

## SUMMER FUN FOR EVERYONE!

### The Pancake Man on Sunday, June 2

The Pancake Man will be here to serve us on June 2 following worship. The cost is \$5.00 per person or maximum of \$20.00 per family. This event features entertainment provided by Anne Narosky's young fiddlers! Proceeds will go to help recent tornado relief in our area.



### Sing with the Men's Choirs

Even if you aren't currently a member of choir. Men rehearse on May 29 at 7:00 and June 5 at 5:30 and sing in worship on June 9. Contact Kristi Treu at the church if you have questions.



### Art and Music Camp June 11-14,

Summer Camp Opportunity for kids finishing 1st through 5th grade.

#### CHOOSE YOUR TRACK

TRACK 1: Art Camp 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space. \$25 for materials.

Back by popular demand: Tie Dye, Clay, Canvases, and Watercolors New this year: Mosaic, Airplanes, and Shrink Art. Sue Thomas, instructor

TRACK 2: Music Camp from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. NO COST. Singing, Bucket Drums, Folk Dancing.

Jayne Frederickson, Mary Lynn Bennett, and Kristi Treu, Instructors

TRACK 3: Art Camp AND Music Camp with lunch from 12:00 – 12:30.



Sign up to participate or volunteer to help. Questions: contact Sue Thomas or Kristi Treu .

### Young Adult Mission Trip June 19 – 23

Our young adults will gather at Camp Calvin Crest in Fremont again this summer. They are scheduled to serve dinner at Siena Francis, work at No More Empty Pots, Care Corps Life House, and Habitat for Humanity. There will be lots of time for fun and fellowship as well.



### Vacation Bible School, July 9 – 11

9 a.m. to Noon, 4 yrs. to 5th grade – completed.

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.



**Register On Line!**

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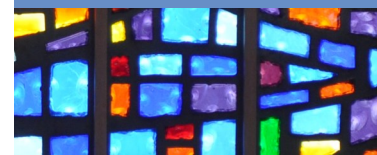
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## “I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June?”



This happy quote by L.M. Montgomery (the author of Anne of Green Gables) got me thinking—what have I written about in my monthly Cross Currents articles for June? I was curious about what had been going on around here in years past, so, I looked back at what I’d written in previous years. Take a walk down Memory Lane with me...

June...

- 2015 How to Install your new Pastor
- 2016 Update on A Study of Christian Marriage
- 2017 Our Strategic Planning is Underway!
- 2018 A Fond Farewell to Lynda Dinsdale
- 2019 Summer Bible Study
- 2020 no Cross Currents...it was COVID
- 2021 Adjusting our social distancing policies during COVID
- 2022 A new Bible Study Just for Men
- 2023 A Fond Farewell to Christine Dempsey

And these topics were only during the month of June! So much happens at PCOC!

After the graduation celebrations of May, and before the new school year in the fall, June offers us a time of respite, maybe - looking forward to a summer of fun and activity.

2024 is no exception, as our church calendar this June offers up a summer calendar sure to please almost every Presbyterian!

Let’s remember to look out for others, especially those in our area who have been hard hit from the storms. Stay tuned for more details about how PCOC will once again by hosting work teams who will stay with us week by week.

Your pastor and friend,

*Marshall Ziemann*



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

### Join a Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday Bible Studies led by Dr. Ziemann have resumed as we study the Old Testament book of Joshua. 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).

### Deacons Update for May Submitted by Larry Frederickson

Deacons Jerry Cornett, Carla Fritz, Holly Baddley, Tim Jerry, Toni Craig, Karen Smith, Betsy Conway, and Ginger Petersen-Britt hosted the May 5 brunch, honoring the graduating seniors and their families. The brunch menu featured frittata, bacon, sausage, fruit salad and muffins. Forty six graduates and family members were served. The seniors were also presented a yearbook during the brunch. These graduates participated in both worship services as well.

**Deacons Moderator:**  
Neal Hubbard



## 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

### IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

Church of the Cross has experienced a year of great change. Our associate pastor accepted a call in Estes Park, CO. in July 2023. Then, our organist, Mark Kanitz, began work in August. And during September our congregation dedicated the newly constructed Welcome Center. Amid all this change our congregation assisted a refugee family to settle in Omaha. Conclusively, the year 2023 was of change!

