

Joyful Journey of Stewardship

What is Stewardship?

At Church of the Cross, we believe that stewardship is a vital part of Christian living and worship. We know that often people think stewardship is all about money but let's provide a better understanding of the truths about stewardship.



We believe that it is the church's responsibility to educate and equip the followers of Jesus Christ to become good stewards, faithfully growing in gratitude, acknowledging the many blessings we receive daily from God.

As faith disciples, we are called to care for and manage all that God has given us by sharing our time, our talents, and our treasures.

“But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.”
- James 1:22

Time

Sharing our time is a truly wondrous part of stewardship. As we take time from our daily busy schedules to do good works for God, we receive a lesson in caring, loving, and kindness. It is through those lessons that we get a fuller understanding; it truly is better to give than it is to receive.

“For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”
- John 13:15

Talents

God entrust each of us with multiple talents and abilities to be used for God's purposes. As we come to understand stewardship, we are challenged to look inward, to acknowledge our own skills and talents, and apply those things to our daily life for God.

“To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.” - Matthew 25:15

Treasures

Sharing our treasures is a subject often talked about in the Bible, with an emphasis on being cheerful in doing so. As we approach this section of stewardship, we must first realize that our treasures are more than money. For God has given to us these things so we may use them for God's own purposes.

“We receive instruction and inspiration by example through the written word. By practicing good stewardship, we give thanks and glory to God.”
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-13

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“Unless You Change...”

Fall officially began yesterday, and the weather actually cooperated! It feels like fall, which is probably a great relief to many. Now, we can start thinking about all things autumn – falling leaves, pumpkin spice, and a return to meaningful football again (hopefully). Change is good, and we’re glad for the changes we’re starting to see for a fun fall ahead.

Change is also hard. Nobody really likes to change or be told they need to change. The doctor might tell you that you need to change. Your spouse could have some changes in mind for you. You might just feel stuck in a rut and could feel that a change would do you good – but actually changing a habit or way of life is not easy. It’s hard. Changing your way of thinking is even harder, whether it’s the way you vote or the way you feel about someone. Even changing where you sit in church is hard – we are all creatures of habit.

Change is also necessary. Jesus once famously told his disciples, “Unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3). As Josh reminded us in a recent sermon, children in the ancient world had no status. Out of sight and out of mind was not far from the truth. So, when Jesus used children as the example of how to enter God’s kingdom, the disciples must have been confused and bewildered. And when Jesus also famously welcomed children and said, “suffer the little children to come unto me,” this new way of thinking must have caused more than one strange look among the twelve.

Being asked to change often feels difficult, if not impossible. Your willingness to change is influenced by your trust in who is doing the asking. I suppose the disciples had to learn to trust Jesus. I suppose the fact that they had seen him do miracles greatly helped. I suppose his radical teachings were always challenging to them.

The act of “how” one changes their mind is fascinating to me. For me, it seems like God ultimately enables the changes I experience in myself. For example, I have prayed to forgive someone before I

wanted to forgive them. “I know I should” forgive them before I felt like actually doing it. But I keep on praying for God’s help to do it, and then one day I wake up and discover that I’m no longer controlled by the old feelings of pain, anger, or anguish. It’s just gone, and I’m able to move on, thanking God for doing that. Hey, I changed!

We are all in constant need of change our whole lives long as we grow in Christ. Jesus may accept me “just as I am” but he never wants me to stay that way. It’s our challenge not to stay that way. God’s Spirit never tires of working for change in each of us, making us into the image of Christ.

Let’s all enjoy the happy changes that fall will bring, including the changes God desires in each of us.

Your pastor and friend,

Marshall Ziemann

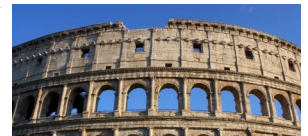


**Pastor/Head of Staff
Marshall Ziemann**
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Tuesday Bible Studies

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.



Period of Transition

Fall is my favorite season. For what amounts to a moment of time in the span of a year, we are given the opportunity to see things in a different light, with a different quality, in a different way. We all know that for most of the year, deciduous trees are either wiry baren branches or a bounty of beautiful green. But come fall, for a matter of weeks, we see the trees newly become something they have always been – what once remained hidden, bound by the natural order of its time and place, becomes visible to all – displaying for the world its own vibrant revelation. The changing leaves serve as a wonderful reminder that everything is always becoming a thing we cannot yet see.

This kind of change (of life, beauty, and grace that is working “behind the scenes,” as it were) has taken root in me. It has led me to ask where is God working or present in my life that I am not seeing fully and am I the thing that is keeping me from seeing God’s work? Fall is a great time to sit with these questions; not in a self-critical way, but as a way to open our hearts.

Recently, I led a devotional with our choir exploring these very questions by offering up to them a prayer from one of my favorite authors, Flannery O’Connor. Below, Flannery’s prayer gets to the very marrow of my questions above. I offer her words to you all here as the first part of a meditation on our relationship with God, the autumnal season, and our place within these things.

