

And So It Begins!

Our ceremonial groundbreaking on Pentecost Sunday has now given way to an actual groundbreaking in mid-July. Our East Lawn is now the place for trenching and digging as new electrical lines are laid. Our church building will be closed on July 27 and 28 for the power to be switched from our old system to a new one. **POSTPONED** The building phase of our Building Project is now underway!

“Pardon Our Dust” will be our theme for the foreseeable future, including closing the south parking lot sometime in August. A new connector road will be laid between our north and south parking lots to allow for the construction trucks to make their way in and out of our campus. “Flexibility” will be our new watchword from now on as each week will bring new challenges and adjustments to our scheduled activities. We intend to bring you updates both in the Friday emails and in the Sunday bulletins.



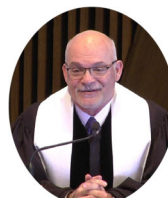
The Bible says it took King Solomon 7 years to build the Temple, the house of the Lord (1 Kings 6:37). We trust it will not take us that long to complete our new Welcome Center and improvements to our facility, but the project will result in constant change as its many steps are accomplished. Let's be praying for extra wisdom (and patience) as the project develops and continues.

May the rest of your summer be a time of rest and renewal as we look forward to a busy and productive fall. We hope to resume all of our regular programs at full speed.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement, all summer long and all year round!

Your pastor and friend,

Marshall Zieman



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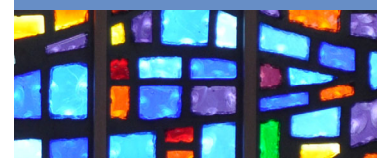
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Today, I am celebrating our young adult ministry here at Church of the Cross. During the past two years, we have been building a Sunday lunch group, a college Bible study on Zoom, and a yearly young adult mission trip. We have just recently returned from our mission weekend in Fremont, Nebraska. We worked hard; we laughed harder. Our trip centered around the parable of the Prodigal Son. We focused on the celebration of coming home and compared how our coming home experience compares and differs to that of the prodigal son. All my young people realize that their lives are significantly different since they went to college, but when they return here to Church of the Cross, they come home to a family with open arms.

We launched our ministry out of the sacred ground of Camp Calvin Crest. If you have been to Calvin Crest, you know exactly what I mean. If you have not been there, I recommend that you go, hike around, and listen for God's voice. This space renews our spirits and strengthens our bonds. From here, we did all kinds of work in the community of Fremont.



First, we volunteered at the Fremont Summer Lunch program which serves about 250 school age kids a day. We played with the kids for the day enjoying the parks of Fremont. From there, we returned to Calvin Crest and assisted with clearing the low-hanging branches on the Frisbee golf Course.

On day two, we volunteered at Thriftology, a thrift store owned by the Life House which serves those in need in the Fremont community. Back at camp, we assembled hygiene bags for our own Heartland Hope mission. On day three, we did a variety of tasks at one of the Fremont Habitat for Humanity homes, and on our fourth day, we worshipped with

our sisters and brothers in Christ at the Fremont Presbyterian Church and assisted with their food drive. We provided around 200 volunteer hours in four days.

What I love about this long weekend is not just the service we can provide but the renewal of friendships with our church family. What I have learned from our young adults over the past few years is that they have endured a world of COVID-19 which not only took away some of their important life experience as young adults but also changed their mindset about a world that they assumed was ready to welcome them. Instead, they have lived in a space where laughter is rare and trust almost non-existent. This weekend experience renews both. During this weekend, our young adults are reminded of God's hope, of our Christian bonds of friendship and the real joy of serving and laughing together.

One of the projects that we worked on at camp was our direction board – one of those homemade signposts that shows how far away one is from home. They each made an arrow, but in their case, each arrow will show us how far away they are from us as they attend school. This direction sign is to remind us that our young adults need our prayers and our support, and it is to remind them that they are rooted in this congregation, this family of love. When you see it in the next few weeks read the names and keep our wonderful young adults of this congregation in your hearts and prayers



Grace and peace,

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

If you are a young adult and do not have a direction arrow, please let Pastor Christine know.





The View from My Office

ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

OK, I admit it! I am super excited about the actual beginning of our construction project and renovation of Fellowship Hall! Just this morning the Deacon volunteer crew was here, and I stood there for a moment wondering what it will look like with windows on our east wall.

