

Discerning the Future of Our Church

Our Search Process Kicks Off July 30

After bidding a fond farewell to Pastor Christine on July 2, our focus now turns to the search for our next Associate Pastor. The first thing we do is listen. To help accomplish this, the congregation is invited to attend and participate in a “Lunch and Learn” in Fellowship Hall after worship on July 30.

Who will we listen to? In this activity, we are invited to listen to God, to listen to each other, and even to listen to ourselves. What is God’s desire for our church? What type of pastoral leadership would be appropriate? These questions are the focus of our “Lunch and Learn.”

Two weeks prior to our event, Pam Otto spoke in our worship service, representing our Presbytery. Pam distributed “homework” to the congregation in preparation. We were given daily Scripture passages to read for the next two weeks, and we were asked to come on July 30 prepared to share the following two major questions:

What are the 3-5 Key Ideas about God’s desire for our church that I discerned as I prayerfully reflected on the Scriptures the past two weeks?

What are the 3-5 strongest ideas or impressions which I thought/felt about the kind of associate pastoral leadership our church needs in order to be the kind of church God wants us to be?

We will share our answers around tables with each other during the lunch. Our responses will be gathered and presented to the Session. Our church will submit a summary of our conclusions to the presbytery’s Commission On Mission, who will subsequently give Session the approval to form an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee – the ones who will search for our next Associate Pastor.



**Pastor/Head of Staff
Marshall Ziemann**
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Cornerstone and Fall Education Are Right Around the Corner!

Find details on page 5. Registration is now open!

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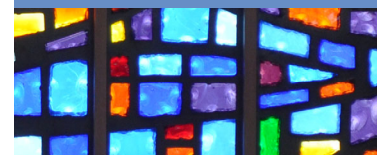
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The View from My Office

B&G SUMMER ACTIVITIES

We've been cleaning and weeding! More closets have been cleaned and reorganized recently. It is always rewarding to go through old supplies and decide what is worth keeping, worth donating, or simply worth throwing out!



More than a dozen years ago we finished the northeast wing of the church that includes the office area, classrooms, and the lower level Gathering Space and Great Room. We were fortunate to receive many supplies to help maintain the area moving forward.

Once again, we will receive many new items for the Welcome Center improvement and will be the recipient of many new items to use for maintenance moving forward. The Great Room closet houses many of these items, and it was good to see the area cleaned up and make room for the new supplies.

We feel great that we have been able to organize old and new supplies that will be useful in the years to come and accessible for use.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

The summer months have continued to be financially stable for our church. We have established new Charles Schwab accounts for our church investments. The Finance Committee now reviews our earnings monthly and can easily monitor our accounts online with up-to-date information.

We are currently in the final weeks for our construction project, and our committee is monitoring capital campaign balances and on going giving. Members who give monthly will continue for the next year or two.

However, the final bills will be due this fall. Thank you to everyone who has paid or are paying their pledges. We have short-term financing in place to help carry us through the end of construction as gifts continue.

CONGREGATIONAL HARMONY

Lunch & Learn is set for July 30 beginning after worship. Please take a moment to sign up online or at the Information Desk if you plan to attend. The Congregational Life Committee is catering this event for everyone from Jason's Deli. Your box lunch will be easy to pick up with your water bottle, so that we may begin the learning portion as quickly as possible.

Fancy Fellowship & Welcome for Mark Kanitz as our new organist is set for August 27 following worship. It is fancy because everyone is invited and encouraged to share a summer treat for the fellowship hour that morning. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet Mark and enjoy the scrumptious treats.

To learn more about Mark, please refer to Kristi's article on page 7.

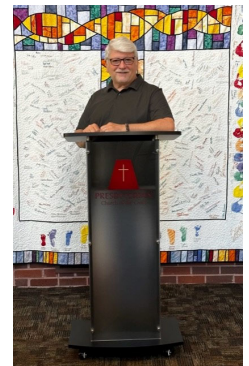
THANK YOU!

Recently, many members signed a card for me when my mother passed away this spring. It also came with a unbelievable gift to use for a memorial honoring my mom, Donna Sumner.

I decided on a podium that is on wheels and could easily be stored and then rolled out for use in the Welcome Center or Fellowship Hall.

I appreciate everyone's love and support. I hope that this podium will find value in our facility.

