

## Holy Week and Easter

### Palm Sunday – April 10 at 9:00 & 11:10 a.m.

On Palm Sunday, join Alleluia and Chamber Singers, guest soloists, and professional instrumentalists at both worship services for the world premiere of “Chorus of Psalms” by Omaha composer (and member of our choir) David Gardner. Early service will be livestreamed.

“Chorus of Psalms” is about a journey of faith, but told from the perspective of different individuals at different places in their lives. While there are some very dark moments in the work (the real kind of struggles that people face on a daily basis and in the most challenging situations), it is always book-ended with hope. In fact, the contrast serves to highlight the faithfulness of God and the peace to be found in God’s love.



### Parade of Palms for Kids

Kids of all ages are invited to participate in the Palm Sunday Parade of Palms at both services. Find details on page 5.



### Maundy Thursday - April 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday is a service to remember the new commandment that Christ gave us to love one another. We celebrate the Lord’s Supper, remembering the meal Christ shared with his disciples before his death. During this Tenebrae service, the lights in the Sanctuary are gradually extinguished as we remember the events that led Jesus to the cross to cancel our sins. This service will be livestreamed.



### Good Friday — April 15 at Noon

Good Friday is the day we remember Jesus’ crucifixion. The hours of noon to 3 p.m. are particularly significant as these commemorate the time Jesus hung on the cross. We will hold a short service in the Sanctuary at noon. This service will be livestreamed.



### Easter Sunday — April 17 at 9:00 & 11:10 a.m.

Join in the joyous celebration on Easter morning! No education or youth activities on Easter.

**Building Expansion Update!** We’re making tremendous progress, but we need everyone’s help to succeed. Find details in Rock’s article on page 6.

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## A Ukrainian Easter

For some of us, the closest we ever come to thinking about Ukraine was at Easter time when we'd think of a beautifully painted Ukrainian Easter Egg, marveling at how it's even possible to paint like that. Becky and I even have an "Easter Tree" on which we hang numerous painted eggs I have brought home from my travels to that part of the world.



Now in 2022, our thoughts of Ukraine have changed. We cannot think of Ukraine now without seeing the TV images of war, destruction, death, fleeing refugees, and... resilience.

I marvel at the resilience shown by people whose doom seems inevitable. We see millions of women and children traveling to other countries while men remain behind to fight the Russian incursion. The fighting is spreading. The dead and wounded are rising, on both sides. How much worse will it get? Is peace even possible? What will it take for the hostilities to stop?

Recently, about 60 of us from PCOC shared a zoom call with our mission partner, Ellen Smith. Ellen showed us many photos of church leaders in Ukraine, Russia, and Poland. She has many friends and colleagues that she is unable to stay in contact with now. Many of them are now involved in ministries of care and compassion.

When we pray the Prayer of Confession in worship, there are times when the prayer seems to speak to my personal sins – I see myself in the prayer. Other times, the prayer seems more to address the sins of humanity in general. I see myself as part of a people who have fallen short of God's desires for us.

When I see the suffering of Ukrainian people, I am easily drawn to pray for them. It is harder for me to include myself as part of the problem.

Today I read a prayer from Pope Francis which includes these lines:

Forgive us for war, O Lord.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, we implore You!  
Hold fast the hand of Cain!  
Illumine our consciences;  
May our will not be done;  
Abandon us not to our own actions!

Stop us, O Lord, stop us!  
And when you have held back the hand of Cain,  
care also for him. He is our brother.  
O Lord, put a halt to the violence!  
Stop us, O Lord.

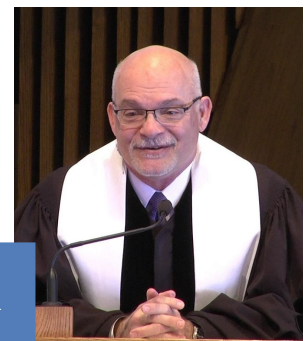
I could easily have filled this column with a long list of blessings which we all enjoy as members of our community of faith at PCOC. We truly are blessed – from our music in worship, our hands-on commitment to mission, the shepherding of our children and youth, our sacrificial giving for our Building Program, our capable committees, our spirit of fellowship, our care for each other – the list is truly long!

