

## Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love

Join us for these special events at the church!

We've decked the halls, and it's time for our cherished Advent events to celebrate the hope, peace, joy, and love of the season.

### Pageant & Advent Dinner — December 5



Our K-8th graders will delight us with their performance of “Gifts of the Manger” at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome. For those who registered for the Advent Dinner, serving will begin around 5:30 p.m. following the pageant. Remember to bring a dessert to share. Note: The sign up deadline for the Advent Dinner was November 28, and we are unable to accept walk-ins/late sign ups due to COVID safety precautions.

### A Quiet Christmas — December 12

The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season is upon us. When the whole world seems to be merry and bright, we know that many struggle to feel – let alone repeat - the sounding joy. On December 12 at 4:00 p.m., join us for “A Quiet Christmas” – a time to acknowledge what we are missing this season: loved ones, big family gatherings, and anything that makes us feel happy and whole. The service will include scripture and softer seasonal music to create a time for God to find us – a time to remind us of Emmanuel, God with us – a time to find peace and feel the coming of God’s light.

### Heaven’s Song — December 19

You won’t want to miss our big music Sunday featuring our adult choirs along with professional brass and strings. Find details on page 4.

*Christmas Music*



### Christmas Eve Services — December 24

Service of Candlelight and Carols at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

**Note:** We will have a single Sunday service at 11:10 a.m. on December 26 and January 2. The church office will be closed on Friday, December 24 in the afternoon and all day on Friday, December 31 for the holidays.

#### In This Issue:

Messages from Our Pastors — Pages 2 & 3

Music Notes — Page 4

Christian Education News — Page 5

Business Updates — Page 6

Our Church Family — Page 7

Spirit of Mission — Pages 8 & 9

Deacons News — Page 9

New Members — Page 10

Church Happenings — Page 11



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

**Phone:**  
(402)333-7466

**Fax:**  
(402)697-9084

**Email:**  
churchofthecross@pcoc.us

**Website:**  
churchofthecrossomaha.org



## Hope

Advent is a season, not a day. We need all four weeks of it to get ready to celebrate Christmas. Usually, children think Advent takes too long while adults think it's not long enough. The goal is that by the time Christmas finally rolls around we are fully ready to fully celebrate, because we have had enough time to get our houses, gifts, and hearts fully in order.

It's mid-November as I write this, yet the Christmas station on the radio is already playing Christmas music. I usually don't like that, but do you know what? This year is different. This year, I became one of those people who started getting ready for Christmas the day after Halloween. I may never do this again, but this year, I just had to. After so many straight months of COVID, I need something to start hoping for. I'm already hoping for Christmas to come, and this year I've needed 8 weeks, not simply 4.

The Advent candles we light during Advent focus on Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. I'd say these are four things which each of us needs more of. You would like to experience more of each of these four things. The paradox of the Christian life is that it is through giving that we receive. That's one reason Christmas is called the Season of Giving. We need to focus on giving, not on what we are receiving.

May each of us find the appropriate ways to be meaningful givers this Advent!

You might add some time to give to a charitable cause, such as serving dinner at the Siena-Francis House, or take part in some of the holiday projects with the Heartland Hope Mission, Completely Kids, Omaha Street School or ringing bells with the Presbyterian Men at a local Hy-Vee. You might add your gift to the Angel Giving Tree in the narthex or donate funds to the Mission Giving Tree located near the church office.

Advent literally means "coming." The gospel writer John writes, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (John 1:9). Christ's coming to Bethlehem was meant to bring hope into each of our lives.

As we wait and make ready for Christmas to come

this year, may our days also be filled with hope, as we meditate in Advent on just what his coming means to us. What does his coming mean to you this year? Never give up hope!

We have many things to be hopeful about in 2022. Our Session will soon set a new budget which will allow us to reach out to more and more folks in need. We will bring on a new class of elders and deacons. We will see a new class of graduates in the spring. Sometime next summer we should begin construction of our new building expansion. Along the way will be more baptisms and weddings, birthdays, and anniversaries.

We will also hope for an end to this pandemic to eventually occur. While no one thinks that life will one day return exactly as it once was, eventually, a new normal will be in place. We already long for this day.