Again, thank you.



Rock Sumner
Business Administrator
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Finance Committee Moderator: Mimi Bauer

Building and Grounds Committee Moderator:
Casey Ballou

WELCOME CENTER UPDATE

KEEP OUR VISION FOCUSED Opening SOON!

FINAL WEEKS

The Welcome Center kitchenette looks wonderful. The cupboards, countertops, and appliances are all in place and ready to use. We've added a new coffee pot to brew coffee in the Welcome Center, and it is the same unit that is in our Fellowship Hall kitchen. This should make for easy brewing by members who host events.

The Information Desk will be rolled into the new area and will have flexible storage cabinets. There will be a display cabinet built into the wall for easy access to devotion books and pamphlets.

The new TV units and speakers are in place. If needed, someone could view the worship service from the Welcome Center live. New speakers are also in the Narthex's new ceiling and working as well.

Outside, one will see that the last of the roof work is being completed by the end of July, and the parking lot has been sealed and striped.

By mid-August, the new furniture will arrive and be ready for everyone to enjoy. Our new front door and new rooms will be enjoyed by many for years.



MONUMENT SIGN ON 114TH

We are having the 114th Street monument sign moved to the new entrance for the south parking

lot. It will be a new design and let our guests know where to enter and park for worship, funerals, weddings, Vesper Concerts, or other special events.

As I look around the community at other churches, I notice that there are fewer billboard information styles being used and today; simpler designs appear to be the wave of the future. Again, we often find that our first front door at Church of the Cross is found on our website. Many guests are checking us out online first before ever walking through the door and sitting in a pew.



NEW FELLOWSHIP HALL CEILING AND LIGHTS TO BE ADDED SOON

Another recent development has been from members giving additional funds to replace the Fellowship Hall ceiling and light fixtures. A new acoustical ceiling will be installed as the materials arrive. Recessed light fixtures and drum light fixtures will enhance and brighten up the area greatly. The Building Design Committee is excited about the possibility of adding this portion of the project back into the scope of improvements.

DEDICATION SUNDAY SET FOR SEPTEMBER 10 AFTER WORSHIP

Save the date! Plan to attend the dedication service following worship on September 10. Immediately following church, everyone will be invited into the Welcome Center for a Dedication Ceremony.

This is sure to be a meaningful event as we pray for the new area and plan how to use it regularly.



SHF Mission Trip

The Senior High Youth Group traveled to Camp Stronghold in Oregon, Illinois the last week of June. It was fun to revisit this camp, where our SHF group volunteered back in June of 2019. This was in fact, Ethan Bennett's (SHF leader) third trip to Camp Stronghold. A building for which we replaced the siding and painted back in 2019 was still looking good four years later.

During this trip, we built a 12 x 20 ft. wood and aluminum gazebo from start to finish. It was a huge task for our seven youth and four adult leaders. We got minimal help and guidance from the maintenance crew at the camp. We were pretty much on our own, but the instruction manual was very detailed. Thirty-four steps and about twenty hours later, we did it!



The camp staff was very appreciative and surprised that we completed this monumental task. They even joked that we should travel around the U.S. building gazebos! They told us to come back any time, which is a wonderful compliment and a testament to our group's work ethic.

We worked hard, but we played hard, too! While at camp, we spent time swimming, climbing up a telephone pole and jumping off it, and touring the castle (yes, you read that right). This camp has a real castle on its grounds! We touched a salvaged section of the Berlin wall, and we had fun at a nearby water park. So many great memories!



I am so proud of our youth; they continue to amaze me! A special THANK YOU goes out to the adult leaders that took a week of vacation from their jobs to lead this adventure – Ethan Bennett, Susan Price, and David Berry. This trip would not have been possible without them!

Senior High Car Wash August 27

Bring your dirty cars to church on Sunday, August 27, and plan to stop by the car wash station in the north parking lot to have your car cleaned by the SHF group! The

event begins immediately after worship and ends at 1:00 p.m. Donations will be accepted. All proceeds will go towards next year's mission trip. Thanks for your support!



Important Dates to Remember

August 6	Blessing of the Backpacks
August 19/20	Youth retreat at Calvin Crest
August 27	SHF Car Wash, 11 a.m.
August 30	Confirmand Parent Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
September 13	Cornerstone Begins
September 17	Sunday School Begins, Youth

Cornerstone

The fall semester of Cornerstone begins on Wednesday, September 13.