In this 2022 season of Lent, a time for introspection, reflection, and repentance, as we head to the cross, perhaps the main thing we should focus on is this:

“Let there be peace on earth,  
and let it begin with me.”

Your pastor  
and friend,

*Marshall Ziemann*



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marshall@pcoc.us

## A Good “Good Friday”

I don't know about you, but I feel as though I am challenged daily by the news. I wonder what bad news is going to be in the headlines. After all, in this year we have witnessed a pandemic, natural disasters, and war. I am personally alarmed these are all now part of my day-to-day reality. Prior to the last couple of years, I did not often use “pandemic” and “war,” outside of the history classroom. I use them every day now, and I know that I have become numb to the trauma around me. Perhaps you have had that same experience.

We are survivors, and we have crafted our own survival armor. Under the surface of our armor is the raw impact left by this path of destruction, and we need a chance to grieve this experience. This profound sadness is not unlike that experienced by Jesus' followers on that day of his death. The difference is that we know resurrection is near, and that the peace of Christ will prevail. What is helpful is that our Christian tradition gives us space to deal with these emotions. Psychologists acknowledge that it is good for us to confront our emotions for the good of our mental health, and it is likewise good to confront these emotions for our spiritual health.

We have just the opportunity. This year I am inviting you all to join us at Presbyterian Church of the Cross for our first Good Friday service. This service is one place where we get to come to grips with our feelings, and it also helps us truly rejoice when we hear the Good News that Jesus is Risen. Good Friday is the day that Jesus died on the Cross. It is a day of great sadness, and we can only imagine the heartbreak of his followers. In many ways, it is desirable to skip this day and move straight to Easter Sunday. This year is a good year to start a new tradition, to remember Christ's sacrifice for us and to spend some time visiting our own fears and sorrows.

Worshiping on Good Friday has been a traditional part of the Christian liturgy since the fourth century. It was observed as part of Holy Week, as a specific remembrance of Christ's sacrifice, and as a day to remember that Christ died for us. The practice was removed from many congregations to take

our focus away from Christ's death and instead point towards the Resurrection. There seemed to be a belief that it was too sad, too hard to remember, but that is exactly why we should remember. Without understanding the nature of Jesus sacrifice for us, we can't begin to comprehend the awe of the Resurrection. While we do regard ourselves as people of hope, as resurrection people, this service is space for us to lament. Our own experience of life sometimes takes us to those darkest places, and we need the space and the permission to cry out in pain as Christ on the Cross. We need a chance to say “My God, My God why hast thou forsaken me” just as Jesus did.

I hope that you will come and join us in this solemn service on Friday, April 15 at noon. Take the chance to stop and breathe and live into this emotion of sadness. The beauty of Easter Sunday will be so much brighter and our faith so much stronger when we invite God to share in the wholeness of our humanness.



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.



## Please Be an Usher

Our Worship & Music Committee is responsible for lining up ushers for our services. When the church was closed to in-person worship, some of our usher teams disbanded. We do not have complete teams and need help filling individual usher spots in April and May. If you are available to help on any of these Sundays, please sign up online (button on church website home page), or contact Jayne Frederickson.



- April 10 (Palm Sunday) at 11:10
- April 17 Easter at 11:10
- May 15 & 22 at 11:10

## Final Concert of the Season

Join us on Monday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m. for a rare musical treat. The Valencia Baryton Trio will stop in Omaha on their United States tour to



perform a program of works by Franz Joseph Haydn for the baryton trio (violin, viola, and baryton). The baryton is an ancient stringed instrument from the 18th century. Matthew Baker, the group's leader, is one of the few baryton players in the world. He grew up in Sioux City, took music lessons in Omaha, and now resides in Valencia, Spain, where he teaches and performs. It is Matthew's mission to perform and record all of Haydn's works for the baryton trio, and his ensemble just released the world's first-ever baryton CD on the Naxos Records label. We are very fortunate to have them stop in Omaha. Please join us!

