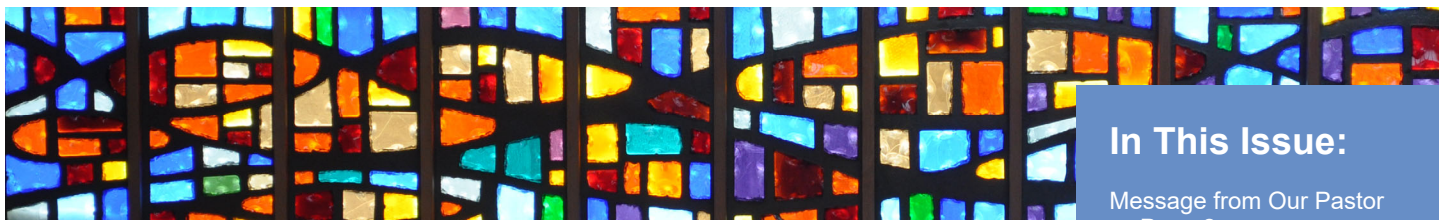




Cross Currents

Newsletter for February 2024



Welcome to Our New Elders & Deacons

The annual Congregational Meeting was held on January 28, 2024. Election of these church officers was held at that time.

Elders

Jeff Friesen
Laurie Kerr
Beth Maxwell
Don Metzger
Sue Meusey
Cindy Rieke
Earlene Uhrig
Kathryn Vint

Deacons

Paula Allen
Jane Burch
Larry Frederickson
Carla Fritz
Tim Jerry
Jacquie Kluck
Shanna Mathia
Patti Sparks

Nominating Committee

Rob Bailey
Dennis Boesen
Karen Saunders
Staci Voss
Ethan Bennett (alt.)
Kara Versaw (alt.)

Ash Wednesday — February 14

You're invited to a meaningful service with the imposition of ashes. The service will begin in the Sanctuary at 6:45 p.m. following Cornerstone dinner. The service will be livestreamed also.

2024 Lenten Study

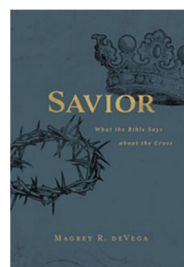
One of our most beloved churchwide activities is starting soon – The Lenten Study! Small groups will begin a 6-week study on February 18 and end on Palm Sunday, March 24. We'll be studying Magrey DeVega's book, *Savior, What the Bible Says about the Cross*.

In this book, DeVega guides us through images to achieve a richer understanding of the Christian faith. By exploring the mystery of salvation through the cross, we can deepen our love for God and others and strengthen our commitment to follow Jesus. Scan the QR code (right) to register online before February 1. Stop by the Information Desk in the Welcome Center on Sunday if you need help registering.

Our study groups will meet on the following days/times.

- Sundays at 10 a.m. at church
- Sundays at 10 a.m., geared towards choir members' schedules
- Sundays at 5 p.m. at the Nickel's home
- Mondays at 1:30 at the church
- Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom

You may purchase your own book or ask us to order one for you. The recommended donation is \$15. We hope you will join us!



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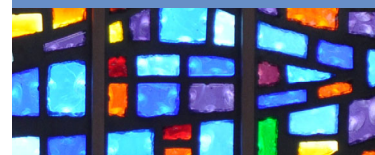
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**Presbyterian
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Back to Normal?

“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.” – Luke 2:20

I’ve always wondered what it was like for the shepherds to leave the manger and head back to their flocks.

They’ve just been terrified by seeing and hearing the heavenly host. They’ve hurried into town to search for a baby not in a crib, but in a cattle trough. They’ve bowed down and met face-to-face the newborn king, nestled in the hay. They start telling everybody they can about what just happened, and people, rightfully so, are amazed. For once in their lives, the shepherds must have felt important, privileged even, to have been eyewitnesses to such a world-altering event. Maybe they felt like VIPs for once.

And then they went back to work - back to their flocks and fields, back to being shepherds, not celebrities, back to being themselves. I’ve seen shepherds out in their fields with their flocks. It’s not glamorous. It’s not a cushy job. There’s a lot of alone time, a lot of isolation, a lot of standing around, a lot of staring at sheep. Did they wonder if it had all been a dream?