- Bible Study for children in Preschool – 7th Grade and two classes for adults (details below)
- Confirmation Class for 8th Graders.
- Choir for children in 1st Grade – 7th Grade and Adults
- Dinner for all

Register online by September 1, so we can plan for dinner and supplies.

God Saves a People

Led by Kirk Ryckman
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
September 13 – November 15

The theme we will tackle this fall is “God Saves a People.” There is no more central theme to our faith and our understanding of God’s caring for us than this. And this theme of salvation moves from the Old Testament to the New and then the life of the early church. It will trace the saving grace of God from the Exodus, the wanderings, and the Kingdom’s rise and fall, on to God’s new act of salvation through Jesus, into the early church. Follow the sweep of the story and marvel at the mighty acts of God yet today! This is the heart of understanding our relationship to God. It is well worth the time to study. Please join us. Suggested book donation is \$20

Dementia

Led by Carl Greiner and Steven Wengel
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
September 13, 20, 27

Dementia is an illness that can compromise memory, personality, and physical agility. The demographics of dementia are impressive: one in three seniors dies with Alzheimer’s. Currently,

there are six million American’s living with Alzheimer’s. It is anticipated that there will be 13 million by 2050. You have the opportunity to learn about this important disease. This course is designed for a general audience and will emphasize questions and answers.

It is not necessary to attend all the classes; each class has its own features. Attending the first class is particularly recommended.

- September 13: Alzheimer’s and other problems of memory
- September 20: Preventive measures that you can take to reduce risk
- September 27: Challenges for caregivers

Sunday Morning Adult Education**We Are Americans**

Led by Charlene Meyer & Earlene Uhrig
Sundays 9-10:30 a.m.
September 24 – November 5

PCOC members come from diverse personal backgrounds in both locations growing up and career strengths. We’ll explore how our ancestral diversity, faith diversity, and geographic diversity influenced our individual choices to become members of our caring PCOC community.

Can we meet the challenge offered by a Matt Skinner commentary and shared in Marshall’s May 28th sermon? Can we continue to grow as a beloved community that is united in purpose and identity? This seven-week adult course will have a unique timeframe, meeting from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. to allow necessary dialogue of the topics and still offer time for fellowship before attending the 11:10 a.m. service. Weekly video/reading homework required.

Albert Schweitzer – A Modern Saint

Led by Carl Greiner
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
October 22, 29 and November 5, 12

Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) was an accomplished organist, writer, musician, physician, and missionary. This class will review his autobiography *Out of My Life and Thought* and address two basic questions: How did he put his faith into practice? How did he put his faith into reflection? Suggested book donation is \$15/book.



Blessing of the Backpacks on August 6

All children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to church on August 6. Keep your backpacks with you until Marshall calls you forward during the service. You'll receive this fun keychain to attach to your backpack to remind you that Jesus is always with you.



Heather Berry
Director of Christian Education
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CE Committee Moderator: Jeremy Cunningham

JHF Leaders: Jeremy Cunningham, Julie Evers, Ashley Sherlock, and John Stalnaker

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

Art Camp 2023 – So Many Projects, So Little Time

On July 11-14, sixteen Art Campers generated great enthusiasm, creativity, mutual encouragement, and beautiful results. Campers and youth helpers created Polymer clay pens, cement turtle stepping stones, tape overlay Aspen tree canvases, origami pieces, black overlay alcohol cell canvases, acrylic template sponging, watercolor freeform, and tie-dyed pillowcases and t-shirts. All four mornings were filled with laughter, surprised results, and a couple of games of pick-up wiffle ball with pool noodles.



Our youth helpers Brynn Stalnaker, Max Justice, Brayden Clark, and Eliot Rector worked hard and added to the camp by inspiring, fetching needed supplies, creating the mini-golf course, constantly cleaning up “on aisle 9,” adding the protective coat on the turtles, and aiding the campers. These young people fill me with joy when they want to come back as helpers! Thank you, parents and grandparents, for sending them our way.

Adult helpers included Brentleigh Bowen, Betsy Conway, Mary Lynn Bennett, and Mary Ott. This year's guest artist was Origami expert Cindy Sloan. Thank You!!! I can't imagine attempting this dream of a kids' art camp without these amazing people.

