

Spring Spotlight on Our PCOC Youth

We welcomed the 2022 Confirmation class into membership on April 24. Get to know this great group of young new members by reading about them on pages 9 and 10. Pictured left to right below: Ada Lewis, Franny Bartling, Cadence Fritz, Kendall Kahler, Maren Fuller, Brady Luke, and Lucah Sekle.

Throughout their studies this year, the class discussed that practicing our faith includes taking care of those in need. Each week, they collected an offering to be used for charity. They donated their funds to support Ukrainian refugees. See page 11 to learn how PDA is using donations for Ukraine to provide relief.

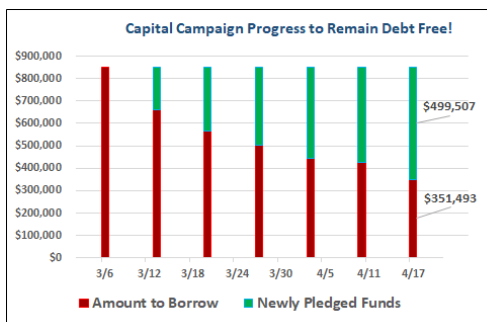


Youth Sunday is May 1. We will have a single service at 11:10 a.m. This one-of-a-kind service is presented entirely by our youth, from scripture to liturgical readings to music to senior faith talks. To celebrate our graduating seniors, the Deacons will host a senior brunch for graduates and their families at 10:00 a.m. that day in Fellowship Hall.

Building Update & All Church Lunch on May 1

The problem with printing updates about our capital campaign is that they are outdated by the time you read them. That's actually great news because we are moving closer to our fundraising goal each day!

Join us for an all-church lunch on May 1 after our single 11:10 a.m. service to hear a final capital campaign presentation before we begin construction. You'll learn about the final scope, revised costs, and timelines for the project. Find the details on page 6.



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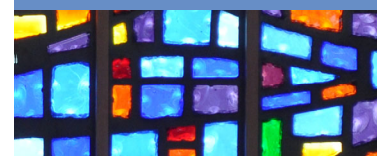
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Is Today Your Day?

Here is a statement I quoted last May, as we cautiously began to resume our regular routine:

“As we gradually emerge from the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, we are all searching for who God is calling us to be and what God is urging us to do in a new season as the church. That search necessarily involves experimentation, change, risk, energy, intelligence, and imagination...”

And so, we held outdoor worship throughout the summer, we kept social distancing, we zoomed, and we offered communion and collected our offerings in new ways.

Now, a year later, we are still experimenting and imagining as we return to more in person activities and inch towards our new normal – still searching for who and what God is calling us to be and do together.

I write this on the day after Easter. We have held 6 worship services in the past 8 days, and you have filled our sanctuary again and again. Our music department has shouldered the load, providing us with varied and powerful worship experiences. We have felt the Psalms, gathered around the Lord’s Table on his last night with his disciples and watched him die on Calvary. We have witnessed the empty tomb and heard him call our names.

Now we enter the season of Easter-tide, where we experience the waves of Easter rolling over us as we re-live the joy of his continual presence with us. Where will he show up next? Where will we see him next?

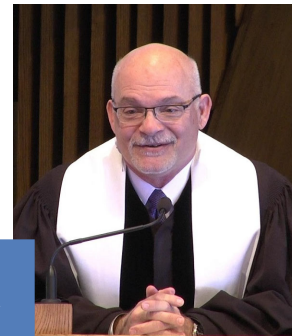
The Bible says that for a period of 40 days Jesus appeared to his disciples and to various groups and individuals. This 40 day period has always held a special fascination for me. I suppose that people never got used to that! I also wonder if some folks then began to expect him to show up again and again. After the 40 days, Christ ascended back to heaven and folks knew they wouldn’t see him anymore, but what must those 40 days have been like? What would their level of expectancy have been, just wondering if today was the day he would appear to you or show up at your house?

I still believe that Christ appears, it’s just in different ways, through his Spirit. We will celebrate that next month on Pentecost, but for these next 40 days, let’s live with the notion that our living Savior loves to show up, to manifest himself in our presence. What if today is your day?

Wishing you a meaningful Easter-tide!

Your pastor
and friend,

Marshall Zieman



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God of grace and peace,
 in Jesus Christ you stand among us
 as a sign of healing, hope, and joy
 in our fearful, wounded world.
 Fill us with your Holy Spirit
 so that we may have faith and life
 through Christ, our risen Savior.