I like to think that even if they went back to their same jobs, they weren’t the same anymore. Angelic hosts don’t appear regularly. Not very many common folk get to visit a new baby king. You’ve just experienced the most dramatic event in your life. You’re not going to be the same. I would like to have found out what happened to them afterwards.

So, after Christmas we return to living our lives, too. In this new year, we’ve already gone through some really, really cold weather. We’ve had significant snow, and numerous snow days, but we know that we’ll eventually get thawed out and things will return to normal. I suppose that brings us calm, knowing that our lives are often predictable. We can feel secure as we settle into our routines. Predictability brings peacefulness.

But did the shepherds’ lives ever get back to normal? Did they just revert back to watching over the sheep? Maybe they did, or maybe they’d just met someone who they could never get out of their minds. I wonder if they ever saw angels again? Or even needed to? I wonder if, some 30 years later,

they ever got wind of a young prophet teaching, preaching, and healing in their same area?

Christmas is great. We always need Christmas. But then comes January, and we’ve returned to our flocks and fields. But things aren’t meant to be the same – we’re meant to carry Christmas with us into the new year. Like the shepherds, we’ve contemplated a new-born king.

Your pastor and friend,

Marshall Zieman



Pastor/Head of Staff
Marshall Zieman
(402)333-7466 Ext. 1
marshall@pcoc.us

Join a Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday Bible Studies led by Dr. Zieman have resumed as we study the Old Testament book of Exodus. Newcomers are always welcome; just bring your favorite Bible and join us in the classroom in the Welcome Center at either 7:00 (men only) or 1:00 (everyone). Note, if you are looking for a women’s only Bible study, find the details about the Presbyterian Women’s Morning Circle on page 7.



Cross Care
connections

Cross Care Connections provides a personally tailored relationship with a fellow church member to walk with you at life’s most challenging times. These trained compassionate individuals can provide confidential support to help you navigate major life events.

Contact Marshall or Rock in the church office for more information about this program or to request a Cross Care provider.

The View from My Office

HEED THE WINTER CONDITIONS Parking Lot & Sidewalk by Exits May Be Slick

Our new south parking lot and connecting driveway on the east side of our property is new concrete. For at least one calendar year, we are not permitted to spread salt over these areas, or it will void our warranty with the contractor.

This season, SunCo will be plowing snow to remove it from these areas. B&G and ushers will be using grit on our walkways, but please be aware that the parking lots may be slick from one week to the next depending on the weather.

Some weeks you may need to walk like a penguin to be safe.

- Point your feet out slightly.
- Bend your knees slightly.
- Walk flat-footed.
- Extend your arms out to your sides to maintain balance.
- Take short steps or shuffle for stability.

PER CAPITA

Thank you to everyone who has already given the gift of Per Capita to Church of the Cross for the 2024 stewardship year. Together, we generally give this gift early in the year as I need to pay our apportionment by February 15. This year that check will be issued for \$30,559.20.

Per capita is \$40.80 per confirmed member. For a couple it is \$81.60. Gifts for per capita are welcome at anytime throughout the year. Please make a notation on your check memo line when you do. Again, thank you.

DEACON ENVELOPE

February is the month that is dedicated to making a special gift to the Deacon Envelope. As you know, our Deacons are not supported by our regular budget but simply by the generosity of our members.

Deacons in turn support our congregation with caring for our neighborhoods, delivering meals when needed or flowers after worship, serving funeral luncheons, sponsoring health activities such as Music & Movement or Tai Chi, the Blood Drive,

and organizing the Advent Dinner.

In your recent year-end giving letter, I've enclosed a blue giving envelope for your convenience to make your annual gift to the Deacon Envelope.

FELLOWSHIP HALL IMPROVEMENTS

Our hope is that by the end of April, the final renovation for Fellowship Hall will be complete. All products have been ordered and we hope to begin work soon. Three new screens will allow programs to be easily viewed in the expanded room.

The new acoustical ceiling will be much like that which is in the high area of the Welcome Center. It will be enhanced with recessed light fixtures and new drum lights fixtures. Our vision is to remove the folding wall to open the room for all to enjoy.