“Dear God, I cannot love Thee the way I want to. You are the slim crescent of a moon that I see and my self is the earth’s shadow that keeps me from seeing the whole moon. The crescent is very beautiful and perhaps that is all one like I am should or could see; but what I am afraid of, dear God, is that my self shadow will grow so large that it blocks the whole moon, and that I will judge myself by the shadow that is nothing. I do not know You God because I am in the way. Please help me to push myself aside... Please help me to get down under things and find where you are.”



A Prayer Journal

The second part of the meditation I offer comes from one of my favorite poets, Rainer Maria Rilke, who has gotten “down under things” to find where God is.

“You, darkness, of whom I am born – I love you more than the flame that limits the world to the circle it illumines and excludes all the rest. But the dark embraces everything: shapes and shadows, creatures and me, people, nations – just as they are. It lets me imagine a great presence stirring beside me. I believe in the night.”

Rilke’s Book of Hours: Love Poems to God

With incredible sincerity and eloquence, Flannery and Rilke remind us that God is so much bigger than our perspectives and expectations, than the ancient dichotomy of light and dark, than the limits of time and perception. As we journey together through this annual period of transition, I hope you open your hearts to the sound of leaves crunching underfoot. I hope you too can believe in the night and whatever shape the reflected light of the moon fills you with. I hope you find God in these things and in many other surprising or unexpected places. Most of all, I hope that in the midst of all this beautiful change, that along with finding God anew, you find peace.



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Deacon Moderator
Neal Hubbard

Membership :Co-Moderators
Amy Boesen and Brenda Graumann



The View from My Office

OCTOBER WILL BE STEWARDSHIP MONTH

Active members of Church of the Cross should receive their latest giving statement and letter during the last week of September. The month of October will be known as Stewardship month.



Each Sunday in October there will be a bulletin update and a moment for Stewardship during the worship. This year's theme is Joyful Journey of Stewardship, and it is highlighted this month on the front page of this edition of the Cross Currents.

I look forward to hearing from each of you as we make each step count, together with our commitments to Church of the Cross. Thank you.

EASTERN EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP NETWORK

It will be attending the Eastern European Partnership Network Conference (EPPN) in Salt Lake City this fall. It is held from October 31 to November 2.

Ellen Smith, Church of the Cross' friend and our PC(USA) mission co-worker and regional liaison serving Central and Eastern Europe, continues to lead us as we seek partner programs, relationships, and activities in the area that support marginalized people and that fit within our Presbyterian World Mission Strategy.

I will be an interesting couple of days of conversations as we seek ways to be involved in world missions from our local churches.

FALL CLEAN UP NOVEMBER 9, 9 AM - NOON

All members are invited and welcome to participate! Bring your garden gloves, pruners, rakes, shovels, and trash barrels! If you have a chain saw that would be helpful this year as well. We will rake leaves and debris to spruce up our

landscaped areas to prepare our grounds for the winter season ahead. TREATS, juice and coffee will be available for fellowship. Your help will be very much appreciated! Thank you!

THANK YOU

It was a grand brunch that was held for our 10-year anniversary. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the meal, set the table with beautiful decorations, and clean-up afterwards. I appreciate everyone's efforts to make the day memorable.

Many folks have asked me what I received. First, I received a card noting that a tree will be planted in my honor in one of our National Parks. I received a gift certificate for Sur La Table and another for Southwest Airlines. Finally, always a hit with me, a 5 lbs. bag of Rock House 97 Coffee Beans! Thank you for the great celebration.



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
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Finance Committee Moderator:
Belinda Greiner

Building and Grounds Committee Moderator:
Roger Utman



2nd Grade Bible Presentation October 13

All second graders will receive their Deep Blue Bibles during worship on October 13. The Christian Education Committee invites the congregation to join the second graders and their families for this memorable occasion. If you have a second grader and are unable to attend worship on October 13, please let Heather know so other arrangements to deliver your child's Bible can be made.



Trunk or Treat October 27

Join us in Fellowship Hall and on the east lawn on Sunday, October 27 at 3:00 p.m. for food, games, and trunk or treating. Be sure to wear your costume and bring a bucket for your treats.

We encourage everyone in the congregation to participate by hosting a trunk. All you have to do is decide on a theme, decorate your vehicle, dress up (come on, it's fun!), and provide treats or toys to hand out to the children. It's that easy and so much fun! Help us make this the best Trunk or Treat ever for our church family.



If you plan to host a trunk, please let Heather know. We are also accepting candy donations. Please donate individually wrapped candy or treats. You may drop them off in the bin in the lobby. Thanks!

