

## Education Opportunities for Everyone!

### Wednesday Night Cornerstone - Register Online Now

Registration for the fall semester of Cornerstone has begun! For our newcomers, Cornerstone is our mid-week program for all ages. We hope to see you at Bible Study, Confirmation Class, Choir, and of course, dinner! All are welcome, but we ask that you register online by September 1 so we can plan for dinner and class supplies. Cornerstone begins September 11 and ends on November 13.



### Adult Education Begins September 15 – Register Online Now

#### Theologians, Composers, Spirituality and Icons of Sacred Music

led by Cindy Sloan

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. from September 15 – October 27

**Let Justice Roll Down**, led by Kathy Moore,

Patty Ritchie, and Earlene Uhrig

Thursdays 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. on October 3, 10, 17, 24



**Agape for All Speaker Series** – Guest Speakers TBD

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. on November 3, 10, & 17

**Coping with Grief**, presented by Carl Greiner

Sunday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m.

### Sunday School Begins September 8

Our Bible Explorers Program is designed for elementary aged children who are in kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The children are divided by age into four groups: kinder and 1st grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The children enjoy the rotation-based curriculum, *Deep Blue*, which is published by Cokesbury. Children visit learning stations each week and explore the theme from many different angles: Art, Games, Science, Drama, Missions, Spiritual Practices, and Cooking. Parent volunteers lead the classes.



Our Youth Sunday School Classes are divided into two classes, 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Both classes will be using the Feasting on the Word Curriculum. The curriculum follows the Revised Common Lectionary and is published by PC(USA). Holly Baddley will be leading the Junior High Class (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade). They will meet downstairs in Room 8. Dan Kerr will be leading the Senior High Class (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade). They will meet downstairs in the Great Room.

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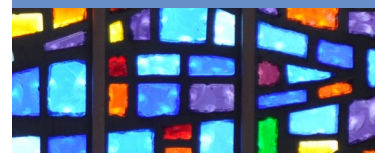
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Presbyterian  
Church of the Cross  
1517 S. 114<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68144

Phone:  
(402)333-7466

Fax:  
(402)697-9084

Email:  
churchofthecross@pcoc.us

Website:  
churchofthecrossomaha.org



## Minting a New Minister

At the August 17 meeting of our presbytery at Camp Calvin Crest, Josh Garry was examined for ordination...and he passed with flying colors! The commissioners to the meeting were invited to ask Josh questions pertaining to his faith, Reformed theology, the sacraments, the circumstances that led to his decision to become a pastor, his Statement of Faith, etc. Josh had to “stand and deliver” – and he did so, beautifully! The vote was unanimous!

Five members of our APNC were present to cheer on Josh, and another four folks from PCOC were also in attendance. At the end of Josh’s examination, the presbytery shared our enthusiasm for God leading us to Josh and thanked our APNC for their diligence and skill in following the search process. It was a good day to be from PCOC!

The ordination process is long and arduous. It is a discernment process with many steps, any of which can also serve as an “exit ramp” in case this call to ordained ministry is not meant to be. It is a careful, albeit slow, process. Both my call to ordained ministry as well as Josh’s took a while. While there are many tests along the way, there are at least three main kinds of challenges to surmount:

1) an “inner call” – do you feel called by God to be ordained? In spite of any setbacks that arise, do you still hear God’s voice calling you to carry on and become a “Rev.”? You might hear many voices saying, “Do you really want to do this? Is it worth it? Can you really do it?” Etc. Through it all, do you still hear God’s voice calling you to do this?

2) There also is a theological/educational test to validate this inner call. After achieving your B.A., can you get accepted into seminary to take grad school level courses? Can you pay for seminary? Can you pass seminary classes? Can your marriage and family also survive seminary with you? Then, can you pass your five Ordination Exams, exhibiting both theological and pastoral skills? Can you successfully complete an Internship Program, getting on the job experience? Not everyone gets through seminary; most don’t get through it smoothly.

3) And, at the end of this process, is there a church out there who will call you to be their pastor? Can you provide an attractive resume and references? Can you interview well? Can you preach and

teach? Can you connect with a search committee? Ultimately, is there a church that wants you?

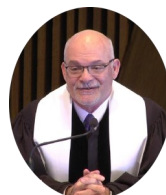
And when a church does call you, can you then stand up at a presbytery meeting and offer yourself for examination, being transparent enough to show the people who you are, even as you answer their questions about what you believe on any range of subjects? It is a day that all pastors still remember vividly – just ask any pastor.