- Sue Thomas



Meet Our New Staff Member

We are delighted to have Mark Kanitz join us as our new organist and accompanist for Alleluia and Chamber Singers.



Mark is originally from Wayne, NE. His father was a pastor, so Mark moved several times throughout his childhood, including to Fort Wayne, IN and Watertown, SD. Mark graduated from Concordia University in Seward, NE with an organ degree and an emphasis in parish music. He has previously served as the organist and director of music at churches in Wayne and Hastings.

Mark moved to Omaha in 2019 to start a local home décor business. He has since left that business and is currently the collaborative pianist at Liberty Middle School in the Millard school district.

Mark's hobbies and interests include running half-marathons, thrifting and garage sales, and traveling to New York City to take in Broadway shows. He also loves to accompany musicals for local high schools and community theaters, and he recently finished playing for the production of "Seussical" at the SumTur Amphitheater in Papillion.

When asked about his approach to organ playing, Mark said, "I have a passion for congregational hymn singing. One of the joys of being together every Sunday is singing as a community. You'll notice my passion for hymn playing and using the full range of the organ or piano to express the poetry of the hymns. Also, some beloved tunes we've sung hundreds of times need a new 'outfit' or new musical interpretation. So, we'll be dressing up the hymns in new ways. My hope is for you to find a deeper connection each week to the hundreds of songs in our purple pew hymnal."

Mark will officially begin his position as organist on August 13. There will be a welcome reception for him after the service on August 27 during Fancy Fellowship. Please take this opportunity to make Mark feel welcome and part of our PCOC family.

Our Organ Search Committee members deserve your thanks. Members include Jayne Frederickson,

Kate Morris, Sam Rennick, and Jean Lynn (Moderator), along with staff members Kristi and Marshall.

Join Alleluia Singers for Summer Choir — and Beyond

There is one more opportunity for you to sing with us for Summer Choir on August 13. Join us in the choir rehearsal room at 9:00 a.m. We'll rehearse a few simple (but beautiful) pieces to sing at the 10:00 worship service. This is a great time to try choir on for size without making a large time commitment. Please email Kristi Treu at kristi@pcoc.us to let her know you are coming.



Then, please consider joining Alleluia Singers for the next choir season. We'll begin weekly rehearsals in late August. This group is open to singers from high school to adults of all ages. We are a big family where there is always room for one more.



Did You Receive a Vesper Concerts Brochure?

Eastern European rhythms, New Orleans-style jazz, a classical string quartet, The Queen's Six...we have great things in store to mark our 35th season.

You can find all the information on our website, www.vesperconcerts.org. While you are there, be sure to sign up for our email newsletter list. Or, email Kristi at kristi@pcoc.us to have your address added to our direct mailing list.



Kristi Treu

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Worship & Music Committee Moderator:
Jayne Frederickson

