

Fantastic Fall Lineup

There's something for everyone!

As summer comes to a close, PCOC has a fantastic fall planned for all ages. We're excited for the return of our weekly education, music, and fellowship programs. Learn more and sign up on our website!

SUNDAY MORNING EDUCATION

- **Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament** — Based on the book by Ellen Davis and led by Rev. Christine Dempsey on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. starting Sept. 12. Please register online.
- **Bonhoeffer: Protestant Martyr and Theologian** — Based on the book, "The Cost of Moral Leadership: The Spirituality of Dietrich Bonhoeffer" and led by Carl Greiner, M.D. on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. starting Nov. 7. Please register online.
- **Sunday Morning for Kids/Youth:** Sunday School for preschool, elementary, jr. high, and sr. high starts at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 12 on our lower level. No sign up is required for Sunday kids/youth classes.



MIDWEEK CLASSES/PROGRAMS

- **Tuesday Bible Study** — Led by Dr. Marshall Zieman on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. starting Sept. 14. Please register online.
- **Cornerstone** — Starts Sept. 15. This Wednesday night program is for all ages and features a variety of activities including classes, music, games, and dinner to help participants build strong ties with God and one another. Adult classes offered this fall during Cornerstone are "What's Cookin'?" - an open-ended, ongoing conversations about social justice issues during the dinner hour. A "Sacred Spaces" class will be offered after dinner. Learn more and sign up on our website!

Safety Update: Without the protection of vaccination yet, our kids/youth remain vulnerable to COVID. Our Safety Committee recently made the following recommendations that were approved by the Session. For all Sunday School, Cornerstone, and Youth activities, participants must wear a mask indoors for all activities when interacting with kids/youth. This will include wearing a mask at Cornerstone meals until you are seated at your table. For outdoor activities, masks are not required.

Join a fellowship group! See what's happening on pages 11 & 12.

In This Issue:

Messages from Our Pastors — Pages 2 & 3

Music Notes — Page 4

Christian Education — Page 5

Business Updates News — Page 6

Our Church Family — Page 7

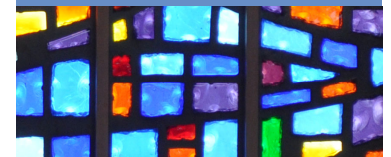
Spirit of Mission — Page 8

Deacon Updates — Page 9

Welcome New Members — Page 9

Fellowship & Fun — Pages 10 & 11

More Church News — Page 12



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A 2nd Marathon?

Dealing with COVID for so long has made a lot of us feel like we've been running a marathon. Endless stress and strain, changing policies and procedures, and constant fear wore us down as the months multiplied and the virus spread. We were buoyed with the blessed rollout of the vaccines, and back in May we had hoped that by fall all this would be behind us. It felt like we'd run a marathon and the finish line was in sight. We might end up in an exhausted heap, but we would finally get through it. We would make it. Thanks to the vaccines, we were going to make it. Our COVID-numbers were dropping. Things were going to go back to normal by fall.

But then along came the Delta variant, and COVID continues, mainly among those unvaccinated. Of course, this includes our children who are too young to receive a vaccine yet. We continue to be concerned as schools resume.

It's starting to feel like after we ran the first marathon, instead of getting time to rest and recover, we've started to run another marathon. Not out of the woods yet, schools resume with different protocols and policies. We are hopeful that our rising numbers will soon peak and eventually drop, but we continue to be vigilant and careful.

In church, we continue to offer online worship, where a large number of folks tune in regularly each Sunday, still not yet ready to join in the sanctuary. In September we hope to begin livestreaming the worship service (instead of recording it and posting it online as soon as we can). It will be broadcast live over the internet and then will remain online to be archived and viewed at any time later.

Some of our other meetings will continue to be offered over zoom, as well as in person.

And yes, this fall we will offer live programs at church again. As you will see in these pages, many familiar church programs are resuming in person starting after Labor Day. Worship in the sanctuary will return to 9:00 and 11:10 beginning the Sunday after Labor Day. This will allow us to be less crowded and offer more room to spread out.

We are cautiously optimistic that we can successfully return to in person activities, and yet, the marathon continues. We still need to keep washing our hands, and staying home if you're sick. You may feel the need to wear a mask, and it's all right if you do. We continue to monitor our local COVID numbers, and should they continue to rise, we may have to make adjustments. We really don't know yet how things will go, and that's why the marathon continues.