And then I looked south out the Fellowship Hall windows and wondered what it will look like when the new Welcome Center, Hearth Room, and Classroom 16 are ready to use.

I am pleased to be a small part of this endeavor for our future as Christians preparing for tomorrow.

On July 27 & 28, the contractor will be updating how the electricity, telephone, and internet enter our building. Old infrastructure will be replaced, and lines may need to be buried underground in a new path.

Building Closed

POSTPONED 28



major electrical upgrade related to the building project

During this time, there will be NO electricity in the building. All computers, our server, boilers, air-handlers, and telephone systems will be shut down early. There will be no activities in the building during this time. Staff will be working from home on these two days.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

B&G has been helping prepare Classroom 3 to share with our contractor, MCL. A new lock has been added to the hallway door and the outside door lock had a bit of maintenance performed to make it easier to key.

B&G has also had a new wire run to enhance our Wi-Fi coverage in the lower-level classrooms. This will be beneficial to conducting business for the next 15 months but will also be wonderful for each of us as we use the facility.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Monday Morning Kitchen Crews! Before COVID-19, we had an active volunteer group that helped clean and restock our kitchen area each week. Many of these teams have aged out. Since we have been meeting in-person Cindy & Ken Nisley or I have been completing this function each week. I am grateful for their continued support.

We need four other teams. Usually, two or three people work together washing the coffee hour cups and serving trays, cleaning up counters or the refrigerator as needed, and restocking supplies. Generally, it is approximately one hour per week. Contact Rock in the church office if you'd like to volunteer for this helpful ministry.

MID-YEAR STATEMENTS

At the end of June, I emailed statements. Please take a moment to review so that corrections can be made now if necessary.

If you do not receive your statement by email and would prefer a printed copy, simply contact me in the office and I will print it off for you.

Again, it is just a way to keep your giving current and correct as we move through the year, and I appreciate everyone who has called to help make this possible this 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



Summer Choir

Sing With Us on August 7

Summer Choir is an opportunity for ALL AGES to sing together. We had a wonderful group that gathered the morning of July 10. If you missed your opportunity to join us then, you have another opportunity on August 7. Join Alleluia Singers at 9:00 in the choir room to rehearse music for the 10:00 service.

This is a wonderful time to invite that beautiful voice you've heard behind you in the congregation, to maybe try choir on for size if you've been thinking about it for a while, or to invite your out-of-town guests to sing with you while they're visiting. It's a fun time for everyone!

Adult Choir Rehearsals Begin on August 27

Ready for another year of singing great music to enhance our worship? Alleluia and Chamber Singers will begin rehearsals on Wednesday night, August 27. Chamber Singers rehearsal is at 5:30 and Alleluia Singers is at 6:30. Both rehearsals take place in the choir room. We are always looking for new singers! Please contact Kristi if you'd like more information.



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 -



Vacation Bible School Was Monumental!

This year at VBS, 41 children and 35 volunteers learned that God loves us no matter what, God is with us everywhere, and God is stronger than anything. We sure had a fun time celebrating God's greatness!

In addition to having fun, the kids learned that it's important to help others by supporting a mission project. This year we chose to support Sunflower of Peace, which is a nonprofit organization with a mission to mobilize support and aid for Ukrainian orphans, internally displaced persons, and those most affected by the current situation by providing medical assistance and other necessities. You can learn more about this organization at: www.sunflowerofpeace.com. In just three days, our kids raised \$213.43 for this organization!

By Thursday we were all happy to celebrate our last day of VBS with the End of VBS Celebration and Lunch. It always amazes me how quickly the



children learn the songs and dance moves! They did a great job! And it was so nice to see fellowship hall packed with families enjoying lunch.

A huge round of applause goes out to all the volunteers that worked before, during, and after VBS. YOU are amazing!



THANK YOU!!!

Important Dates to Remember

August 21	SHF Car Wash, 11 a.m.
September 11	Sunday School begins
September 14	Cornerstone begins

SHF Mission Trip at Heartland Camp in Parkville, Missouri

Another great SHF mission trip is in the books! Here are some stats from our week:

- 11 youth
- 4 adults
- 6 days, 5 nights
- 564 miles driven
- 105* daily heat index
- 5,000 ft. of deck stained
- 2,300 lbs. of cabinets moved
- 30,000 lbs. of firewood split, hauled, and stacked
- 150 lbs. of wood cut for chimineas
- 20 benches stained
- 8 signs painted
- 4 grills painted
- 1 whole gazebo stained
- 28 lights installed on light poles
- Buckets and buckets of sweat
- 1 very sweet farm dog named Finn
- Tons of great memories



The staff at Heartland Camp was very impressed with our group's work ethic and even asked us back! You know you've done a good job when they ask you back!