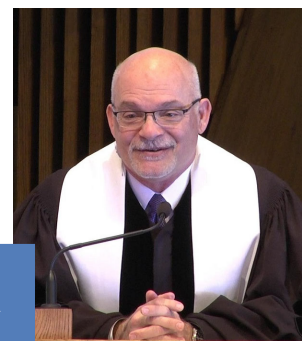
As 2021 draws to a close, I look back and see how God has led us through this challenging year. We were able to resume in-person worship last February. We improved our zooming and website capabilities. We now livestream our 9:00 service. We had 4 beautiful Sunday mornings where we worshipped outdoors. Through the faithful participation of our members, we reached our fundraising goal for the Capital Campaign while continuing a strong financial commitment to our regular church budget. We are ending 2021 financially strong.

Church of the Cross is an amazing congregation in so many ways. Let's continue to be God's hopeful people as we head into 2022. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Your pastor  
and friend,

*Marshall Ziemann*

(402)333-7466 Ext. 1  
[marshall@pcoc.us](mailto:marshall@pcoc.us)



## Asking for What You Need

Asking for help. Are you good at asking for help? Or are you one of those people that figure it out all alone? Or perhaps, you are the person who hopes that someone will discover your need and come to your rescue? Guilty. I am really poor at asking for help. I always wanted to show that I was smart, I had the answers, and I didn't need help. I suspect that many of you are the same way.

This trait came out in my second year sewing project where I made a jump suit with seersucker plaid (which frays very easily). No sewing teacher would ever instruct a nine-year-old, second-year sewer to sew with seersucker plaid. This is what you choose when you don't ask for help. Or perhaps later on, I thought I should tough it out when I became a sandwich generation daughter caring for young children and elderly parents at the same time. Asking for help could have made these situations easier not only practically but also intellectually and emotionally. Yet, its still hard to ask for help.

As we enter this next church year, we have an invi-



tation to ask God for help. If we have trouble asking our friends and neighbors for help, I suspect that we have trouble asking God for help too, yet that is exactly what God wants us to do. "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened." Luke 11:9-10 This dialogue with God, this asking is exactly what God wants us to do in prayer. Everyone, even God, wants to be needed and helpful, it is an expression of love reciprocated. You might wonder, but how do I ask for help?

First, pray. You don't have to pray in a specific formula or at a specific time, but you can be aware of God's presence and invite God into your life. Instead of stubbornly choosing alone, listen for God's still and quiet voice. Watch as some doors open and others close. God is helping you. Second, engage your pastors, your youth group leaders, your Cross Care Connections provider, or a trusted brother or sister in Christ. Not one of us simple human beings can know when you need help even if you think it is obvious. Do you need to process the grief of a loved one? Do you need a friend during the dark winter? Do you have more than you can handle? A first step is to acknowledge that you can ask for help from your church family, and we can do our best to help you take next steps.

Friends, since the pandemic, we know now more than ever, that we are not solitary beings, nor are we supposed to "do" life alone. We are born into families, we worship together as a church and we rely on a community to thrive. This is the world that God made, and it is the world in which Jesus came to help.



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.



## “Heaven’s Song”

**Presented by Choirs and Orchestra on Sunday, December 19 at 9:00 & 11:10 a.m.**

The Advent & Christmas season is one of the most wonderful times of the year for musicians. We were sad to not be able to offer our annual choir and orchestra worship services in 2020, and we are excited to be able to present “Heaven’s Song” this year on December 19 at BOTH worship services. We will be joined by strings, organ, and brass for a collection of anthems, carols, and hymns that reflect a wide range of emotions, from the vast awesomeness of God to the rustic and humble scene at the manger.

This is a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor!



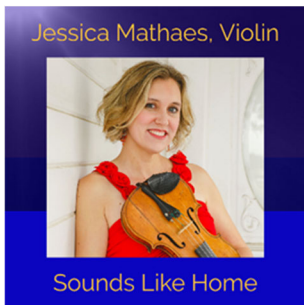
## Jessica Mathaes, Violin, Headlines the January Vesper Concert January 9, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

Hailed “a violinist like no other” (The New York Times) and “a master of the Khachaturian violin concerto” (Austin Chronicle), Jessica Mathaes enjoys an international career as a soloist, recording artist, educator, and concertmaster.