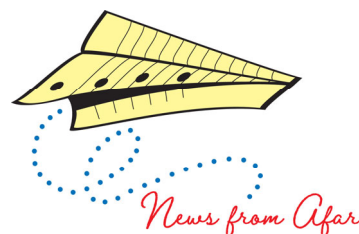


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| 8/1 | Beth Broderick, Lisa Luke, Sarah Price, Danny Whitlow |
| 8/2 | Cheryl Whorlow |
| 8/3 | Diane Kort, Martha Wallace |
| 8/4 | Judy Arms, Simon Kerr, George Morgan |
| 8/5 | Ethan Bennett, Camden Berry |
| 8/5 | Deb Hanson, Patty Ritchie, Myrna Vasta |
| 8/6 | Jean Brady, Campbell Windrum, Hudson Windrum |
| 8/7 | Carolyn Millar |
| 8/8 | Michael Pflueger, Beau Schiessler, Noah Sekle |
| 8/9 | Cora Conner, Ken Lundgren, Kathryn Vint, Joe Weaver |
| 8/10 | Emma Kalkwarf, Michael Tot, Rusty Vanneman |
| 8/11 | Jeannette Heese |
| 8/12 | Heather Anderson, Don Metzger, Kristi Treu |
| 8/13 | Shawn Harrison, Kate Hoybook, Don Jelinek, Ada Lewis |
| 8/14 | Janet Clemens, Faythe Harrison |
| 8/15 | Pat McNeal |
| 8/16 | Sally Bekins, Matt Ellis, Carole Engelmann, Karen Morey, Beth Sargent |
| 8/17 | Rich Hamilton, Brenda Hamilton, Bob Rieke, Burnice Sladek, Mitch Woods |
| 8/19 | Bettie Atkinson, Enyo Ayika, Marilyn Corum, Karen Miller, Sharon Walsh |
| 8/20 | Maurice Conner |
| 8/21 | Sue Barger, Donovan Buda, Loren Johnson, Reva Knightly |
| 8/22 | John Baddley, Kristine Goodman, Linda Grohs, Laurie Kerr, Gary Marron, Joan Mulder, Sheri Sessions, Lowell Wilhite |
| 8/24 | Jillian Bunjer |
| 8/25 | Mary Lynn Bennett, Debbie McMullen, Bill Ritchie, Tim Zimmerman |
| 8/26 | Brentleigh Bowen |
| 8/27 | Kris Bailey, Bruce Cramer, Michele Francis-Stine, Sue Gollehon, Gage Maxwell |
| 8/28 | Casey Ballou, Myles Bunjer, Loren Davelaar, Joyce Jeffries, Robert Seiler |
| 8/29 | Emily Brantz, Christy Davey, Greyson Grady, Brian Luke |
| 8/30 | Barrett Meyer |
| 8/31 | Meredith Bailey, Mike Boettcher, Curt Field |

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



Wally Stern passed away on July 4, 2023. He was a member of PCOC since 1969.



I enjoy getting *Cross Currents* and the FaceBook information. The building expansion must be wonderful! Things are moving forward for PCOC. I see many new names. Please give my love to the congregation.

Blessings,
Anne DeCosta

Rev. Nadia Mullen was unanimously accepted to serve as pastor for the Webster Presbyterian Church, Webster, NY on July 16, 2023.

Rev. Christine Dempsey is settled in Estes Park and has begun her new call. You may find her new contact information in the Shelby online directory.

Family Fun Day at Calvin Crest on August 19

You are invited to enjoy one of the last weekends of summer in the best way possible, by spending quality time with the people you love. Calvin Crest's Fun Day is perfect for families, friends, children, adults, community members and grandparents! The event offers activities for all ages including music, games, hikes, crafts, food and fellowship.

Congregational Life Committee Co-Moderators: Kathy Nickel & Stephanie Weaver

Fancy Fellowship & Welcome Reception for Mark Kanitz on August 27

The Congregational Life Committee would like to invite everyone to Fancy Fellowship on August 27. We will enjoy an extended coffee fellowship time as well as welcome our new organist Mark Kanitz to PCOC. We ask that everyone bring goodies to share. Please have food cut and ready to serve.

49ers on August 1

The Omaha Community Playhouse (OCP), the nation's largest community theater, has just embarked on its 99th season!!! Learn more about OCP and the new season from their Executive Director, Katie Broman. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m. at WHEATFIELDS, 1224 South 103rd Street (One Pacific Place) in the Garden Room - our own SPECIAL place. We order from a special menu. Everyone is welcome, whether you are 49, younger or older, come join us! For reservations or questions, please contact Mary Ott or Judy Sundberg. Or, you can sign up at the Information Center desk.

Active Minds Returns on August 1

Active Minds resumes on August 1. This fellowship group meets on Tuesday afternoons in the lower level Great Room, 2-4 p.m. This month we will be playing Canasta, so if you have a Canasta Basket please bring it along. New players are always welcome. We have very patient teachers that can help you whenever your schedule allows you to attend. Questions? Contact Earlene Uhrig. Hope you will join the fun and laughter.

August Tai Chi

Tai Chi meets at 10 a.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Drop in anytime if you'd like to attend a class. Please note the class will not meet on Thursday, August 3 or Monday, August 7. Questions? Contact Paula Allen.

Music and Movement Returns August 7

Time to get back to work, all you dear youngsters who took the month of July off for rest and relaxation! Music and Movement exercise classes resume on Monday, August 7 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. We meet every Monday and Thursday to

encourage and support each other as we stay active and healthy. I am looking forward to seeing you all and hearing your summer adventure stories, so let the music begin! If you have not been on the team before, come join our ensemble. We love having new people join our Music and Movement! Questions? Contact Betty Baddley.

