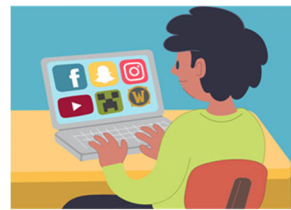


Learning in the New Year

Making Smart Digital Choices Workshop for Families

The Christian Education Committee is excited to offer an important workshop for PCOC families. Screen time has a huge impact on our children's social, emotional, physical, and mental well-being. While monitoring the amount of screen time is a smart move, it is also important for parents (and grandparents) to know what is on the screen.

Join us for a two-part workshop offered by Smart Gen Society on Wednesdays, January 12 and 19 from 6:30–7:30 p.m. You will learn how to manage digital choices for your children and how to teach children to make smart digital choices for themselves. The first class is for parents only (childcare provided). The second class 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.

Register on our website and let Heather know if you plan to eat the Cornerstone dinner beforehand. We hope to see you there!

Cornerstone Resumes January 12



Build strong ties with God and one another every Wednesday night with classes, music, games, and dinner. See full schedule on page 5. Please register and submit your payment online (Find the sign up button on our church website home page). 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 the right amount of food and are not wasteful. **The deadline to register is January 1.**

More Education Events. Find more classes starting in January on page 5.

Mark Your Calendar! Annual Congregational Meeting and Election of Elders and Deacons will be January 23, 2022 during 11:10 service.

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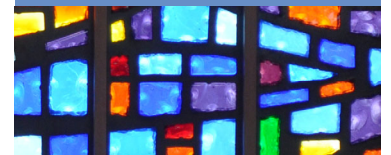
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**Presbyterian
Church of the Cross**
1517 S. 114th Street
Omaha, NE 68144

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(402)333-7466

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(402)697-9084

Email:
churchofthecross@pcoc.us

Website:
churchofthecrossomaha.org



Then And Now

What will 2022 hold in store for us? Wouldn't a crystal ball come in handy about now? As I write this, Christmas is still a week away. All the excitement of Christmas Eve and Christmas morning still await. Right now, 2022 is still a dream, but when you read this, 2022 will have begun. Where will it take us?

Unfortunately, we enter 2022 with COVID still here, with the Ominous Omicron knocking on the door. Fortunately, we enter 2022 with vaccines and boosters, something we did not have a year ago.

A year ago, we were not able to meet in person. Our building was closed, although our church never closed. Now, we are glad to have been able to cautiously return, as well as still provide an online presence which many folks enjoy and depend on. Now, our 9:00 a.m. service is presented live online each Sunday, something that we were not doing a year ago. Our communications team continues to look to the future with plans for expanding, modernizing, and improving our efforts.

A year ago, we were still wondering how the capital campaign would develop. Today, we are developing the designs for construction to commence next summer. Many details are left to work out before ground is broken, but these details are being addressed. It is exciting to ponder where we will be a year from now when 2023 will commence!

2021 was a year in which PCOC gave more to mission than ever before. Your faithful contributions, to our budget and to outreach, were unprecedented. Our recent Stewardship Campaign ended strong. We enter 2022 financially sound, with a penchant for not only taking care our own needs, but looking to the needs of others.

A year ago, we were reading and zooming about justice issues. 2021 ended with a visit to North Omaha, and now we are learning and speaking together about just what Agape for All should, and can, mean for us.

The Bible encourages us to study God's character (discover who God truly is) and then try to live in light of God's commands (what God says to do).

These commands not only regulate how we are to carry ourselves, but we also see quite clearly how we are to treat other people, both those who are like us and those who are not. Jesus told his disciples, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34) At the core, our faith is relational; who you are in Christ is meant to affect how you treat others.

Let's begin 2022 with cautious optimism, because we are to be people of hope, people who believe God's promises.

Let's begin 2022 with a renewed effort to grow spiritually. This involves taking a look at where we are now, and how we would like to grow. Take a look at the new study offerings from Christian Ed beginning in January.

Let's begin 2022 desiring to reach out more, to be people who bring hope and healing to all nations, beginning with our neighbors here in town.

