



Holy Week Activities

Homilies & Harmonies

Daily, March 29 to April 2

These brief devotional times are delivered online every day this week, featuring different Scripture readings from the gospel of John and a different musical soloist each day. Maundy Thursday's devotional time will also include Communion. Be looking for the daily email with the link, or just go to our website.

- Monday:** Nestor Herszbaum, flute & Dana Sloan, organ
- Tuesday:** Kyle Sandall, baritone & Patty Ritchie, cello
- Wednesday:** Olga Conklin, piano & Joe Mendick, baritone
- Thursday:** Sapphire Munford, mezzo & Dana Sloan, organ
- Friday:** Dr. Sara Renner, oboe & Kristi Treu, piano



In This Issue:

Messages from Our Pastors — Pages 2 & 3

Music Notes — Page 4

Business Updates — Page 5

Christian Education News — Page 6

Kids' Corner — Page 7

Our Church Family — Page 8

Spirit of Mission — Pages 9

Deacons Update — Page 10

Church Life—Page 11



Maundy Thursday Service – April 1

7:00 p.m. in-person worship in the Sanctuary, including a service of Holy Communion



Easter Sunday – April 4

9:00 & 11:10 a.m. in the Sanctuary or anytime online

And Don't Forget the Easter Egg Hunt

Please join us **next Saturday, April 3** for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Junior High Fellowship. Meet us on the back lawn at **10:00 a.m.** and don't forget to bring your basket!



**Presbyterian
Church of the Cross**
1517 S. 114th Street
Omaha, NE 68144

Phone:
(402)333-7466

Fax:
(402)697-9084

Email:
churchofthecross@pcoc.us

Website:
churchofthecrossomaha.org



Eastertide

Easter is more than a day; it's a season! The Early Church recognized this and so instituted the 50-day period in between Easter and Pentecost as Eastertide, a time set apart to celebrate the resurrection of Christ and its implications for our lives.

So, what's this mean? Fifty more Easter Egg hunts? Fifty new Easter dresses? Ham dinners for fifty days in a row?

The basic truth of Easter is simple. As we say in our traditional litany, "Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!" We say this every year on Easter morning together, but the implications of what his resurrection means are more than we can grasp on just one day. We need more time to "take it all in," to come to grips with just how great is our salvation and how great is our God. Especially as we start to see "the light at the end of the tunnel" of the pandemic, can we take a step back and realize God's providence and protection over our lives?

As author Mark D. Roberts states, "The season of Easter gives us a chance to reflect more broadly and deeply on the multifaceted meaning of the resurrection of Jesus." What might this involve? Roberts suggests a few ideas:

- You could meditate upon what the resurrection says about the character of Jesus Christ as the Righteous One of God (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:25-28).
- You might ponder the fact that death has been swallowed up in victory (1 Corinthians 15:54-56).
- You could reflect upon the fact that the very power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to you today (Ephesians 1:15-23).
- You might think of how the resurrection of Jesus is a precursor to your own resurrection (1 Corinthians 15).
- You could consider how the resurrection gives us "new birth into a living hope" (1 Peter 1:3).

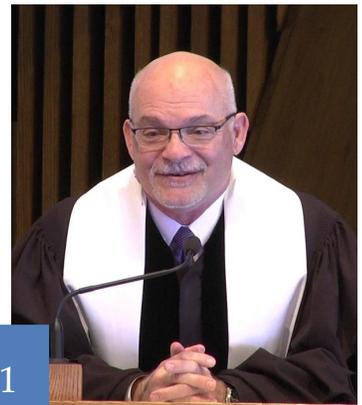
"Eastertide allows us to think deeply and to pray broadly about what the resurrection of Jesus means, both to us and to our world."

The way I see it, Eastertide this year provides a unique opportunity for us to wrestle with a great theological question - "After surviving a pandemic, what is God's plan for me now?" If the resurrection is true, if Christ died and rose for me, how will I live my life now? If the Church is now the body of Christ, so what? It's a season to mull over what Easter really means to us this year.

Some have also suggested that if Lent is a season for fasting (giving up something positive), then Eastertide is a season for feasting (adding something positive to your life). How will you celebrate God's goodness to you during this special season of Eastertide this year?

