

In This Issue:

Message from Our Pastor
— Page 2

Business Updates —
Page 3

Christian Education News
— Page 3 & 4

Music Notes — Page 5

Deacons Update —
Page 5

Spirit of Mission — Page 6
& 11

Fellowship Groups/Events
— Page 7

Our Church Family —
Pages 8, 9, 10 & 11

When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

By giving to the Pentecost Offering, your congregation participates in helping our children, youth, and young adults grow up to proclaim with the Psalmist, "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds."

Why? A foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service.

When? Pentecost celebrates the renewal of the relationship between God and the community of faith. Our gifts to Pentecost Offering help us build a foundation of faith in our youth which will last a lifetime.

How? A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.

40%

stays with your congregation to support local ministries with children, youth, and young adults.

25%

supports Ministries with Youth, including Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

25%

supports Young Adults Volunteers (YAV), serving communities around the world and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.

10%

is devoted to children-at-risk and supports to improved education and provide safe havens.

Presbyterian
Church of the Cross
1517 S. 114th Street
Omaha, NE 68144

Phone:
(402)333-7466

Fax:
(402)697-9084

Email:
churchofthecross@pcoc.us

Website:
churchofthecrossomaha.org



Session Retreat!

The Session held a mini-retreat April 19-20 in the Welcome Center, reviving an annual tradition which had not been held since COVID. It was good to have time to discuss broader issues, such as Membership and Facilities. Also of importance was spending time getting to know each other better and learn more about who we are. Since one-third of our Session is new every year, we need to regularly schedule activities to help connect us with each other.

Our two guest speakers were Christian Educators from Presbyterian Churches in Lincoln, who recounted recent changes their churches had made in response to changing times and attendance, especially in terms of children and youth. Their comments helped us to begin thinking more out of the box in terms of what our own future could look like some day. Of particular interest was the busy-ness young families are facing today, especially as it relates to weekend activities. Sundays are no longer seen as open days for relaxation and reflection. Now, Sunday mornings involve numerous scheduling conflicts for children and youth. We realized the need to hear from our young families - the CE Committee plans to share a questionnaire to hear back and learn what we can do to better understand their needs and challenges.

We were challenged to re-visit the meaning of church membership – what exactly does it mean to become a church member? Besides being able to vote at our annual meeting, what are other benefits of joining? While older adults who visit us may have a history of church membership, younger adults may not have the same history. Does it really even matter to formally join? That is a valid question for many younger adults who visit us.

I first joined a Presbyterian church in college. I was part of a big group of college students attracted to a small, aging, downtown church with a dynamic young pastor who had brought a spark of new life into this little congregation. The pastor’s wife taught the college Sunday School class. I remember she taught us her philosophy of why to join a church: because doing so will make you a better Christian. I believe she was right. By becoming a member, the church becomes “your” church and not just “theirs.” When the church asks for volunteers, that message is for you, not just for them. When the budget needs to be met, you realize that you have a responsibility to help. When there is a need

to pray about, you realize that your prayers are necessary. Basically, you become an “insider” rather than an “outsider.” That happened to me so long ago, and I think this still holds true today.

But the world has changed since I was in college. There are more demands on our time. There are more options for Sunday mornings. Down time is more precious and scarce. Real community is more prized and sought after. For numerous social and political reasons there is a general uneasiness and angst in our society. More than ever, people are looking for wholeness and fellowship. Even more firmly, I believe that the church holds the solutions to these needs. But many non-churched folks just don’t know what they’re missing.

Last night I got to lead the Bible Study for our Jr. & Sr. High youth – a happy group of 25+ kids plus their faithful volunteer leaders. It’s one of my favorite nights of the year, and it always does my heart good. Why? First, we have great youth, whose energy and positivity is well, irresistible. Second, their leaders are very skilled and committed to them. I am proud of them. Third, these groups do all sorts of fun and service-filled activities. You will see many of them on Youth Sunday, May 5. Don’t miss!