We always remind ourselves that God walks with us both in good times and in bad. It's easier to feel God's presence when things are rosy, but it seems our faith grows and deepens more when we walk through hard times. A marathon is one of those times.

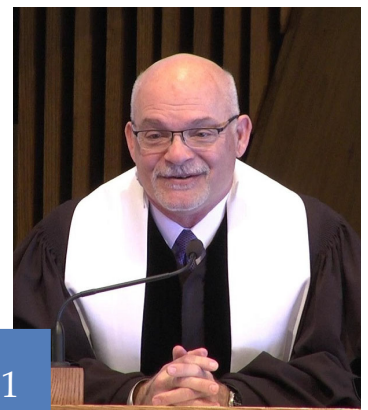
As a church, continue to reach out to those around you. We are all weary and fatigued, but we do not walk alone. God's Spirit dwells in us to strengthen and encourage us, and we are meant to encourage and walk with each other. Who has God put on your heart to walk with today?

We had hoped that by this fall, our COVID marathon would be over. We've still got more to go, and yet one day it will be behind us. In the meantime, remember the Scripture from last Sunday, "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God..."

May you feel God's strength and power in your life today and in the days ahead.

Your pastor
and friend,

Marshall Ziemer



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

Living and Learning in Christ's Love

The new school year is starting. Are you ready to learn something new? Are you ready to invest in your faith? Are you excited to uncover what God has planned for you? This fall is a wonderful opportunity to explore your faith and discover the blessings of living every day. After a year of worries, it is easy to become shaped by the media around us and let hope disappear. But don't let it. As we learned in our summer sermon series on Paul's letter to the Ephesians, "the love of Christ surpasses knowledge," and by being engaged Christians we can live lives in the assurance and joy of that love (Ephesians 3:19). So, let us turn this year to living into Christ's love by joining together in study, prayer, and friendship.

The key to "getting involved with God" is to immerse yourselves in the activities of our congregation be it a Bible study or Friday Night Gourmets. As we together are the Body of Christ, we can and should participate in life-giving learning and soul-building activities. These are the types of things that build each other up. Remember Ephesians, "live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us." And we live in love by caring for one another, studying with one another and sharing in fellowship with one another.

There are many opportunities for all age groups to get involved. First, I would like to highlight the Sunday morning education classes. Growing in faith means taking time to explore the Bible, theology, history and other topics that teach us to understand our heritage and our call as Christians. I believe that everyone can benefit by signing up for an adult education class. I would love to have you consider Carl Greiner's class on Diedrich Bonhoeffer, a leader of the Confessing Church that stood against Nazi Germany. This church is responsible for the Barmen Declaration which is in our Book of Confessions. Additionally, I will be offering a Sunday morning Bible study that takes an overview of the Old Testament, asking us to think about the Old Testament as a narrative about God's involvement with humanity. This study will focus on the text *Getting involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament* by Ellen Davis. Dr. Davis is a Professor of Bible and Practical Theology at Duke Divinity School. I have met her. She is brilliant, and you will gain new insight into reading the Old Testament. We will read the scriptures that

accompany her book, and they will come alive for you in a new way.

I would like to draw your attention to three new opportunities for young adults. We will be having a college-age Bible study on Zoom at 8:00 p.m. on Sundays beginning September 12. This is a wonderful way for college students to not only stay connected with church but to explore their faith as they encounter new people and new experiences. I am offering a once a month gathering called Crossroads for this same group. We will engage in a sermon talkback and sample Omaha's pizzerias. Finally, we are continuing to build our "Theology on Tap" group for young, working adults ages approximately 25-45. This is about talking about fundamental beliefs, many of which have changed since high school and college. It is a chance to explore not only belief but also understand disbelief.

Often in our Presbyterian denomination, we talk about an identity that is Reformed and still reforming. The heart of continuing to respond to God in our world today is to continue to grow in knowledge and faith. Please spread the word and join us for these life-giving opportunities.



Grace and peace,

Christine

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



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.



Find Your Place in the Music Ministry

Have you always wanted to be involved in the music ministry but never thought it was a good time to do so? With the global pandemic and our months-long unplanned hiatus, we have essentially been given the opportunity to hit the “Reset” button on the entire music program. We’d love to have you join us in one of our ensembles.

Chamber Singers and Alleluia Singers began rehearsals the last Wednesday of August. The Carillon Choir (adult bell ensemble) and our children’s choirs will begin rehearsing in the middle of September.