Your pastor and friend,

Marshall Ziemann



(402)333-7466 Ext. 1
marshall@pcoc.us



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

The Pentecost Offering is one of four national PCUSA offerings. Traditionally received on the Day of Pentecost, this offering goes to initiate or support programs for youth in our communities. PCOC youth will keep 40% of our donations to be used to aid in local youth mission. Please send your check made out to PCOC with Pentecost in the memo line.

A Time for Renewal

April is here, and I can't help but think about Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." As the leaves appear on the trees, and the buds on the flower, with the singing of the birds and the smell of rain, it is a reminder that it is again time to renew. This year, renewal has with it the hope of reemerging from the COVID-19 pandemic where we can reclaim our activities and renew our relationships. Yes, perhaps we can reset and forget about the year with so much isolation, fear and anger. I think many people will do this and run full-speed ahead forgetting the experience of the pandemic.

When we reflect on Ecclesiastes, we realize that the pandemic was a season of our lives. It provided us with a new understanding of our mortality and reminded us of the importance of community. We are not the first nor the last to experience the reality of a pandemic, and we, like those survivors before us, will choose how this experience defines us. Will we place blame on one another? Will we choose scapegoats? Will we close our eyes to those who have suffered? As Christians, I pray that the pandemic experience makes us aware of those in pain around us and attuned to the importance of friendship. Perhaps we will hear that quiet voice of God calling us to new service to be the body of Christ.

As we slowly emerge from our pandemic isolation, I encourage you to step into the activities at Church of the Cross at your own pace. When you come, be aware that God has called you to this place and ask how you can be of use. Do you have a friend who might be looking for a church family? Do you feel called to a new level of service in mission? Do you have a gift in music that you now feel called to share? You see, the world will be different, as this world now knows the vulnerability of a pandemic. It reminds us that though we were in a time of war, it is now a time of peace. Friends, as we open up, I look forward to seeing you in this time, this time when we can laugh and dance, embrace and build up. Where is God calling you in this time?



Grace and peace,

Christine

(402)333-7466 Ext. 4
christine@pcoc.us

Living God

through Jesus Christ
you emptied the power of death
and gave us the gift of life in fullness.
Now dry our tears and send us out
to tell the good news of the gospel:
Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.



Prayer provided by PC(USA)
based on John 20:1-18



If you or a loved one are facing a situation where you need spiritual or emotional support, contact Pastor Christine for more information about our Cross Care Connections program. You may also complete the online form on our website to request a Cross Care Connections provider.



Spring is Here!

We've been on a long and arduous journey together over the past year, so this spring feels more like a celebration than ever. Flowers are blooming, birds are singing, Christ is risen! God's promise of new life and renewal are made plain to us in the everyday newness of spring.



In addition to nature's announcement of spring, it is also the time of year when I begin planning and preparing for one of my favorite events of the year—the Annual Summer Youth Choir Festival for singers across the

Omaha metro who have finished grades 8-12. This year's festival will take place June 21-27 and the cost is just \$45 for a week of singing and activities. Registration is easy and the form can be found on the church website. Please help me by spreading the word to your families, friends, and neighbors about this fun opportunity for youth.

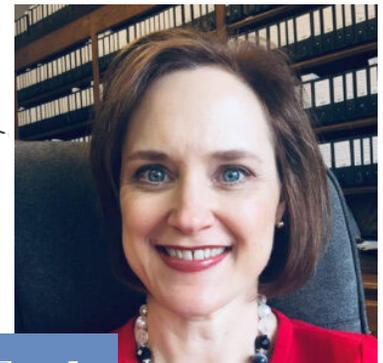
Can You Hear Me Now: Giving Voice to the Black Art Song and Spiritual

Soprano Tiffany Williams makes her second appearance with Vesper Concerts, this time in an ONLINE solo recital of songs and spirituals by black composers. Tiffany first appeared with Vesper Concerts in 2019 as the featured soloist alongside Dr. Raymond Wise in *A Gospel Experience: Building Community*. From her beautiful, warm and lyrical voice, to her sincere and expressive delivery of text, Tiffany is gaining national attention traveling and sharing her gift as a recitalist around the country. The concert will be premiered on the Vesper Concerts website on Sunday, April 18, beginning at 3 p.m. and will remain on the website for an entire week so you may watch at your convenience.