Thank you to all the youth for working so hard that very hot and sunny week. And thank you to the leaders who kept everyone on task and in good spirits: Ethan Bennett, Susan Price, and David Berry.



Our Seniors delivered with their theme day attire. We're going to miss these "Things!"

SHF CAR WASH – August 21

Drive by the north entrance after church on Sunday, August 21 and let the SHF clean your car. Make sure your car is nice and dirty! The youth will make it shine like the top of the Chrysler Building! Donations will go towards next year's mission trip.



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



OUR CHURCH FAMILY



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Danny Whitlow,
Beth Broderick, Lisa Luke,
Sarah Price</p> <p>2 Cheryl Whorlow</p> <p>3 Martha Wallace, Diane Kort</p> <p>4 Judy Arms, George Morgan,
Simon Kerr</p> <p>5 Ethan Bennett, Patty Ritchie, Camden Berry,
Deb Hanson</p> <p>6 Jean Brady, Campbell Windrum,
Hudson Windrum</p> <p>7 Carolyn Millar</p> <p>8 Noah Sekle, Lily Fortner, Michael Pflueger,
Beau Schiessler</p> <p>9 Ken Lundgren, Cora Conner, Joe Weaver,
Kathryn Vint</p> <p>10 Katie Weber, Emma Kalkwarf, Michael Tot,
Rusty Vanneman</p> <p>11 Jeannette Heese, Jovann Lawson-Betum</p> <p>12 Don Metzger, Kristi Treu, Heather Anderson</p> <p>13 Shawn Harrison, Kate Hoybook, Ada Lewis,
Don Jelinek</p> <p>14 Faythe Harrison, Betty Stevens, Janet Clemens</p> <p>15 Pat McNeal</p> <p>16 Sally Bekins, Karen Morey, Beth Sargent,
Carole Engelmann, Matt Ellis</p> <p>17 Wally Stern, Burnice Sladek, Bob Rieke,
Kevin Polzin, Mitch Woods</p> <p>19 Bettie Atkinson, Karen Miller, Enyo Ayika
Marilyn Corum, Sharon Walsh</p> <p>20 Maurice Conner</p> <p>21 Reva Knightly, Loren Johnson,
Donovan Buda, Susan Barger</p> | <p>22 Kristine Goodman, Joan Mulder,
Lowell Wilhite, Gary Marron, Sheri Sessions,
John Baddley, Linda Grohs, Laurie Kerr</p> <p>23 Roy Willis</p> <p>24 Jillian Bunjer, Stephanie Becker,
Jennifer Story</p> <p>25 Mary Lynn Bennett, Debbie McMullen,
Bill Ritchie, Tim Zimmerman,</p> <p>26 Brentleigh Bowen, Virginia Wilson</p> <p>27 Sue Gollehon, Bruce Cramer, Harry Payne,
Gage Maxwell, Michele Francis-Stine,
Kris Bailey</p> <p>28 Loren Davelaar, Robert Seiler, Myles Bunjer,
Casey Ballou, Joyce Jeffries</p> <p>29 Emily Brantz, Christy Davey, Brian Luke,
Greyson Grady</p> <p>31 Mike Boettcher, Curt Field, Meredith Bailey</p> |
|--|--|

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

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

Contact Julie Buehler or Judy Arms



AGAPE FOR ALL

Summer Events and Invitations

On August 7, you're invited to worship at Salem Baptist, 3131 Lake Street, 10 a.m. to noon. Masks required. Meet in our PCOC north parking lot at 9:15am to car pool. Dress up a bit. More details when you RSVP to Patty Ritchie.

Agape Book Review By Keith Allen

I picked up "Black Girl Unlimited" by Echo Brown, from the PCOC library on Sunday. I was intrigued by the black author because she grew up in rundown East Cleveland, where Paula and I first lived after getting married, so some of her references are quite

familiar. I started it Sunday afternoon and finished it last night. Wow. Just terrific. It is autobiography combined with allegory. I laughed, cried, cringed, learned. And now I understand just a little bit better.