~
 A Prayer for the Second Sunday in Easter
 provided by PCUSA
 Based on John 20:19-31

Find Peace in Prayer

Prayer request cards are located in the pew racks on Sunday. Complete the card and leave it in the offering plate or drop it in the office.. 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.

The Transformation of Confirmation

It is an honor today to celebrate the confirmation of seven of our amazing young people. I have been blessed to work with them on Wednesday evenings this past year where we have shared our highs and lows, studied the tenets of our faith, and shared the challenges of being a youth of faith today. Sometimes we think of confirmation as a rite of passage or as another box to mark off in our youth to-do list. However, I like to think of confirmation as much more important than that, for in confirmation we begin the process of claiming our faith and understanding how it will shape our lives. Throughout the year, we spend time thinking about how we are molded by the church, and how this informs us to respond in love and compassion to others. Oh, I wish you could hear their gentle souls and their kind voices. It is such a celebration!

I have many memories from this year's confirmation class. Every week we started by sharing our highs and lows. I was reminded of those joys in my own youth from a day off of school to a weekend filled with a soccer game. I remembered the stress of a test on the horizon or the set back of a sprained wrist due to a sports injury. What struck me as different from my experience is that these young people are living in the midst of a world bereft by pandemic and war. This generation lives in a world with collective anxiety. They balance the nuances of their immediate reality with this harsh world, and it is a world they access immediately. So, our Wednesdays are really special! They gave us a chance to breathe and envision a world where peace and hope reign.

What our confirmands have learned is that our church is a community of Christian love. It is a place where we care for each other despite our shortcomings, and we celebrate each other's gifts. My favorite class this year was when we went to the church basement, turned off the lights and, by the flame of a candle, shared affirmations. There is nothing so amazing than seeking out what is good in one another and how we see God working through each other. Our confirmands had a glimpse of what the world might be like if we could practice affirming one another and treating each other with the loving kindness of Christ Jesus.

It was wonderful to watch our confirmands as they learned about how God is calling them to be God's witnesses in word and deed in this world. Perhaps their experience should remind us all to examine how God is working in our lives. As I reflect on this year, I am reminded of Paul in his letter to the Romans who wrote, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2) Friends, be transformed, be renewed, and be in celebration for God is at work.



Grace and peace,

Christine

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christine@pcoc.us

Introduction to the Protestant Reformation

Join Pastor Christine as she leads a new class on Sundays, May 1 – May 22 at 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. Visit the church website to sign up!



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.



Sign Up for 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.



Music & Message on the Go

Music is an essential and vibrant part of worship at Presbyterian Church of the Cross. Our traditional worship services offer liturgy-based anthems, hymns, and spiritual songs in many different styles and genres.



Each week, a musical selection from the Sunday service is featured in our church podcast along with the pastor's scripture reading and sermon. Each podcast episode is about 20 minutes long, and it is a great way to revisit the weekly message and reflect while listening to fantastic music. Download and listen in your car, on a walk, or anywhere else you find yourself in need of a little inspiration. On "big music" Sundays for Advent and Palm Sunday, the podcast is longer to include our featured music. You can find the podcast on Spotify or on the church website service pages.



Vesper Concerts Announcing 2022/ 2023 Season Soon

Thank you all for supporting our 2021/2022 season. We'll be making a big announcement in the coming weeks about next season's exciting lineup. Make sure you are on our email and mailing lists to receive the latest updates. And visit our website, www.vesperconcerts.org, often to keep up with the



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:
Jayne Frederickson



Fun at the Easter Egg Hunt

Sunshine, a cool breeze, lots and lots of eggs, and the sound of children laughing. You can't get much better than that! Thank you to the youth and leaders that helped stuff and hide the eggs (about 2,500!), facilitate crafts, and clean up after this event. You're "eggstra" awesome!



Youth Mission Trip Parent Meetings



Sunday, May 15
JHF – 4:45 p.m.
SHF – 5:30 p.m.

Join me in Fellowship Hall for your youth's meeting. We'll go over the itinerary and answer any questions you may have. At least one parent from each family should attend.

Vacation Bible School

Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead. Register Online Now!