Bonus: Tiffany will join us for a live pre-concert talk via Zoom at 2 p.m. on April 18. Please check the website (vesperconcerts.org) frequently for the latest details on how to participate in this event.



Kristi Treu, Director of Music
Executive Director of Vesper Concerts



(402)333-7466 Ext. 5
kristi@pcoc.us

Organist: Dana Sloan, M.M.
(402)333-7466 ext. 7

Worship & Music Committee Moderator:
Mike Shannon

The View from My Office—April 2021

We are all looking ahead to all the conceivable things that could be happening over the next few months, whether new adventures or endeavors, new projects or possibilities, or new beginnings and blessings.

The past year certainly has provided each of us the opportunity for a major adjustment in our daily lives. While we wait in anticipation to see if this month offers new hope of actually being better; it is sometimes hard to believe that we have been in a worldwide pandemic for more than a year.

How will this year influence each of us and how will it affect Church of the Cross?

Someone recently asked me how I remained so positive during this past year. (I thought about that concept and wondered if Anna would have come up with a similar assessment.) At any rate, my reply was that I focused on the things I could do rather than the things I could not do. I find that gratitude is a gift from God and I have valued that gift immensely this year.

Is it possible to think of 2020 as an adventure? I have a new normal and I am guessing many of you do as well. Many of us have new hairstyles, new recipes, and new computer skills.

As this year of the virus, of separation, of isolation, and of quarantine hopefully draws to a close, what new lessons have been learned by each of us? Did you ever think that our building would be separated, isolated, and quarantined from its members? If the church is God's people, I can readily assure you this empty building has missed you and yearns for your return to gather and worship and celebrate.

My concern is for families and individuals who did not find a new way to worship. Yes, Church of the Cross' staff and volunteers worked hard to prepare and deliver online worship in fresh and inspiring ways. We are grateful for many of you who re-

mained faithful worshippers, but there are others who were not drawn to it.

As we open up our facility and begin in-person worship and small group gatherings, I wonder who will and who will not return. When the time is right for you and your family, do not miss the invitation to return. Your presence is encouraged and desired.

Many of you know me well, so of course I have been working on an amazing project to keep my brain cells intact. Our Capital Campaign got off to a great start for a week. . . and then the pandemic was announced, and the fund raiser was paused. Back then, we thought it would be a couple weeks or a month. Now that thought has stretched into 2021.

Soon you will see the release of some newly recorded possibilities that will spotlight the Welcome Center! You will not want to miss these as they roll out beginning in mid-April.

There is a great deal of enthusiasm for this new endeavor for our church's future. Over \$1,067,000 is already on deposit in the bank but that is not enough. If you have been waiting to see if this is happening, please know that it is. As we relaunch the 2020-21 Capital Campaign, your support is crucial.

Church of the Cross is grateful beyond measure to every individual and family who are supporting our Capital Campaign. Contact me in the office if you would like to add your support with a financial commitment.

“Let's Build God's House Together.”

As we end this pandemic let there be new beginnings and blessings in each of our lives.

Rock Sumner
Business
Administrator



(402)333-7466 Ext. 6
rock@pcoc.us

Finance Committee Moderator:
Ken Kluck

Building and Grounds Committee Moderator:
John Stalnaker



Preschool Sunday School

Weekly Video Lessons Available Online Anytime

Elementary Sunday School

April 4 Zoom at 10:00 am with Sue and Heather April 11, 18, 25 Video Lessons Available Online Anytime

Jr./Sr. High Youth Youth Group

April 11, 18, 25
5:00-6:00 pm at church (Youth will no longer meet online for Sunday School)

April 11 During Worship

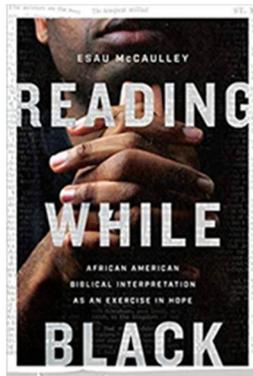


New Adult Education Opportunities

Classes begin soon! The deadline to register has passed, but if you want to participate, please register online or contact Heather ASAP.