Rock Sumner
Business Administrator
(402)333-7466 Ext. 6
rock@pcoc.us

Finance Committee Moderator:
Belinda Greiner

Building and Grounds Committee Moderator:
Roger Utman



Bake Sale on February 11

Come satisfy your sweet tooth and support Junior High Fellowship (JHF) at the same time! JHF will be set up in Fellowship Hall on February 11 in between services accepting donations in exchange for their delicious baked goods. Even if you don't have a sweet tooth, come by and help support our youth. All proceeds will go towards their summer mission trip to Kansas City in June.

Young Adult Mission Trip in June

Our young adults (pictured below at their Christmas party) will do mission outreach this summer from June 19-23. The format will be like previous years with a home base at Calvin Crest in Fremont and mission projects in Fremont and Omaha during the day. There will be lots of time for fun and fellowship as well. If you are unable to participate for the duration of the trip, that's OK! We are flexible; there are many options for attending when it works best for your schedule. Contact Heather with questions. Register online by April 1.



VBS Save the Date

It's time for a summer camp adventure with God! Explore timeless Bible stories that demonstrate how people trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name. Kids will learn ways they can put their trust in God when they are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work and share the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ. Vacation Bible School will be July 9, 10, and 11 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Important Dates to Remember

February 11	JHF Bake Sale
February 18	Lenten Study begins
March 25	Confirmand Exam and Dinner
March 31	Easter
April 7	Confirmation Sunday
May 5	Youth Sunday
July 27	Garage Sale

The Calvin Crest Experience

Most of you are familiar with the little gem we call Calvin Crest in Fremont. Calvin Crest offers opportunities for fun, community, adventure, and growth during the summer through their summer camp experience. Calvin Crest is purposely low-tech, which means that they focus on building relationships without the big toys and high adventure that other camps offer. Campers spend their days in Bible Study, games, activities, and recreation that builds each other up and makes those meaningful connections between campers and staff. Summer camp registration is open, so go online and sign up now: www.calvincrest.org.

If finances are preventing your child from attending, PCOC offers scholarships to Calvin Crest, and Calvin Crest has a fund to offer need-based financial aid as well. Contact Heather before you register for details on how to apply for a PCOC scholarship.

Dementia Class Follow-up

If you attended the Dementia class last fall presented by Carl Greiner and Steven Wangle, see the back page of this issue for an additional dementia learning opportunity shared by Carl.



Heather Berry
Director of Christian Education
(402)333-7466 Ext. 2
heather@pcoc.us

CE Committee Moderator: Kathryn Vint |

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

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



Heritage String Quartet Omaha on February 15

Join us for the next Vesper Concert on Thursday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. Our guest performers are the Heritage String Quartet Omaha, made up of

four of our friends from the Omaha Symphony: Thomas Kluge and Henry Jenkins, violins; Tyler Sieh, viola; and Gregory Clinton, Cello. They will play Schubert's "Death and the Maiden," known as one of the most difficult pieces in the string quartet repertoire. This concert is free. Invite a friend!



Kristi Treu

Director of Music & Executive
Director of Vesper Concerts
(402)333-7466 Ext. 5
kristi@pcoc.us

Worship & Music Committee Moderator:
Linda Matson

Choose a Sunday to Help!

If you are looking for a way to serve the church, please consider filling one of our open usher spots. You can now sign up online for individual Sundays.

Questions? Contact
Mary Ott or Mary Lynn Bennett



DEACONS' UPDATE

Deacons Winter 2024 Update Submitted by Chris Voss

As we enter the month of February, I want to focus on one of the Deacons' missions of outreach to PCOC: young adults who have entered the next stage of their life after high school graduation. This outreach program is meant to let young adults (generally 18-22 years old) know that PCOC values them and is always here for support and encouragement. The Valentine's Day and Halloween Outreach committee collects addresses of young adults (no small feat as they move and change addresses often), purchases small gifts, writes a greeting, and mails the care packages to PCOC young adults. The Deacons use a wide variety of resources to identify young adults in the church to ensure we are sending a package to all,

but our best resource is the congregation. We appreciate your involvement in assuring we are not missing anyone.