Your pastor and friend,

Marshall Ziemann



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



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

THANK YOU TO SPRING CLEAN-UP VOLUNTEERS!

B&G would like to say thanks to the 22 volunteers who helped spruce up our landscaped areas and grounds for the growing season. In addition, a crew cleaned out and organized our shed.

Many members volunteer to care for a garden area or island during the growing season. Pictured is Elizabeth Murray who helped Anna Sumner with this summer's fairy garden display.



If you would like to help care for a garden area this summer, please contact Lowell Wilhite.

After a morning of hard work and laughter, fellowship and snacks were enjoyed by all. Thanks again!

BRIGHT LIGHTS IN OUR FACILITY

Matthew 4:16 the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

Last August I started researching LED lamps to replace some of our burned-out lamps (or bulbs) in the sanctuary. At that time there were maybe a half dozen burned out lamps. Then every week there was another. Recently, during choir I was counting 30 out and not that many on! The cross above the organ was becoming very poorly lit.

I have come to find out that not many facilities in the US have systems such as ours and not many places make LED lamps that are dimmable and compatible with our system. So many variables I never knew I needed to understand before deciding.

Luckily, with Oakie's help we found a source for the first 42 lamps and were able to replace many of the lamps in the sanctuary.

In addition to the sanctuary, our kitchen has twelve new LED fixtures that brighten up our kitchen work area. Everyone who works in our kitchen is excited to have new working lights.

B&G has also replaced light bulbs in the upper corridor light fixtures. It certainly makes a difference having all three light bulbs working in all fixtures in the evening.

Thanks to all involved in lighting up our facility!



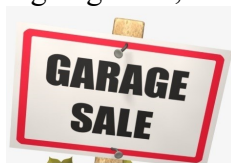
Rock Sumner
Business Administrator
(402)333-7466 Ext. 6
rock@pcoc.us



Christian Education News

Church Garage Sale

It's getting closer to our churchwide garage sale, and we need your help! We can't accept your donations just yet, but you can start setting aside donations, hangers, boxes, and plastic bags in your home.



We accept: furniture, toys, small sporting equipment, household goods, baby and children's items, clothing (no t-shirts), and shoes. Please make sure your items are clean and in working order.

We cannot accept:

Electronics older than circa 2000, mattresses, tires, tube tv's, VHS videos/players, cassette tapes/players, or liquids of any kind. We must pay to dispose of these items, so please do not bring them to church.

Drop off your donations:

Sunday, July 14 at 9 a.m. at the north entrance
We are unable to accept donations before this date.
Please keep your treasures at home until then.
Donations will not be accepted after July 19.

Volunteer to help with prep work:

July 15 – 19 and July 22 – 26
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Help or Shop on Garage Sale Day:

July 27 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Thank you for your donations and for your help! We hope to see you there!

Finance Committee Moderator:

Belinda Greiner

Building and Grounds Committee Moderator:

Roger Utman



Youth Sunday May 5

We hope you join us on May 5 to celebrate our youth. This one-of-a-kind service is presented entirely by our youth, from scripture to liturgical readings, to music to senior faith talks. Graduates and their families will enjoy a brunch hosted by the Deacons that morning between services.

CE Recognition Sunday May 19

Many thanks to our Sunday School Teachers, Shepherds, Cornerstone Staff, Youth Advisors, Advent Workshop Leaders and Helpers, Christmas Pageant Directors, Confirmation Mentors, VBS Leaders and Helpers, Lenten Study Facilitators, and The Christian Education Committee. These folks give their time, energy, and love to help us grow in our faith and in our relationship with God. They willingly come back, week after week, with the hope that they will make a difference in the lives of our children, youth, and adults. On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, I'd like to express our sincere gratitude for the work you are doing. Your efforts DO matter, and you ARE making a difference!

All are invited to celebrate our volunteers on Sunday, May 19. Volunteers will be recognized during both worship services and at a reception at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to all who help keep our CE programs running smoothly! We couldn't do it without you.