Youth Orchestra and made her solo debut at age 16 playing the Saint-Saens Violin Concerto No. 3. She was also an award-winning pianist in her youth. Mathaes holds performance degrees from Rice University, where she graduated magna cum laude.

For more information, please visit [vesperconcerts.org](http://vesperconcerts.org).

Kristi Treu, Director of Music  
Executive Director of Vesper Concerts



As a soloist, Mathaes has been broadcast live on Performance Today and Chicago Public Radio. She has performed throughout Singapore on a solo and masterclass tour sponsored by the US Embassy. Mathaes has also performed as a soloist

with the Austin, Victoria, Bismarck-Mandan, Round Rock, Northwest Iowa, Masterworks, and National Music Festival Orchestras. She has premiered works by many American composers including Pierre Jalbert and Paul Reale, and has released solo albums on the Naxos and Centaur labels to critical acclaim in Gramophone. She has served on the faculty of the Credo Music Festival, the International Festival-Institute at Round Top, the National Music Festival, and the Masterworks Festival. Her students have gone on to earn spots at top music schools in the United States.

Born in Chicago, Mathaes grew up in Omaha, where she was concertmaster of the Omaha Area



(402)333-7466 Ext. 5  
[kristi@pcoc.us](mailto:kristi@pcoc.us)

**Organist:** Dana Sloan, M.M.

**Worship & Music Committee Moderator:**  
Mike Shannon



**December 1**  
5:30 Children's Pageant Rehearsal

**December 4**  
10:00 am Children's Pageant Rehearsal

**December 5**  
5:00 Children's Christmas Pageant

**December 8**  
6:00 Confirmand/Mentor Christmas

**December 19**  
5:00 College-age Christmas Party

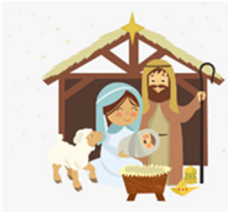
**JHF/SHF Sunday School Meets Together in Great Room during December**

**December 19**  
Sunday School ends

**January 9**  
Sunday School begins

**A Note from Heather Berry**

**Children's Christmas Pageant**



All are invited to attend this year's Children's Christmas Pageant, *Gifts of the Manger*, on Sunday, December 5 at 5:00 p.m. The children are excited to be back together and able to offer

this gift to the congregation. (Parents check your email for rehearsal time reminders.) The Advent Dinner is immediately after the pageant. Deadline to sign up for the dinner was November 28. Sorry, no walk-ins will be accepted this year due to COVID safety precautions.

**Ugly Sweater Christmas Party**

Confirmands and mentors are invited to the Ugly Sweater Christmas Party on December 8 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We'll have some fun, play some games, and we'll eat a delicious meal. Be sure to wear your ugly Christmas sweaters!



**College-age Christmas Party**

The College-age Christmas Party will be on December 19 at 5:00 p.m. at Heather's house. Parents, look for an invitation in your mail and encourage your college-age kids to attend! Dinner will be served. Please RSVP to heather@pcoc.us by December 12.

**Smart Gen Society Workshop for Families**

The Christian Education Committee is excited to offer this important workshop for our church families. CE encourages parents with children (and grandchildren) of all ages to attend this two-part workshop, *Smart Digital Branding*, presented by Smart Gen Society on January 12 and January 19 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. The first workshop is for parents only. The second workshop is for parents and children.

Smart Gen Society (SGS) is an Omaha-based nonprofit operating to empower smart choices in a digital world. SGS is the leading organization in the region aimed at bringing preventative and proactive measures into our communities to offset the negative implications of a society immersed in technologies with a lack of resources and education to safely manage them. Learn more about Smart Gen Society at [www.smartgensociety.org](http://www.smartgensociety.org).



Register online and let Heather know if you plan to eat the Cornerstone dinner beforehand. Childcare will be provided. We hope to see you there!

**Krispy Kreme Fundraiser**

The SHF Krispy Kreme Fundraiser was a sweet success. SHF sold a total of 59 Krispy Kreme BO-GO (buy one get one) Cards which made us a profit of \$689.00! Thank you to everyone who bought a card (or two) and gave donations. We appreciate your support!