### Valencia Baryton Project Age of Enlightenment



Monday, April 4  
7:00 p.m.

## Announcing the 7th Annual Summer Youth Choir Festival

The Summer Youth Choir Festival is a fun week for singers across the Omaha metro who are finishing grades 8-12. This year's festival will take place June 20-26 and includes four evenings of rehearsals, a Saturday outreach tour, singing for worship on Sunday morning, lots of snacks, special activities, fun with friends, and a festival t-shirt! All of that for only \$45! Registration is easy, and you can sign up online at the church website. I would love to see many of our PCOC youth participate, and it's always fun to invite a friend to come with you.



Kristi Treu, Director of Music  
Executive Director of Vesper Concerts



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kristi@pcoc.us

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

**Worship & Music Committee Moderator:**  
Jayne Frederickson



## Notes from Heather Berry

### Parade of Palms April 10

Children of all ages are invited to participate in the Parade of Palms on Palm Sunday, April 10 during both services. Meet Heather in the Narthex 10 minutes before worship starts to receive your palm and instructions. Parents, if your children are too shy to walk by themselves, please feel free to join our parade. The more the merrier!



### Easter Egg Hunt April 16

Hop on over to church on Saturday, April 16 for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We'll start our time with crafts in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m., then move on to the east lawn for the hunt at 10:30. Be sure to bring your own basket to collect eggs. And keep an eye out – maybe you'll spot Peter Cottontail!

### One Great Hour of Sharing April 17

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. This special offering enables us to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.



Our Sunday School children were given their Gracie fish banks a few weeks ago. During the season of Lent, children are encouraged to fill up their banks, and bring them back to church on Easter Sunday, April 17. Look for the baskets outside the doors to the sanctuary to drop off your fish bank.

### Celebrating Women Baskets Silent Auction

Do you have a special woman in your life that deserves to be pampered? Not sure what to get her? Well look no further, because SHF is assembling baskets just in time for Mother's Day. The silent auction begins on April 10 and bidding ends on May 1. Come by the Lobby and find the perfect gift for the woman in your life. You'll be notified right after late church on May 1 if you win. As always, thanks for your support!



### Important Dates

<b>April 16</b>	Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m.
<b>April 17</b>	Parade of Palms, 9 and 11:10 a.m.
<b>April 17</b>	Easter Sunday – no education or youth groups
<b>April 20</b>	Confirmand rehearsal at 6 p.m.
<b>April 24</b>	Confirmation Sunday
<b>April 24</b>	Reformation Class begins, 10 a.m. in Room 15
<b>May 1</b>	Youth Sunday/Senior Brunch
<b>May 15</b>	CE Recognition Sunday
<b>June 3-5</b>	JHF Mission Trip
<b>June 12-17</b>	SHF Mission Trip
<b>June 21-23</b>	VBS, 9 a.m. to noon
<b>July 23</b>	Garage Sale

### Confirmation Sunday April 24

Our Confirmation Class has been working hard all year long learning all about our faith, and now is the time for them to officially join the church. Come support them in worship on Sunday, April 24 as they take their vows of membership. A reception in their honor is planned for 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend! \*Confirmands will rehearse on Wednesday, April 20 at 6:00 p.m. Meet in Fellowship Hall.

### We need VBS Volunteers

Your time and talents will make a monumental difference! Find details on the back page.