June 21-23 (Tues-Thurs)
9 a.m. to noon
4 yrs to 5th grade
(completed)



Special Thank You to CE Volunteers

Many thanks to our Sunday School Teachers, Shepherds, Cornerstone Staff, Youth Advisors, Advent Workshop Leaders and Helpers, Christmas Pageant Director, Confirmation Mentors, Vacation Bible School Leaders and Helpers, Lenten Study

Important Dates

May 1	Youth Sunday/Senior Brunch
May 15	CE Recognition Sunday
	Sunday School ends
	Mission Trip Parent Meetings
June 3-5	JHF Mission Trip
June 12-17	SHF Mission Trip
June 21-23	VBS, 9 a.m. to noon
July 23	Garage Sale

Facilitators, and The Christian Education Committee. There are far too many to name, but all have had an important role in the success of our Christian Education programs this past year.

These folks have given their time, energy, and commitment to this area of ministry. They willingly come back, week after week, with the hope that they will make a difference in the lives of our children, youth, and adults. On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the work you are doing. Your efforts do matter, and you ARE making a difference! Thank you for being committed to the ministry that you are serving in. Please join us for a reception in your honor on May 15 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

8th Annual Garage Sale July 23

The Senior High youth will once again have a garage sale as their main mission trip fundraiser. Please donate items for the sale. We also need many volunteers to organize the merchandise. Find the 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

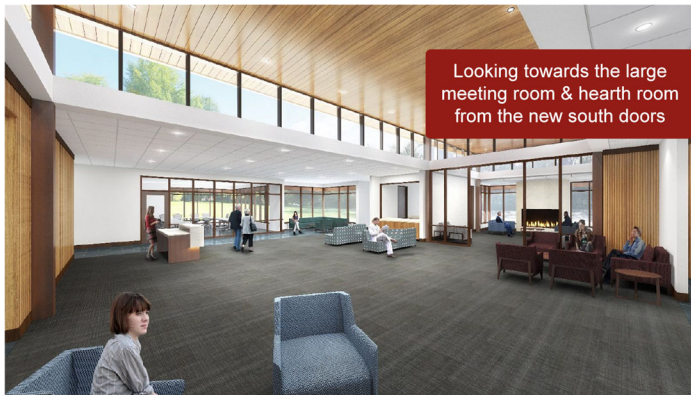
Capital Campaign & Building Design Committee

Congregational Life has offered to help host the upcoming All Church Luncheon on May 1, following the late service. A sack lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall, and everyone is encouraged to attend. The Building Design Committee will present the project that will proceed with construction.

Our heritage provides clues to our past and how our church as evolved. It is important to note that the church is not simply a building, it is our members, our ministry activities, and our missions.

There is a connection between the past and the future. The combination of decisions made and events that have occurred in the past will have an effect on what happens in the future.

The majority of us don't really take time to consider that history is a constant and succinctly we are making history each day.



Thank you to everyone who is helping make this expansion and renovation a reality. Thank you to members of the Capital Campaign and Building Design committees who work to make it possible. And thank you to our members, many of who are not with us today, who made decisions and supported those decisions financially to bring us to where we are today.

As the Capital Campaign Committee is actively raising these additional funds, the Building Design Committee has been working directly with the architect, contractor at risk, and session on our final costs.

Our church plans to celebrate Pentecost on June 5. The Pancake Man will be serving lunch with Con-

gregational Life. Our Groundbreaking Ceremony may be celebrated that day, too.

It is vitally important that each of us realizes the significance of this day. Over six decades ago, members of Church of the Cross had the first Groundbreaking Ceremony. There are photos on the wall in Fellowship Hall.

We enjoy looking back through the photo albums at our church's heritage. We are creating history each day with our actions, and we hope six decades from now people will appreciate our efforts.



Building & Grounds

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare our landscaped areas for the growing season and for cutting and hauling many limbs from our east tree line. Enjoy your summer!

Rock Sumner
Business
Administrator



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

Finance Committee Moderator:
Sam Rennick

Building and Grounds Committee Moderator: John Stalnaker



- 5/1 Rob Bailey,
Jerry Cornett,
Duncan Koch,
Jean Lynn
- 5/2 Liam Dempsey, Adrian Hinz, Marian Lewis,
Lucah Sekle, Anne Wattles
- 5/3 Kevin Bunjer, Jimmy Downes, Doug Gollehon,
Ben Miller, Mary Ann Pederson,
Sherryl Shannon
- 5/4 Peyton Holubeck
- 5/5 Jerry Bland, Twink DeRoin, Chuck Frenk,
Bud Miles, Joan Sacco, Don Sievers
- 5/6 Laura Innes, Josh McFadden, Susan Price
- 5/8 Elizabeth Darling
- 5/9 Sandy Buda, Brinly Lehmann
- 5/10 Catherine Brady, Brooklynn Evers,
Pat Hoisington
- 5/11 Ally Hopp, Morgan Koch, Bobbi Swedlund,
Robert Wright
- 5/12 Finn Mooney, Ethel Pauba
- 5/13 Betty Baddley, Mark Brady, Carl Greiner,
Bill Steele
- 5/14 Kylie Berry, Kendall Kahler