Looking ahead to the coming (warmer!) months, the Deacons will be busy preparing Easter Baskets for PCOC homebound members, the March Red Cross Blood Drive, and organizing the Senior Recognition Brunch for PCOC graduating high school seniors.

Stay safe and warm this winter season and know the PCOC Deacons are doing our best to serve you.

Deacons Moderator:
Neal Hubbard



FEBRUARY Birthdays

- 2/1 Bidong Tot, Kaiden Kort
- 2/2 Bernice Hall, Kathryn Lewis, Arlin Kiel,
Kevin Wetuski, Shirley Payne
- 2/3 Nancy Hamil
- 2/5 Michaela Kalkwarf, Brady Luke,
Amelia Vint, Augustus Vint
- 2/6 William Harrison
- 2/7 Holli Wright
- 2/8 Rodney Whorlow
- 2/10 Judy Bruce, Jackson Cunningham
- 2/11 Belinda Greiner, Sarah Mooney
- 2/12 Haley Allen-Mendick, Keith Engelmann,
Jackson Kussman, Annie Bougger,
Elizabeth Murray
- 2/13 Peg Johnson, Lauren Ballou, Noah McClain
- 2/15 Richard Bowen, Stan Hale, Doug Rathman,
Gayle Hoybook
- 2/16 Art Morse, Bridget Buda
- 2/17 Jim Spielman
- 2/18 Judy Meyer
- 2/19 Ardell Penney, Michelle Kwaw,
Brooklyn Spielman
- 2/20 Bob Reid, Tyler Falcone, Kiana Sekle,
Eric Haas
- 2/21 Margie Johnson, Jenna Cunningham
- 2/22 Bev Koch, Ron Roeder, Sally Hanley
- 2/23 Mark Spielman
- 2/24 Dennis Kaiser
- 2/25 Steven Schmidt, Brenda Graumann
- 2/26 Michelle Boesen, Heather Obregon
- 2/27 Felix Akiya
- 2/28 Sarah Frederickson, Linda Matson,
Joshua Obregon

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



Ethel Pauba - January 11, 2024
A service and lunch were held at the church on January 22.

In need of prayer?

Submit a prayer request online. All requests are shared only with members of the prayer team.

Prayer Team Coordinators:

Julie Buehler and Judy Arms

Thank You Notes from Members

After my mid-November knee replacement surgery, I'm recovering at home with PT and regular exercises on my own, too. I have been well-remembered by my church family with cards, emails, phone calls, visits, flowers, and food: several different kinds of soups, casseroles, Christmas cookies (from the cookie exchange), and even some birthday cake for my late December birthday! Though recovery seems slow to me, my surgeon is pleased, and I'll just need to have patience. All of your love and care makes that much easier...so "thank you, dear friends!" Eventually, I'll see you back in church in person! Thanks!

- Ardys Hansum

Thank you for the lovely bouquet of flowers and goodies at coffee fellowship on January 7. It has been a pleasure to serve the church as the Communications Coordinator for the last four years, and I appreciate the kind words and notes you've shared as I leave church employment to focus on completing my master's degree.

- Gayle Kerr-McFadden

We thank our church family for the love and prayers shared with us over the last month of dad's healing. Please send him recuperative wishes and belated 87th birthday greetings to his new home:

Frank Watt

Heritage Pointe Apt. #20

16821 Burdette Street

Omaha, NE 68116

- Jean Brady and Sue Freyer

Support Ronald McDonald House

Submitted by A.J. Sundberg

Please keep collecting the tabs from pop, soup, and any other cans that have pop tab tops. These collected pop tabs are redeemed and used to cover the Ronald McDonald House's electric, phone, and other bills. Our goal is for Presbyterian Church of the Cross to become a member of the Ronald McDonald Million Tab Club. At this time PCOC is approaching 500,000 tabs collected. Find the collection bucket at the Information Desk in the Welcome Center. Thank you for participating in this great project!



Active Minds in February

Active Minds will continue with the game of Somerset in February. Please join us in the Lower Level Great Room on Tuesdays from 2-4 p.m. This is an easy game to learn, and we have patient teachers available to help.