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



# The View from My Office

## Stewardship Season

As Advent Season approaches, we are wrapping up the Stewardship Season. Church of the Cross is fortunate to have faithful and generous members. We live in the spirit of generosity and sharing with others what has been entrusted to us.



Once again, this is truly a total congregational effort, and every pledge is valued and respected. In early December, the finance and personnel committees will work to create a balanced budget for 2022 and seek Session’s approval. This budget will be presented at the annual meeting in January for everyone’s review.

Advent is about coming. It is about waiting. And it is about hope and expectations. Like Advent, this fall’s emphasis: *Our church in changing times, ready to grow where God leads* – encourages each of us to prepare for the future.

As I prepare for Advent and to close out another year in our church books and records, I am always grateful for the ability to do this effortlessly. Church of the Cross has the ability to meet our obligations and share our abundance with the world around us.

Thank you to every person and family who have prayerfully supported our church this season. Together we are stronger.

## Building & Grounds

It may appear that nothing needs doing and that everything is in great shape. But that is because the B&G Committee is always on the go tackling projects. Recently, an old wooden sign was removed from our boulevard, estimates have been received from a mason to accomplish some tuck and point work on the

chimney, vacuum cleaners have been cleaning vents and equipment, and we have planned for four dead trees to be removed from our tree line on the east end of our property.

Please know that the B&G members are always looking for handy people to help out with projects around the building and our beautiful grounds. If you need a place to “plug-in” to church consider helping out by becoming a B&G volunteer.

## Looking Towards the Future

Continually, I get asked “When are we going to start the new building?” On November 17 I looked out the office window and saw this rather large vehicle on the patio. One of the first steps is to complete geotechnical borings to support the design process.



This will allow our Construction Manager at Risk, MCL Contracting, to work with architects from Leo A. Daly on the design process that will eventually reflect the complete cost of the project.

Together, we have pledged over \$4,356,380 to make our building expansion and Fellowship Hall renovation a reality. The Building Design Committee and I will do our best to keep everyone updated as we move through the building phase.

I will also take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Rock Sumner  
Business  
Administrator



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

**Finance Committee Moderator:**  
Ken Kluck

**Building and Grounds Committee Moderator:**  
John Stalnaker



## Member Life Events



Brooks Arthur Trapp, son of Kate Bauer and Joe Trapp, was baptized on November 7, 2021. Grandparents are Darold and Mimi Bauer.



A Loss  
in the Church  
Family

Deborah L. Ryckman, passed away on November 7, 2021. Services were held on Saturday, November 13 at Church of the Cross

Joseph Meusey, passed away on November 15, 2021. Service will be held on Tuesday, November 30 at 11:00 a.m. at the church with a luncheon following.



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 John Morey, John Fettig,<br/>Joan Boomgaarden, Kathy<br/>Thornton, Char Fehr</p> <p>2 William Smith</p> <p>3 Piper Smith</p> <p>4 Jennifer Bruce, Ron Mau,<br/>Jaeda Lawson-Betum</p> <p>5 Dee Coffey, John Hall</p> <p>7 Helen McNiven, Libby<br/>Whitlow, Nathalie Hart</p> <p>8 Ken Kluck, Addison Hansen<br/>Holdren, Janice Steffa</p> <p>9 Jeffrey Swenson, Sam<br/>Arnold, Beth Morris, Webb<br/>Versaw</p> <p>10 Ryan Davelaar, Dennis<br/>Boesen, George Rath, Kathy<br/>Moore</p> <p>11 Nadine Jenkins, Robin<br/>Kussman, Sydney Goodwin</p> <p>13 Paula Hazelrigg, Holly<br/>Baddley, Angela Ayika</p> <p>14 Cindy Garner, Marinell<br/>Neuhaus</p> <p>15 Shirley Emig, Brenda<br/>Ticknor</p> | <p>16 Adam Buda, Aaron Fettig,<br/>Matthew Reid</p> <p>17 Charlene Weyand, Janet<br/>Wallace</p> <p>18 Barbara Thompson</p> <p>19 Douglas Corum, Charlene<br/>Meyer, Jim Conway</p> <p>21 Irene Boomgaarden</p> <p>22 Kristin Johnson, Karleen<br/>Nelson</p> <p>23 Tom Stalnaker, Carole Sieck,<br/>Jacob Bumsted</p> <p>24 Ken Burson</p> <p>25 Matt Will, Toni Craig,<br/>Sawyer Dittman</p> <p>26 Howard Anderson, Gary<br/>Lippstreu, Tammy Holdren,<br/>Julie Driftmier</p> <p>27 Brian Weyant</p> <p>28 Brooklyn Miller, Ardys<br/>Hansum, David Tchona,<br/>Clarence Waters, Jackie<br/>Youngstrom</p> <p>29 Charlotte Avivor, Louis<br/>Knight</p> <p>30 Paul Nickel, Staci Voss, T. J.<br/>Davey, Chris Rath, Mark<br/>Mathia</p> <p>31 David Ambrose, Avis<br/>Polacek, Mary Reid, Bob<br/>Allen, Chelsea Spielman,<br/>Amavi Amela</p> |
|---|--|