Reading While Black

Led by Pastor Christine and Karen Morey
April 11-May 16
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
In person and on Zoom



White Ally Toolkit

Led by Patty Ritchie and Keith Allen
April 11-May 16
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
In person and on Zoom



WHITE ALLY TOOLKIT

7th Annual Garage Sale – July 31

Many have asked whether or not we'll have the garage sale this year, and I'm happy to report that the garage sale is on! This is the major fundraiser for the Senior High Youth Group for their Mission Trip in 2021.



There are several ways you can help:

- Make donations! We want your gently used items (in sellable condition) from clothing, to furniture, toys, sports equipment, household goods, children and baby items or anything else you think we can sell and make money! Please no broken items.
- Donate hangers and plastic bags.
- Volunteer to help! Pick a day and time to help with sorting, organizing, and pricing. The work will begin July 19 and go until July 30, from 11:30 – 1:30 and 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Come to the garage sale and buy something on Saturday, July 31!

***We will begin collecting donations for the garage sale in June. Please keep your items until then. Thank you.**

Heather Berry
Director of
Christian Education



(402)333-7466 Ext. 2
heather@pcoc.us



**Vacation Bible School
July 12-16
"Treasured, Discovering
You're Priceless to God"**

We are searching for volunteers! If you are interested, please contact Heather.



**Junior High Mission Trip
More info to come!**



**Senior High
Mission Trip
Ferncliff Camp
Little Rock,
Arkansas
June 13-18**



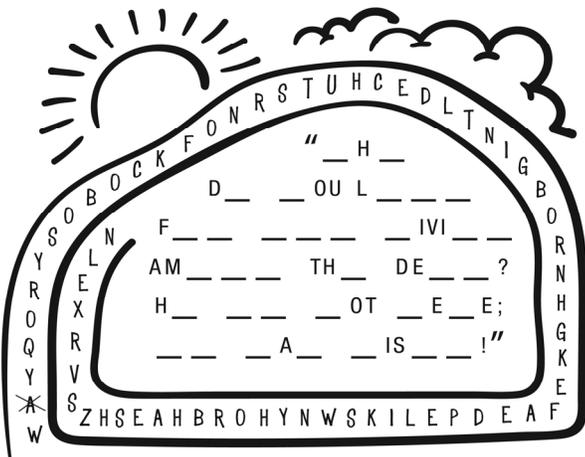
KIDS' CORNER



**EASTER MORNING
message**

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Bible Quiz

According to Matthew's account, what was torn when Jesus died?

- A. Mary's headdress — she tore it as a traditional Jewish sign of grief
- B. A Roman guard's sash — Peter grabbed and ripped it in anger
- C. Jesus' robe — the soldiers divided it among themselves
- D. The temple curtain — torn in two from top to bottom

Answer: D (See Matthew 27:51.)

CE Committee Moderator: Josh Versaw

JHF Leaders: Carla & Jon Fritz, Julie Evers, & Nickie Johnson

SHF Leaders: Dawn & Brad Gibson, Holly Baddley, & Ethan Bennett

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV

Member Life Events



A Loss
in the
Church
Family

Joanne Gilmore passed away on March 1, 2021. A service will be held for Joanne at Church of the Cross on June 3.



Camryn Grace Becker was born on March 4, 2021. Parents are Stephanie and Jared Becker. Grandparents are Kevin and Kristen Curtis.