Coordinator: Earlene Uhrig

Presbyterian Women on February 1

Ladies, come join us as we continue studying *Sacred Encounters* on February 1 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 15. In lesson 6, Karen Saunders will share the story of "A person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus" from Acts 3:1-10. Also, our Gifting Gals Project with Heartland Hope Mission continues as we collect Panties in February. Our bin is next to the Mission's food bin in the circle drive, and we would appreciate any donations for our project, as would the lady clients at HHM.

Coordinator: Cindy Nisley

49ers on February 7

Our speakers will be Katie Broman, Director Brand & Community Marketing Director, speaking about Boys Town today, and Tom Lynch, historian from Boys Town, speaking about the history of Boys Town. We meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at WHEATFIELDS, 1224 South 103rd Street (One Pacific Place). We order from a special menu provided for our group. Everyone is welcome - whether you are 49, younger, or older - come join us! For reservations and/or questions, please contact Mary Ott or Judy Sundberg. Or, sign up in the white binder at the Information Desk.

Coordinators: Judy Sundberg and Mary Ott

Friday Night Gourmets on February 9

Mike Howland and Linda Matson and Tony Craig invite you all to come celebrate an early Valentine's Day dinner with great food and great company at Johnny's Cafe! Mark your calendars for 6:15 p.m., Friday, February 9. Entrée choices are listed on the sign-up sheet at the Information Desk. The prices listed include your entrée, dinner salad, baked potato, coffee or tea, taxes, and tip. A special Valentine's Day dessert will be provided by your hosts. As we must pay with a single bill, please make checks out to cover your entrée selections addressed to "PCOC" with "FNG" in the memo line. Johnny's Café is located



at 4702 S. 27th Street, Omaha, NE. An individual tab cash bar will be available starting at 6:15. Please sign-up and pay in advance via the envelope with the sign-up sheet. The last day to sign-up will be Sunday, February 4 at 12:15 p.m. See or call Mike or Linda if you have questions.

Presbyterian Men on February 17

On Saturday, February 17 at 9:00 a.m., PCOC men are invited to attend a continental breakfast and program in the Welcome Center featuring Bryan Slone, President of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Bryan will speak about "Nebraska's Brain Drain" and the impacts it has on the economy, taxpayer base, population growth, employment metrics, and job openings. He is an attorney and a CPA. Parents with children would reap benefits by attending this program. Please sign-up at the Information Desk by Sunday, February 11. Questions? Contact Darold Bauer..

PCOC Book Group on February 21

PCOC Book Group will meet Wednesday, February 21 in Room 13 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. to review *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. All readers are welcome! Questions? Contact Charlotte Hubbard.

Stay Active on Mondays & Thursdays

Music & Movement meets at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Great Room.

Coordinator: Betty Baddley

Tai Chi meets at 10 a.m. for gentle stretching and movement! Drop in if you'd like to attend a class.

Coordinator: Paula Allen

PCOC GALS — Save the Date

Soup for the Soul Cooking Class with Chef Renee Cornett is coming on March 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Details coming soon!

Membership Committee Co-Moderators:

Amy Boesen & Brenda Graumann

Congregational Life Committee Moderator:

Kathy Nickel & Stephanie Weaver



Siena Francis House Servers Needed

**Sunday, February 11
4:15 to 6:15 p.m.**

PCOC has the dinner shift on the 2nd Sunday of every month at Siena Francis House. We need at least 6 volunteers. Please consider giving your time to this mission. Questions? Contact Keith Allen.

Scan our QR code to access the church online sign up page. We've made it easy to sign up to serve at Siena Francis House.



The Mission Committee Mailbox

The Mission Committee would like to share with you some of the mail we receive every month from the organizations which are the grateful recipients of your generosity. Below are the latest thank you notes we have received:

- Tim from the Gideons International Omaha Southwest Camp thanks you for your \$500 gift which will be used for the "purchase and dis-attribution of God's word to people who need it."
- Camp Calvin Crest thanks you for your donation of \$366 which enabled life-giving things to happen at the camp during 2023.
- Habitat for Humanity thanks you for your gift of \$300 in support of their mission of building stronger neighborhoods and brighter futures.
- Your contribution of \$3,501 to Heartland Hope is greatly appreciated and will be used to assist those in need in the community.
- Your donation of \$375 in support of Project Harmony will help to "provide a place where children can use their voice without fear; ensuring hope, health and resilience."
- Rene Myers, Ministry Engagement Advisor with the PCUSA Office of Ministry Engagement and Support, would like to express appreciation for your gracious and faithful support of \$1,820 for Presbyterian Mission and for your \$6,000 donation for Mission Personnel Support in honor of Ellen Smith.
- Diane Knicky, Executive Director of Midlands Community Foundation "gratefully acknowledges your generous gift of \$3,550 to the Sarpy County CASA Fund."
- CASA for Douglas County's Executive Director Kimberly C. Barnes thanks you for your \$1,204 gift that will help "coach, empower and inspire volunteer advocates to improve the lives of abused and neglected children."

- The CASA Sarpy County Program's Tara Williamson, Program Director, thanks you for your two gifts of \$136 and \$1,204 which helped purchase Christmas gifts for the children they serve.
- Linda Twomey, Executive Director of Siena Francis House thanks you for your gift of \$13,000. Ms. Twomey said, "On behalf of our organization and the individuals we serve, please know how grateful we are for your gift."
- "Please know that the generosity and kindness in which this donation was given is so appreciated," Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging Executive Director Trish Bergman wrote for your \$1,500 support of Meals on Wheels.

Agape for All

Submitted by Patty Ritchie

Agape for All met on a snowy evening in mid January to have very meaningful conversations about our efforts, activities, and future. Thank you all for sharing your insights and ideas. We are especially interested in expanding our roster, so please consider this an open invitation to join us! For more information, contact Kathy Moore or Patty Ritchie. Or sign up online!

When the Lenten Study concludes, we hope to host speakers from our Omaha community on Sunday mornings to help us learn about positive initiatives. Also watch church announcements for invitations for lunch outings and upcoming events.

One starfish at a time! While we may not be able to solve all the world's social justice problems we can each share our talents and skills to make a positive difference.

Agape for All Book Review

Submitted by Ann Pearson

24th and Glory: The Intersection of Civil Rights and Omaha's Greatest of Athletes

Written by Dirk Chatelaine

When I chose this book from our Agape church library, I was expecting a bit of a lighter reading experience. The cover is colorful and there are lots of photographs of the times. It's only 185 pages including 3 index pages, a page about the author and an "In Memoriam" page for Gayle Sayers and Bob Gibson.

(continues on next page)

As it turns out, there's nothing "light" about this book. If you are a sports fan (or not), if you like Omaha history (or not), this is a compelling and exciting reading experience.

Among others, there are the stories of sports heroes who started out in Omaha and whose lives are featured in this book: Bob Boozer, Ron Boone, Johnny Rodgers, Bob Gibson, Roger Sayers and his brother Gayle Sayers, Marlin Briscoe, and Preston Love, Jr. Also featured alongside these fellows are their high school and college coaches and the community leaders like Ernie Chambers, Mayor A.J. Sorenson, Cathy Hughes, and Eric Ewing.

What makes this book so very compelling is the intertwining of civil rights history with Omaha civil rights issues and the lives of these heroes of sports. Two chapters provide a very thorough and fair description of what happened in Omaha when Martin Luther King's peaceful demonstrations were no longer considered effective enough for the newer generation of civil rights activists. "There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over and men are no longer willing to be plunged into an abyss of injustice.....(and) the bleakness of corroding despair." These underlying tensions exploded into disruptive, destructive riots when George Wallace visited Omaha in 1968. As one person said, "It was like throwing gasoline on burning embers." In fact the destruction and disruption was so persistent and out of control that even the outspoken Ernie Chambers had to call out the rioters by asking them "How can you expect people like me to help you if you behave like this?"

It is a challenge to effectively describe the layers of Omaha life included in this book. From South Omaha stockyards to Jewish family businesses on North 24th, from Omaha Tech High School to Lothrop School, from brutal police to supportive clergy, from sports figures without parents to children raised in the best of families, and from the best in human beings to the worst in human beings, the stories help us understand our past and inform our future together.

"The whole story has never been told. We need this work to see and understand the bigger picture of our beloved community. The pain and the glory." (Preston Love)

We have so much to learn, and this particular book has so much to teach us.