In many ways it was also a year of great change for the world as wars continue, borders change, refugees flee, however the Church and its many congregations continue to live out this truth: “We are the Church, together.” While we gather as God’s people and continue with our ministries and missions, we must be cognizant of others experiencing need and evolve into new forms and realities of Christian life.

This past year, Church of the Cross members have generously supported the Christmas Joy Offering, the Thanksgiving Offering, the Deacon Envelope, the One Great Hour of Sharing, the Pentecost Offering and most recently support for the April 26 tornado devastation in our area. As each of us decides to make a portion of our tithe to help others through these special offerings our combined efforts are incredible!

These gifts are all expressions of the truth, drawing us together as a Church building God’s house alongside the vulnerable and marginalized inside our faith communities and among our neighbors. Each time you make a gift it is a visible sign of the invisible grace we know through Jesus Christ. It puts our faith into action. Through these offerings that are supported by Church of the Cross many hands and feet are moved with God as God recreates the world to be a more loving, more just, and more peaceful.

Thank you for your tremendous generosity.

### CONSTRUCTING A CHRISTIAN WILL

Wills & Bequests – It is never too early to write a will; it can only be too late. Writing your will is the most important step you can take in planning

your estate. Without it, the probate court will make decisions about the distribution of your assets and appoint guardianship of any survivor left in your care. No assets will be given to any charitable organization, no matter how important that organization was to you during your lifetime.

If you do have a will, this may be a good time to review it. Wills should be kept up-to-date and reviewed from time to time to mirror the changes that may take place in your life. A properly prepared will is a very effective means to accomplish many goals, including charitable intentions.

#### CONSIDERATION FOR REVIEWING A WILL

- Birth or adoption of children.
- Children have grown or married.
- Loss of a spouse or loved one.
- Divorce or marriage.
- Move to another state.
- Change in financial situation or holdings.

Getting started – Taking an inventory of all assets and liabilities is the groundwork for a good estate plan. It is important to share this information with children or the executor you may have named.

After you have compiled a comprehensive list, decide how you want your assets distributed. List your heirs and what you would like each to receive, including charitable beneficiaries you would like to support.

Consult with your legal and financial advisors to discuss and finalize your plan.

Church of the Cross’s Finance Committee hopes to continue to raise awareness of Composing a Legacy this year. Look for more information this year.



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

**Finance Committee Moderator:**  
 Belinda Greiner

**Building and Grounds Committee Moderator:**  
 Roger Utman



## Congratulations to the Senior Class of 2024!



Pictured above, left to right: Andrew Berry, Blake Kahler, Brinly Lehmann, Adam Luke, Alex Voss, Josh McFadden. Not pictured: Garrett Moore.

Youth Sunday is my favorite Sunday of the year. What a wonderful way to honor our youth! If you missed it, you should find it online and watch it. The youth did a great job leading worship. Their faith talks were heartwarming. We couldn't be prouder! Thank you so much to the Deacons and Jerry and Renee Cornett for providing the delicious brunch and keepsake booklet.

### Parent Survey



As we strive to continuously improve our Christian Education programming, we have observed a concerning trend of declining participation among families with school-aged children. Your input and feedback are crucial in guiding us towards revitalizing and enhancing our programs to better meet the needs of our children and families.

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities we face, the Christian Education Committee has developed a brief survey. Whether you are actively engaged in our programs or not, we urge you to participate honestly. Your responses will provide invaluable insights into how we can better support the spiritual growth and development of our children.