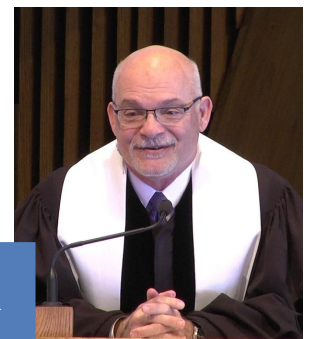
Let's begin 2022 with a resolve to finish the planning and design for our new facility and begin to dream of how we will use these new areas in generous hospitality.

Let's begin 2022 intending to Wag More and Bark Less, as the little sign in my office reminds me.

We don't have a crystal ball, so let's begin 2022 with Jesus' last words to his disciples in Matthew, "I am with you always." Let us look for his presence with every step we take in this new year.

Your pastor
and friend,

Marshall Ziemann



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



Spend Time with God

It's 2022! Are you one of those people that makes resolutions for the upcoming year? What kind of things do you resolve to do? Exercise? Travel? Eat a more healthful diet? Save money? What about spending more time with God? I suspect that despite our good intentions, most of us do not have the last one on our list. Spending time with God does not seem to have the urgency of the others; after all God is always present regardless of our physical and financial health. It seems that "spending more time with God" is something that we can put off. Yet, when I listen to the world around us--social media, newscasts and even co-medic commentary--I am reminded of a world where God is put on the backburner.

What if we put "spending more time with God" on our resolution list? As individuals, we can reframe the anxiety and doom of the secular world into the hope and promise of God's world. Instead of doomscrolling or surrounding ourselves with all that is wrong, we can spend some time each day identifying where God is present in our lives. We can count our blessings, both large and small, and refocus our lives on the promise of Jesus. Our faith practices such as hearing the Word of God in worship, studying the Bible or practicing a discipline of prayer will ground us in God's world and strengthen us as we go out to serve others. Directing our lives to God's goodness will help us heal from the trauma of the past couple of years.

Imagine what the world would look like if people all over the world made a resolution to "spend more time with God." What would our world look like if we collectively surround ourselves with the

promise of God? Perhaps all of the things that divide us could unite us, and our collective attention could focus on aid and comfort to all in need. With an outlook of serving one another, we could strive to end crippling diseases, provide food for all people and find peaceful solutions to disagreements. We know this. This is the call of our faith! It is what draws us here in community, and what sends us out to serve. But, again, I ask, to what extent is our faith being challenged because the voices of fear are louder in our lives than that of faith?

So friends, this year, I challenge you to adopt a resolution to spend more time with God and to invite others into God's presence. Be it a pledge to be in worship every Sunday, to attend adult Bible study or to devote time to prayer, your time with God will shape your lives in the hope, love and joy that is in Christ Jesus. Amen.



Grace and peace,

Christine

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

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
Anna Sumner

PieceMakers
Karen Morey
Debbie McMullen



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.



Make a Joyful Noise in the New Year

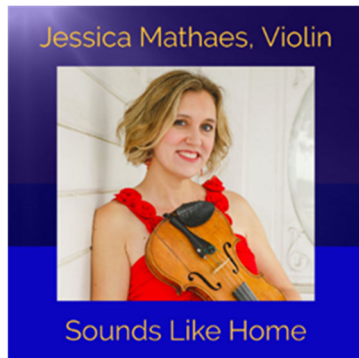
January is a great time to join the choir!

If you've always wondered if you should or could join choir, January is the perfect time to give it a try. We'll be starting over with new music for Lent, Holy Week, and the Easter season. Not sure if you are ready to commit yet? Come to a rehearsal or two and then decide. Contact Kristi Treu at kristi@pcoc.us if you'd like more information. Pictured below: The PCOC choirs with strings and brass in December presenting "Heaven's Song."



Vesper Concerts Returns January 9 at 3:00

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. Mathaes was born in Chicago and grew up in Omaha, where she was concertmaster of the Omaha Area 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. We are excited to welcome Jessica back to Omaha! For more information, please visit vesperconcerts.org.



UMKC Conservatory Singers in Concert January 16 at 3:00

The Conservatory Singers from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory present "Legacy: Cathedral Classics and the African American Spiritual." The concert is part of a year-long program celebrating the work of prominent African American composers who have shaped the legacy of choral music. The program includes works by William Dawson, R. Nathaniel Dett, Undine Smith Moore, Jeffrey Ames as well as works by Jennifer Higdon, Felix Mendelssohn, Hans Leo Hassler, and more.