For Josh, a journey that began years ago when the Session of his home church endorsed him to explore this growing sense of call, has now turned into a successful validation by the presbytery of the church calling him to be their pastor. It is a journey which calls for a celebration!

And that calls for a special Ordination Ceremony at Church of the Cross sometime soon! But that is Josh’s joy to schedule and plan, and his story to tell! To be continued...

Your pastor and friend,

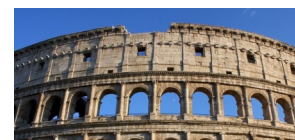
*Marshall Ziemann*



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

## Coming this fall...The Tuesday Bible Studies

Resuming this fall, Pastor Ziemann leads the 7:00am and 1:00pm Tuesday Bible Studies in the Welcome Center from September 10 – December 10



Join us on Tuesdays this fall as we study Paul’s New Testament letter to the church in Rome. Both groups will look at the same passage each week. We’ll read these and discuss how these themes still apply to our lives today.

Men’s Bible Study from 7:00-8:00 a.m.

Afternoon Bible Study from 1:00 – 2:00p.m.

New Members are welcome! Bring your own Bible and an inquisitive mind.

Register by September 1 using the Adult Education signup online.



**From My Desk:**

Somehow, my family and I have already been here for a month. And what an incredible month it has been!

I cannot thank you all enough for welcoming us to Nebraska, Omaha, and Presbyterian Church of the Cross. Whether it was those of you who so generously helped supply my family with the necessary equipment to maintain our house and yard, those of you who filled our pantry and supplied us with meals, or those of you who have been so hospitable and gracious with your time and conversation, all of you have made our transition from the Mid-Atlantic to the Mid-West seamless. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts – we are so happy that God has called us here to serve alongside you.

Additionally, thanks to the congregation’s wonderful flashcard advice (the restaurant and activity recommendations we were given from back when I preached my candidate sermon), our family has been well prepared to explore this wonderful region. As one might expect, we have thoroughly enjoyed the zoo multiple times at this point – but we have also very much enjoyed the Durham and Lauritzen Gardens! We cannot wait to continue experiencing all the things that make Omaha great!

Over the next month, I am looking forward to getting to know many of you more! I am excited to start serving alongside many of you on committees and sharing time with many of you over meals and fellowship to see what you all hope is in store for Church of the Cross moving forward. I am excited to learn the ins and outs of this wonderful Presbyterian Church.

**From Our Holy Scriptures:**

From July 14 to August 25 of this year, the lectionary has and will feature Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians. While the letter may find itself often relegated to the worship service “background” when set alongside the Gospel, Old Testament, and Psalm readings of each week, it is of note that it is yet featured every single Sunday. Hopefully, this frequency piques our interest.

As we find ourselves in the midst of yet another tumultuous political season, Ephesians offers an important reminder of what it means to belong to God and each other: across spiritual and ethnic lines, across socioeconomic quintiles and target de-

mographics. Ephesians proclaims that in the act of the crucifixion, our sins are not only forgiven, but that any and all true barriers (our differences) between human beings has been destroyed. This means a couple things: first, that the Israelites alone are no longer the chosen people of God, that all have become the chosen people of God; and second, that we are now the only thing that can come in between us and God’s plan for the world.

This is certainly good news, but it comes with a sense of responsibility because Ephesians also proclaims that in Christ’s crucifixion we are united. We are “grafted,” as it were, together into the Body of Christ. These notions taken together means that only we can get in our own way, only we can tear “us” apart. In the upcoming days, as we meditate on what we think is best for our communities and our country, let us also consider what it means to live out the good news of Ephesians alongside our own hopes for our life together.

I pray that such reflections bring you more joy than frustration, that in the coming days we continue to belong to each other and our differences, that we all continually draw nearer to God.



**Associate Pastor  
Joshua Garry**  
(402)333-7466 Ext. 3  
josh@pcoc.us

**Come to the Mission Mixer  
September 8**

Join us on September 8, the first Sunday we return to two services for a Mission Mixer! This event offers a chance to connect with the Mission Committee and learn firsthand the impact of your mission dollars. Enjoy coffee, treats, and insightful discussions about the missions the committee champions. If construction in Fellowship Hall is complete, we’ll gather there between services for a delightful mix of fellowship and mission updates. Mark your calendars and come explore how together, we’re making a difference locally and beyond!

**Deacon Moderator**  
Neal Hubbard

**Membership :Co-Moderators**  
Amy Boesen and Brenda Graumann



### The View from My Office

#### JOYFUL JOURNEY OF STEWARDSHIP

How much is too much? How much is enough?