I swiped this summary from Kirkus Reviews, because I cannot say it better, "Readers learn what it's like to persist despite hopelessness, survive in a world propelled by oppressive and exploitative systems, and cope with feelings of connection and disconnect."



STAY TUNED for our fall plans and a report from Kathy Moore, Stacy Voss, and Anna Sumner about the time on the civil rights tour.



Find the 49ers at a New Location Starting Tuesday, August 2



Our speaker for Tuesday, August 2, 2022, will be Stu Pospisil from the Omaha World Herald. He plans to talk about his sports career and his Omaha history spinoffs. Please note: Our lunch location has changed! We shall meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at WHEATFIELDS, 1224 South 103rd Street (One Pacific Place). We shall have the Garden Room as our own SPECIAL place. Everyone is welcome - whether 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. Sign up at the Information Center desk. **Coordinators: Judy Sundberg & Mary Ott**

Get Back in the Game with Active Minds on Tuesdays in August

Active Minds will resume in August. We meet in the lower level on Tuesday afternoons from 2-4. Please bring your own water and enjoy a very relaxed fellowship time. August will be a choice month for each table: Canasta, 10-point pitch, or Somerset. We can teach you to play any of these games! Come to Active Minds in August and learn how to play on Tuesdays on the lower level from 2-4 p.m. **Coordinator: Earlene Uhrig**



Remember to Sign Up for Tables for Eight by August 10

Register now for the Fall Session (September, October, November, and December). New participants (couples or singles) are definitely welcome to join this fellowship opportunity. You can choose to be a "regular" or a "substitute".

For the upcoming Fall Session, current "regular" members are automatically assigned to a new group and "substitutes" will remain on that list unless you notify Pam Otto. Also if you dropped out the last session and want to return as a regular or substitute, please contact Pam by phone or email. **Coordinator: Pam Otto**

Stay Active with Tai Chi on Mondays & Thursdays All Summer

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**

Presbyterian Men's Annual Storm Chasers Baseball Game on August 4



Are you ready for some baseball?! Join us for the Omaha Storm Chasers vs. St. Paul Saints on August 4 at 7:05 p.m. at Werner Park. It's Thirsty" Thursday Military Appreciation + Dollar Beer. The cost is \$10.00 per ticket - sign up & pay at the Information Desk in the Narthex. Questions? Contact: Bruce Cramer



Love to Read? Join the Book Group on Wednesday, August 17

Join the PCOC Book Group in Room 13 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. We will be discussing *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave. All readers are welcome! **Coordinator: August Fettig**

Find a Group Today!

There is something for everyone at PCOC! In this newsletter, we've listed only the groups that are meeting in August, but some of our groups will still be on summer break. You can find a complete list of all our fellowship opportunities and coordinators on the church website.

<https://churchofthecrossomaha.org/fellowship-find/>

You can even submit an idea for a new group for the Congregational Life Committee to consider.

Congregational Life Committee Moderator:
Kristin Jacobi



On Sunday, July 10, we held one of our largest new member classes in recent months. We welcomed eight new members to Church of the Cross!

Committee Moderator:
Pam Otto



Carol Crawford

You may recognize Carol Crawford, who accompanied her Dad, Bryce Crawford, to the Groundbreaking Ceremony on June 5. Bryce is a charter member of PCOC, so Carol grew up in this church and was confirmed and married here. She moved back to Omaha two years ago after living thirty-three years in Ames, Iowa. One of her two sons lives in Omaha as well as other family members. Carol worked as a teacher's assistant in the public school system in Ames and retired after twenty-seven years of employment. In Omaha, she works part-time at Moore's Landscaping and Nursery. She enjoys walking, reading, and container gardening. Carol likes to attend arts festivals, performances at the Playhouse, and concert series in the parks. Please welcome Carol back to Church of the Cross.

Myrna Vasta

Myrna joined the Alleluia Singers almost a year ago and decided Church of the Cross was a good fit for her, and it was time to join. She loves the variety of musical offerings and felt genuine love and spirituality here. Myrna has been long time friends with several people from PCOC, and she listed Anne Pearson, Stan and Charlene Weyand, Bob Reiser, Curt Fields and Launie Lambert, and Bill and Patty Ritchie. Myrna was born in Wahoo, Nebraska and came to Omaha after high school to attend nursing school. She is retired but worked in CCU, PCU, and case management. Myrna has two sons, Sam and Paul. Sam and his wife, Cassie, and their son Leo, live in Shakopee, MN, and Paul lives in Elkhorn. She loves music, especially singing, and is fascinated by ancient history and considers herself a space and sci-fi geek. We're pleased that Myrna selected PCOC as her home church, and we welcome her.