Heather Berry  
Director of  
Christian Education



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

**CE Committee Moderator:** Matt Kahler

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

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



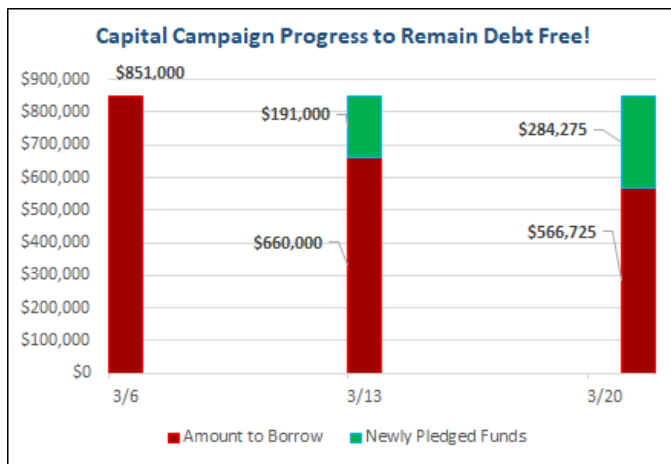
## The View from My Office

### Update from the Capital Campaign & Building Design Committee

It was a pleasure to be at our congregational lunch on March 13. The Building Design Committee updated our members who were present on the current scope of the new building addition and renovation of Fellowship Hall.

It is sensational to know what we will be able to accomplish as we work through this phase of the project. Keeping members informed will always be a priority and the committee strives to be transparent with implementation of the project as well as the cuts that on hold for budgetary purposes.

The Capital Campaign Committee sent a mailing to members to explain where we are financially with our current pledges as well as gifts already deposited. John Morey clarified that with an additional 16% in pledged giving that we may be able to fulfill the construction project debt free.



I do like the sound of debt-free. John encouraged folks in his age group to consider using the Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA to make a tax-free gift to the church. John also encouraged folks with appreciated stock to consider donating that stock to the church, again with a tax savings to the member.

If you have questions concerning how this best be accomplished for your personal affairs, you are encouraged to speak with your accountant or tax adviser. Questions may also be directed to John or myself.

Yes, we are asking everyone to become part of the solution. Prayerfully consider your opportunity to pledge an additional amount. Terms are flexible and one-time gifts are always accepted.

Thank you to everyone who is helping make this expansion and renovation a reality. Thank you to members of these committees who have worked to make it possible. I look forward to breaking ground this summer for our new front door!

### Building & Grounds

For several years, B&G has been monitoring the furnace and AC units for the original wing of our church. Three new furnaces and AC units have been installed by MMC that regulates the air flow and temperature in the Fellowship Hall, kitchen, and lower-level elementary classrooms.

Originally, this was part of the Fellowship Hall Renovation expenses but thankfully B&G found another way to carry out the new high efficiency units.

The kitchen stove and convection stack oven are scheduled to be installed the last week of March. This is a welcome improvement to our kitchen area. Chef Nickie is excited to have the new convection stack oven to use for our larger events.

Rock Sumner  
Business  
Administrator



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rock@pcoc.us

**Finance Committee Moderator:**  
Sam Rennick

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

**Reminder**

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

**Discover the Power of Prayer**

Find prayer request cards in the pews. Just complete the card on Sunday and leave in the offering plate. Or, you can use our easy online form on the announcements page of the church website. Prayer requests are confidential and shared only with members of the prayer team.

**Prayer Team Coordinators:**

Julie Buehler and Judy Arms



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

# Thank You!



Dear Friends,

A very big **THANK YOU** for your generous gift and all the cards and kind words I received from all of you on my retirement. Those two words don't quite seem enough to let you know how much it means to me. I appreciate so much your kindness to me.

I will miss working at Church of the Cross and all the wonderful people I have had the opportunity to meet and work with. This job has been a big part of my life for a long time and I can honestly say I loved this job.



I wish everyone well and God bless you for your kindness to me.

*Julie Hansen*

Thank you to our church family for expressions of concern through prayers, cards, emails, and calls after my fall and subsequent shoulder replacement surgery. Special thanks to Pastor Christine for comforting telephone calls. I may never have a great pitching arm, but I will be ready for some right-handed hugs soon!

God bless you all,

*Cora Conner*

Dear Friends,

Heartfelt thanks for the caring and healing prayers when I had broken wrist surgery after a recent fall. The beautiful chancel floral arrangement given by Don and Sharon Ingel in memory of loved ones is deeply appreciated and brightened my day.

Special thanks to dear Pastor Christine for her telephone calls and to delightful Deacon Cindy Rieke for delivering the flowers.