The 40-member Conservatory Singers are conducted by Director of Choral Studies, Dr. Jennaya Robison. Admission is free, and a free will offering will be received during the concert.

Kristi Treu, Director of Music
Executive Director of Vesper Concerts



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

Organist: Dana Sloan, M.M.

Worship & Music Committee Moderator:
Mike Shannon

A Note from Heather Berry

Children's Christmas Pageant

Thanks to everyone that worked together to pull off this fabulous production. About 70 preschool, elementary, junior and senior high youth, and adults participated in this event. What a special gift it was for our congregation!



**Sunday Education
Begins January 9 at 10:00 a.m.
Classes for preschool to adult—
Sign up for adult classes by Jan. 1!**

Register Now for Adult Ed Classes

Find the full class descriptions on the church website. Please register online by January 1.

So You're Presbyterian! What exactly does that mean and why should you care? led by Keith Allen on Sundays January to February 27 at 10:00 a.m. When a church like PCOC has great preaching, great music, great education, great people, and great facilities, does being Presbyterian matter? You bet! Come learn what is it about being Presbyterian that should matter to you and have fun doing it. Plus, you can choose to just show up and be inspired, or buy an interesting little book that goes with the course that is easy to read or, for the die-hard students in the group, take home study questions to prepare in advance. Something for everyone!

Tuesday Bible Study led by Pastor Marshall on Tuesdays January 11 to May 17 at 1:00 p.m.

Diving into Scripture led by Kirk Ryckman on Wednesdays starting January 26 through March 16 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The class will use two books in the Kerygma Bible Study Series:

Your Bible: The Study Begins and Listening to Scripture – Strategies for Interpreting the Bible. The class will aim to be helpful for the newer Bible study participant, and yet have a depth that will also engage the experienced student of Scripture.

Introduction to the Protestant Reformation -led by Pastor Christine on Sundays -April 24 - May 19 -10:00 a.m. For four weeks we will look at the Protestant Reformation placing it into the historical context of sixteenth century Europe. We will consider not only the theological changes brought forth by the Protestant Reformers, but also think about how the Reformation impacted social and political change. The Reformation is essential not only for our Presbyterian tradition but also for world we live in today.

Cornerstone January 12 – March 16

Join us for the fun! Childcare is available from 5:30 to 8:15 p.m. **Register online by January 1.**

- 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Piecemakers
- 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. Book Group (3rd Wed.)
- 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Preschool Bible Study (3-5 yrs.)
- 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. Children's Choir
- 5:30 - 6:25 p.m. Chamber Choir
- 6:00 - 6:40 p.m. Dinner
- 6:00 - 6:40 p.m. What's Cookin'?
- 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Adult Ed Class
- 6:45 - 7:30 p.m. Children's Bible Study (K-7)
- 6:50 - 8:15 p.m. Alleluia Choir

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

I am simply starting off with THANK YOU! Your faithfulness, generosity, and witness to our church through your gifts for the Stewardship Season have been remarkable.

This congregational effort draws us together as one. I know that many of you, like me are proud members of Church of the Cross. Often, when I am out in the community, I am asked which church I belong to. It is surprising that the Omaha community at large knows of Church of the Cross. They have attended a wedding, a funeral, or a Vesper Concert event.



Session met in December and have passed the budget for 2022. I am happy to announce that it is a balanced budget and that it is put together with many dreams for our future together. Christian Ed is planning for Sunday School classes and Cornerstone classes. They are planning mission trips and VBS for next summer. And the annual garage sale is on the calendar. Be sure to be an active participant next year.

Membership is planning for new member classes and ways of extending a welcoming hand. Congregational Life is looking at new ways to serve lunch for the Annual Meeting and what our summer events could look like.

Thank you to every person and family who has prayerfully supported our church this Stewardship Season. Together we are stronger.

Finance Committee Moderator:

Ken Kluck

Building and Grounds Committee Moderator:

John Stalnaker

Building & Grounds

The end of the year always has the B&G Committee looking for last-minute projects that need doing. We hope to have new sconces installed in the north stairwell, and we look forward to removing 4 dead trees in the east tree line. In addition, there is some needed gutter work on the north side of the building to improve our underground flow of water from the building. These projects are being tackled.