“But I’m out of practice and my voice/chops/wrists are rusty!” That is correct. Every singer and instrumentalist is in the same situation! All of us will be starting from scratch...together. Our team of experienced volunteer directors and I will be here to guide you as we begin anew our endeavor to provide meaningful and worshipful music for our weekly services.

Visit <https://churchofthecrossomaha.org/music/> to find more details about each ensemble and rehearsal times. Feel free to email me with questions at kristi@pcoc.us.

Organist: Dana Sloan, M.M.

Worship & Music Committee Moderator:
Mike Shannon

Vesper Concerts Kicks Off Our Season with Outdoor Concert

We’ll kick off our 33rd season on Sunday, September 12, at 5:30 p.m. with our annual OUTDOOR CONCERT. The Mid-West Guitar Duo has something for everyone—from classical to jazz to pop — and we know you will appreciate their fresh, original attitude towards their music. Bring your lawn chairs and a picnic and kick off our new season with this fun and talented duo.



You can find more details about all our concerts and sample our artists’ music with a Spotify playlist at www.vesperconcerts.org. Be sure to sign up for our email newsletter, so you receive important updates and announcements.

Interested In Being a Vesper Concerts Sponsor?
Opportunities exist for both individuals and businesses to sponsor a single Vesper Concert or to be one of several season sponsors. Pricing begins at \$300. Contact Kristi at kristi@pcoc.us for more information.

Kristi Treu Director of Music
Executive Director of Vesper Concerts



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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

September 1

Confirmand and Parent Meeting
6:30 p.m.

September 12:

Sunday Education for all ages
10:00 a.m.
JHF and SHF
4:45–6:30 p.m. (schedules on pg. 11)

September 15

Cornerstone begins
5:30—8:15 p.m.
Be sure to register online!

CORNERSTONE IS BACK!

We've missed you! And we'd love to see your family on Wednesday nights this fall at Cornerstone. If I did my math correctly, this is our 30th year of Cornerstone. Can you believe it? I think that's a pretty big deal.

The modern gift for the 30th anniversary is the diamond, which stands for lasting durability and strength. Those two words make me think of how our congregation has remained connected to each other while we've been apart – because of our strength and durability. And we are just getting stronger every year!

Now that we can be together again, come and celebrate the 30th anniversary of Cornerstone with dinner, adult and children's choirs, confirmation, and adult and children's education classes. Please register online to participate in one of our many education and choir opportunities, and most importantly, to reserve your spot for dinner! Hope to see you there!

GARAGE SALE

Another garage sale has come and gone and after tallying up the proceeds the senior high youth group earned \$5,938.46!

A very special thank you goes out to the Garage Sale Committee – Tammy Holdren, Mary Lynn and John Bennett, Staci Voss, Lisa Luke, Sheri Cunningham, Cindy Rieke, Christina Kahler, and Bridgette Bunjer. And to all the SHF youth and parents. Job well done!

For those of you curious about how the garage sale works, it is a huge undertaking, with lots of volunteers, and not just youth and parents. Several church members love to help organize, sort, and price items, too. In total, the volunteers worked 533 hours!

It all starts with removing important items from the classrooms (including the chairs), so they don't accidentally get sold. Then garage sale drop off day arrives, where all senior high youth and parents are present to unload donations from members before and after church. Almost all of the tables in the church are moved downstairs and set up in our

eight classrooms, the Gathering Space, and the Great Room. Signs are hung above each doorway, clothing racks are wheeled out of storage, signs are posted to direct folks where to go, and donations are moved into the correct rooms. The sorting, organizing, and pricing continues for two weeks, literally day and night, to get everything done. Parents and youth are required to work shifts during the prep weeks, and several church members join us as well. Besides the above-mentioned jobs, much happens behind the scenes: advertising, coordinating with mission partners to pick up unsold items, arranging to pick up donations at member homes, renting U-Hauls, buying and prepping food for breakfast and lunch on sale day, placing garage sale signs, getting enough cash for change, setting up checkout tables in each room, and the list goes on. The day of the garage sale, volunteers arrive at 7:30 a.m. and work until we're done—when all unsold items are loaded onto U-Hauls and unloaded at Goodwill. We had so many unsold items this year we had to make two trips in our U-Haul to two different Goodwill locations. We finally finished around 5:30 p.m. Suffice to say, we were all exhausted! It was a very long day after two very long weeks of prep, but it was so worth it because it benefits our youth.