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Ardith Clary, Michael Pirnie, Scott Stalnaker, Jackie Upah, Will Morris, Betsy Conway
- 3 Janelle Davis, Colleen McGrath, Max Darling
- 4 Tim Goodman
- 6 Ron Bowers
- 7 Nicholas McGrath, Jim Chapin, Sue Allen, Jeff Schiessler, Nancy Utman, Matt Darling
- 8 Mimi Labah, Charles Knight, Sophia Buda
- 9 Frank McMullen, Evelyn Mathia
- 10 Penny Morgan, Rita Seiler, Marilyn Fitch
- 11 James Miller, Craig Moore, Joan Carnaby
- 12 Sunny Karges
- 14 Hunter Thomas
- 15 Logan Voss
- 16 Jacquie Kluck, Erika Cornett
- 17 Jackson Morris, Diane Hammang
- 18 Sue Kiel, Noel Johnson, Jamie Bougger
- 19 Dick Cotton, Adalyn Spielman
- 20 Zachary Metzger, Kerri Davelaar
- 21 Matt Karges
- 22 Margaret Lim, Lily Haas
- 23 Darrell Stuedemann, Marsha Marron, Judy Sundberg, Michael Kussman
- 24 Brynn Stalnaker, Crystal Kwaw
- 25 Michael Frederickson, Sue Meusey
- 26 Meghan McClain, Moira Hopp
- 27 Paul Holubeck, AJ Sundberg
- 28 Bob Binhammer, Jennifer Paisley, Pauline Lundgren
- 29 Paul Thomas
- 30 Timothy Harrison, Daniel Hinz, Garrett Moore, Emily Murray



Reminder

Call the church office when you or a family member is hospitalized.
402-333-7466

Prayer Team

Contact Julie Buehler
or
Judy Arms

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

49ers

Judy Sundberg
Donna Turner

Friday Night Gourmet

Curt Field &
Laurie Lambert

Presbyterian Women

Diane Kratz

Presbyterian Men

Jon Boomgaarden

PCOC Book Group

June Fettig

Music & Movement

Betty Baddley

Tai Chi

Paula Allen

Active Minds

Earlene Uhrig

Cross Your Heart Moms

Bev Koch

Membership Committee Moderator:

Nancy Utman

Congregational Life Committee Moderators:

Susan Price/Kristin Jacobi



CASA Project Hope Packs

Church of the Cross provided 75 fleece blankets for CASA’s Project Hope Pack. This is CASA’s signature project which provides backpacks filled with necessities and comfort items for children when they are taken out of their homes or crisis situations. CASA distributes the packs to a variety of organizations that care for children in crisis. Your generosity will help boost spirits and promote dignity, comfort, and normalcy in a time of instability for these kids. Douglas County CASA is indeed grateful for this support! (Sandi Stuckey is pictured below with our donations.)

Sarpy county CASA just appointed 12 new Advocates, and they are now able to advocate for all the cases in Sarpy County. Thanks to all volunteers who are serving and helping CASA meet this goal!



SPIRIT OF MISSION

Mission Committee Moderator:
Karen Metzger



The Mission Committee has approved a request to ask the congregation for donations to a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) fund established for Texas and surrounding states. This area was hit hard by freezing temps in February that resulted in burst pipes and damage to homes, churches, and businesses throughout the area. The Mission Committee will match up to \$1,000 in funds. Please make your check to PCOC, and Rock will combine them to send to PDA. Thank you for your generosity.

Remember to report your mission partner volunteer hours using the online form on the church website!

Ways to Serve — Ongoing Mission Opportunities



Siena Francis House
Servers Needed
April 11
4:00 to 6:30 p.m.
Contact Keith Allen
to sign up.

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Food Items: | Hygiene Items: |
| Cereal | Baby Diapers |
| Pasta | (most needed size 4-6) |
| Canned Soup | Baby Wipes |
| Canned Vegetables | Full-Size Shampoo |
| Canned Fruit | Full-Size Body Wash |
| Canned Meat | Toilet Paper |
| Mac & Cheese | Toothpaste |
| Peanut Butter | |

Drop your items off inside Circle Drive doors of the church anytime!



Home-cooked Meals



Did you know that through the Deacons a home-cooked meal is offered to any church member who has been recently hospitalized or has a special need? A Deacon will contact anyone listed in the

churches *Joys & Concerns* to determine if they would like a meal. Prior to COVID, a volunteer prepared and delivered a meal. This level of contact and household interaction ceased when the pandemic hit. Fortunately, we have a professional chef in our congregation who has helped us continue to offer this assistance.

We are able to continue assisting families with offers of frozen casseroles or soups, professionally prepared by church member, Renee Cornett who owns Prairie Plate Restaurant in Waverly. We will continue providing meals in this way until COVID guidelines indicate it is safe to return to our previous arrangements.

If you have questions or have a need for a meal, please contact Meal Delivery Chair, Kathy Moore.