We all have demands on our giving ability. How can we know what’s reasonable for us to give? How much is enough? At our home we have a simple solution.

First, we split up requests into three categories. The first is the “we might send something” list; the second is the “this is important, we should support them” list; and the final one is, maybe two ministries we categorized as “this is who we are! We enjoy supporting this ministry.”

Well, how much? First, discussed are the important ministry(s), the dollar amount was when either of us said, “Ouch, that’s big enough, stop, that hurts. Go back a tad.” When the big number is decided, then the other categories easily take care of themselves.

We belong to the Body of Christ locally known as Presbyterian Church of the Cross. That is who we are. Church of the Cross is one way we act out our role as God’s ambassadors. Pledge amount? Easy. Stop when one of you says OUCH!

When people ask me these two questions, I always reveal to them that it is between them and God, no one else matters.

#### A CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO CHARITABLE ESTATE PLANNING

Estate planning offers Presbyterians the opportunity to make an enduring statement of faith. This act of stewardship can leave an indelible mark on your Church or a mission program of your choice.

You may be surprised that even a small asset can be turned into a gift which will support your choices in perpetuity. You may even identify assets previously not considered that could be used to make generous gifts.

Have you considered remembering Church of the Cross in your Estate Planning?

#### FELLOWSHIP HALL ACCOUSTICAL CEILING AND LIGHTS

The Fellowship Hall renovation is moving along on schedule. MCL promise to have it completed by the end of August is a reality. The grid work is complete to mount the acoustical tiles, the conduit and wire is run for the new light fixtures, and it will all come together quickly now. Stop by for a look!

#### ASPHALT FOR CIRCLE DRIVE

B&G requested an additional \$30,000 budget increase from Session on August 4 to replace the blacktop area that had become compromised in the Circle Drive area. With their support the B&G Committee moved forward to complete this project this past week. It is now ready for use.



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.



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

Finance Committee Moderator:  
Belinda Greiner

Building and Grounds Committee Moderator:  
Roger Utman



## Fall Education Opportunities for Children and Youth Begins September 8:

### Preschool Sunday School

Our Preschool Sunday School Class is designed for three, four, and five-year-olds that haven't attended kindergarten. The class meets in Room 7, which is adjacent to the Childcare Room, in the hallway connecting the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. The class is taught by Anna Flairty and Anne Wattles. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 10:50 a.m. The class will be learning from the curriculum, *Growing in Grace and Gratitude*, a publication from the PC (USA).

When your children are in class, they will gather to explore and respond to God's grace and be sent out to love and serve God by being:

Rooted in the foundation of Presbyterian identity where God's grace and our gratitude are the heartbeat of our faith, life, and worship;  
Invited to discipleship that inspires them to learn and practice hospitality, generosity, and love; and  
Encouraged to reach beyond Sunday mornings and church walls to live their lives as an expression of God's grace.

If your child is most comfortable with a parent or grandparent attending class with them, we encourage that!

### Bible Explorers Sunday School

Our Bible Explorers Program is designed for elementary aged children who are in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The children are divided by grade into four groups: kinder and 1st grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The children enjoy the rotation-based curriculum, *Deep Blue*, which is published by Cokesbury. Children visit learning stations each week and explore the theme from many different angles: Art, Games, Science, Drama, Missions, Spiritual Practices, and Cooking. Parent volunteers lead the classes.

At 10:00 a.m., the children meet as a group for an opening activity led by Sue Thomas downstairs in the Gathering Space. Then the classes split up and move to their scheduled rotation. Each group has a dedicated adult assigned to them called a Shepherd. Shepherds will lead their group to the correct room and stay with them during class. At 10:50 a.m., the Shepherds guide the children back to the Gathering Space where parents will pick them up.

### Important Dates to Remember

September 4	Confirmand/Parent/Mentor Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
September 8	Children's Sunday School Begins
September 11	Cornerstone Begins
September 15	Adult Sunday School Begins
October 13	2nd Grade Bibles

We will begin our year with our first unit, *Abraham and Sarah*. This unit focuses on Genesis 12 and reminds us that God promises to be with us. Children will enjoy Art, Games, Science, Cooking, and Drama workshops. Thank you to Cindy Rieke, Kathryn Vint, Jill Rath, Sarah Grady, and Amanda Stalnaker for teaching these workshops.



### Youth Sunday School

Our Youth Sunday School Classes are divided into two classes, 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Both classes will be using *Feasting on the Word* Curriculum. The curriculum follows the Revised Common Lectionary and is published by PC(USA).