- 5/15 Jillian Obregon, Michael Shannon
- 5/16 Irene Astleford, Jim Butler, Shawn Smith
- 5/18 Daniel Florent
- 5/19 Nancy Nicas, Carolyn Will
- 5/20 Genevieve Ebert, Paul Stiles, David Thorson
- 5/22 Ben Fritz, Jenny Koch, Gary Lynn
- 5/23 Phyllis Armstrong, Marlys Boyum,
Peter Broderick
- 5/24 Daley Gibson, Beverly Neal
- 5/25 Owen Rock, Patti Sparks, Scotlyn Thorson
- 5/26 Maggie Ebert, Patty Hindman, Don Jones,
Matt Kahler, Inga Wagner
- 5/27 Elaine Holdren, Camille Koch
- 5/30 Heather McIntyre-Haas, Don Thorson
- 5/31 Laura Fortner, Becca Whitlow



Kate and Joe Trapp
April 1, 2022

Reminder

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



DEACONS UPDATES

The Board of Deacons continues to be hard at work fulfilling its duties as a caregiving branch of the lay ministry. Our efforts include mailing birthday, sympathy, and thinking of you cards to our neighborhood groups. We have once again begun hospital visitations and delivering of flowers gifted to the church from church services. Home meal deliveries to those with illnesses or surgeries have been ongoing throughout the pandemic.

Deacons with Easter bags (from left): Mary Beth Gust, Ginger Peterson -Britt, Sally Hansen, Meg Whaley, Tina Morgan, and Becky Ziemann



We love our senior church members at Presbyterian Church of the Cross and want them to know we are thinking of them throughout the Easter season. In April, members of the Board of Deacons prepared and delivered approximately 50 Easter treat bags to them, just to let them know how important they are to preserving the legacy of the Presbyterian Church of the Cross.

On Sunday, May 1, members of the Board of Deacons will honor our high school seniors and their families at a recognition brunch to be held between church services. Congratulations to our graduates and we look forward to learning what plans you have made for your futures.

Deacons

Moderator
Pam Swenson

Secretary
Kim Banat

Treasurer Danny
Whitlow

Funeral Meals
Pam Swenson

**Home Meals
Coordinator**
Kathy Moore

**Prayer Shawls
Information**
Pam Swenson

PieceMakers
Karen Morey
Linda Miller



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

Congregational Life Committee Moderator:

Kristin Jacobi

Music & Movement and Tai Chi Every Monday & Thursday in the Great Room:

No classes on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30.

- Music and Movement meets at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. to stay active, healthy, and happy! Vaccinations should be completed, and you should also be boosted. Masks are optional. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring 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. **Music & Movement Coordinator: Betty Baddley**
- Tai Chi meets at 10 a.m. Masks are optional. Drop in if you'd like to attend a class. **Tai Chi Coordinator: Paula Allen**

49ers on Tuesday, May 3:

Our speaker for May is associate pastor Rev. Christine Dempsey, Ph.D. This is our chance to get “up close and personal” with Christine and ask her questions about the adventure leading her to where she is today. The lunch location is Gorat’s, 4917 Center Street, at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome – whether you are 49, younger, or older! For reservations or questions, contact the coordinators, or sign up at the Information Center. **Coordinators: Judy Sundberg & Mary Ott**



Active Minds on Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24:

Active Minds will play 10-point Pitch and a couple variations. The game is a derivative of the English “All Fours” dating back to the 17th century. It is called “Pitch” because the dealer “pitches” 3 cards at a time in the initial deal. Hope you can join us for one or more Tuesdays in May from 2-4 p.m. in the lower level. We can teach you how to play, or you can help us teach a couple variations! Leave a message for Earlene if you have questions. **Coordinator: Earlene Uhrig**

Presbyterian Men: No updates to share for May.

