

WELCOME JOSH, JORDAN, DMITRI, NIKOLAI, AND NADIA GARRY!



Presbyterian Church of the Cross is pleased to welcome the Garry family to Omaha! Josh will begin as our Associate Pastor on August 1. Josh is the son of a Presbyterian minister and was born in San Diego, CA. He grew up in Columbus, OH, Princeton, NJ, and Bremerton, WA.

Josh brings life experiences, both personal and professional, that allow him to thrive in pastoral care. He served four years with at-risk youth in a residential treatment home, is certified in crisis intervention and has been active mission work and advocacy. Josh has a strong sense of social justice and values the inclusiveness and openness found at Church of the Cross. Josh has expressed his love of traditional worship, and his preaching combines his passion for scripture with his interests for literature and philosophy. Please welcome the Garry family into our congregation.

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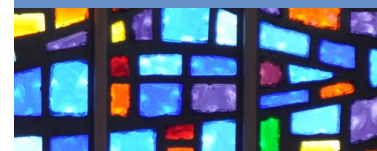
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Summer - A Break from the Ordinary

When we turn the corner on the College World Series then we know that summer is really here to stay. I hope that your summer ahead will be a relaxing and rejuvenating one.

This time last summer Becky and I were on a train trip way up in Canada. It was a really fun trip, but what I find remarkable is how that trip still stays with me today, a year later. Maybe that's what a true break from the ordinary is supposed to do – stay with you. Maybe that's how you realize that getting away is more important than you thought it was – when it was good for the mind, the body, and the soul.

Exotic train trips are not the norm, but you don't have to go to that extreme to realize that we all need getaways from time to time. As I preached on recently, sabbath days are one way to do this. God gave us a built-in way to stay fresh, if we will use it. I remember back in Covid how Becky and I started taking Sunday drives together, just to get us out of the confinement of the house. Each Sunday afternoon, we'd go either north, south, east, or west for an hour or two. While we weren't able to interact with anybody back then, just getting away by ourselves seemed to give us a new perspective. Looking back, it was more important than we realized – and it wasn't that hard to do.

Whatever your summer looks like for you, I do hope that you'll plan in some ways to get out of the ordinary, and in doing so, maybe the ordinary will get out of you.

Your pastor and friend,

Marshall Ziemann



**Pastor/Head of Staff
Marshall Ziemann**
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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 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).

Welcome our New Associate Pastor

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased to congratulate Joshua Garry on his recent confirmation as Associate Pastor for Presbyterian Church of the Cross. Thank you to everyone who helped make the welcome reception for the Garry's such a success on June 9. Josh and his family will make their home in Omaha beginning July 12, with Josh expected to return to service with us on August 4. Additional opportunities to meet Josh and his family will be announced in the coming weeks.



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

FINALLY FELLOWSHIP HALL ACCOUSTICAL CEILING AND NEW LIGHTS TO BECOME A REALITY

MCL will be on location to deconstruct the Fellowship Hall ceiling and lights beginning July 15! I would like to say this is set in stone this time. It has been pushed back a week to accommodate VBS the week before. We want our kids to have a great VBS experience with the room needed before the project begins.

I know I've promised this in May and June, but July seems to be the reality. All parts should be in Omaha and ready to commence work. B&G will move tables and chairs out of the area following VBS. Coffee Fellowship Hour will be in the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings until the project is completed.

Once the new ceiling is in place, there will be recessed light fixtures and drum lights throughout the Fellowship Hall. We will also have new screens for easy viewing for programs. I look forward to the updated look and hopefully and a more comfortable conversational area for our church gatherings.

Yes, the Building Design Committee and staff are excited to see this portion of our renovation take place. Thank you to everyone who attended meetings, prayerfully supported the entire project, and financially sustained our church's efforts with construction expenses. Your individual gifts have made an amazing difference to the future of our church.



THANK YOU FOR MY VACATION

Yes, it may have taken 10 years, but Rock went on vacation. Anna and Rock headed for the Pacific Northwest on June 3 with the truck loaded. Luckily, no one asked to ride with us. We spent a couple of days driving to northern Montana.

We picked up our son Scott at the Kalispell International Airport and soon met our daughter Emily and her fiancé Tanner for a fun-filled wedding weekend.