Church of the Cross
Deacons



Compassion - Caring - Service

Deacons

Moderator
Anna Sumner

Vice Moderator
Pam Swenson

Secretary
Kim Banat

Treasurer Tammy Holdren

Funeral Meals
Pam Swenson

Home Meals Coordinator
Kathy Moore

Prayer Shawls Information
Tammie Will

PieceMakers
Karen Morey
Debbie McMullen

Senior Recognition Brunch

The Deacons look forward to recognizing our high school seniors and their families. Class of 2021, please mark your calendar for this special day.



May 2, 2021
10:00 a.m.



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:11



Tai Chi Classes

Are you craving to interact with people face to face in a safe environment? Would you like to improve your balance and reduce your risk of falls? Would you like to participate in a nonstrenuous exercise program that involves slow, gentle stretching and deep breathing? Would you like to practice mindfulness and learn how to apply it to your daily life?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, Tai Chi may be the answer you are looking for. Paula Allen continues to offer Tai Chi for small groups in the Great Room of our church. She currently has openings in her Wednesday and Friday class which

meets from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. Although 2 days per week is recommended for health benefits, one day per week is acceptable.

If you are new to Tai Chi and are reluctant to join a group already in progress, Paula is willing to meet with you before class each time to help prepare you until you feel caught up. If you are interested in exploring the possibilities please call Paula Allen. Safety precautions, such as face masks, social distancing, and sanitation are practiced by all.



“Tables for Eight” Spring/Summer Session 2021



The Membership Committee invites you to participate in the 2021 Tables for Eight Spring/Summer Session (**May, June, July and August**). The deadline for registration is **April 10**. Couples and singles are welcome to join this fellowship opportunity, and each Table will determine date and time to meet.

On March 9, 2021, the CDC presented guidelines stating ****Fully Vaccinated**** people may meet in small groups, meet indoors, and not wear a mask or social distance. ****Fully Vaccinated**** is 2 weeks after the second dose of Moderna or Pfizer or 2 weeks after Johnson and Johnson single dose. The Spring/Summer Session begins May 1, so this would allow the tables to meet in person; however, each table will decide whether to meet in person, continue meeting via Zoom, or perhaps start out via Zoom and then later meet in person.

All participants, even if you are currently in Tables for Eight, need to register for this session. Please contact Pam Otto.



New Member Class on April 18

If you know someone who is interested in joining the church, please pass along this information. Our next new member class will be Sunday, April 18 at

12:30 pm on Zoom.

Anyone interested in joining the church can call the church office at (402)333-7466 or email Christine at christine@pcoc.us to sign up for this class. Those attending will receive the Zoom link via email.

Spruce-Up for Spring!



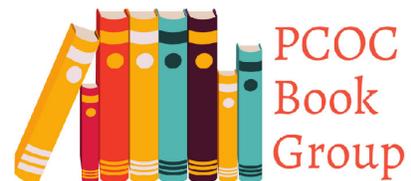
Volunteers Needed!

The B&G Committee is planning Saturday, April 10, 9:00-11:00 a.m. for our Spruce-Up for Spring morning. We love volunteers that enjoy preparing our garden beds for the growing season and others that will help clean winter debris from the entire yard and parking lot areas. Please sign-up using the form on our website to be a part of this productive morning.

Then, we are looking for a few more volunteers to help with a landscaped/garden area for the summer. Contact Peg Conley to discuss options for keeping our church looking great all summer. Thanks!



Presbyterian Women Morning Circle April 1 at 9 a.m. on Zoom



The PCOC Book Group will meet on April 14 at 5:15 p.m. on Zoom. The book for the month is *All the Gallant Men* by Donald Stratton. Contact June Fettig with questions.

Presbyterian Church of the Cross
1517 South 114th Street
Omaha NE 68144-1799

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Omaha Ne
Permit No. 833



Next Cross Currents Deadline is:
Third Friday of the month
April 16, 2021



Cross Currents

The *Cross Currents* is published monthly by the Presbyterian Church of the Cross, 1517 South 114th Street, Omaha NE 68144-1799

For Cross Currents communication requests/inquiries and general church information:
Contact Julie in the church office — Email: churchofthecross@pcoc.us