Thank you to those who donated items, to those who shopped at the garage sale, and to the congregation for always supporting our youth!

Heather Berry,
Director of
Christian Education



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

CE Committee Moderator: Josh Versaw

JHF Leaders: Carla & Jon Fritz, Julie Evers, & Jeremy Cunningham

SHF Leaders: Dawn & Brad Gibson, Ethan Bennett, Susan Price



A VIEW FROM MY OFFICE

Let's Build God's House TOGETHER

Momentum could be described as an energy, a drive or a force that pushes one way or the other to or from a goal. We certainly have seen our Capital Campaign momentum pushing us towards our goal.

In May, a church-wide mailing was sent out to energize the capital campaign when what we thought the worldwide pandemic was ending. Members who had not yet made a pledge were encouraged to prayerfully make a commitment while those who already had were encouraged to consider an increase to their giving.



As of this printing, I have received 100 new responses which have driven our pledged by another \$987,966 bringing our pledge total to \$3,317,414. We are encouraged that 81% of the project is now pledged, and more pledges arrive regularly.

We are pleased with the progress so far; your pledge is essential to finishing our capital campaign strong! This is truly a total congregational effort, and every pledge is valued as it pushes our success ahead. Thank you.

If we are realistic, we also know the worldwide pandemic is not yet over. Yet your faithful responses force our committee to be optimistic in planning for our church's future.

Personally, I am eager to see the covered south entrance, Welcome Center, and added space to our facility. Others are anxious to see the expanded Fellowship Hall area and new windows. It has never been more exciting to be a part of Church of the Cross.

Finance Committee Moderator:
Ken Kluck

Building and Grounds Committee Moderator:
John Stalnaker

Perhaps we are feeling what our charter members felt as they made the decision to purchase land and first build the Fellowship Hall addition. They looked to the future as they planned a community of faith to love and serve the Lord together. They did it for us!

I want to take a moment to say thank you to all the volunteers for our summer outdoor celebrations. We have enjoyed three beautiful mornings on our East Lawn (and learning about the letter P).

First to Lauren Ballou for her enthusiastic announcements at each event. I know you all remember our first 6 P's – Praise God at worship, Picnic for lunch, Pictures at home plate, design Pennants for your family, place a Pinwheel in the expansion perimeter, and Pledging for the proposed expansion.

In August, Lauren's announcement included how Proud our church should be for rallying together and that the church is really made up of People.

Thank you to the Worship & Music, Congregational Life, and Building & Grounds Committees for all their efforts to make our summer outdoor celebration meaningful, scrumptious, and safe.

And finally, thanks to our Capital Campaign Ambassadors whose creativity and enthusiasm made planning events delightful. Our hope is that many of you enjoyed our celebration Sundays as well.

Rock Sumner
Business
Administrator



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rock@pcoc.us



Member Life Events



Walter Jude Karges, son of Matt and Sunny Karges, was baptized on August 15, 2021.



Richard Cotton passed away on August 16, 2021. Services were held at Church of the Cross on August 20.



Marian Leach passed away on August 20, 2021. A Memorial Service was held at Church of the Cross on Friday, August 27.



Rainer Joaquin Hayes, grandson of Marshall and Becky Zieman, was born on August 8. Parents are Natalia and Cade Hayes.



- 1 Nancy Drews, Alyson Grady
- 2 Ron Sladek, Kristen Curtis, Hudson Schiessler, Noah Luke, Kyndall Goodwin
- 3 Tim Graumann, Bill Graves
- 4 Carol Bolton, Sean Johnson, Avery Boesen, Oliver Boesen
- 5 Sue Freyer, Donna Turner, Josh Versaw, Silas Pflueger
- 6 Russ Beernink, Marshall Zieman
- 7 Jeanette Garner, Jack Thomas, Gayle Kerr-McFadden, Nellie McDaniel, Art Halbersleben
- 8 Mackenzie McNeel, Sophia Miller, Arnie Nelson
- 10 Michael Weyant, Cecelia Ballou
- 11 Larry Frederickson, Joshua Paul, Barb Scanlan, Gary Fitch, Tom Kort
- 13 Jean Waters
- 14 Justin Summers, Ryan Koch, John Sparks, Barbara McNeal
- 15 Madelyn Grady, Charles Madison, Rick Sessions, Katherine Innes, Mike McGillick
- 16 Verta Pugh, Cara Schiessler, Kirk Ryckman
- 17 Harrison Versaw, Chad Bumsted
- 19 Abby Sekle, Nuna Tchona
- 20 Sara Pickens, Shanna Mathia
- 21 Debbie Ryckman, Anne Anderson, Tim Williams, Sue Thomas, Molly McGuire, Ava Davey
- 22 Lauren Harrison, Leah Whaley
- 24 Pam Otto
- 25 Jerry Klein, Roger Pauba, Emily Sumner, Dana Sloan
- 26 Mary Carlson, Martha Henry, Skip Decker, Dick Hart, Sierra Cunningham
- 27 Cassie Rathman, Alena Bennett, Kara Versaw, David Goodwin
- 28 Bryan Weber,
- 30 Marjorie Huff, Chuck Baddley, Carol Futhey