Holly Baddley will be leading the Junior High Class (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade). They will meet downstairs in Room 8. Dan Kerr will be leading the Senior High Class (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade). They will meet downstairs in the Great Room.

Youth are invited and encouraged to attend each week as we dive a little deeper into God's Word and how we can apply the Bible's teachings to our own lives. Can't make it every week? That's ok! Come when you can. You are always welcome, no matter how long you've been gone.

Grab a snack and a drink in Fellowship Hall and come on down for class at 10:00 a.m. Feel free to bring a friend!



### Fall Adult Education Opportunities:

#### Tuesday Bible Study Begins September 10

Led by Pastor Marshall on Tuesdays  
7:00 a.m. – Men only  
1:00 p.m. – Everyone

#### Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life by Harold Kushner

Led by Rev. Kirk Ryckman on Wednesdays from  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
September 11 – November 13

#### Theologians, Composers, Spirituality and Icons of Sacred Music

Led by Cindy Sloan  
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
September 15 – October 27

#### Let Justice Roll Down

Led by Agape for All  
Thursdays from 6:00–7:30 p.m.  
October 3, 10, 17 & 24

#### Agape for All Speaker Series

Guest Speakers TBD  
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
November 3, 10, & 17

#### Grief Presentation

Led by Carl Greiner, M.D.  
Sunday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m.

### Bingo and Soup with the 49'ers

The senior high youth group would like to invite the 49'ers to an evening of food and fun! Join SHF on Sunday, October 20, from 5 – 7 p.m. for soup and bingo. Please let us know you're coming by signing up on the sheet at the Information Desk in the Welcome Center or by registering online. If you have any questions, please contact Heather. We hope to see you there!

**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



### Cornerstone - Register Online by September 1

Registration for the fall semester of Cornerstone has begun! For our newcomers, Cornerstone is our mid-week program for all ages. We hope to see you at Bible Study, Confirmation Class, Choir, and of course, dinner! All are welcome, but we ask that you register online by September 1 so we can plan for dinner and class supplies. Cornerstone begins September 11 and ends on November 13.

#### Choirs

- 5:15 – 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir for 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> graders
- 5:50 – 6:45 p.m. Chamber Singers
- 6:50 – 8:20 p.m. Alleluia Singers

Dinner is served between 6 – 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Childcare is provided from 5:30 – 8:15 p.m.

#### Bible Study

- 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. Preschool & Kindergarten Class
- 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class
- 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Class
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (8<sup>th</sup> Grade) led by Rev. Marshall Zieman
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education Class



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

## SHF Car Wash was a Success!

Thank you to all who donated to the SHF Car Wash. Some church members were happy to let us wash their cars, while some paid us not to wash their cars! The youth worked pretty much non-stop for two hours and they collected a record-breaking \$1,030 in donations! Once again, thank you so much for supporting our youth. This money will go towards their mission trip to Estes Park, Colorado next summer, where they will be working at Pastor Christine's church.



## MUSIC NOTES

### Get Involved in Our Music Programs

We have many opportunities for musicians of all ages and abilities! Look at this list and contact Kristi Treu at [kristi@pcoc.us](mailto:kristi@pcoc.us) if you want more information.



- Children's Choir for grades 1-7 on Wednesdays during Cornerstone, from 5:15 – 6:00.
- **NEW THIS FALL:** The return of Credo Choir for grades 8-12! Rehearse on selected Sundays from 12:15 – 1:00 and sing 3-4 times per year in worship.
- All-Church Orchestra for instrumentalists in grades 7 through adult. Rehearsal is Wednesday, October 23, at 5:15, and play in worship on October 27. Contact Patty Ritchie at [pritchiel@centurylink.net](mailto:pritchiel@centurylink.net) if you'd like to play.
- Carillon Choir, our adult handbell choir, rehearses on Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm. Contact Larry Frederickson for more information at [lfreder1@icloud.com](mailto:lfreder1@icloud.com).
- Alleluia Singers for high school through adults rehearses Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the choir rehearsal room (6:50 pm during Cornerstone).
- Chamber Singers (by invitation) rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm (5:50 during Cornerstone).

### Vesper Concerts Kick Off Season 36

The Borowsky Trio will kick off Season 36 on **SATURDAY** evening, September 14, at 7:00 p.m.! Hailed by the international press as "American Virtuosi," siblings Frances, Emmanuel, and Elizabeth Borowsky have won their way into the hearts and minds of audiences throughout North



America, Central America, Europe, Asia, and The Middle East. With performances rooted in their cohesive and loving familial bond, the trio has delighted listeners

of all ages with their commanding interpretations of standard repertoire and their dazzling original compositions.