Celebrating Women Baskets Silent Auction

Stop by the table in the Lobby to bid on your favorite basket, or two! All proceeds benefit the SHF Mission Trip to Clearwater Forest Camp in Deerwood, Minnesota. Bidding ends on May 5. Winners will be notified after late service that day. Don't miss out!



JHF and SHF Mission Trip Parent Meetings May 26

Commissioning for both mission trips will be at 10:00 a.m. The parent meeting will follow. JHF will meet in the Courtyard Room in the Welcome Center. SHF will meet in Room 15. If your child is attending the mission trip, at least one parent must attend the parent meeting. If you are unable to attend, please arrange to meet with Heather sometime before this meeting.

Important Dates to Remember

May 5	Youth Sunday, 9:00 & 11:10 a.m.
May 5	Senior Brunch, 10:00 a.m.
May 12	Sunday School ends
May 19	CE Recognition Sunday
May 26	JHF/SHF Mission Trip Parent Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
July 9 – 11	Vacation Bible School, 9:00 a.m. to noon
July 14	Garage Sale Donation Drop Day, 9:00 a.m.
July 27	Garage Sale, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00

Vacation Bible School July 9 – 11

9 a.m. to noon
4-year-olds – 5th grade (completed)

Cost is \$10/student
\$20 max/family



DEADLINE to register is JUNE 1.

Join us for a summer camp adventure with God! Lu (the lightning bug) will teach us ways we can put our trust in God when we are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work.

Contact Heather for more information.

Scan to Register:



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



Don't Miss Our Season Finale!

We are so excited to welcome Dr. David von Behren to the Vesper Concerts stage for our season finale on Sunday, May 5, at 3:00 p.m.! The award-winning organist,



pianist, violinist, and teacher is a Nebraska native who is currently serving as the Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster of the Memorial Church at Harvard University. Dr. von Behren will perform solo pieces on the organ and several pieces in collaboration with a small string ensemble.

This concert has been aptly named the "Vesper Legacy Concert" as a tribute to our founder, Dana Sloan. It's a celebration of the rich tradition and musical journey that started 35 years ago, a legacy that continues to inspire and captivate us.

In addition to the Sunday afternoon concert, Dr. von Behren will serve as our guest organist for our worship services the morning of May 5th.

Summer Art & Music Camp June 11-14 – Sign Up Now!

Want a fun activity for your 1st through 5th grader who loves art and music? Sign them up for our four-day summer camp at PCOC. Choose the Art option

in the morning from 9:00 to 12:00, the Music option in the afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00, or BOTH! The registration form can be found on the church website.

Questions? Contact Sue Thomas at satnebraska@gmail.com or Kristi Treu at kristi@pcoc.us.



Women's Choir Men's Choir Opportunity

You are invited to join the choir for Women's and Men's Choir rehearsals, even if you aren't currently a regular member of the choir.

All singers who are high school age or older are welcome to join us on the following days and times:

- Women's Choir Rehearsals on May 15 and 22 and 7:00 p.m., and sing in worship on May 26
- Men's Choir Rehearsals on May 29 and June 5 at 5:30 p.m., and sing in worship on June 9.



Kristi Treu

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

Worship & Music Committee Moderator:
Linda Matson



DEACONS' UPDATE

Congratulations and Thank You!

Submitted by Jerry Cornett

The Deacons would like to "Congratulate" the following Seniors on their upcoming Graduation!

Andrew Berry
Elise Boettcher
Jacob Buda
Blake Kahler
Brinly Lehmann
Adam Luke
Joshua McFadden
Garrett Moore
Alex Voss

We will be hosting a Brunch for the Graduating Seniors and their families on Sunday May 5 at 10am (between services).

Additionally, a heartfelt "Thank You" to all those who contributed to the Deacon fund!

Approximately \$8,000 has been given this year that will assist the Deacons with all of our activities throughout the year. Again, Thank You!

Deacons Moderator:
Neal Hubbard



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:

- Heartland Hope Mission thanks you for your contribution of \$365, the 250 pounds of food and the 100 pounds of hygiene products.