Greg and Deb Hanson

Please welcome Greg and Deb Hanson to Church of the Cross. They reside in Fremont and said driving to Omaha for church is not a problem. Deb has known Dana Sloan from volunteer activities in Fremont and learned about PCOC through him, so thank you Dana! Deb said they visited several Presbyterian churches in the area and loved Marshall and Christine's sermons, the people were so friendly and the music was and is outstanding. She noted she was filled with hope and strength after attending in person worship and also enjoyed watching online. Greg is retired from Linweld/Matheson, and Deb is also retired and worked as a Volunteer Specialist at Fremont Methodist Hospital. Greg enjoys outdoor activities, photography, and travel. Deb enjoys reading, flower gardening, and travel. They have a son that lives in Omaha and have been guardians for Deb's special needs/disabled brother for the past 30 plus years. It's a pleasure to have them join our church family!



Nancy Anderson

Because of Nancy's involvement in Assistance League, she also knows quite a few people from church, Paula Allen, Linda Miller, Cheryl Bedell, Nancy Koehler, Mary Reid, Tanya Mitzel and Nancy Drews. She chose to join PCOC because of our traditional service and the wonderful music. Nancy was born in Columbus, Indiana, but has lived in Omaha for 20 years. She moved here to be near her daughter, but her daughter has since moved away. Nancy is retired but was a department store buyer and later was an office manager and bookkeeper. Besides being involved with Assistance League, she enjoys Bible Study Fellowship. Nancy enjoys reading, bridge, traveling and crocheting. Please welcome Nancy to Church of the Cross and make her feel at home.

Daniel, Laurie, and Simon Kerr

We have Gayle Kerr-McFadden and family to thank for inviting her brother Daniel and his family to visit Church of the Cross. We're happy they decided to become members. They are also acquainted with Amanda Stalnaker. Besides son Simon, who is joining as well, Daniel and Laurie have three younger children, Veronica, Kevin, and Charlotte. They were looking for a church that has a traditional worship service, a strong Christian education program, and is engaged in mission projects. Simon added he loves the musical aspect of the church and that is very important to him because he loves singing and listening to music. Daniel is an attorney, and Laurie is an ESU#3/Educational Consultant. Simon will be attending UNL this fall. They live in Gretna. We welcome the Kerr family and are pleased Church of the Cross fits their spiritual needs.



SPIRIT OF MISSION

Volunteer for AllPlay

The AllPlay Fall Season will run August 13-September 24. Presbyterian Church of the Cross is a sponsor of AllPlay. We provide several volunteers each week, but we need more. AllPlay needs 100+ Volunteers each game day to make the Miracle League the greatest experience for each player in every game. Little league teams, Girl and Boy Scout troops, youth groups, and school teams/clubs make great player buddies. Both the players and volunteers have a great time. Leaders sign up your group! Other volunteer roles include greeters, concession workers, umpires, game announcers, and special event helpers. Each session is approximately 2 hours. Please sign up on the church website!

Mission Committee Moderator:
Karen Morey



Sienna Francis House
Servers Needed
Sunday, August 14
4:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Sign up online on the church website

School Supply Drive Ends August 12

You still have time to bring school supplies to benefit Integrated Learning Program (ILP), Walnut Hill, Bancroft, and Sherman elementary schools. School supplies will be collected through Friday, August 12. For 2022, we've set a goal of collecting 125 back packs in addition to traditional school supplies. The collection boxes are just inside the circle drive doors and by the Information Desk in the Narthex. Drop off your school supplies on Sunday when you come to worship or anytime throughout the week. Thank you! Reach out to Amy Miller, John Bennett or Rob Bailey for more information.

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**Next Cross Currents Deadline is:
Third Friday of the month
August 19, 2022**



DEACONS UPDATE

Sending Love as Older Kids Venture Away from Home

The Deacons send cards and fun surprises several times a year to our 18 to 23-year-olds who are attending college or finding their independence after high school. The Deacons want them to always know that they have a church family who cares! If you are a parent of one of these individuals, please send your kid's name and new address (such as an upcoming college address) to the church office at churchofthecross@pcoc.us.



Questions? Contact Deacons Moderator Pam Swenson

Cross Currents

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

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