Reminder

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

Prayer Team

Contact Julie Buehler or Judy Arms

Dear PCOC Family,

Thank you so much for all the care you have shown me during my recovery from a broken leg and surgery. I have been blessed with cards and visits, prayer stones and a prayer shawl, meals and helpers, flowers and books. Your love and support have facilitated my healing. Many thanks.



Paula Allen

Membership Committee Moderator:
Nancy Utman

Congregational Life Committee Moderators:
Susan Price/Kristin Jacobi



Mission Program Changes

At its August meeting, the Mission Committee recommended discontinuing the HyVee receipts program and the Box Tops for Education program, effective September 1.

The HyVee receipts program:

- The amount of HyVee annual donations to Omaha Street School has fallen dramatically due to changes in the program and reduced benefits. In 2020, HyVee reduced the amount it donated from 5% of each receipt total (in the previous program) to 1% of the total. **OSS is in support of our decision.**
- The amount of time demanded from the program coordinator to scan and turn in receipts weekly reached a point that no longer justifies the shrinking benefits.
- Mission members felt our resources could make a larger difference focusing on other missions in need.

NOTE: The Family Fare receipts program for OSS is not associated with the HyVee program. Members are encouraged to continue to drop off Family Fare receipts at church.

The BoxTops for Education program:

- The BoxTops program faced similar issues after transitioning to receipt scanning from box clipping.
- Mission Committee will stop reporting numbers.
- Members can continue to scan receipts and donate to Walnut Hill Elementary individually using this online program. Please do so.

As a general point, these two programs require nearly 50+ hours of volunteer time a year plus travel expenses, but they bring in less than \$200 annually.



Mission Committee Moderator:
Karen Metzger



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE SUCCESS!

We did it again Church of the Cross! We are beyond blessed to have such a giving congregation. During the week of August 15, PCOC Mission members delivered 102 backpacks and oodles of rulers, notebooks, scissors, erasers, pencils, markers and glue/glue sticks to our Mission partner schools Bancroft, Sherman, Walnut Hill and ILP at Saratoga Elementary. The schools were so grateful to have our support as in-person learning is in full gear. Let's celebrate that we've exceeded our goal of collecting 100 backpacks! Most importantly, we will make a larger difference to those in need in the OPS district! Thank you!



Pantry Sunday is Sept. 19

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!



Siena Francis House
Serving Hope to the Homeless

Siena Francis House Servers Needed
September 12, 2021
4:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Sign up on the Siena Francis House website!
Questions?
Contact Keith Allen.



Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging's
Meals on Wheels

PCOC helps the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging (ENOA) with the Meals on Wheels program. **We desperately need volunteers for our Tuesday lunch deliveries.** If you are able to deliver meals, please contact Wally Stern.



Deacons' Red Cross Blood Drive



If you are 17 or older on Sept. 26 AND have not given blood in 56 days,... **you** can be a HERO! You can help someone needing red blood cells, platelets, or plasma. (In fact, your one pint of blood can be separated into those three, so it can help three persons)! The Red Cross urgently needs donors; nationwide they are 1,000 pints short each day.

Sign up at the little round table in the Narthex before or after services on Sept. 5, 12, or 19. Walk-in donations are welcome on Sept. 26, too.

The Drive runs from 9:00 am until 2:00 p.m. in the lower level Youth Group room. The Red Cross is requiring masks for all donors and workers. Sign up to help us meet or exceed our drive goal of 25 pints. Be a HERO to the 1-3 recipients of your donated pint!

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

Hey, Parents of College Kids!