Mission Committee Moderator:
Anne Wattles

Update on Our Refugee Family Submitted by Betty Baddley

Our new Omaha residents, the eight members of the Mohammad Ali family from Syria, are doing very well adjusting to their new life in the United States. When they arrived last May, there were many obstacles that arose about housing, transportation, medical updates and needs, school enrollment, particularly since they knew very little English and their native Arabic language was nothing like the English alphabet or word meanings to which they were accustomed. Thanks to the hard work of the Refugee task force of our Mission Committee, both leadership and volunteers, the family is settled in an apartment. Some have gotten work permits. The whole family has seen doctors for vaccinations, and the children are registered in OPS schools.

Ali was able to purchase a car with the help of a loan from a Syrian friend, and the Mission Committee is helping pay off the loan (a mini-van that holds the whole group). Ali now has his driver's license and is working at Airlite Plastics (producing food containers). The family members are all learning English in ESL classes and have found neighbors and friends who speak their native tongue. Our team continues to provide support to the children's schools, help the family navigate the health care system, and coordinate their benefits with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Over the holidays, our committee spent several afternoons with individual family members, tutoring, reading, and playing games to help them feel more comfortable and confident with the language barrier. Earlene Uhrig orchestrated the sessions in our new Welcome Center, and every person involved (tutors and students) experienced a special time of learning, sharing, and building beautiful relationships with each other. The older "Ali sisters" love to dance to their native music, and they taught us hip movements that would make Elvis Presley look like an amateur!

Our group hopes to continue the tutoring program next summer. We don't know what the summer school programs will offer, but we will continue to help and support this family as they continue to learn our difficult English "exceptions to the rules" speaking!
(continues on back page)

Presbyterian Church of the Cross
1517 South 114th Street
Omaha NE 68144-1799
Omaha NE 68144-1799



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**It's time to order Easter flowers
for the Sanctuary!**

Find the order form on the next page,
or complete the online order form.
Orders are due by March 3.
No exceptions!

**Next Cross Currents Deadline is:
Third Friday of the month**

February 16, 2024

Pantry Sunday Is February 18

Bring food and hygiene items to Sunday worship or
drop them inside the circle drive doors anytime



Refugee Update (continued from page 9)

They are all eager to learn, and they are hard workers and truly excited about being here in their new country. We hope to expand our volunteer list, and we are aware of the wonderful resources and talents at PCOC that could participate in this work with us.

Watch for updates on what we will do next. In the meantime, we are happy to report that this new church mission project is moving ahead with great success and wonderful support, and we look forward to expanding the satisfaction and joy that it

brings to everyone involved! We are blessed again with wonderful leaders, organizers, and dedicated workers. We are blessed to be a blessing, indeed!

**Expanded Dementia Class at Ghost Ranch
Submitted by Carl Greiner**

I am excited to announce a four session class on Christian Perspectives on Dementia at the Ghost Ranch retreat center in New Mexico. The class will run from Friday night, March 8 to Sunday morning on March 10. There is substantial new material and a review of Christian ethics that we had not covered in the class at the Church of the Cross. The classes would be an opportunity to meet new interested Christians to learn further material, and to have further discussion. The site offers food, lodging, and the educational experience. Contact Carl Greiner for more information.

Cross Currents

The *Cross Currents* is
published monthly by the Pres-
byterian
Church of the Cross,
1517 South 114th Street, Oma-
ha NE 68144-1799

Church Office: For general church information/requests/inquiries, contact the church office. Email: churchofthecross@pcoc.us or phone: (402)333-7466

Communications: Christian Fritz
communications@pcoc.us

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



EASTER FLOWER ORDER

(Payment must accompany order, please!)

NAME.....PHONE #.....

In Honor of.....

Or

In Memory of.....

_____ Lily - \$12.00

_____ Azaleas - \$20.00

_____ Mums - \$10.00

_____ Kalanchoes - \$11.00

_____ Hydrangea – \$20.00

_____ Hyacinth - \$10.00

_____ Begonia - \$11.00

Please bring to the Information Center or mail to Church Office NO LATER than March 3. No orders can be accepted after March 3. Make checks payable to Presbyterian Church of the Cross.