B&G had a wonderful “winter preparedness day” this fall and want to take a moment to thank all our volunteers that helped prepare our landscaped area and grounds for the winter season.

Looking Towards the Future

Work is underway for the new addition and Fellowship Hall renovation. There are many decisions to be made as we move towards construction.

Marshall and I have discussed what we think this project will look like as we make these changes to our building. Marshall says that he always thought construction meant follow the plan and build it. But from our meetings, we have found that our contractor, MCL, envisions the construction process as a way to solve problems and come up with solutions.

We are in the midst of solving problems and finding solutions as the plan is being finalized. There will be many meetings and discussions as we move through this process.

Rock Sumner
Business
Administrator



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



Member Life Events



Rainer Joaquin Hayes, baptized December 26. Parents are Cade Manning and Natalia Zieman Hayes. Grandparents are Becky and Marshall Zieman.

JANUARY Birthdays

- 1 Frank Watt, Chris Voss, Phil Johnson, Linda Dobry, Nolan Hopp
- 2 Dan Olson, Nancy Koehler, Dick Kelley
- 3 Gene Pugh, Meg Whaley, Mason Will
- 4 Conlin Grady, Jane Miller
- 5 Cindy Nisley, Liz Brecci, Bernice Smith, Kim Banat, June Karges, Josh Murray
- 6 Mary Ann McNeel, Andrew Ebert
- 7 Keith Allen, Tim Johnson, Diane Kratz, Blake Kahler, Diane Holubeck, Madisyn Spielman, Heather Berry, Bill Hanley
- 8 Jeff Quine, Ann Schmidt, Joan Thorson, Marilyn Willis, Quinn McFadden
- 9 Megan Davelaar, Sharon Sievers, Bob Hoisington, Ryan Kort
- 10 Drew Berry
- 11 Jennifer Arnold, Sheri Cunningham
- 12 Linda Bauer, Aurora Quatoroli
- 13 Katie Rock, Sam McClain
- 14 Danial Holdren, Gail Hille, Evelyn Aziamoe
- 15 Taylor Koch, Max Rieke, Dwight Peterson, Carol Sorensen
- 16 Brad Dittman, Stephanie Voss
- 17 Launie Lambert, John Broderick, Allison Weber, Emmie Fuller
- 18 Lois Morris, Sharon Marvin-Igel, Sharon Rich, Anna Ellinghaus
- 19 Dava Hendrickson
- 20 Charlotte Thiessen, Jack Fortner, Alta Empkey
- 21 Loni Williams, William Davey, Michael Anderson
- 22 Mike Dempsey
- 23 Mary Beth Gust, Amy Ellis
- 24 Joan Miles, Kaitlynn Evers
- 25 Quinn McGuire, Kim Hall
- 26 Becky Bianchi
- 27 Tyler Zimmerman, Spencer Kussman, Hadley McDaniel
- 28 Abby Jaeger, Jessa Sherlock, Peg Hiles
- 30 Jonathan Fritz

Membership Committee Moderator:
Nancy Utman

Congregational Life Committee Moderators:
Susan Price/Kristin Jacobi

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

Mary Ott

Friday Night Gourmet

Curt Field &
Launie 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



A Truly Thankful Thanksgiving

Your Thanksgiving Offering made a difference for more than 150 Omaha families in need through the outreach of our mission partner Completely Kids. A group of 16 PCOC volunteers (including a troop of Girl Scouts) formed an assembly line to fill food bags with all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner. Each family also received a gift card to Hy Vee to buy a turkey or other food items of their choosing.



Our volunteers delivered the bags to vehicles, and the Girl Scouts had a great time doing most of the running back and forth.

Thank you PCOC for your love of our mission efforts!



Mission Committee Moderator:
Karen Metzger

Pantry Sunday is January 16

Your generosity helps people all year long through the Heartland Hope Mission food pantries. Bring your food and hygiene items to church with you on January 16, or drop them off at the circle drive doors anytime. See list below for the most needed items.



