Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,