People of all ages will enjoy this world-class performance in the beautiful environment of our sanctuary. As always, the concert is **FREE** and open to the public. Invite a friend or colleague to enjoy an exquisite evening of music with you.



#### Kristi Treu

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

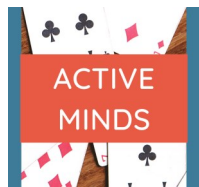
**Worship & Music Committee Moderator:**  
Linda Matson

## Active Minds in September

Active Minds will be playing the card game of Euchre for the month of September.

We meet every Tuesday from 1:30-4:00pm. Join us when your schedule allows, we have patient teachers available each week. We meet in the Great Room on the lower level. You are welcome to join us after Bible Study.

**Coordinator: Earlene Uhrig**



or questions, please contact Mary Ott, or Judy Sundberg. We will have a sign-up sheet at the information center desk in a white 3 ring binder.  
**Coordinators: Judy Sundberg and Mary Ott**

## Friday Night Gourmets on September 13

Friday Night Gourmets will be opening its 2024-2025 dining-out season on September 13 at Farmer Brown's, 2620 River Rd Dr., Waterloo NE (402-779-2353). We will be ordering off their party menu which includes steak/prime rib, chicken, and seafood. Social Hour is at 6:30 pm and Dinner at 7:00 pm.



*Friday Night Gourmets*

All are welcome to join us for this September "Tradition" of great food, friends, and lively conversations. Check Information Desk for sign-up sheet Please sign up by Sunday, September 8. Hosts: Gene/Verta Pugh and Curt Field/Launie Lambert. Contact hosts with any questions.

## PCOC Book Group on September 18

PCOC Book Group will meet September 8 in Room 13 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. to review *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby VanPelt. 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



## Presbyterian Women Resumes September 5

Just as other groups are gearing up to begin the new year of activities here at PCOC, so is our Presbyterian Women's Circle. All women in the church are considered members and are welcome to attend. We meet at

9:30 on the first Thursday of the month from September through May. This year we plan to meet in the Courtyard Room in the Welcome Center.

Our study this year will be "Growing Older and Wiser" by Dale and Sandy Larsen. It features various Bible passages and related discussion questions. Some women in the group volunteer to lead the lessons.

If you haven't come before but would like to explore with other women what the Bible says and how it relates to our lives today, we'd love to see you. Please contact our leader, Cindy Nisley

**Coordinator: Cindy Nisley**

## 49ers on September 3

Our speaker will be Kieran Anderson, Director of Information and assistance, along with Mary Parker, from Eastern Nebraska office on Aging. ENOA provides intermittent services for older adults to help remain in their homes, for as long as possible, they will talk about the services they provide, and bring some services to show the group.



We meet for lunch at 11:30 am at WHEATFIELDS, 1224 South 103rd Street (One Pacific Place). We order from a special menu provided for our group. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you are 49, younger or older. Come join us. Reservations and/





### Heartland Hope Mission News

- 9/1 Alyson Grady
- 9/2 Kristen Curtis, Spencer Friesen,  
Kyndall Goodwin, Noah Luke,  
Hudson Schiessler
- 9/3 Tim Graumann, Bill Graves, Cody Borman
- 9/4 Avery Boesen, Oliver Boesen,  
Carol Bolton, Sean Johnson
- 9/5 Sue Freyer, Silas Pflueger, Donna Turner,  
Josh Versaw, Jordan Garry
- 9/6 Russ Beernink, Marshall Zieman,  
Collins Luth
- 9/7 Jeanette Garner, Gayle Kerr-McFadden,  
Nellie McDaniel
- 9/8 Sophia Miller, Arnie Nelson
- 9/10 Cecelia Ballou, Michael Weyant
- 9/11 Gary Fitch, Larry Frederickson, Tom Kort,  
Joshua Paul, Barb Scanlan
- 9/12 Kim Crum
- 9/13 Jean Waters
- 9/14 Ryan Koch, Barbara McNeal, John Sparks
- 9/15 Madelyn Grady, Charles. Madison,  
Mike McGillick, Rick Sessions
- 9/16 Verta Pugh, Kirk Ryckman,  
Cara Schiessler, Veronica Kerr,  
Gene Depue
- 09/17 Chad Bumsted, Harrison Versaw
- 9/19 Abby Sekle
- 9/20 Shanna Mathia, Sara Pickens
- 9/21 Molly McGuire, Sue Thomas,  
Tim Williams
- 9/22 Brayden Downes, Olivia Downes,  
Lauren Harrison, Leah Whaley
- 9/24 Pam Otto
- 9/25 Jerry Klein, Roger Pauba, Emily Sumner
- 9/26 Mary Carlson, Sierra Cunningham,  
Skip Decker, Dick Hart, Martha Henry
- 9/27 Alena Bennett, David Goodwin,  
Gary Petersen, Kara Versaw
- 9/30 Chuck Baddley, Carol Futhey,  
Marjorie Huff