*Blessings, Gerry Reid*



The Deacons would like to thank everyone who donated blood at our Red Cross Blood Drive on March 6. In total, 21 pints were donated. The generosity of this congregation never ceases! Special thanks to Peg Hiles, Sally Hansen, Bidong Tot, and Matt Karges for organizing this event.

The Deacons sent 39 gift cards to young adults in our church for Valentine's Day. It's a great way to reach out and offer support to them.

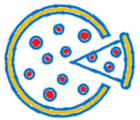
Our next event is the Senior Recognition Brunch on May 1. We look forward to honoring the graduates and their families!

Deacons	
<b>Moderator</b> Pam Swenson	<b>Home Meals Coordinator</b> Kathy Moore
<b>Secretary</b> Kim Banat	<b>Prayer Shawls Information</b> Pam Swenson
<b>Treasurer</b> Danny Whitlow	<b>PieceMakers</b> Karen Morey Linda Miller
<b>Funeral Meals</b> Pam Swenson	



Our halls are filled with activity throughout the week. Find a fellowship group that is right for you and get involved!

## CROSS ROADS



**Sunday, April 3:** Cross Roads will meet after late service on Sunday, April 3. This is a monthly lunch gathering of young adults (ages 20-40) on the first Sunday of the month after late worship. Meet at the circle drive doors. We will get pizza, have a sermon talk-back, and enjoy fellowship. This group will be planning a mission trip this summer, too — Find details on the back page.  
**Coordinator: Rev. Christine Dempsey**



**Sundays April 3, 10, & 24:** Live a life of faith at college and stay connected with church friends! College Bible Study meets every Sunday at 8:00 p.m. on Zoom. Meeting ID: 861 0569 0844 Passcode: 045719 Note: no meeting on Easter.  
**Coordinator: Rev. Christine Dempsey**



## Music & Movement

**Mondays, April 4, 11, 18, 25 & Thursdays April 7, 14, 21, 28:** Join Music and Movement and stay active, healthy, and happy! Singing sessions between classes are currently on hold. Vaccinations should be completed and you should also be boosted; at this point, masks are optional. Please wear comfortable shoes with support for your moving about, and you will need your own water bottle, weights, and cords for your use only. There are some cords and weights to lend out, but we are not sharing equipment at this point. Questions? Betty Baddley.  
**Coordinator: Betty Baddley**

## Tai Chi

Tai Chi meets at 10 a.m. on Mondays and Thursdays in the Great Room. Masks are optional. Drop in if you'd like to attend a class. Contact Paula Allen with questions.  
**Coordinator: Paula Allen**



**Tuesday, April 5:** Our 49ers speaker for Tuesday, April 5, 2022, is Wayne Beal, Household Hazardous Waste Supervisor for UnderTheSink HHW Collection Facility, City of Omaha - Environmental Quality Control Division. Some of the topics he plans to cover include the following:

- Be aware that you do have hazardous materials in your home.
- How to identify hazardous materials in and around your home.

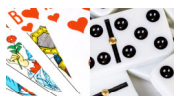




- How to properly manage hazardous materials before transporting to UnderTheSink.
- Things that go BOOM!!
- What happens to materials after they are brought to UnderTheSink?
- Types and quantities of materials we process each year.
- He will also do a "hands on, show and tell" presentation.

The lunch location is Gorat's, 4917 Center Street, at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you are 49, younger or older, come join us! We will order from a special menu. For reservations or questions, please contact Mary Ott or Judy Sundberg. Or, sign up at the Information Center.

**Coordinators: Judy Sundberg & Mary Ott**



ACTIVE  
MINDS

**Tuesdays, April 5, 12, 19, & 26:** Active Minds fellowship will continue to play Canasta until the end of April. Our patient teachers can help you learn this card game of strategy and teamwork. Drop in when your schedule allows. Tuesdays, 2-4 pm. Lower level Great Room. Bring your own water in a closed container. Mask wearing is determined by the people at your table.