Your candid feedback will help our Christian Education Committee tailor programs and initiatives that resonate with the needs and aspirations of our community. Together, we can ensure that our

### Important Dates to Remember

June 2 – 8	SHF Mission Trip
June 11 – 14	Art and Music Camp
June 14 – 16	JHF Mission Trip
June 19 – 23	Young Adult Mission Trip
July 9 – 11	Vacation Bible School, 9:00 a.m. to noon
July 14	Garage Sale Donation Drop

church remains a nurturing environment where our children can flourish in their faith journey. Thank you in advance for your participation and commitment to the future of our church family. Please take a few moments to complete the survey here:



### Last Chance to Sign Up for VBS! DEADLINE to register is JUNE 1.



July 9 – 11  
9 a.m. to noon  
4-year-olds – 5th grade (completed)  
Cost is \$10/student, \$20 max/family.

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.

(Continued on Page 7)



**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



## The Vesper Concerts Season 36 Announcement Is Coming!

To receive our beautiful, full-color brochure, make sure you are on our mailing list. Send Kristi your mailing information to [kristi@pcoc.us](mailto:kristi@pcoc.us). Then, head to our website at [vesperconcerts.org](http://vesperconcerts.org) to sign up for our email newsletter, and find up-to-the-minute information on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

## Sing with Us This Summer!

Men's Choir for ages high school through adult:  
- Rehearse on Wednesday, May 29 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, June 5 at 5:30; sing in worship on Sunday, June 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Summer Choir for all ages:  
Invite your friends, neighbors, and out-of-town guests to join us in the choir room at 9:00 a.m. to rehearse music for the 10:00 service on June 16, July 21, and August 18.



## Have You Signed Up for Summer Art & Music Camp?

Want a fun activity for your 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grader who loves art and music? Sign them up for our four-day summer camp from June 11 – 14 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



## GALS evening at Cellar 426 Concert June 8

Join GALS for an evening of music, fellowship, and fun at Cellar 426 Outdoor Concert featuring Tom and Wes on June 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. In order to participate, please purchase a ticket in advance at <https://cellar426.com/tom-wes-live-cellar-426-winery> and sign up so GALS can coordinate carpools. Tickets are \$6.50 in advance and \$9 day of the show. There are a limited amount of tickets so make sure to sign up early. Sign up online at <https://churchofthecrossomaha.org/signup/>

be found on the church website, and the June 1 deadline is coming up fast! Questions? Contact Sue Thomas or Kristi Treu.



**Kristi Treu**

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

**Worship & Music Committee Moderator:**  
Linda Matson

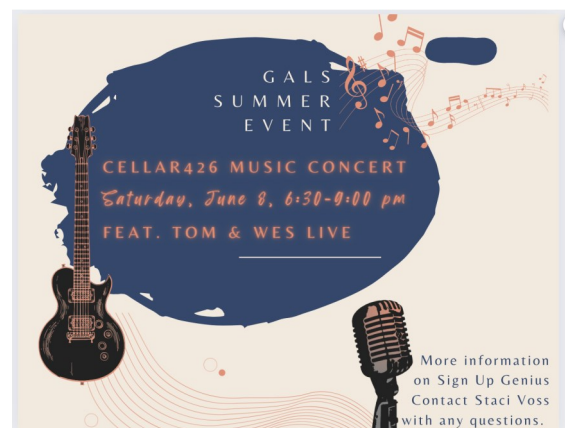
## Choose a Sunday to Help!

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.



**Ushers Needed**

Questions? Contact  
Mary Ott or Mary Lynn Bennett





- 6/2 Briley Mathia, Piiri Morey, Naomi Rueb, Ellie Sherlock
- 6/3 Dawn Buchanan, Alex Voss
- 6/4 Ella Moore, Bob Reisser
- 6/5 Maya Maxwell, Mika Trapp
- 6/6 Don Reed
- 6/7 Jean Carey
- 6/8 Kristen Hinz, Larry Rock, Brooks Trapp
- 6/9 Bryce Crawford III, Claude Smith,
- 6/10 Anne DeCosta
- 6/11 Cosette Ebert, James Tot,
- 6/12 Susan Geschwender, Crosby Koch, Scott Sumner, Kathy Leach
- 6/13 Cindy Sloan
- 6/14 Carl Mammel Jr., Matthew Price
- 6/15 Christina Kahler
- 6/16 Renee Cornett, Bethany Haas, Kim Reid
- 6/17 Bryan Hoybook, Casey Knight
- 6/18 Greg Brecci, Cael Dempsey, John Millar, Gary Neuhaus
- 6/19 Judy Keating, Fiona Smith
- 6/20 Maren Fuller, Leslie Nicas
- 6/21 Jacob Buda, Kate Morris
- 6/22 Kevin Curtis, Ava Kalkwarf, Isla Kalkwarf, Dan Kerr
- 6/23 Keegan Anderson
- 6/24 Sue Foehlinger, Debbie Mazgaj
- 6/25 Blake Harrison
- 6/26 Joe Eckman, Ann Pearson, Dave Pederson, Ron Wax
- 6/27 June Fettig, Beverley Karrer, Stephanie Weaver, Kevin Kerr
- 6/28 Julie Buehler
- 6/29 Erin Bauer, Marty McGuire,
- 6/30 Wayne Bauer, Shepard Versaw