Heartland Hope Mission, our local pantry mission partner for over 15 years, is offering our congregation an opportunity to serve others in need in our community on the first Saturday of every month at the West Omaha location (15555 Industrial Road) starting on Saturday, 09/07, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Some of the duties available would include registering clients on a computer, pre-packing food items, stocking groceries or hygiene items, assisting the clients as they select their groceries, and escorting the client to their cars with their grocery cart and loading them in their cars. Others may be sorting clothing, hanging clothing on racks or assisting clients in the clothing area.

I will be organizing our church group for this mission opportunity and will greet you at the West O HHM location on September 7th at 9:30 AM. If interested in attending this September HHM mission opportunity, please contact John Bennett.

In addition to the monthly pantry volunteer opportunity, Heartland Hope Mission will be holding their annual fundraiser gala dinner "The Stars Among Us" on Thursday, October 10th beginning at 6pm at the Downtown Omaha Hilton. PCOC has a table for 10 reserved for a fabulous barbeque dinner and short program. If interested in either of these HHM opportunities, contact John Bennett.

Finally, just a reminder that PCOC collects and delivers non-perishable food and hygiene items to HHM on the 3rd Sunday of each month just inside the doors of the circle drive. Thank you for your continuing support of Heartland Hope Mission

#### 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

Don Reed - July 29, 2024  
A funeral Service was held on  
August 7.

Bob Reisser - August 8, 2024

A funeral service was held on Monday, August 19



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



## Welcome our New Members

### Dorothy” Dodie” Bellus

When you see Becky Bianchi, thank her for introducing Dodie to Church of the Cross. Becky and Dodie are neighbors. Dodie is a widow. She was born and raised in Omaha and previously attended St. Leo Catholic Church. She was a Sunday School teacher as well as teaching CCD classes. Dodie served on Christian Education and Music and Worship committees at St. Leo’s as well. Before retiring her occupation was an artist. Dodie enjoys quilting and participating in several activities. Please welcome her to PCOC.



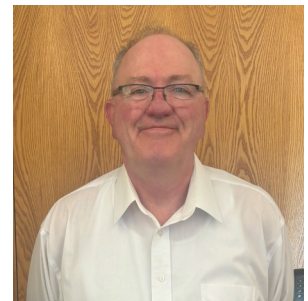
### Fred and Kim Crum

Fred and Kim noticed our church sign, decided to view us “on line”, and then decided to become members, and we are so glad they did. Fred was born and raised in Omaha; however, his former church was Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS. He is a retired railroad electrician and loves dogs. Kim was born and raised in Omaha and attended Covenant Presbyterian Church. She was an accountant before retirement. She enjoys needlework and gardening. We welcome the Crums to PCOC!



### Gene Depue

When you see Steve Niles, be sure and thank him for introducing Gene to PCOC and the Alleluia Singers. Gene was born and raised in Fremont, NE. and; seven years ago, he and his wife Nancy moved to Omaha to be near the grandkids. Previously, Gene belonged to the Federated Church in Columbus, NE and was a member of the choir and governing council. He enjoys singing and biking and is kept busy attending his grandkids activities. Please welcome Gene!



### Linda Hulsey

Does this lady look familiar? Linda was a member of PCOC until 2021 when she moved to Ohio to be near her daughter after her husband, Rich, passed away. Linda grew up in Indiana and lived in PA for twenty years before coming to Omaha to become the OPS (Omaha Public Schools) Supervisor of Music Education K-12 from 2007-2019. Now retired she enjoys reading, playing the piano and having lunch and dinner with friends as well as attending school music programs and engaging in the arts community. We welcome Linda back to our church family!



### Nancy Pippin

Nancy was born in Sacramento, CA. and grew up in Ohio and Missouri. She has lived in Omaha since 2021. Nancy is a retired special needs teacher and is currently employed part time at Lakeshore Learning. She previously attended First Presbyterian Church of Champaign in Champaign, IL. and served on the Christian Education and the Mission Committees. Nancy enjoys reading, knitting, crafts, and sewing in her spare time as well as being a member of P.E.O. Our worship services, community and world mission commitments and Bible Studies are what attracted her to PCOC so please welcome Nancy to our church family.





