

GOSHEN

FIRST CHURCH

July 1, 2026



A Global Methodist Church

214 S. 5th Street

Goshen, IN 46528

Phone: 574-533-9518

Web Site: goshenfirstgmc.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday,

8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Worship: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Jeff & Lisa

Associate Pastor Rich Hull

OUR VISION: "Growing in Faith, Gathering in Community, and Giving in Love".

Pastor Jeff is leading a Bible Study on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. They are studying the book, "Prevailing in the Battle Zone," by Dr. Rob McCorkle. All are welcome.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be held at our church on August 3-6, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. We will have VBS work days on Thursdays starting next week, July 9, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Anyone is welcome to join and help us, even if you haven't signed up to help or won't be around for VBS.

I LOVE MY COUNTRY!

With July 4th upon us I just want to talk a bit about the country I LOVE. As I've been so blessed to travel to over ten countries around the world, there is something that rises up in my heart every time I return to American soil. How blessed I am



to live in the USA. We are so blessed to live where we do and I understand why so many want to come to the US. Though our country is far from being flawless, I'd put it up against any other. I remember as a young boy the joy brought to me on the 4th of July. It was an exciting day filled with Family, Fireworks, Food, Fireworks, Swimming in the Pond, Watermelon, Fireworks... a day that made me really happy to be an American. My father instilled in me a good work ethic and love for my country.

Yes, some of my experiences and attitudes have changed as I've grown older but my heart for the USA still beats strong. The biggest shift change that occurred within me is a holy fear that at times our nation is traveling down wrong roads, listening to the wrong voices, and treading in dangerous waters. Friends, blessings come upon a nation when its leaders and population seek the LORD and stay true to the Word. And dysfunction and chaos fill the streets, airwaves, and social media as leaders and population turn a deaf ear and harden their hearts to God.

Something happens when leaders point their people to the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY. When Israel's leaders kept the people's focus on God, blessings came. When the Israelites leadership turned their focus away from God the wheels came off the cart. It saddens me to say this about the country I love, USA, but the wheels are off and the cart is tumbling.

Some things rotten and dangerous seem to try to steer our nation into the abyss. Holy Spirit made it quite plain to me for a couple of decades now that a lot of our state and national leadership are horribly corrupt, only care about their power and position, and are willfully working diligently to disconnect us from Jesus and share that socialism and communism should have a future in our nation. So, for the 250th year of celebrating our Republic here are some highlights about Communism/Socialism vs. Christianity I'd like to make clear:

When one strips away slogans and examines the core principles, socialism and communism stand in stark opposition to the heart of the Christian worldview. At their foundation, socialism and communism are materialistic ideologies. They deny any spiritual dimension to human life and see history through the lens of class struggle, economics, and power redistribution. Christianity, by contrast, teaches that human

beings are made in the image of God, that sin, not economics, is the root problem of society, and that salvation comes through Christ, and Christ alone, and not structural revolution. So in other words, communism and socialism are anti-God and godless in which people are seen as products to be used and manipulated by the state verses Christianity which at its core is pro-love, mercy, grace being leashed upon people around the world.

The Goals of communism are drastically different from Christianity. The objective of communism is not redemption but revolution. It seeks to tear down hierarchies, including religious ones, and to remake man in the image of the collective state, not in the image of God and therefore becomes the deity itself.

Christianity teaches that God is the ultimate authority and provider. Governments are given limited authority to reward good and punish evil, but they are never the savior of society. Communism, however, elevates the state to a messianic role. It promises utopia force through revolution, economic control, and the eradication of traditional religion.

Again, Socialism and communism, by contrast, depend on state force. They confiscate wealth in the name of justice, eliminating personal ownership and leaving no room for voluntary acts of generosity. This removes the moral agency of the individual and replaces the Christian ethic of stewardship with government control.

The Lord has made it clear in the past nations and us in the here-and-now that:
2 Chronicles 7:14, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land." And this is the remedy for most of the USA's struggles. That's why I'm praying hard and regularly for the USA that I LOVE and that holy leaders will rise up, and where need be, reset the course of our ship back into the flowing waters of the Holy Spirit.

God Is Good! ATT, Pastor Jeff



The Monday morning Bible Study continues to meet this summer. They are studying the book, "Knowing God," by J.I. Packer. All are welcome.

VOLUNTEERS – Thank you for your service! Sunday morning, July 5

Greeters: Dave & Marcia Parsons

VIP: Cathy Smith

Elevator Hosts: Sally Stutsman & Al Eppert

Ushers: Erv Herschberger, Sharon Hull, Ken Smith, Dan Becker, Steve Warner

Scripture Reader: Karen Andrews

Elementary Junior Church: Rachel Parsons, Kelley Leeper

No Junior High Church

Coffee Hour: Fisherman's S.S. Class

Bus Driver: Al Eppert

Blood Pressure Clinic: Marty Buckingham

Communion Servers: Mike & Jeanne Bigler, Sally Stutsman, Al Eppert

CHURCH OFFICE

Beginning on July 13, we will have new church office hours. The church office will be open Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and closed on Fridays.



INVITATION

All ladies of the church are invited to an Afternoon Tea with the Bride-to-Be, a bridal shower for Kyndal Hazen on Saturday, August 15, at 11:00 a.m. Join us for a delightful afternoon of refreshments, games, and celebrating the bride-to-be as she prepares for her wedding day. Scott and Kyndal have a registry on Amazon. Please RSVP to

Elisabeth Morgan at 616-315-5492. The shower will be held at: 300 Northern Lites Drive, Middlebury.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Seltenright, Gail Whitehead -	July 1
Jeanne Bigler -	July 6
Susan Wirt, Janelle Rensberger -	July 9
Marc Cook -	July 10
Nancy Rawlings -	July 12
Axel Trovatore, Donna Shirk, Nancy Conrad -	July 13
Armando Ponce -	July 16
Janet Miller -	July 17
Sandy Priem -	July 18
Shirley Fairfield, Donna Hostetler -	July 19
Ted Fairfield -	July 20
Cindy Pritchard -	July 21
Mick Luce -	July 24
Adrienna Kaser -	July 25
Finn Kupke, Evan Miller -	July 30
Lisa Bealmear -	July 31

BEING THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS

Dear Church Family,

There is an Urgent need from the ministries of The Window to assist in a time of crisis in which we are being called to help be the hands and feet of Jesus. Beginning on Monday July 6, for the next 3 weeks, from 2:30 to 4:15 p.m., the Goshen First Methodist Church will assist in handing out sandwiches to those in need in our community. This will occur in the Atrium by our main doors. We will need a few more hands in assisting Pastor Jeff and Pastor Rich in this ministry of compassion. More information will be coming forth in the next few days.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Jeff