**Coordinator: Earlene Uhrig**



**Thursday, April 7:** Presbyterian Women Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, April 7 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 15. The April lesson on Mary will be led by Carolyn Will from the book "What My Grandmothers Taught Me."

**Coordinator: Cindy Nisley**



Friday Night Gourmets

**Friday, April 8:** Friday Night Gourmets will meet on Friday, April 8, 2022 at Jerico's (11732 West Dodge Road). Cocktails are at 6:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Janet Wallace and Janice Steffa are your hosts for this month. Contact Janet or Janice with your questions. Sign up by April 3 at the Information Center in the Narthex.

**Coordinators: Curt Field & Launie Lambert**



**Saturday, April 10:** Tables for Eight deadline to register for the Spring/Summer session (May, June, July and August) is April 10. New participants (couples or singles) are always welcome to join this fellowship opportunity as "regulars" or "substitutes." This is a way to share a meal and become better acquainted with others in the congregation. Details on how "Tables for Eight" works are on the registration form, which is available at the Information Desk. You can also find it on the church website. If you are currently in a group, you will be assigned to a new group; however if you wish to become a "sub" or cannot participate next session, please notify Pam.

**Coordinator: Pam Otto**



PCOC  
Book  
Group

**Wednesday, April 13:** Join the PCOC Book Group in Room 13 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. We will be discussing "The Unexpected Spy" by Nancy Walder. Note, the group is meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month for April only. All readers are welcome!

**Coordinator: June Fettig**

**Presbyterian  
Men**

No updates to share for April. **Coordinator: Jon Boomgaarden**

**Membership Committee Moderator:**  
Pam Otto

**Congregational Life Committee Moderator:**  
Kristin Jacobi



### Amazing Response to Help Ukraine

Our congregation donated \$7,748 for humanitarian relief for Ukraine, and our Mission committee provide another \$3000 in matching funds. The total of \$10,748 was sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to support their efforts in providing emergency aid such as food items, shelter, medicines, diapers, and hygiene items. This was the largest donation we have ever made to a PDA effort. Thank you for your generosity!

If you'd like to contribute further, donations can be made directly to PDA in the following ways:

- Online at <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000156/>
- By phone at (800) 872-3283
- By texting PDAUKR to 41444
- By mail — make checks payable to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. with "DR000156-Ukraine" on the memo line. Mail to:  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

### Praying for Our Friends in Gnozdo

For all of us, watching the invasion of Ukraine is shocking and heart-wrenching, and we are equally concerned about the effect of this crisis on the citizens of Russia – and especially on our long-time friends in Church of the Cross’s partner church in Gnozdo, a small town on the outskirts of Smolensk.



**Mission Committee Moderator:**  
Karen Morey

Many of us have visited the church over the thirteen years of our partnership; we have worshiped with them, stayed in their homes, marveled at their hospitality, and participated in their ministry and outreach. We have developed close personal relationships with these kind, generous, and deeply faithful brothers and sisters in Christ.

We have been in contact several times in the past two weeks and know that our friends are grief-stricken over the suffering of their friends and relatives in Ukraine. They are in shock that this has happened, and are afraid of where it will lead as they become more and more isolated from the rest of the world; they are losing jobs, struggling to buy food, and have fewer ways to communicate with us.

They encourage us to continue to pray for them and for the Ukrainians, who are all victims in this conflict. While we are unable to be with them in person, please hold this community of faith in your prayers.

### Pinwheels for Prevention Event on April 3

Presbyterian Church of the Cross will once again be a host site for Project Harmony’s “Pinwheels for Prevention” Event. This event which helps to bring awareness to the issue of child abuse by displaying pinwheels in a visible area is held annually at host sites in the area. More information can be found at <https://projectharmony.com/events/pinwheels-for-prevention/>. A representative of Project Harmony will speak at our monthly “Minute for Mission” during services on Sunday, April 3.



Following each service, the Mission Committee and church leadership invite those who are able to pick up a blue pinwheel as you exit the south church entrance and plant it along our front walkway and main entryway flowerbed. Volunteers will be there to provide directions. In this way, we can do our small part to bring awareness to this very important issue!