**Justin and Kate Gibson**

Justin and Kate Gibson moved to Omaha from Lincoln in December, 2022 when Justin accepted a job at Lindsay Corporation where he is a Senior Manager of Digital Agronomy, which means making computer models to help farmers know when to irrigate. Justin enjoys golf, fishing, gardening, kayaking and photography. Kate was born in Albuquerque, N.M. and raised in NE., PA, and Michigan. She is employed at The Nature Conservancy as a Water and Agricultural Scientist and works with corporations to identify water risk in their agricultural supply chains. She also works with farmers and companies to adopt sustainable agricultural practices. In her spare time, she enjoys, golf, birding, gardening, fishing, kayaking, baking and playing the cello. They previously attended Eastridge Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. Please welcome Justin and Kate to our church family.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

**World Communion Sunday**

World Communion Sunday this year is October 6. In preparation, during the month of September, a gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering for peacemaking efforts that align with their passion. Mid-councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. You may donate online at PCOC, or via the blue pew



**DEACONS' UPDATE**

**September Deacons Update**  
Submitted by Chris Voss

First off, we would like to welcome our new Associate Pastor Joshua Garry and his family to Presbyterian Church of the Cross. The Deacons look forward to working with Pastor Garry.

As you are reading this most kids will be back in school, the dog days of summer will be winding up, and we will be getting ready for all the church happenings that start up again after Labor Day. Please know that the Deacons continue their work serving the church no matter the season. As always, the Deacons prepare and deliver home meals as needed, knit and deliver prayer shawls, prepare and serve funeral luncheons, provide home delivered communion, go on hospital visits delivering flowers and sending out correspondence when we see a need.

One item to remind the congregation of, is that each Deacon is assigned a neighborhood and then given a list of church members that live in their assigned area along with any contact information the church has been given. Don't be surprised if the Deacon assigned to your neighborhood reaches out to you and if needed please let them know you are open to a visit.

Looking ahead, the Deacons on the Health and Wellness committee will be organizing a Red Cross blood drive currently scheduled for September 29, 2024. The Deacons Halloween Outreach committee will be preparing care packages for our young adults who are off pursuing their lives after high school.

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**Deacons Moderator:**  
Neal Hubbard

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### 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:

\*The Presbyterian Church (USA) Ministry Engagement and Support thanks you for your giving of \$1,820 for mission support.

\*Heartland Hope Mission thanks you for your contribution of \$505 that will help provide working poor families with groceries and other necessities.

Rapid Response thanks you for your generous donation. Ken Greuber and the Rapid Response Teams said, "You help us bring hope to so many."

### Siena Francis House Servers Needed

**Sunday, September 8  
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

### October Classes to be offered



Try something new! Sign up for a four-week class on the first four Thursday evenings of October from 6 - 7:30. Bring your carryout dinner and join us in the Welcome Center for a study of "Let Justice Roll Down".

Scripture challenges us to care for our earth and all who dwell on it, bearing in mind the impact our actions have on society's least powerful members. The "Let Justice Roll Down" curriculum is offered through PCUSA as a Horizons Bible Study. Our brown bag series will cover topics of Environmental and Land Justice, Food Justice, Water Quality and Air Quality. A study guide will be provided. (\$10 donation welcome) You will be able to pick up your book by September 15 at the Information Desk.



# SPIRIT OF MISSION

### Mission Committee Moderator:

Anne Wattles

Sign-ups are available on the website and at the Information Desk. Discussions will be led by Kathy Moore, Earlene Uhrig, and Patty Ritchie.

### Welcome Our Visitor from Moldova



PCOC is very fortunate to be hosting International Peacemaker Dumitru Roibu from Moldova for five days, September 25-30, 2024. Dimu (pronounced "Dee-ma") is the Executive President of YMCA Moldova, and was the gracious host who spent 3 days with Annie Wattles, Karen Morey, and the rest of Ellen Smith's group during their visit to Moldova last fall. He is a visionary leader with an inspiring story to tell, and we are excited to bring him to Omaha. Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 26, when Dimu will make a presentation to the Presbytery and other interested parties at New Life Presbyterian Church, 7 pm (4060 Pratt Street, Omaha). On Sunday, September 29, Dimu will speak at Church of the Cross in both worship services, and will give his presentation at a luncheon after the second service. Be sure to join us!