### 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 Gourmets

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 Roads (Young Adults)

Pastor Christine Dempsey  
(402)333-7466

### Congregational Life Committee Moderators:

Susan Price/Kristin Jacobi



### A Thanksgiving Thank You

The Mission Committee is so thankful for your generous Thanksgiving offerings from last year. This offering was used to provide food for Thanksgiving for families from Completely Kids which is one of our Mission partners. This year we nearly doubled the number of families from 80 to 155! God Bless all of you. Thank you also to our volunteers who helped package and distribute our donations to families in need on November 23.

### Family Night at Omaha Street School



On December 7, Presbyterian Church of the Cross will host a Family Night at Omaha Street School for the students and their families. As in past years, we will be helping the families build gingerbread houses. You can help, by donating items for decorating the gingerbread houses. The types of items needed are available at the Information Desk. Please place any of these items in the Omaha Street School Donation Bin outside the church office by **Sunday, December 5.**

Please bring any of the following: 14-15 oz boxes of graham crackers, boxes of mini wheats, gum drops, Brach's holiday mix, Lifesavers, small candy canes, M&Ms, small round pretzels, small stick pretzels, small marshmallows, red Twizzlers, Starlight mints (red and green), Necco wafers, Hershey's Kisses, and Skittles.

**Pantry Sunday is  
December 19!**



**Heartland Hope  
MISSION**

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Food Items:</b> | <b>Hygiene Items:</b>  |
| 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!**



**Mission Committee Moderator:**  
Karen Metzger

*This Holiday Season, Your Time Is a Gift, Too!*



**Siena Francis House  
Servers Needed  
December 12  
4:00 to 6:30 p.m.**  
Sign up on the church website.  
Contact Keith Allen with questions.

### Holiday Mission Giving Tree

Our beautiful wooden giving tree will be set up in the circle drive entrance on December 5. Donations this year will go to the following PCOC mission partners: Omaha Street School, Russian Mission Partnership, and Siena Francis House. With our help, these partners provide food, clothing, education, and other support to our local community and abroad.

Many of you have generously given to this mission project before, and we are hoping to achieve the same results or better remotely this year.



- If you stop by the church, envelopes will be available by the tree. Just check your donation choice, enclose your check, and leave the envelope in the basket. Rock will periodically retrieve donations.
- You can also mail a donation to PCOC. On the memo line, simply write which organization(s).
- All checks should be made out to Presbyterian Church of the Cross.

Contact Karen Metzger with any questions.





## Many Ways to Make Christmas Merry

The holiday season is upon us. What better way to celebrate the season of giving than to provide gifts for children in our community who would normally receive very little, if anything, Christmas morning. Please consider the following options for giving to Heartland Hope Mission’s annual Hope-filled Christmas celebration for local families in need this year.