"Tables for Eight" Fall Session

The deadline for registration for the fall session (September, October, November and December) is August 10. New participants (couples or singles) are definitely welcome to join this fellowship opportunity. You can choose to be a "regular" or a "substitute." Find questions and answers about "Tables for Eight" on the registration form, which is available at the Information Desk and on the church website.

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

Book Group on August 16

PCOC Book Group will meet Wednesday, August 16 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. to review *Women Rowing North* by Mary Pipher. All readers are welcome! Questions? Contact June Fettig.

GALS Event on August 25

Join the GALS for an evening of fellowship on Picnic Night at Soaring Wings Winery (17111 S 138th St, Springfield, NE 68059) on Friday, August 25 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Gates open at 6:00 p.m., and there is a \$5 cover charge. Bring a blanket, lawn chair, and picnic as we enjoy time together on their lawn with live music by the band Out Loud. The band plays a wide variety of music ranging from the 60's to current tunes. The winery does not allow outside alcohol on the property; however, they sell wine on the property. Sign up via Sign Up Genius.

Friday Night Gourmets Update

Friday Night Gourmets will return on September 8 at Farmer Brown's in Waterloo. Watch the bulletin and church emails for more information.



SPIRIT OF MISSION

Mission Committee Moderator:

Anne Wattles

Serve at Siena Francis House



Sign up to serve dinner at Siena Francis House on Sunday, August 13. from 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. Questions? Contact Keith Allen. Scan our QR code to sign up online

via the church website.

Fall AllPlay Season Starts Soon

Submitted by Sandi Stuckey

The next session of AllPlay begins August 12 and runs through September 16. AllPlay is composed of teams ages 3-young adults and adults with special needs. Each Saturday the teams play 2 innings of baseball starting on the half hour from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Over 100 volunteers are needed each week to give the ball players the very best experience on game day.

Opportunities such as greeting, concessions, umpire, game announcer and being a buddy for a two hour commitment are available. There are also special days and opportunities each Saturday.

At the end of the spring session, PCOC sponsored the family picnic meal featuring hotdogs, beans, chips and drinks for each player and family.

If you have questions about AllPlay, ask Cindy Garner, Sandi Stuckey, Anne Wattles, and Anna Flairty — they all are seasoned volunteers (pictured above Anna Flairty and Anne Wattles at the AllPlay grill.). If you'd like to volunteer, it is easy to sign up with AllPlay on our church website!



Thank you for volunteering to make each Saturday an incredible and memorable experience for the 350 players. Lets play ball!

HHM News & Volunteer Opportunities

Submitted by John Bennett

Heartland Hope Mission assists working poor families by providing them with some of life's most basic staples including: a week's supply of food, clothing, hygiene items, SNAP assistance, community referrals, and job resources. They also provide additional assistance at the holidays, providing groceries to prepare a full holiday meal for Thanksgiving and Christmas, as well as new toys for parents to take home and wrap for their children to open on Christmas. Heartland Hope Mission is a faith-based organization that also offers Bible studies and prayer.



Since June 2009, PCOC has partnered with HHM, delivering non-perishable grocery and hygiene items to them every month. We have also provided over 150 children's gifts each year for their Christmas celebration. We support them financially through our mission budget and with volunteers as one of our major mission partners.

This summer, our annual mission budget donation and your contributions have supported a \$75,000 match during their capital campaign. HHM is looking forward to an increased utilization of their West Omaha location this fall.

Volunteer Opportunity: On Saturday, September 23 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., we need 5 to 10 PCOC volunteers to help distribute pantry items, restock, and anything else they need us to do. Please contact John Bennett at if interested in assisting with this event.

We look forward to HHM providing a moment for mission during worship in September. Thank you for your continuing support of Heartland Hope Mission and their Christian ministry to our community.

Want to volunteer for a PCOC mission opportunity?

It's easy! Scan our QR code to access the PCOC online sign up page. Locate your mission event and sign up!



Agape for All - **Where All are Welcome to Learn and Listen** **Submitted by Patty Ritchie**

August 23 at 2 p.m.
UNO Undesign the Red Line Exhibit

What is redlining? Redlining can be defined as a discriminatory practice that consists of the systematic denial of services such as mortgages, insurance loans, and other financial services to residents of certain areas, based on their race or ethnicity. Even though redlining became an illegal practice in 1968, the systemic ramifications of redlining are still present.