Food Items:

- Cereal
- Pasta
- Canned Soup
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Meat
- Mac & Cheese
- Peanut Butter

Hygiene Items:

- Baby Diapers
(most needed size 4-6)
- Baby Wipes
- Full-Size Shampoo
- Full-Size Body Wash
- Toilet Paper
- Toothpaste

December Tornado Relief

The devastation and destruction left in the path of the December tornados is heart-breaking. You can help the victims of these storms through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Our Mission Committee has approved a matching grant from the Mission Budget of up to \$3,000. Make your checks payable to PCOC with "Tornados" written in the Memo. We will send a lump sum payment to PDA towards their relief efforts.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**



**Siena Francis House
Servers Needed
January 9, 2022
4:00 to 6:30 p.m.**

Sign up online from the church website home page
Contact Sandi Stuckey with questions.



Deacons in Action

One of the most intriguing ordination questions is “Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?” Of course the deacons, and the rest of us, are fallible humans. But as a Deacon Board and as individual Deacons, we LOVE trying to live up to our vows! It is perhaps more challenging to do this in “Covid times,” but we want to care for our members and others in all those amazing ways! Please contact your neighborhood deacon if you have joys or concerns. If you are ever approached to be a Deacon yourself, don’t hesitate to accept. It is joyful work, using energy, intelligence, imagination, and love for Jesus and God’s people! Pictured below: Deacons reaching out to members by planning and hosting the Advent dinner.



PRESBYTERIAN MEN

Bells Are Ringing for a Good Cause

Presbyterian Men rang bells for the Salvation Army’s Christmas Campaign on a very chilly Saturday, December 18, at the 132nd & Dodge HyVee from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The 18 cheerful, hearty volunteers were Roger Utman, Marty McGuire, Jeff Boyum, Angie Aliano, Frank McMullen, Gary Marron, Gary Fitch, Brad Burch, Jim Miller, Jim Butler, Don Miller, Lloyd Meyer, David Hopp, Rock Sumner, AJ Sundberg, Don Olson and Jon Boomgaarden. Thanks to Jim Chapin for coordinating this activity and to the volunteers for your service to others.





Welcome New Members

Rusty and Marla Vanneman

We are pleased to introduce new members Rusty and Marla Vanneman. On their walks in the neighborhood, they noticed our church and signage and decided to see what PCOC had to offer. Our strong presence in the community played a part in their decision to join. They attended fall Cornerstone's "Sacred Spaces" class.



The Vannemans will celebrate their first wedding anniversary in December. With their marriage, their immediate family is now composed of six people. Rusty has a son and daughter who are out of the house, and Marla's two sons are still at home. Rusty was born in Valentine, Nebraska, raised in Holdrege, and lived in Lincoln where he attended First Plymouth Congregational Church. Rusty is the Chief Investment Officer at Orion CLS Investments. He enjoys family time, fitness, paddleboarding, reading, traveling, and the Huskers.

Marla grew up in Oregon, Missouri and attended United Methodist Church. She is a Meeting and Event Manager for Mutual of Omaha. Marla enjoys gardening, spending time with family, fitness, and reading. Attending her two sons' sport and school activities keeps Marla, as well as Rusty, very busy. They also have a residence in Florida. Please welcome them to PCOC!

was also interested in a smaller church family, and a church that offered adult Bible Study. She was pleased to see we have a strong Youth Ministry program since she was involved with that when her sons were growing up.

Wendy's occupation is in commercial real estate, and she is associated with Perkins Properties and Chapman Retail. She was born in Iowa but has lived in Omaha since 1983. Wendy has three adult sons and four grandchildren who all live in Omaha. Wendy occupies her free time with cooking, gardening, decorating, and playing with her grandchildren. She also enjoys theater, the arts, and watching her son Morgan's races and Iron Man competitions. Please welcome Wendy to PCOC!

Beverley Karrer

We gladly welcome Bev Karrer (pronounced "car") to Church of the Cross. Bev was a member at First Methodist Church, and we are glad she has chosen us as her new church home. She said she immediately found warmth and comfort here because of the outstanding ministers, the music, and connecting with longtime friends as well as seeing residents from the Heritage that are church members.



Bev was born in Red Cloud, Nebraska, and grew up in McCook but came to Omaha in 1952 when her husband, the late Dr. Bill Karrer started medical school. Dr. Karrer was instrumental in establishing the Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center in Omaha. She has two adult children, four grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Bev considers herself "a professional volunteer" over the years, and notably she was State President of P.E.O. for Nebraska. She enjoys art, Nebraska History, learning, investment club, lectures, concerts, and Nebraska Volleyball.