Siena Francis House Servers Needed

**Sunday, May 12
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.



Agape for All Submitted by Patty Ritchie

Our PCOC "Embracing Community Connections" Speakers Series was very well attended, informative and inspiring! Thank you for making the time to learn from our wonderful presenters.

Agape for All will continue to provide opportunities for us to learn, grow and share our new perspectives. We can make a positive difference in social justice in Omaha, and beyond. It is a joy and privilege to learn in community.

We always welcome your ideas, so if you have recommendations for future speakers, please provide a short description and contact information to Kathy Moore or Patty Ritchie.

Upcoming-

A nationally recognized conference - right here in Omaha!. The Tri Faith Race, Religion and Social justice Conference, June 5-6.

We expect several members to attend. Let Kathy Moore, mooreomaha@yahoo.com or Patty Ritchie, pritchie1@centurylink.net know if you would like to attend.

Agape Book Review

Our Hidden Conversations: What Americans Really Think About Race and Identity, by Michelle Norris, creator of The Race Card Project.



SPIRIT OF MISSION

Mission Committee Moderator:
Anne Wattles

First of all, a huge "thank you" to Heather Berry for sharing a link about a Town Hall Forum held in February 2024 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In this forum, the church presented Michelle Norris (author and former NPR journalist) who transformed her own "racial fatigue" into what she called The Race Card Project. She was looking for a way to provide a forum for people to deal with this fatigue in a positive, safe, and productive way. So ten years ago she invited people to express their own concerns and anxieties in six words, yes, six words, online or by post card. Since then she has received over 500,000 responses and thus wrote this book. She received more responses from women than from men, and the most responses from White people. Another significant factor is that received responses from White people who experienced prejudice as White people. The book is a blend of six-word phrases (accompanied by the personal experience behind them) and essays by Ms Norris. The result is an exciting, current, touching and enlightening book on racism. But rather than going on and on about the book, I offer a small sampling of the six word phrases she received.

But where are you really from?
I flourish farming ancient tribal lands.
55 mph means you, Black man! (Spoken to a doctor)

Vergangenheitsaufarbeitung
I'm not the nanny. I'm mom.
It matters, like it or not.
I wish I hadn't said that.

Quick to judge, slow to understand.
Yes I'm tobacco-pickin White trash
Try it!

As always, we have so much to learn.

Here is a link for more information - <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/westminster-presbyterian-church-in-minneapolis-offers-up-michele-norris-to-share-six-words-on-race/>

(Spirit of Mission Continued on Page 11)



Active Minds in May

Active Minds will play 10-point Pitch in May. Please drop in when your schedule allows. Lower level, great room, 2-4 pm on Tuesdays in May. We have patient teachers and an option for 4-point Pitch..

Coordinator: Earlene Uhrig

Presbyterian Women on May 2

Presbyterian Women will have a special meeting time at 10:00 a.m. in Room 15. We will have a salad luncheon after Carol Sorensen shares Lesson 9, Sacred Encounters: People Encounter Jesus Through the Work of the Disciples. Bring a salad to share as this is our last meeting until September. Our Gifting Gals Project, benefiting the lady clients at Heartland Hope Mission, wraps up with a Miscellaneous category. During May, we are asking for your donation ideas that we might have missed. New make-up, flip-flops, a book, jewelry, wallet, scrunches... you get the idea. Whatever you feel these ladies might need or would enjoy. We want to thank you so very much for helping us with this project this year. You have made it a success, and gave wonderful support and blessings to the ladies.

Questions? Contact Cindy Nisley

Coordinator: Cindy Nisley



49ers on May 7

Our speaker will be Matthew Hansen, editor of the Flatwater Free Press, Nebraska's first statewide nonprofit news source. Hansen, a 16-year veteran of Nebraska newspapers, has previously worked as a reporter at the Lincoln Journal Star and then a reporter and metro columnist at the Omaha World-Herald. During his time in newspapers, he travelled to Cuba and Afghanistan and won multiple state, regional and national awards for investigative stories, feature stories and columns. He will speak about Flatwater, their approach to journalism and the importance of preserving journalism through nonprofit news. 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.