Throughout the year, PCOC supports our college kids with reminders of the loving faith family they have back home at church. The Deacons will send Halloween and Valentines gift cards, and they need current addresses for the PCOC college students. Please contact the church office to provide your college student's address.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Charlotte and Neal Hubbard

Please welcome Neal and Charlotte Hubbard from South Saint Paul, Minnesota. They moved to Omaha a year ago and have been church shopping virtually. We are so pleased they found Church of the Cross. They selected PCOC because of our traditional worship, lots of fellowship activities, mission opportunities, music program, and friendly people. They noted on their first visit to church that John Morey greeted them in the parking lot, and they knew this was the church for them. Thank you, John!

Neal is now retired from Farm Credit System, where he worked in agriculture credit and risk management. He is now managing the family farm in Walnut, IA. Neal has been ordained as an Elder and a Deacon, and is also a Stephen Minister. He has served on a Presbytery Administrative Commission, has been a Presbytery Commissioner,

served on several church committees, and participated in mission trips to Peru and the southern United States after the hurricanes. Neal enjoys travel, watching sports, playing some golf, biking trails, genealogy, and playing cards.

Charlotte is a novelist and is currently writing Amish romance novels. She is an ordained Deacon. Charlotte has sung in the choir, played in the Bell Choir, been a substitute organist, participated in a percussion/drum group, and served on several church committees. Charlotte enjoys crocheting, embroidery, reading, their dog, traveling, and loves to bake.





Find a Group at PCOC



Friday Night Gourmets

Friday Night Gourmets is a dining out group that meets the second Friday of each month, September through May. Our gatherings begin at 6:30 with socializing and dinner. Various members act as host and co-host, selecting the restaurant for the month. Each December for the past several years, we have had a potluck at a host's home rather than eating at a restaurant. Coordinators: Curt Field & Launie Lambert

September: Friday, Sept 17 at Farmer Brown's in Waterloo. We will gather by 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7:00 p.m.



Sign-up sheets are on Narthex Information Desk with a map and directions. Question? Call Ed Ticknor, Irene Astleford, or Verta & Gene Pugh. We need your registration by September 14.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will be starting the 2021-2022 Church Circle year on Thursday, September 2 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom. Check your email from church for the Zoom information. Cindy Nisley will be leading the group in the introduction and lesson 1 of the book "What my Grandmothers Taught Me." Coordinator: Jacquie Kluck

Presbyterian Men

Presbyterian Men's first event will be serving, grilling, and cleaning up for Cornerstone on Wednesday, September 15. More news to come on their other fall plans/schedule. Coordinator: Jon Boomgaarden

Music & Movement

Join Music and Movement and stay active, healthy, and happy! Music and Movement meets on Monday and Thursdays at 9 and 11 a.m. in the lower level Gathering Space. Singing sessions between classes

are currently on hold. Vaccinations must be completed, and you will need to bring your own water bottle, weights, and cords for your private use only. There are some cords to lend out, but there we are not sharing equipment at this point. Coordinator: Betty Baddley

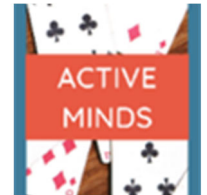
Tai Chi

Tai chi meets at 10:00 a.m. on Monday and Thursdays. If you would like to attend a class, contact Paula Allen about class availability. Coordinator: Paula Allen

Active Minds

September will be Mahjonn and Sequence for this fellowship group. We have very patient teachers ready to help you learn.

Active Minds will meet Tuesday afternoons from 1-4 p.m., in the lower level. Those attending Bible Study will join us at 2 p.m. Each table will decide if they will wear masks or not.



Please join us when your schedule allows. RSVP to Earlene Uhrig for Mahjonn, so we have enough game sets available. Coordinator: Earlene Uhrig

49ers

The 49ers monthly meeting to hear local area speakers is currently on hold. When they resume their schedule, plans will be announced in the church bulletin, email, and Cross Currents. Coordinators: Judy Sundberg and Donna Turner

Piecemakers

The PieceMakers group makes quilts to welcome newborns into our church family. They meet on Wednesdays before dinner during Cornerstone in Room 11 at 5:00 pm.