## Teacher Appreciation

Mission hosted Teacher Appreciation Luncheons for Walnut Hill Elementary and International Learning Program at Saratoga Elementary in March. The ILP event on March 3 was attended by 27 educators. The Walnut Hill Elementary School lunch on March 9 was attended by over 30 of their staff. Each was served a catered lunch and dessert and given a \$20 gift card as a thank you for all they do. At the event Principal Nicole Longlee presented us with a beautiful backlit sign with the PCOC emblem as a thank you for the luncheons, back to school supplies, winter clothes, and self-directed funds support PCOC provides each year.



## Habitat for Humanity PCOC 2022 Build Day

Presbyterian Church of the Cross will hold a Habitat for Humanity build service day on Saturday, May 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. To allow for construction team planning, registration will close one week prior to our build. We have been allotted 10 volunteer slots, with a waitlist for more. Learn more and register at <https://cerv.is/0119gnxaDTN>

- Register individually. If all slots are filled, please register to the wait list.
- Information on dress code, age restrictions, and more can be found online.
- A friendly reminder before build day will be sent via the email used to register along with the build site address and other important details two days prior to our shift.

Please contact H4H Mission Coordinator Rob Bailey with any questions or Garrett Ross, H4H Volunteer Manager at 402-979-5816 for registration issues.



**Siena Francis House**  
Servers Needed  
Sunday, April 10  
4:00 to 6:30 p.m.

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

## News from Agape for All

With love in our hearts we can joyfully grow in understanding and outreach. Agape for All - really a mindset we all share.

**Our Church Library.** We've added more inspiring and challenging social justice literature. For the full list, visit our PCOC web page. We are up to 50 books and will soon welcome the following additions:

- Willies, Egberto: *How to Talk to your Right-Wing Relatives, Friends, and Neighbors*
  - Payne, Tim and Tamara: *The Dead Are Arising*
  - TuTu, Desmond and Dalai Lama: *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*
- Ann Pearson will create a short synopsis of each book she reads for your consideration.

**Exploring Matthew 25.** Kathy Moore and Patty Ritchie attended a wonderful meeting with new friends at First Presbyterian Church in Omaha. We wanted to learn more about their Matthew 25 Team, started about 4 years ago, when our Presbytery began the Initiative. Uplifted by the dedication of our own church's Mission outreach, we know PCOC already heeds this scripture. Watch for more news about Matthew 25 discussions. We are grateful to be in a church that is actively caring for others.

**Poetry Night.** March 18 was a very memorable evening of insight and sharing. Making time to listen to a variety of perspectives and conversing with sincerity and openness helped all of us stretch our minds and souls.

**What's Cookin'** Our Cornerstone open dinner table conversation is on "pause" until fall. Share your thoughts for filling the interim with Kathy Moore or Patty Ritchie.

## Pantry Sunday is April 17

Bring your food and hygiene items to church to support the Heartland Hope Mission pantry! Find the list of most needed items on the church website.



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  
April 15, 2022**



*Spruce-Up for  
Spring!*



**Saturday, April 23  
9 to 11 a.m.**

We'll start with donuts  
and then tidy up the  
church grounds!

Cross Currents

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published monthly by the  
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## Vacation Bible School Needs YOU!

Our goal is to share God's monumental greatness with 75 kids at VBS on June 21-23. Come on adults – we need YOU to make this happen! We simply cannot provide this outreach program without lots of adult volunteers. We still have many more spots to fill. Registration will begin once our volunteer spots are filled. Contact Heather to see how YOU can serve!



## Young Adult Mission Retreat

Back by popular demand, we will have a young adult mission trip June 23-26. Our homebase will be at Camp Calvin Crest, and we will do mission projects in Fremont and Omaha. Plan on joining us for this wonderful extended weekend. Questions? Contact Pastor Christine. Online registration coming soon.



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**Church Office:** For general church information/requests/inquiries, contact 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

For Cross Currents and Bulletin announcements, church website updates, Zoom meeting invites, or other communications needs, please contact Gayle.

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