PCOC Book Group on May 15

PCOC Book Group will meet Wednesday, May 15 in Room 13 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. to review *LIGHTNING STRIKE* by Kent Krueger. 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

Time to Play Ball

BATTER UP! SAFE! IT'S A HOME RUN! These are words you will hear on the AllPlay Miracle Buddy League at Seymour Smith Field, May 4th.



Over 400 players are registered and need volunteers to help with a wide variety of activities to make a great experience. Game Day volunteers include concession stand servers, greeters, game umpire, AllPlay mascots, game announcers, field set-up and take down, picnic helpers, special events (I.E. Pancake man, Santa) and many more. Each volunteer time slot is for approximately 2 hours (two games).

It is easy to sign up on our link in the Friday news and on the AllPlay web site under Buddies and Volunteer Activities. This is also an excellent place to have your group volunteer, such as a sports team or school group community outreach.

Any Questions? Contact Sandi Stuckey
sandi_stuckey@yahoo.com

Membership Committee Co-Moderators:

Amy Boesen & Brenda Graumann

Congregational Life Committee Moderator:

Kathy Nickel & Stephanie Weaver



- 5/2 Ed Leach, Adrian Hinz, Marian Lewis, Lucah Sekle, Anne Wattles
- 5/3 Kevin Bunjer, Jimmy Downes, Doug Gollehon, Duncan Koch, Ben Miller, Mary Ann Pederson, Sherryl Shannon
- 5/4 Peyton Holubeck
- 5/5 Twink DeRoin, Bud Miles, Joan Sacco-Grosskopf
- 5/6 Josh McFadden, Susan Price
- 5/8 Elizabeth Darling
- 5/9 Brinly Lehmann
- 5/10 Catherine Brady, Brooklynn Evers. Pat Hoisington
- 5/11 Ally Hopp, Morgan Koch, Bobbi Swedlund
- 5/12 Finn Mooney
- 5/13 Betty Baddley, Mark Brady, Carl Greiner, Bill Steele, Stella Mae Karges
- 5/14 Kylie Berry, Kendall Kahler
- 5/15 Jillian Obregon, Michael Shannon
- 5/16 Irene Astleford, Jim Butler
- 5/18 Daniel Florent
- 5/19 Nancy Nicas, Carolyn Will
- 5/20 Genevieve Ebert
- 5/22 Ben Fritz, Jenny Koch, Gary Lynn
- 5/23 Marlys Boyum, Peter Broderick
- 5/24 Daley Gibson
- 5/25 Owen Rock, Patti Sparks
- 5/26 Maggie Ebert, Matt Kahler, Inga Wagner
- 5/27 Elaine Holdren, Camille Koch
- 5/30 Heather McIntyre-Haas
- 5/31 Becca Whitlow

Committee Update

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is in the process of reviewing candidates and discussing qualifications. To date, we have had multiple applicants who found our Associate Pastor announcement through postings at seminaries, presbyteries, word of mouth and our own webpage and we have been pleased with the interest! Thank you to everyone who has shared our announcement with friends and family. Your support and prayers are appreciated as we continue moving forward in the process.

Reverend Ronnie D. Osborn Retirement

You are invited to join as we celebrate the retirement and faithful service of Reverend Ronnie D. Osborn, St. Charles Presbyterian Church from 2005-2024. The worship service is at 10:30 a.m. with a luncheon following at 12:00 p.m. at St. Charles Church, 131 Gamble Street, St. Charles, MO 63301. Any questions, refer to St. Charles Church at 636-946-4467.

The Pancake Man June 2

The Pancake Man will be here on June 2nd following worship. The cost is \$5.00 per person or maximum of \$20.00 per family. This year we will also have some entertainment by youth fiddlers and clowns doing face painting and balloons. Join us for what is sure to be a fun day!