Lois Decker - May 6, 2024.  
A service was held on May 31 with a lunch at the church.  
Helen McNiven - May 7. A Private family service is planned for June 7.  
Joan Thorson—May 19, 2024. A service was held on May 22 at Heafey-Hoffman Mortuary.

## A Note from our Church Members

We appreciate all the kindness shown to David and Jane during his recent hospital stay.  
God's Blessings,

David and Jane Hawkins

## Volunteers Needed for Hosting!

The PCOC Hosting Team is gearing up for what could be a very busy spring and summer of hosting volunteer groups. We will need many extra hands for specific jobs. Here is what we are looking for...

- Set Up Team
- Greeters/Tour Guides
- Tear Down Team
- Laundry Team

If you would like to participate in one or more of these areas, on an "as needed" basis, please contact Sheri Sessions.

## Next New Member Discussion July 21, 2024

Do you know someone who is looking for a church home? Invite them to visit church with you in the new year! Our next New Member Discussion will be on Sunday, January 14, 2024 after the worship service. The discussion will last about an hour, and a light lunch will be provided. Scan our QR code to sign up online or call the church office to register!



## 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

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



## Active Minds in June

Active Minds is inviting our JHF Youth (grades 6-8 in the fall) to join us for games and lots of laughs on Tuesday afternoons in June. We meet in the lower-level Great Room, 1:00 pm-3:30 pm. More adults will join us after Bible Study. We will teach the youth how to play 10-point pitch and Kings on the Corner. The youth will select a game to teach us--- maybe a video game or maybe a Wii Sport. Students may also register one friend. Students have the option to register for specific weeks or all four. Sign up is available online.

**Coordinator: Earlene Uhrig**

## 49ers on June 4

Our speaker will be Keith Allen, for 35 years a Professor of Psychology at the Munroe Meyer Institute at UNMC. He will describe how we can use science to answer questions important to understanding and treating myriad problems of mental and behavioral health, ranging from adult chronic pain, to adolescent risk-taking, childhood autism and toddler potty training. 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 June 7

Friday Night Gourmet will be held at Kris & Tim Goodman's home on June 7th at 6:30PM. The address is 17206 Fairway Drive, Omaha NE 68136. Brats & burgers and tea & water will be provided. If you have any questions contact Kris and Tim. Please BYOB & a side dish, appetizer, or dessert to share. You can sign up at the Information Desk as to what you will be bringing. See you there or be square.

## PCOC Book Group on June 19

PCOC Book Group will meet Wednesday, Month Day in Room 13 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. to review *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. 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**

### Membership Committee Co-Moderators:

Amy Boesen & Brenda Graumann—

### Congregational Life Committee Moderator:

Kathy Nickel & Stephanie Weaver—



## Christian Education News Cont.

### Basket Silent Auction

The silent auction raised \$935.00 that will go directly towards the SHF Mission Trip to Clearwater Forest Camp in Deerwood, Minnesota in June. Thank you to all that bid on the baskets. We appreciate your support!



### 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!

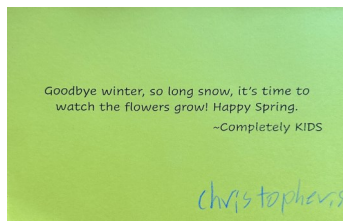


### The Mission Committee Mailbox

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 thanks you for your generous donation of \$2,994 and for your continuing support. The organization has experienced an 80% increase since the end of 2021 and is trending to serve 85,000 people this year.