**Option 1: The Giving Tree** — Of course, the traditional Giving Tree is set up in the church’s Narthex this year. Take an angel ornament from the tree which lists gift ideas for 11 to 15-year-old boys and girls. Shop for a gift and place it in the wrapped and decorated Christmas box in the Narthex. Christmas wrapping paper for parents to wrap their child’s gifts is also needed. **Un-wrapped gifts must be returned to the church by Sunday, Dec. 12.**



JHF Decorating the Giving Tree

**Option 2: Amazon Wish List** – For those of you who prefer to shop online. You can shop for three

age groups of children and purchase a gift through Amazon. The gift will be delivered directly to HHM before the Christmas event.

**Option 3: Adopt-a-family** – If you prefer a more personal touch, consider adopting a local family who is struggling financially this year. You will be able to designate how many children for which you would like to provide gifts. There is a \$50 minimum commitment per child. You will also be asked if you are willing to donate \$25 for a Christmas dinner for the family.

**Option 4:** Finally, HHM would also appreciate any monetary donations. You can donate directly via their website.

For options 2-4, we’ve made it super easy. Just click the “HHM Christmas Giving” button on the church website home page for quick links to these giving options.

We are also helping with the annual HHM Christmas celebration at HHM headquarters in South Omaha. Two volunteer slots remain open December 18 from 1:30 – 4 p.m. and December 23 from 1 – 5 p.m. If you’d like to volunteer, please contact [amanda@HeartlandHopeMission.org](mailto:amanda@HeartlandHopeMission.org).

Thank you for your generous support of Heartland Hope Mission and our Mission Committee!

John Bennett, for the Mission Committee.



## DEACON NEWS

### Funeral Luncheon Volunteers

The Deacons Committee is very grateful to have such a wonderful group of volunteers to assist with funeral lunches. Your participation helps to make these important, memorable events seamless from start to finish. Thank you and God bless you!

If you want to be added to the funeral luncheon sign-up roster, please contact Earlene Uhrig.

### Tasty, Delicious Passengers In Need of Transportation

The Deacons are looking for volunteers to deliver leftover food from PCOC-sponsored events to the Sienna Francis House. If you are interested, please contact Pam Swenson.

#### 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**  
Ann Sumner

**PieceMakers**  
Karen Morey  
Debbie McMullen



## Welcome New Members

### Chase Jenkins



We are pleased to welcome Chase to Church of the Cross. Chase moved to Omaha about a month ago because he's in a relationship with Katie Rock and is employed at Scantron Technology Solutions as a Support Analyst. He was born in Manhattan, Kansas and has lived in St. Joseph MO as well as Lincoln. He enjoys board games, gardening, fish keeping and anything tech. related. At his previous church he has helped with AV productions. Thank You Katie for bringing Chase to PCOC!

### Gary and Kim Peterson



Gary and Kim are joining the church by reaffirmation of faith and are former members of Countryside Community Church. Before going to Countryside, Gary was a member of PCOC. Both

Gary and Kim were attracted to our church because of the friendly staff and congregation. Gary is a commercial real estate broker for NP Dodge Company, and Kim is a retired teacher. They enjoy hiking, nature, and golfing, and their children and grandchildren.

### Carol Sorensen



Carol is a retired educator who has joined our church by reaffirmation of faith. She comes from St. Wenceslaus where she was involved in Christian education and the choir. She chose PCOC because she wanted to return to the church of her youth and now she will be

worshipping alongside her mother, Eleanor Gould. Carol is involved in PEO, Daughters of the Nile, and the Optimists. Her interests include reading, counted cross stitch, and spending time with her family including six grandchildren.

### Jan Steffa



Next time you see Janet Wallace thank her for inviting Jan to visit Church of the Cross and encouraging her to become a member. Jan said everyone she's met is so kind, and she knew this church was for her. She has been a resident of Omaha all

her life. Jan's retired now but has worked at Mutual of Omaha and Central States. She is widowed and has a daughter that lives in Arizona and a grandson who is moving to Wisconsin. Jan enjoys cooking, exercising at Genesis, swimming, water aerobics, and playing canasta. Please welcome Jan.

### Dianne Witmer



Dianne is no stranger to Church of the Cross, thanks to her late aunt, Margaret Dickmeyer, who many of you may remember. Margaret invited Dianne to many church events over the years and was the person who introduced her to Russ Beernink, a

longtime member of PCOC. Currently Dianne lives in Lincoln, but resided in Waverly where her two sons were raised. She currently works at Lincoln High School in the Media Center and does a variety of things, but she especially enjoys working with the kids. In her free time, she loves to swim, be outdoors, and spend time with her family and especially her granddaughter. She enjoys being a part of special projects whether it be church, school, or the YMCA. She is excited to be a member of PCOC, and we're excited to have her as a member of our church family. Welcome, Dianne!