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

Associate Pastor Nominating

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

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 Ben-





Meet our Confirmation Class

Alyson Grady

Alyson, the daughter of Jon and Sarah Grady, attends Russell Middle School and next year will be a student at Millard West High School. Alyson participates in a competition dance team. In addition to dance, she enjoys swimming, shopping, traveling, going to the lake and (of course) hanging out with friends. At church, she attends Cornerstone and Sunday School, as well as helping with Trunk or Treat, the Advent Workshop and being an acolyte. She reports that if she could change one thing, it would have been for this year's confirmation class to have been bigger. As a high school student, Alyson plans to continue regularly attending church. Other volunteering projects are cleaning out the dance studio and shoveling snow for a neighbor. As a confirmand, Alyson liked getting the cleaning supply baskets ready for people getting out of homeless shelters. And as a result of confirmand class, she reads the Bible more. In the future, Alyson wants to become a NICU nurse or a realtor. Alyson's middle name is Kathryn and she is named after her maternal grandmother. She could be described as funny, responsible, and caring. Her mentor is Kathy Nickel.



Tyler Falcone

Tyler participates in football, basketball, baseball and wrestling at Elkorn Valley View and plans to play football at Elkorn South High School next year. He also plays the piano and takes drum lessons. He can listen to a song on the radio and then teach himself to play it on the piano. His favorite subject is anatomy, which



ties into one of his possible future career ideas of being an anesthesiologist. Or he might like to build homes. Tyler has volunteered with muscular dystrophy programs. At church, he went on JHF Mission trips, attends Sunday school and Cornerstone which he plans to continue. While on mission trips, Tyler learned how good it feels to help someone in need. In Confirmation class, he liked learning about God and learning new things about the Bible, which expanded his faith. Tyler reports that going to church "isn't that bad" and he actually likes going. Spending time with his mentor Jon Boomgaarden was another good part of confirmation. He is a good student and kind to people. He also is strong because he lifts weights and plays sports. Tyler likes to travel and has even been to Antarctica. Spending time with family and friends, practicing driving, playing with Montana, the dog, and loving the "drip" keep this teenager who has grown 3.5 inches this past year busy. He wishes no one in the world suffered and that people would be nicer to each other. His parents are Laura Falcone and Chad Bumsted and Jae and Maria Falcone.

Welcome to New Adult Members

Ed and Kathy Leach

Ed and Kathy come to PCOC from West Hills Presbyterian church by reaffirmation of faith. Ed, a retired architect, was a member of their Buildings and Grounds committee, where he utilized his professional knowledge and led the construction in North Omaha for the Lighthouse Project with Abide. He also ushered and helped with the sound system. Kathy, a retired Millard elementary music teacher, helped with Music and Worship. She was the staff pianist/organist for 25 years. She also was an accompanist at Brownell Talbot. Both Ed and Kathy are lifelong Omaha residents. Ed and Kathy appreciate the quality music at PCOC, as well as our worship style. Additionally, the financial soundness of the church and friendliness of the congregation was noted. In his spare time, Ed designs and builds custom furniture (edswork.shop), plays oboe in amateur orchestras and is studying the classical guitar. Kathy enjoys reading novels, travel, and playing the piano.





Cheri Carpenter

Even before officially joining PCOC, Cheri has been involved in and participated in church activities such as helping last summer with our refugee family.

Formerly a member of First Christian Church in Omaha, she was a deacon, church board member and chair of the Outreach (mission) committee. Cheri learned about PCOC from her sister, Karen Metzger. A Nebraska native, she was born in Norfolk but grew up in Lincoln and moved to Omaha nine years ago. Before retiring, Cheri worked at Union Pacific. She enjoys reading, walking, yoga, volunteering at the Playhouse and in the past weight lifting and long distance bike riding. Cheri has two daughters and four grandchildren who all live in Lincoln.