PCOC Book Group

Meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:15 – 6:30 p.m. on Zoom or in the lower level Gathering Space for those who are vaccinated. All readers are welcome! Coordinator: June Fettig



2021-2022 Reading List

- Oct. 20** One Long River of Song by Brian Doyle
Nov. 17 The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris
Dec. 15 Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachael Joyce
Jan. 19 Five Days Left by Julie Lawson Timmer
Feb. 16 Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell
Mar. 16 Blood, Water, Paint by Joy McCullough
Apr. 13* The Unexpected Spy by Nancy Walder
 *Note this is the 2nd Wed. of the month
May 18 The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams
June 15 The Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Davé
July 20 PLANNING SESSION
Aug. 17 The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave
Sept. 14 The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

NEW GROUPS FOR YOUNG ADULTS!

Crossroads

This is a monthly lunch gathering of college students and recent high-school graduates on the first Sunday of the month after late worship. We will get pizza, have a sermon talk-back, and enjoy fellowship. We will plan two mission events for the year! Our first lunch meeting will be on Sept. 12.

College Bible Study

Meets on Sunday nights at 8:00 p.m. (Sept. 12-Nov. 21). This fellowship and study gives a chance for our college students and new recent school graduates to bond via Zoom, learn how to live a life of faith in a new environment, and keep connected with our church friends.

Theology on Tap

Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Have you ever tried to make sense of your faith in the context of this post-modern world? There are so many voices, and this is a safe space to come together and understand our Christian tradition. This group is aimed at singles or couples that define themselves as millennials! We will begin Tuesday, Sept. 21



YOUTH GROUP CALENDARS

Junior High Fellowship (JHF) Calendar September – December 2021

- Sept. 12 – Welcome to JHF!
 Sept. 19 – Scavenger Hunt
 Sept. 26 – Scattered Joy Acres
 Oct. 3 – No JHF
 Oct. 10 – Fun and Games
 Oct. 17 – Bellevue Berry Farm with SHF
 Oct. 24 – Painting Pumpkins
 Oct. 31 – Trunk or Treat 3 p.m. – facilitate games/
 provide trunks
 Nov. 7 – Fun and Games
 Nov. 14 – Sky Zone
 Nov. 21 – Advent Workshop at noon – facilitate
 crafts
 Nov. 28 – No JHF
 Dec. 5 – Advent Dinner & Christmas pageant (No
 JHF)
 Dec. 12 – Fun and Games
 Dec. 19 – Christmas Gift Exchange
 Dec. 26 – No JHF meeting

Senior High Fellowship (SHF) Calendar September – December 2021

- Sept. 12 – Games outside
 Sept. 19 – Car Wash, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 Sept. 26 – Games outside
 Oct. 3 – Games outside
 Oct. 10 – Games outside
 Oct. 17 – Bellevue Berry Farm, 6 p.m. (with JHF)
 Oct. 24 – Boy's/Girl's Night Out – time TBD
 Oct. 31 – Trunk or Treat, 3 p.m. facilitate games/
 provide trunks
 Nov. 7 – Bible Study with Marshall, board games
 Nov. 14 – Friendsgiving
 Nov. 19 – Set up for Advent Workshop, 6:30 p.m. –
 8:00 p.m.
 Nov. 21 – Advent Lunch/Workshop
 Nov. 28 – No SHF
 Dec. 5 – Advent Dinner & Christmas Pageant, 5
 p.m.
 Dec. 12 – Christmas Party/Gift Exchange
 Dec. 19 – Movie Night, 4:15 p.m.

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



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Next Cross Currents Deadline is:
Third Friday of the month
September 17, 2021



Did you know that the church keeps in touch with our members at least once a week by email? If we don't have your current email address, you are missing out! Please contact the church office if your email address or traditional mailing address have changed.

Cross Currents

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MORE CHURCH NEWS

Fall Usher Teams

We will be returning to two Sunday services on September 12 at 9 and 11:10 a.m. Many of our usher team members are not returning, so we are looking for replacements. That's where you come in! Will you please consider volunteering one Sunday per month to fulfill this role?



At the Narthex Information desk, you will find a list of returning ushers and openings for new ushers. We need your assistance! For returning ushers, please check the list to confirm you're indeed returning. Please direct any questions to Mike Shannon OR Jayne Frederickson. Thanks in advance!

Church Office: For Cross Currents communication requests/inquiries and general church information, contact Julie Hansen in the church office
Email: churchofthecross@pcoc.us or phone: 402-333-7466

Communications: Gayle Kerr-McFadden
gayle@pcoc.us or 402-333-7466 ext. 7 — If you have a church website update, need a Zoom meeting invite, or have another communications need, please call or email. You can also find Gayle in the church office on Tuesday mornings.