Coordinator: Jon Boomgaarden

Presbyterian Women on Thursday, May 5:

Presbyterian Women Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, May 5 at 10:30 am in Fellowship Hall. The May lesson, led by Jacquie Kluck, summarizes our studies from the book “What My Grandmothers Taught Me.” Afterward, we will have a potluck salad luncheon. **Coordinator: Cindy Nisley**

Friday Night Gourmets on Friday, May 13:

Friday Night Gourmets will dine at Casio’s Steakhouse, 1620 S. 10th St. Cocktails are at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m. Hosts are Susan and Matt Price, Nancy Koehler, Kim Banat, and Betty Goodwin. Please sign up by May 11. Questions? Contact Nancy Koehler, Kim Banat, or Susan Price. **Group Coordinators: Curt Field & Launie Lambert**

Tables for Eight: This fellowship group is starting the Spring/Summer session (May, June, July and August). If you have questions about your group assignments, please contact Pam Otto. **Coordinator: Pam Otto**

PCOC Book Group on Wednesday, May 18:

Join the Book Group in Room 13 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. We will be discussing “The Dictionary of Lost Words” by Pip Williams. All readers are welcome! **Coordinator: June Fettig**

College Bible Study on Sundays May 1, 8, 15:

Note this schedule may change based on finals and end of the semester. Live a life of faith at college and stay connected with church friends! College Bible Study meets Sunday at 8:00 p.m. on Zoom. Meeting ID: 861 0569 0844 Passcode: 045719 **Coordinator: Rev. Christine Dempsey 402-333-7466**

Cross Roads on Sunday, May 22: This group for young adults (ages 20-40) will meet this month on May 22, so our college students who are



returning home can join the fun. Meet at the circle drive doors after late service. We will go for pizza, have a sermon talkback, and discuss our summer mission plans. Sign up online for the mission weekend happening June 23-26. **Questions? Contact Rev. Christine Dempsey.**



Meet the 2022 Confirmation Class

(pictured on front page)

Cadence Fritz: Cadence, daughter of Jon and Carla Fritz, attends Kiewit Middle School and next year will be a student at Millard North High School. As a student, she participates in show choir and track and enjoys studying history. In the past she played the violin. As a confirmand, Cadence enjoyed bonding with others in our church her own age and all she learned in the class helped her realize how much she cares about her beliefs and religion. Because of Covid, she has not had the opportunity to go on a “real” mission trip, but has volunteered in Omaha and notes how good it feels to help others in need. Cadence participates in JHF, and assists with children’s choir, Sunday School, and the Christmas play, all of which are good preparation to becoming a teacher, perhaps for special ed students. Cadence could be described as energetic, hard working and kind. Her mentor is Haley Allen-Mendick.

Maren Fuller: In her future, Maren hopes to become a veterinarian, so it follows that she has five pets: two cats and 3 dogs. At Bennington Middle School she is in regular and jazz band, both of which she will continue at Bennington High School. History is her favorite class. Maren has been a competitive gymnast for nine years, where her favorite part of gymnastics is the floor event. At PCOC, her favorite part of confirmation class was being an acolyte. She attends Sunday School and looks forward to future mission trips. Confirmation class helped her understand more about God and strengthened her faith. She wants to be more involved in the church in the future. In addition to school, church, and gymnastics, Maren likes to draw and fish. Friends describe her as kind, caring and loyal. Teachers appreciate her because she pays attention in class. Her mother is Valerie Fuller, and her mentor is Ann Pearson.

Ada Lewis: Ada is currently a student at Beveridge Middle School and next year will attend high school at Burke. She likes studying science and participates in drama and sports. As a high school student, Ada will be active in drama and wants to find ways to help other students in need. Ada has a well-planned path of attending college and reaching a career as a physical therapist assistant, planning to work in high school and college, perhaps at Target. Her plans include getting a pet cat. Ada has interest in music and plays the violin, the piano and drums. She likes children and can see herself helping in the nursery, per-

haps reading stories and helping with arts and crafts. In the confirmand class, Ada learned that people perceive God differently. For her, God is comforting. Scott and Lisa Lewis are her parents, and her church mentor was Holly Baddley.