On Saturday, June 8, Emily and Tanner were married in Glacier National Park on the shore of Lake McDonald. It was a beautiful day and God did all the decorating for us. The backdrops were stunning.

We spent the next week in Spokane, WA preparing for a celebration with family and friends and had an equally wonderful time at that event. Thanks again for allowing us time away and very few interruptions.



Rock Sumner
Business Administrator
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 rock@pcoc.us

Finance Committee Moderator:
 Belinda Greiner

Building and Grounds Committee Moderator:
 Roger Utman



Senior High Mission Trip

Our SHF group had a productive first week of June serving Clearwater Forest Presbyterian Camp in Deerwood, Minnesota. We left bright and early on Sunday morning and returned in the late afternoon on Saturday. Our group consisted of 12 youth and 4 adults, which we fit into two passenger vans and a cargo van. We were lucky to be housed in a beautiful lodge right on the lake. We enjoyed cooling off in the lake, and using pedal boats, water bikes, canoes and kayaks. A surprise to everyone was the size of the mosquitoes in Minnesota – they were huge! And there were so many of them! We also had fun checking ourselves for ticks each night. We all worked very hard while at camp.



- Here is a list of what we accomplished:
- *Disassembled, rebuilt, routed edges, and stained 18, 10-foot wooden benches
 - *Scraped and stained the outdoor chapel floor that is approximately 15 feet square
 - *Spread new mulch around the newly constructed benches
 - *Disassembled 200 feet of old wooden fencing and replaced with new fencing
 - *Found and moved 7,000 pounds of rocks/boulders to line their sidewalks
 - *Cleared fallen trees and branches around the lodge, dining hall, and lakefront
 - *Fastened down a new surface for a dock to reduce tripping
 - *Filled in leveled a ditch approximately 600 feet long
 - *Scraped and stained 7 picnic tables
 - *Scraped, prepped, and stained trim on a large bath-house
 - *Scraped and stained hanging benches from the circle swing that was constructed by our SHF group back in 2016



Important Dates to Remember

- 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 p.m.

On our way home, we stopped at Valley Fair Amusement Park for some fun. We spent the night at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. Then we got up and drove home the next day. Thank you so much to the leaders who took vacation time to chaperone this weeklong trip!



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

- July 9 – 11
9 a.m. to noon
- Kinder – 5th grade (completed)
- Preschool is full!
- Cost is \$10/student, \$20 max family.



(Continued on page 5)



Heather Berry
Director of Christian Education
(402)333-7466 Ext. 2
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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



Junior High Mission Trip

Bright and early on a Friday morning in June, our JHF group departed for our 3-day mission trip to Kansas City. Our group consisted of 14 youth and 5 adults. We were hosted by Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri. They had a lovely stand-alone house that we were lucky enough to sleep in. We even met up with their youth group one evening for fun and games.



While in Kansas City, we served at three amazing organizations.

On Friday morning, we prepped, served, and cleaned up lunch for the homeless community at Nourish KC. We worked non-stop for 4 hours and served 1,335 meals!



Saturday morning we served at Uplift, an organization that serves the homeless community. In the evenings, they take vans out into the community and hand out food, clothing, medicine, and pretty much whatever they need. We worked in their warehouse, sorting all types of donations, filling water jugs, filling small bags of cat and dog food, and loving on their free roaming dog ambassador, Doshia. Saturday afternoon we served at Harvesters, the food bank that serves several counties in Kansas and Missouri. We worked on sorting and bagging carrots. It was a fast and furious two hours! Saturday evening we were ready for some fun, so we went bowling.



On Sunday morning, we attended worship and then spent some time at Worlds of Fun. We headed home after that.

Thank you to the leaders that spend their Sundays with our youth. Trips like this would be impossible without their leadership. Thank you!



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.

Or any time that works for you!

Help or Shop on Garage Sale Day:

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



Patriotic Concert on July 7

A short program of patriotic music will follow the worship service on Sunday morning, July 7. Music will be presented by brass, organ, and singers. You'll hear many of your favorite patriotic songs like "Stars and Stripes Forever," "America the Beautiful," and "You're a Grand Old Flag" and can join in a sing-along. It will be a fun way to celebrate Independence Day.