**Do you know someone who is interested in joining the church?** Our next new member class will be held on Sunday, January 16, 2022 after late service. Contact Nancy Utman or the church office for more information.

---

**Membership Committee Moderator:**  
Nancy Utman

---



## Fellowship and Fun

### Active Minds December 7 & 14

Active Minds will meet only December 7 and 14. We will continue with Whist for those two weeks

The 2022 Theme for Active Minds will be learning games from our richly diverse heritage. We have Swedish, Irish, Chinese, German, and Swiss games on the agenda. If you have suggestions, please contact Earlene Uhrig.



### Join the 49ers on December 7

Our speaker for Tuesday, December 7, 2021, will be Kent Grisham, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Nebraska Trucking Association, Truck Services, Inc., and Nebraska Trucking Foundation, Inc. Mr. Grisham brings nearly 30 years of experience in public relations, marketing, public affairs, and media work for Fortune 100 companies. A detailed bio is attached to the signup sheet at the Information Desk. He is bound to tell us information we never knew regarding the trucking industry, taxes, and supply chains. Bring your questions!!! Lunch location is Gorat's, 4917 Center Street, at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome — whether you are 49, younger, or older — come join us! We will order from a special menu. For reservations, please contact Donna Turner or Judy Sundberg, or sign up at the Information Center in the Narthex.

### Book Group on December 15

Wednesday, December 15  
5:15 to 6:30 p.m. in Room 13  
“Miss Benson’s Beetle” by  
Rachael Joyce. Questions? Contact June Fettig.



### Fellowship for Young Adults

#### College Students

Every Sunday at 8 p.m. on Zoom (check your church email/text from Christine for the link)

#### Cross Roads — Sunday, December 5

Monthly lunch gathering of young adults (ages 20-40). Meet at the circle drive doors, and we will enjoy local pizza and fellowship. Led by Pastor Christine.

## Tables for Eight — Winter Session 2022

The deadline for registration for the winter session (January, February, March, and April) is **December 10**. New “Regular” participants (couples or singles) are definitely welcome to join this fellowship opportunity. “Substitutes” are welcome as well. For new participants, the form is available at the Information Desk, or you can register online on the church website home page. Questions? Contact Pam Otto.



If you are currently participating in Tables for Eight as a regular in the 2021 Fall Session, you will automatically be placed in a new group unless you contact Pam. We would like to add people to the “Substitute” List; so if that fits your schedule better, please contact Pam.

### Agape for All

- November provided fascinating Zoom sessions on Racial Justice and healing.
- The Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall continues to highlight our events.
- Wednesday “What’s Cookin” conversations at Cornerstone were great! Join us next semester!

### Recommended Reading

*Black Like Me, Caste, My Grandmother’s Hands, Waking Up White, and White Like Me*

### Upcoming Events

New PCOC Library books are here and ready for check out! Social Justice books are on display by the Library on December 5 and 12. We are eager to read these thought provoking stories and learn about positive ways forward.

Dear Presbyterian Church of the Cross members,



I would like to express my sincerest thank you to everyone for your calls and cards to Ed Ticknor and myself during the difficult time. I know how very much all of your thoughts and prayers meant to him. I, also, greatly appreciate your caring and thoughtfulness as we all work thru the healing process together.

Lovingly, Irene Astleford

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  
December 17, 2021



### Cornerstone Resumes January 12 – March 16

Join us as we begin another semester of Cornerstone on January 12. Please register and submit payment online. Everyone who registers for dinner is asked to volunteer to set up, serve dinner, or clean-up five times. Registering ahead of time helps us plan for class supplies and gives us an accurate count for dinner so that we have enough food, but not so much that we are wasteful. The deadline to register is January 1.

#### Cross Currents

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

---

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

**Communications:** Gayle Kerr-McFadden  
[gayle@pcoc.us](mailto: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.

---