### EEPN Conference in Salt Lake City



If you attended the BURM Annual Conference at Church of the Cross last fall, you have experienced the education, inspiration, and fellowship that brings the network together. You may also recall that the network changed its name to include other countries in Eastern Europe and is now the Eastern Europe Partnership Network (EPPN). The Annual Conference of this network will be held in Salt Lake City this year, on October 31-November 2, and several PCOC members will be attending. If you are interested in our church's growing connections in Eastern Europe, consider attending this conference! For more information, contact Karen Morey or Jean Waters.

### 33RD Annual Fort Omaha Intertribal Powwow, September 21, 1-7:30

Metropolitan Community College - on the Fort Omaha Campus Parade Ground (5300 N 30th St.)

Attend this inspiring and educational gathering! Experience the thrilling entrance of the tribes, in full ceremonial dancing attire at 1:00 pm. Optional - after the Opening Ceremony you can enjoy craft demonstrations, classes, and delicious food. Contact Earlene Uhrig for more details.

### Embracing Community Connections Speakers

The month of November will again include a speaker series between worship services in the Welcome Center. Speakers will come from various cultures throughout our community. Stay tuned for more information.

### Recap of August Outing - from Kathy Moore

Thank you for a great “Agape for All” outing to North Omaha. 14 members of PCOC enjoyed a delicious lunch at Jackson’s Fair Deal Cafe, prior to touring the Union for Contemporary Art. Whether you are hungry for breakfast or lunch, a hamburger and traditional fries, or something like okra and catfish the Fair Deal is the real deal!

Our tour of the Union for Contemporary Art revealed new layers of expression by Nathaniel Ruleaux. Nathaniel is an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Nation and a founding member of the Unceded Arts Collective, recently becoming the Program Manager at the new Oglala Lakota Artspace located on the Pine Ridge Reservation. (And yes, that is another place I am anxious to visit!) In addition to creating visual art, Nathaniel is a classically trained actor and educator.



Perhaps even more amazing, however, is the beauty, resourcefulness, thoughtfulness and functionality of the building space found at the Union for Contemporary Art at 2423 N 24th. It provides an environment for cultivating every art form imaginable including a ceramic studio, printshop, dark room, fiber arts studio, digital media lab, the new Shirley Tyree Theater space and the Abundant Garden. Classes are offered for youth and adults, membership and fees



are very affordable and accessible throughout the week, and a new class of resident and non-resident fellows is chosen each year.

Yes, our hearts and minds our filled with new possibilities for our city and we encourage you to visit as time allows.

### Agape Book Review submitted by Patty Ritchie

*Dear Martin*, by Nic Stone

Come walk in the shoes of a young black man, who is top of his prestigious prep school class, named Justyce McAllister. Try to imagine the tightrope walk through his final year of high school as he celebrates his potential, while simultaneously fighting off a spiraling set of unjust circumstances.

Justyce has a confidante as he tries to navigate this tumultuous transition to college at Yale. He journals to deceased Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, whose legacy of nonviolent protest continues to inspire him. Justyce expresses his frustration and poses difficult questions, hoping answers will issue forth from his respected role model.

Completely engaging, a true roller coaster ride, this is a story told with simplicity and emotional honesty. We eavesdrop on high school class discussions with candid language and attitudes, relate to the teacher who is trying to create a valuable, safe yet respectful learning environment, sympathize with Justyce’s friends, both black and white, who are also trying to find their proper place in a world still affected by skin color prejudice, and resonate with the “tough love” mom who knows a child must stand on his own feet, even through adversity.

When Justyce’s best friend is killed by an off duty police officer, the story yields background information which gives context to the issue of racial profiling. When Justyce struggles to clear his name from wrongdoing, he also has to admit to the times he has lost his temper, and caused harm.

Walk in the shoes ... Ponder the universality of all young people trying to find their paths and the obstacles they face, and the shepherding they need. What are our roles, here and now? What words of wisdom and love can we employ for a brighter future for our world?

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



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**Next Cross Currents Deadline is:  
Third Friday of the month  
September 20, 2024**

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## Attention Parents

If you have a child who is between the age of 18-23, (whether they went to college, a trade school, or got a job) please call the church office and provide their current address. Your Deacons reach out to them and provide a \$25 Target gift card for Halloween and again for Valentines Day as a reminder that PCOC is thinking of them and keeping them in our thoughts and prayers. We want to remind them that they always have a home at PCOC. We would appreciate this information by September 20, so we have time to purchase these gift cards and get them mailed to your child in a timely manner.

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

**Communications:** Christian Fritz  
[communications@pcoc.us](mailto:communications@pcoc.us)

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

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