Wendy Chapman

When Wendy was thinking about visiting other churches, Melissa Marvin encouraged her to attend Church of the Cross, and we're happy she did. She said several former members of Countryside have found a happy home at PCOC, and she decided we were a good fit for her. Wendy



**New Member Class
January 16, 2022 at 12:15 p.m.**

If you know someone who is interested in joining the church, please pass this along! Call the church office for more information.



Cross Roads for Young Adults on January 2

On January 2, young adults (ages 20-40) are invited to join us after late worship at Piezon's Pizzeria for fellowship and a sermon talkback. Connect with all of your friends who are home for Christmas!

Active Minds Returns January 11

We will be learning and playing Canasta. Canasta was invented by two men in Uruguay who greatly enjoyed bridge, but they wanted a shorter game time than bridge and more strategy than Rummy. Fully vaccinated persons can drop-in when your schedule allows. We play from 2-4 p.m. on Tuesdays in the lower level. Teachers will be Cindy and Ken Nisley. Questions? Contact Earlene Uhrig.



ACTIVE
MINDS

Friday Night Gourmets on January 14

Mike Howland and Linda Matson, invite you all to come celebrate the New Year with great food and great company at Omaha's Lo Sole Mio! Mark your calendars for 6:15 p.m., Friday, January 14, 2022. This is a great opportunity to dine at an iconic and beloved family-run Italian restaurant (Villa Banquet Rooms, across the street from the main restaurant at 3020 S 32nd Ave). The cost per individual for the buffet meal is \$25. Taxes and tip and your choice of coffee or tea are included in the buffet price. An individual tab/cash bar will be available. We must pay for food with a single payment, so please make checks out to "PCOC" with "FNG Outing" in the memo line. Further information on our buffet meal, collections envelope, and sign-up sheet are available at the Information Center. The last day to sign-up will be Sunday, January 9. See or call Mike or Linda if you have questions.

Book Group on January 19

Wednesday, January 19
5:15 to 6:30 p.m. in Room 13
"Five Days Left" by Julie Lawson Timmer. Questions? Contact June Fettig.
All readers are welcome!



Friday, January 7 at 7 p.m.
at Bill and Patty Ritchie's house
13905 Pierce Street

Hosted by Becky Ziemann and Patty Ritchie. Beverages and treats will be served! Bring poems to share which inspire or challenge you. Our topic is broad: Social Justice. Consider poems which touch on inclusivity, understanding your roots, diversity, standing up for another, respect... you get the idea. Berets and beatnik clothing are optional. Here is a short poem. RSVP to me. Patty Ritchie

Our church library now has "Social Justice" as a vibrant component. Books for all ages, covering a variety of topics are available. Thank you to all who stopped by the book display in December and for your positive responses to these additions to our wonderful library. Thank you Judy Arms, Jeremy Cunningham, Ann Pearson, and Jane Hawkins for your work to create this part of the library!

Plan to attend the choral concert on January 16 at 3:00 p.m. at church. The Conservatory Singers from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory present "Legacy: Cathedral Classics and the African American Spiritual." This program is a fitting event for the MLK weekend and supports the mission of Agape for All. See page 4 for details.

49ERS Returns February 1

49ERS is on break for January, but they will be back on February 1, featuring speaker Renae Bush, Community Relations Specialist at Heartland Hope Mission (HHM). At HHM's South Omaha and Millard food pantries, families in need receive a week's supply of nutritious groceries as well as clothing, diapers, and hygiene items. Clients have access to a client service specialist to assist with SNAP (food stamp) applications and navigational services. Last year the pantries provided food and resources to over 55,000 people locally. The lunch location is Gorat's, 4917 Center Street, at 11:30 a.m. For reservations or questions, please contact Mary Ott or Judy Sundberg. Or, sign-up at the Information Center.

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
January 21, 2022



Save These Dates

- **February 13** — JHF Bake Sale
- **March 6** — Lenten Study begins (more information coming soon)
- **March 28** — Confirmation Exam/ Dinner

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. The best time to find Gayle in the church office is on Tuesday mornings, but she is available for communications needs anytime via email.

Cross Currents

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