-See below to view the thank you from Christopher who is 9 years old.



### Siena Francis House Servers Needed

**Sunday, June 9  
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 Kathy Moore**

Thank you for attending the Spring Speaker Series. We are filled with gratitude for:

- Fifty PCOC members who attended
- The amazing people and resources we have in our city
- The willingness of our speakers, who shared their knowledge

Each speaker brought a different set of knowledge and tools:

- Leah, from No More Empty Pots, presented an awareness of food insecurity and soil quality in our community, and the many responsive programs.



# SPIRIT OF MISSION

### Mission Committee Moderator:

Anne Wattles

- Jeremy, from the Tri Faith Center, provided a framework for looking at the 5 B's (Belief, Behavior, Belonging, Becoming and Body) to help us better understand significant cultural and religious differences.
- Willie, from the North Omaha Empowerment Network, provided a wealth of data and personal experiences outlining needs and solutions for our city.

### Upcoming Agape for All Events

**Visit the No More Empty Pots facility on Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

Come learn about the Highlander Accelerator Project. The location is 2120 N 30th Street. The tower garden greenhouse provides fresh greens for food boxes and for purchase in the Micro Market. Commercial kitchen areas provide space for cooking classes and entrepreneurial endeavors. Contact Earlene Uhrig, if you have questions and please sign up at the Information Desk or online at <https://churchofthecrossomaha.org/signup/>.

**Art, culture and food in North Omaha on Wednesday, August 14th**

We will start with lunch at 11:45 at Jackson's Fair Deal Café in North Omaha (2118 North 24th Street). Following lunch, we will go to the Union for Contemporary Arts at 2423 North 24th Street. There we will tour their wonderful cooperative art space which provides affordable opportunities and space for artists who might not otherwise have access. We will also visit their scheduled art exhibit featuring Nathaniel Ruleaux, a member of the Oglala Lakota Nation. Nathan describes his work by saying: "my work is an expression of my combined anger at our nation, a love of the people and the land, and dreams of what kind of world I want my child to grow up in." Contact Kathy Moore if you have questions, and please sign up at the Information Desk



or online at <https://churchofthecrossomaha.org/signup/>. If you can't join us on the 14<sup>th</sup> but would like to visit solo, the Union is open T, W, Th from 1 - 8 and F, S from 10 - 5.

### Second Race & Reconciliation Dinner on July 21

Join Kathy Moore at the second dinner hosted by Pamela Berry, at Trinity Lutheran Church at 6340 North 30<sup>th</sup> St. at 5:30 p.m. This will be a casual dinner and opportunity to hear speakers and then discuss the period from slavery to Jim Crow and Red Summer. More information will be available later. About six of us attended the first dinner in April along with friends we've partnered with from St. Luke's United Methodist. Seating is limited so feel free to let Kathy Moore know if you are interested. Registration will also be available at the Information Desk and online at <https://churchofthecrossomaha.org/signup/>.

### Summer Outings for you to Explore

Down Home Soul Food Gospel Lunches at the Revive Center from 12 - 3pm on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. 2402 Lizzie Robinson Ave (24th and Lake). No pre-registration necessary, several people from our church go somewhat regularly. All you need to do - Get Hungry!

Jackson's Fair Deal Cafe, is also a great option, located at 2118 N 24th St STE 101. They are open Tuesday - Saturday 9:00AM - 10:00PM, Sunday 9:00AM - 5:00PM

10% OFF MEALS for First Responders, Health Care Providers, College Students, Educators, and Seniors. Now that is a fair deal!

### Summer Volunteering

Come join Kathy Moore for a Community Cleanup on Saturday July 29, at 9AM. We can meet in the church parking lot at 8:30 AM then head to 3118 N 24th St Global Community Garden for a 9:00 cleanup session. Please sign up at the Information Desk or online at <https://churchofthecrossomaha.org/signup/>.