On August 23, we'll meet in the lobby of the UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center (behind the Clock tower) at 1:45. We will then walk together to room 218. Our guided tour will last approximately 1 hour.

Parking is available in Lot E. Upon arrival, inform the parking attendant that you will attend the tour and park as directed.

To sign up, call or email Patty Ritchie. You can also sign up online or at the Information Desk in the Narthex. We can meet somewhere afterwards and have a snack to talk!

September 24, a 7-Week Adult Class,
"We are Americans"

A full description can be found with the Adult Education fall offerings on page 5. Direct your questions to Charlene Meyer or Earlene Uhrig.

September 10 from 3 to 6 p.m.
United We Walk

Following a successful inaugural year with 2,200+ participants, Tri-Faith Initiative is thrilled to host the second annual United We Walk fundraiser — a 1-mile loop around the Tri-Faith Commons (13136 Faith Plaza, Omaha, NE 68144) on Sunday, September 10. Donations during the event directly benefit Tri-Faith's mission of cultivating inclusive environments in our community that advance interfaith relationships and understanding.

As a major late summer event in the Omaha metro, United We Walk brings together people, businesses, and nonprofit partners to build trust and understanding in an enriching way.

From the event organizers: "Hatred and violence toward anyone in our community will never be tolerated; we are always stronger together. Form a team and bring banners, signs, t-shirts, etc. — whatever helps you proudly express the beauty of your affiliations, identities, and communities! This is your chance to show up and show out, Omaha! Let's make this year's walk one to remember."

If you are interested in being part of a Presbyterian Church of the Cross team, please sign up for this Agape event online on the church website. Email Kathy Moore if you have questions.

Black History Museum and Lunch

On the tour we took with Preston Love a year and a half ago, we ran out of time and couldn't visit the Black History Museum. We finally checked that off the Agape list on July 13. We were joined by some people from St. Luke United Methodist Church. That congregation has been on a similar journey of study, exploration, and action. We have served on a Courageous Conversation planning committee with their minister and a congregation member and have shared ideas about activities. They were happy to join us, and we may team up with them for other events in the future.

The museum was started in 1975 by Mrs. Bertha Calloway to be a resource for the community. This is a small, unique collection of North Omaha's history nestled in a neighborhood at 24th & Lake that is experiencing a significant amount of redevelopment and resurgence. Executive Director, Eric Ewing led our tour, and his wealth of knowledge about North Omaha's history brings the archived materials to life as he recounts stories and events. The military history, sports history, and sadly even Ku Klux Klan history are depicted strongly throughout the small museum. They also have a small library of racial justice books, and we secured another book for our library that you will be hearing about in the coming months.

A trip to North Omaha wouldn't be complete without a meal, and another delightful restaurant recently reopened just down the street from the museum. We had lunch at Jackson's Fair Deal Café which is now owned by C. J. Jackson. The breakfast/lunch menu has some good "down home" variety, and none of us went away hungry! This gave us a good opportunity to get acquainted with our Methodist friends and continue to share ideas and inspiration.

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**Next Cross Currents Deadline is:
Third Friday of the month
August 18, 2023**

† DEACON'S UPDATE

Submitted by Matt Kargas

It always seems like the warmth of summer seems to energize an already busy summer schedule with outdoor activities, well-deserved vacations, and family get-togethers. Amidst the busyness, I find it challenging to carve out moments of quiet. Even just a moment of silence before a meal or a quiet book at the end of the day can bring wonders to a drained soul and give opportunity to listen and reflect. As you take your moment of peace, I'd encourage you to consider ways of contributing and giving back to your church family. You can volunteer to make a meal for the Deacon Home Meal Committee, serve at a Church Luncheon, or even simply reach out to your neighborhood Deacon to ask how to contribute to your surrounding neighborhood.

Speaking of giving, the Deacon Fall Blood drive is next month on September 24. Be sure to mark your calendars. Sign up will begin at the beginning of September, and walk-ins are welcome. You can help us reach our goal of registering 25 donors! We'll have more information posted throughout the church over the coming month, and don't hesitate to reach out to your Deacon if you have questions.

Stay cool, church family!

Questions about Deacons?
Contact Deacons Moderator Neal Hubbard

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