Season 36 Brochures Now Available

Vesper Concerts has announced its 2024-25 season! Stop by the Information Desk and get a full-color brochure today, then make sure to mark all the concert dates on your calendar.

You can also find everything you need to know about Season 36 on our Facebook and Instagram pages and our website at www.vesperconcerts.org. You can sign up for our email newsletter while you're there.

Summer Choir July 21

Ever been curious about singing in the choir? We warmly invite you to join our Summer Choir on July 21. We'll gather in the choir rehearsal room at 9:00 to practice music that's easy to learn for the 10:00 service. This is a fantastic opportunity to dip your toes in without a weekly commitment. And who knows, you might just discover a new passion and decide to join us regularly! For our regular singers, Summer Choir is an opportunity to invite friends, family, and even your house guests who are in town for the weekend.



Kristi Treu
Director of Music & Executive Director of Vesper Concerts
(402)333-7466 Ext. 5

Worship & Music Committee Moderator:
Linda Matson



DEACONS' UPDATE

Deacon Updates for July Submitted by Larry Frederickson

On May 31 services were held for Lois Decker and the Deacons hosted a luncheon after the service. Twenty nine volunteers were on hand to serve 104 people. The food was prepared and cooked by Nickie Quartoroli. Likewise, services were held for Chuck Krumme at the Church. Twenty four volunteers were here to prepare and serve 88 people after the service. Thanks to all who helped out for these two services!

A reception was held at the home of Jerry and Renee Cornett on Saturday, June 8, for our new Associate Pastor Joshua Garry and his family. About 45

Deacons, Elders, and Staff attended the reception. Welcome to Omaha, Joshua!



Deacons Moderator:
Neal Hubbard



Bradley Jacobi - June 5, 2024
A memorial service was held in Omaha on June 12.

Chuck Krumme - June 12, 2024
A Memorial Service was held in our Sanctuary on Wednesday, June 19, at 11:00 am, followed by a luncheon.

Member Notes

Dear PCOC friends,

We want to express our deep gratitude for the outpouring of support and love during Dennis's health journey and for our 40th wedding anniversary. The visits, hugs, food, flowers and cards have buoyed our spirits as Dennis awaits a return to health and normal activities. We look forward to being back among you as soon as possible!

With love and appreciation,
Dennis & Amy Boesen

Back to School Supply Collection in July

School supplies will be collected throughout the month of July to benefit our OPS mission partner schools: Integrated Learning Program (ILP), Walnut Hill, Bancroft, and Sherman elementary schools. For 2024, we have added a new mission partner in Wakonda Elementary. Wakonda is impacted by the development of the Habitat For Humanity Blue Stem Development in North Omaha. It is estimated it will send between 100 and 200 additional new students into a school that is already at capacity. With that on the horizon we've set a goal of 140 backpacks in addition to all the traditional school supplies for 2024. The collection boxes are inside the circle drive doors and in the Narthex. The mission committee and all the participating schools thank you for your generous support!

- 7/1 Kristin Jacobi, Larry Will
- 7/2 Nancy Anderson, Jane Burch,
Dawn Gibson, Max Justice, Emily Justice
- 7/4 Amy Boesen, Lila Dittman, Julie Evers,
Korbin Stalnaker, Ada Stalnaker
- 7/6 Bonny Boettcher, Joan Gayle Chapin,
Rock Sumner
- 7/7 Barbara Spielman
- 7/8 David Hopp
- 7/9 Silas Boesen
- 7/10 Camille Hinz, Kathy Klein, Bob Nicas,
Jack Nicas
- 7/11 Janet Harley
- 7/12 Irma Kramer
- 7/13 Carolyn Crenson, Justin Kalkwarf
- 7/14 Audrey Florent, Barbara Jaeger
- 7/15 Clara Stalnaker
- 7/16 Jon Boomgaarden, Graham Spencer
- 7/17 Beth Kaiser
- 7/18 Cindy Rieke
- 7/19 Jean Engelmann, Erin Moore
- 7/20 Ron Fehr, Traci Harrison, Elijah Pflueger
- 7/21 Camille Hancock Friesen, Pat Pariset,
Doug Reid, Carol Gasko
- 7/22 Luke Justice, Ken Nisley
- 7/23 Dawn Zimmerman
- 7/24 Marietta Morhardt, LeRoy Swedlund
- 7/25 Carolyn Hansen, Haidyn Spielman
- 7/26 Joslyn Bailey, Tanya Mitzel
- 7/27 Irene Burson, James Fuller
- 7/28 Wendi Harkness, Danielle Obregon,
Jane Olson
- 7/29 John Bennett, Beth Maxwell, Amy Miller,
Amanda Stalnaker
- 7/30 Carol Barnes, Sue Garcia, Donna Mau,
Charles Spann
- 7/31 Jeanette Searson

In need of prayer?