### Summer Conference

Race, Religion, and Social Justice Conference, June 5-6th, on the Tri-Faith Commons. The intersections between race, religion, and social justice across different sectors of society will feature 26 breakout presentations with multi-sector approaches — non-profit and civic leaders, diversity, equity, access,

and inclusion (DEAI) practitioners, community members, educators, health and mental health practitioners, artists, religious communities, and scholars. Scholarships available: Please email [rrsj@trifaiith.org](mailto:rrsj@trifaiith.org) with the subject line, "RRSJ Scholarship" and Tri-Faith Initiative staff will work with you. GENERAL ADMISSION TICKET: \$150. DAY 1 PASS: \$100. Contact Patty Ritchie with any

### Agape Book Review

Submitted by Ann Pearson

*Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom* by Virginia Hamilton, Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon.

Reading this book has been an exciting surprise. When you first pick it up, it is apparently directed toward a younger audience. It is beautifully illustrated, the stories are short, and it is published by Scholastic. However, when you start reading it, you will find it a treasure trove of stories of the most breathtaking yet heartbreaking experiences of real human beings struggling to escape the horrors of slavery from 1619 to 1865. And as we all know, that was only the beginning of the struggles of Black Americans to win their full rights and privileges as Americans. There is an intriguing story of the development of the so-called Underground Railroad.

There is the story of a young man who built himself a box and had himself shipped to the North to Freedom. When carriers didn't see the directions on the box, he travelled upside down for parts of the journey.

There is the story of Somerset who travelled to England with his master. Two years later he escaped. When he is caught, his master no longer wants him. His master believes Somerset has Drapetomania or "running away disease". It was truly thought to be a disease!

Isabella Baumer had visions and conversations with God. And even though she never learned to read or write, she renamed herself Sojourner Truth and became one of the most influential abolitionists and women's rights activists of her time.

And then there was the Creole woman who was light-skinned enough to pose as a "proper lady of the South." After her husband was severely beaten for escaping his own slavery, he disguised himself as her servant and they were able to make it to safety and Freedom in Cincinnati.

Guess whose real name was Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey? We have so much to learn.

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

**June 21, 2024**

## What does Lithuania have to teach us about peace?

You may know that Church of the Cross has a relationship with a church in Gnezdovo, Russia. Ellen Smith, our PC(USA) mission co-worker, set up this partnership with our church and Karen Morey has led many trips to visit there. With Russia's invasion of Ukraine, we've expanded further to include all of Eastern Europe and our name is the Eastern Europe Partnership Network.

Lithuania is a small country on the Baltic Sea with lessons to teach us about the travails and tragedies of war and overcoming this history to achieve a lasting and healing peace. Some Church of the Cross members, including Karen Morey, Jon and Irene Boomgaarden, and Jean Waters traveled there in March 2023.

Now, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program will travel there for a study session, "Lithuania: Healing the Legacies of War and Oppression," on October 14-24. The trip will include time in Vilnius and Klaipeda to learn about the oppression of Lithuania's very large Jewish population by its own citizens during Nazi occupation, the "wolf children" who were German-speaking children pushed across the border into Lithuania by the Prussians, betrayals during the time of Soviet occupation, and the cur-

rent Ukrainian refugee crises.

The study group will spend time at the LCC International University Center for Dialogue and Conflict Transformation. Naomi Enns, director of this center, was in Omaha last fall for our Eastern Europe Partnership Network conference. Carl Horton, the director of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, the sponsor of this trip, was also here in Omaha for the conference. Pastor Marshall and Becky Zieman will be going on this trip.

Taking a trip like this broadens our perspective. We learn about different cultures, traditions, and ways of life. Gaining this perspective helps us translate these ideas and ways of change to apply them in Omaha. It provides us with the opportunity to walk in dependence upon the Lord and find a renewed awareness of our need for Him and his love for all people.

The deadline for applying to go on this trip is June 14, 2024. For more information, do an internet search for Presbyterian Mission Peacemaking Lithuania. (<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/lithuania-healing-the-legacies-of-war-and-oppression/>)

### Cross Currents

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

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