Scott and Kimberly McCormick

Scott and Kimberly moved to Omaha approximately 2 years ago to be closer to family. They learned about PCOC through a family member. Scott was born and raised in Sioux City, IA. and is a retired business owner. Scott was ordained and installed as an Elder and a Deacon at First Presbyterian Church in Sioux City. He also served on their Finance Committee and Building and Grounds Committee. Kimberly was also born and raised in Sioux City. Scott and Kimberly enjoy travelling, reading and walking. The McCormicks usually attend the 11:10 service so please say Hello and welcome them to our church family.



Kristine Gasko

Kristine and her mother-in-law searched for a church to join together. After a long search they attended PCOC and after a year, they decided to join. Since arriving, she has enjoyed being involved in the church. Born in Roswell, NM, Kristine grew up in Omaha. She works for the Department of Veterans Affairs, doing IT work for them. Kristine and her husband John enjoy working out at the gym together, bike riding and enjoying the outdoors. They have two golden retrievers with whom she spends lots of time with and loves. Reading is another hobby.



Joe Trapp

You may recognize Joe, who's been attending the 9AM worship service with his wife, Kate Bauer Trapp, daughter Mika, son Brooks, and his in-laws Darold and Mimi Bauer. Joe grew up in Superior, Nebraska, and has lived in Omaha for 8 1/2 years. He moved back to Omaha in 2015 to be closer to his family. Joe is a travel nurse recruiter which means he matches and supports travel nurses with contracted positions at various hospitals throughout the country. Besides spending time with his family, Joe enjoys cooking and golf. He also enjoys helping out with local charity golf tournaments. So, when you see Joe, please "officially" welcome him to PCOC.





Anthony Billings



Anthony was introduced to PCOC through his fiancé McKenzie Johnson, her Mom Kristin Johnson and her Grandmother Julie Buehler. Thank You Ladies! Anthony was born and raised in Phoenix, but has lived in Omaha since 2018. He attended UNO and completed Army ROTC through Creighton. He is a carrier operation representative for Werner Enterprises. Anthony is a

logistics officer in the Army Reserve and currently mentors ROTC cadets. In his spare time, he is a fitness enthusiast and history buff. Please welcome Anthony and congratulate him and McKenzie on their upcoming nuptials.

Fun at the Easter Egg Hunt

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



Spirit of Mission

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Once again, this spring Presbyterian Church of the Cross recognized teachers and administrators at Walnut Hill Elementary school and ILP at Saratoga Elementary for the work they do benefit-



ing at risk youth in OPS. A total of 99 gift cards and over 65 meals were served on Thursday, March 21st at ILP and March 28 at Walnut Hill during their Parent Teacher Conference

Days. As always, the teachers and administrators were very grateful to have such a nice break during the busy conference season. Principal Nicole Longlee at Walnut Hill is excited to come thank the congregation in person so look for her on the schedule during an upcoming Minute for Mission.



Habitat for Humanity Build on May 18th

We need your help to make the dream of decent, affordable housing a reality for all our neighbors in Omaha! Presbyterian Church of the Cross will again be participating in a Habitat build day. (8a.m.- 3p.m.) Registration is available online here: <https://cerv.is/0119gBpaWmz>

Registration is limited to the first ten volunteers. Must be 16 years of age and no tools or previous construction experience is required. Please contact Matt Darling with any questions on the registration process.



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

Return Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Omaha Ne
Permit No. 833

Next Cross Currents Deadline is:
Third Friday of the month
May 17, 2024

Friday Night Gourmets on May 10

Charlene and Stan Weyand, Don and Cindy Hiltgen will be your hosts at Hacienda Real Party Room at 78th and Cass Street We will order from a special menu and pay for individual tickets. Thank you. Sign up at the information desk. Questions? Contact the hosts. Charlene and Stan Weyand, and Don and Cindy Hiltgen.



Friday Night Gourmets

The Church will be closed
on May 27, 2024
in observance of
Memorial Day.

Cross Currents

The *Cross Currents* is published monthly by the Presbyterian Church of the Cross, 1517 South 114th Street, Omaha 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.