Brady Luke: Brady is the son of Brian and Lisa Luke. His future plans include an interest in something related to the computer sciences, so it is no surprise that he is good with technology and hopes to participate next year in the computer science club. This year he is in art club, so a career in graphic design may be considered. Connecting with other kids his age was a favorite part of confirmation class and he would have like it to meet more than once a week. Mission trips also helped him learn that God can be anywhere and is with everyone and is always there for him. Brady is caring, passionate and spirit-lifting. He notices when others are having a bad day and makes them feel better. Seeing the big picture is a strength, and he strives to see the good in things, especially people. Additionally, Brady plays video games, plays basketball, listens to music, and enjoys art. Don Metzger is his mentor.

Lucah Sekle: This year, Lucah attends Elkhorn Grandview Middle School and next fall will go to high school at Elkhorn North. He likes being active, so as a high school student, Lucah plans to participate in soccer and basketball. Lucah is also very energetic, so when weather permits and it is warm out, he likes to spend his time outside most of the day. If it is cold, he enjoys computer games. His favorite school subjects are math and science, but also is knowledgeable about computers. In confirmation class, Lucah learned much more about what faith is about and what it can be. He helped serve desserts at the Advent dinner and is interested in helping with the Trunk or Treat. Because of his interest in sports, he would like to be in professional sports, but if not he will invest into a business. Lucah is the son of Euloge and Abby Sekle. His church confirmation mentor was Rob Bailey.

Kendall Kahler: Kendall, daughter of Christina and Matt Kahler, attends Russell Middle School and plans to attend Skutt Catholic High School next year. As a student, Kendall enjoys studying social studies and is on the honor roll. She also competes in dance at Fusion Dance Omaha. She is funny and hardworking, according to her friends and teachers. At PCOC, Kendall is involved in the Kids choir, Junior High Fellowship, mission trips, Christmas



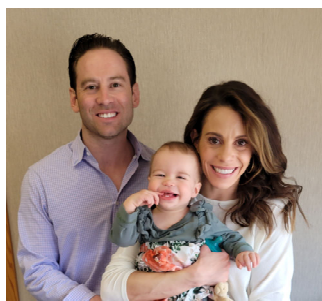
pageant, and helped at the Advent Dinner. On her mission trips, she learned that she likes to help the community. In confirmation class, she enjoyed learning about the church and the different parts of the Bible. Kendall plans to go to a university and become an interior designer. Her confirmation mentor was her grandmother, Barbara Stuedemann.

Francesca Bartling: Franny is a freshman at Westside High School. She enjoys English, Spanish, and Art because she likes to read and write and communicate with people in Spanish. Her art class allows her to express herself. She volunteers for a special needs art class at Westside. She loves to dance! She takes ballet, lyrical, and contemporary dance lessons at On Pointe Dance Centre and finds it very relaxing. Franny loves learning about Jesus' life and learning the history behind Bible stories. She has enjoyed getting to know more kids at PCOC. She served desserts at the Advent dinner. Her faith is very important to her. She plans to pray every day and attend church as much as she can. She has learned she can put her trust in God and her faith will carry her through the difficult times in her life. Franny is the daughter of Jennifer Ulrich and Peder Bartling and the granddaughter of Inga Wagner. Her confirmation mentor was Brenda Graumann.

Welcome to More New Members

Dan and Molly Florent.

Dan and Molly were wanting to join a Protestant church. After visiting churches in their neighborhood, they felt Church of the Cross was a good fit for them and their baby daughter, Lena, who just turned one. Dan was born in Rockford, Illinois and grew up on a farm in Marengo, Illinois. Molly was born and raised in Omaha. Fourteen years ago, Dan came to Omaha to work at Gavilon as a trader of agricultural commodities. Molly is a pre-op/recovery room nurse at Nebraska Medicine. Baby Lena keeps them quite busy as do their two Labrador Retrievers. In their spare time, Dan enjoys fishing, and Molly teaches yoga and enjoys running. We welcome the Florent family to our church family.



Doug Wells. Doug was baptized at Church of the Cross, and in the seventies he was confirmed. One recent Sunday he stopped by the Information Desk and reconnected with Kathy Nickel who remembered him. He returned to the States after an overseas career, is now retired and resides in Ashland Nebraska. He moved back to Nebraska to be closer to family. He is a part-time naturalist for the Nebraska Game and Parks Division and is a volunteer fishing instructor. His hobbies are music, where he was an Assistant Children's Choir Director at a former church, fishing, hunting, and traveling throughout the United States. He is divorced and has a son, Harry, who is in high school. We welcome Doug back to PCOC!