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

Prayer Team Coordinators:

prayerteam@pcoc.us and Judy Arms

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



Active Minds in July

Active minds will not be meeting for July. See you all in August!

Coordinator: Earlene Uhrig

PCOC Book Group on July 17

PCOC Book Group will meet Wednesday, July 17 in Room 13 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. for their annual planning meeting. 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 on August 2

Join us for an evening of relaxed fellowship at the GALS Picnic on the Patio. The event will be held at Brenda Grauman's Patio (120 South 166th Street) on Friday, August 2, at 6 p.m. This event will be a casual potluck style and please sign up to bring a dish. Please contact Brenda Grauman or Staci Voss with questions. See you there!

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 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:



Next New Member Discussion July 21

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, July 21, 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!



Summer Coffee Fellowship Hour.

Due to the anticipated summer construction in Fellowship Hall, our Coffee Fellowship Hour on Sundays has moved to the Welcome Center. Let's enjoy the Welcome Center together!

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 **Ushers Needed**

Membership Committee Co-Moderators:
Amy Boesen & Brenda Graumann—

Congregational Life Committee Moderator:
Kathy Nickel & Stephanie Weaver—

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 \$905 that will help provide working poor families with groceries and other necessities.

Siena Francis House Servers Needed

Sunday, July 14
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 Pattie Ritchie

Great things are happening in North Omaha!

An unveiling of a first piece of street art created by an artist duo called Nebraska Now ... Leading by Example. Scott Drickey photographed, and Nick Flatt painted an amazing portrait of our friend Preston Love on the north side of a building at 2311 North 24th Street. This is the first of what they hope will be many murals throughout North Omaha in tribute to members of the community who "lead by example". Be sure to glimpse it in person if you are in the area. Feel free to grab a meal at the Fair Deal Cafe while you are in the neighborhood. Thanks to Kathy and Craig Moore for attending this celebration event!



No More Empty Pots Tour.

An enthusiastic group of curious Presbyterians toured No More Empty Pots on June 17th. Since our lecture series, Paula Allen has signed up to volunteer monthly for food distribution. The tour



Mission Committee Moderator:

Anne Wattles

highlighted the tremendous work provided through growing a wide variety of greens, collection of other produce, distribution of food boxes, and preparation of healthy food for our urban neighborhoods.

Thanks Earlene Uhrig for coordinating this tour!

Coming Up!

On July 21, there will be a second Race and Reconciliation Dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church, 6340 N 30th St. The gathering begins at 5PM with the (delicious!) potluck at 5:30. The invited speaker will cover racial history from slavery through Jim Crow and Red Summer. PCOC had 8 people attend the first dinner and discussion, which was a rich and meaningful evening indeed. If you are interested in attending on July 21, sign up before July 7th with Kathy Moore at the Welcome Center counter, or online. You will learn so much!

Save the date: On August 14th we will be touring the Union for Contemporary Arts located near 24th & Lake. The exhibition features an artist who is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux tribe. We will have lunch at the Fair Deal Cafe at 11:45 and have arranged for the tour to start at 1:15. Patty Ritchie and Kathy Moore will share additional information. Sign up at the Welcome Center counter, or on line.

Attend the Pow Wow at Fort Omaha

Saturday, September 21, 2024, 1-7:30 p.m. Contact Earlene Uhrig, or sign up at the Welcome Center counter, or online. You will learn so much! Details regarding times of specific events at the Pow Wow will be added to the sign up here: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/PresbyterianChurchOfTheCross/AttendThePowWowAtFortOmaha>

“Embracing Community Connections” Series will continue this fall. With encouragement and enthusiasm from so many PCOC members, plans are underway for additional Sunday morning guest speakers.

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**Next Cross Currents Deadline is:
Third Friday of the month
July 19, 2024**

Cross Currents

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