Rodney and Cheryl Whorlow. Please welcome Rodney and Cheryl to Church of the Cross. They both stated the first time they stepped into PCOC for Sunday worship they were welcomed and felt very comfortable. They said it was obvious the preaching and teaching were Bible based, and prayer was practical and encouraging. Currently they've been attending Tuesday Bible Study thanks to the invitation by their friend Irene Astleford. Rodney and Cheryl were born and raised in Fremont, Nebraska and have lived in Omaha for approximately 50 years. Employment brought them to Omaha and now they are enjoying the retired life. They have a daughter who lives in Elkhorn. Rodney enjoys yard work and sports, and Cheryl enjoys crocheting. We are pleased they chose PCOC as their new church home.



Next New Member Class

If you know someone interested in joining the church, please have them contact the church office. Our next new member class is scheduled for July 10, 2022 after late service

Membership Committee Moderator: Pam Otto



New Refugee Resettlement Mission

Have you been moved by the on-going refugee crises and want to take action? Our PCOC Mission Committee is partnering with Lutheran Family Services to provide supplies for 1,000 refugees from various nations who will be settling in Nebraska in the next year. We will collect bathroom supplies in the Narthex on May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.

Specific Needs:

- Shower curtains – new or nearly new
- Shower curtain rings
- Bathtub mats – new or nearly new
- Toilet paper
- Towels – new or nearly new
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Disinfectant wipes
- Paper towels & toilet paper
- Sponges
- Scrub brushes
- Brooms & mops
- Cleaning sprays



If you would like to help with this (or any future) refugee project, contact Jeanne Smay, Dawn Buchanan, or Paula Allen.



Agape for All Meeting on May 12

Join us at 7 p.m. at
Kathy & Craig Moore's house.

Habitat for Humanity Build on May 7

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sign up online from church website home page.
Contact Rob Bailey with questions.

Prayer Vigil on May 15

Your prayers for all Ukrainians, for the refugees, for the partners, and the whole situation are very important! Our mission co-worker, Ellen Smith, has just returned from visiting partners in Poland, the Czech Republic, and Germany. The need for housing for the refugees is great, but Ellen is encouraged by how much people are providing direct help and supporting one another.

We will hear more from Ellen and from Pastor Jessica Derise with the Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy at a prayer vigil on Sunday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. The Zoom information will be sent via church email that week.

Pantry Sunday is May 15!



Mission Committee Moderator:

Karen Morey

How PDA Uses Donations for Ukraine

Our congregation gave over \$14,000 in donations to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) relief for Ukraine. We've received many questions about how the funds will be used, so we are providing these answers to commonly asked questions from the PDA website.

What exactly are you doing? At this time, we are in the emergency response phase. This means primarily supporting refugees in transit (Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ukraine in addition to refugees who have crossed borders) with food, hygiene items, potable water, baby supplies, first aid, psychosocial support and more. Our partners on the ground have shared that they anticipate this crisis to require mid-term and long-term response, so the needs will change over time. For the most up to date information, visit www.pcusa.org/PDA/Ukraine.

Who are your partners & where are they working? At this time, our partners include Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, Friends of Community of St. Egidio, International Orthodox Christian Charities and, through ACT Alliance: Hungarian Interchurch Aid and Lutheran World Federation. Our partners work alongside regionally and locally based congregations and agencies in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Romania. We will expand our response to include additional partners in other countries as the situation develops.

How much of my donation is used for administrative costs? 17% of designated gifts are allocated for PCUSA operational services. The remaining 83% goes directly to the emergency response, in this case to organizations working directly with those fleeing Ukraine.



Serve Dinner at Siena Francis House
Sunday, May 8 from 4:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Sign up on church website home page.
Contact Sandi Stuckey with questions.

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

May 20, 2022



The wooden cross in the Sanctuary for Holy Week and Easter was made by Lloyd Meyer.



Cross Currents

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8th Annual Garage Sale Is July 23

Now is the time to start setting aside treasures for our sale. We will begin collecting donations on July 10. Please keep your items until then.



There are several ways you can help:

- Donate your gently used items (clean, in working condition, unbroken) – furniture, toys, sporting equipment, household goods, children and baby items, and clothing/shoes (no t-shirts). **We cannot accept liquids, tires, mattresses, tube tv's, VHS players/tapes.**
- Donate hangers and plastic bags.
- Volunteer to help! Pick a day/time to help with sorting, organizing, and pricing. The work begins July 11 and goes until July 22, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. or 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Come to the garage sale on July 23 and buy something!

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

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