Advent Workshop and Lunch November 17

The Advent Workshop will have a new feel to it this year! We know how much our families and children have enjoyed the spaghetti lunch and craft time in the past. This year we are selecting activities that encourage participation from all ages - the young AND the young at heart! There will be fewer crafts, but ones that all generations will love creating. This is one of SHF's biggest fundraising events of the year, benefiting their summer mission trip to Colorado. Come for lunch and stay for the crafts! Watch the screens at church for sneak peeks in the coming weeks.

Important Dates to Remember

October 13	2nd Grade Bible Presentation, 9 and 11:10 a.m.
October 27	Trunk or Treat, 3 p.m.
November 1	Deadline to register for the Children's Christmas Pageant
November 17	Advent Workshop and Lunch, Noon
December 8	Children's Christmas Pageant, 5 p.m.

We hope to see all ages at the Advent Workshop this year! Be sure to register online by November 1 to reserve your crafts and lunch.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather.

Note: SHF will be meeting on Friday, November 15 at 6 p.m. to set up and prep lunch.

On Sunday, November 17, SHF youth need to arrive at 10 a.m. and need to stay to clean up and reset Fellowship Hall. Parents plan to pick up your youth at 3 p.m.

Children's Christmas Pageant

The Children's Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 8 at 5:00 p.m.

All children (preschool – 5th grade) will be wearing costumes and singing!

There are mandatory rehearsals:

Wednesday, December 4 from 6 – 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 7 from 2 – 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 8 from 10 – 11 a.m.

Registration is required - the deadline is November 1.

Use the QR Code to register your child before November 1:



CE Committee Moderator: Kathryn Vint —

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

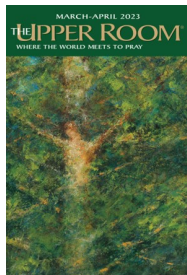
SHF Leaders: Dawn & Brad Gibson, Ethan Bennett, Susan Price, Piper Smith, Jonathan Fritz



Literature in the Welcome Center

Did you know that there's free literature available in the new Welcome Center? There are two publications that you might want to check out.

The Upper Room is a daily devotional magazine published in more than 30 languages and 100 countries around the world. The daily meditations are written by readers of the magazine and others interested in sharing their faith experiences through writing—both laity and clergy, published authors and new writers. The meditations are stories of real people working to live faithfully with the Bible as their touchstone. Every day, readers of *The Upper Room* around the world read the same story in many different languages and pray the same prayer together.



- The daily devotional guide and the community it draws together invite people to:
- listen to scripture as God's personal message, linking their stories to God's story
- commune with God in prayer
- see their daily choices and small acts of obedience as part of God's work
- realize our connection through Christ as a uni-

versal family of believers

- encounter the living Christ and be transformed into Christ's likeness

These Days Daily Devotions for Living by Faith is an inspiring and uplifting daily devotional.

Each issue of *These Days* features:

- Scripture suggestions
- Thought-provoking daily reflections written by clergy and lay leaders
- Inspiring prayers
- Adult coloring pages
- Colorful artwork on the outside covers with poems, prayers, and songs pertinent to the issue's theme
- Information about the writers



These publications are found on the wall right behind the Information Desk in the Welcome Center. Stop by and pick one up!



Heather Berry
Director of Christian Education
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heather@pcoc.us



DEACONS' UPDATE

October Deacons Update

Submitted by Carla Fritz

As I write this for the October cross currents, the Deacons are gearing up for our blood drive September 29th. I'll say thank you in advance to those who donated and watch for a report on the event in the November newsletter!

In August, a funeral luncheon was provided for the family of Bob Reiser, it was well attended, and the deacon's funeral committee created a welcoming space for family and friends to gather.

In October, the Deacons will reach out to the young adults of our church community and provide a \$25 Target gift card for Halloween (this is done again for Valentines Day!) We want to remind them that they always have a home at PCOC. 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.

The Deacons are here to provide support and community to our members, please contact your neighborhood deacon or the church office for any support needed.



**Save a life
Give blood**

Deacons Moderator:
Neal Hubbard



You Are Invited to Play in the All-Church Orchestra

Dust off your instruments and join us! This group is open to everyone in 7th grade through adults. We are looking for strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Here is the schedule:

- Wednesday, October 16 – OPTIONAL rehearsal (for extra practice and help) from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- Wednesday, October 23 – Rehearsal for all from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- Sunday, October 27 – Play at the 11:10 Worship Service, call time is 10:30 a.m.

Please register on the church website by October 7. We will notify you when the music is ready for pickup.



If you have questions, contact Patty Ritchie at pritchie1@centurylink.net or 402-889-6278.

Vesper Concerts' Annual Outdoor Concert on Sunday, October 13 at 4:30

This is a highly anticipated annual event. Our musical guests are Alexis Arai y Sus Caballeros, who will treat us to a festive afternoon of mariachi music. After gracing the stages of The Voice and American Idol and making it to the semifinals on Tingo Talento Mucho Talento, this Ne-



braska superstar and her band will provide an unforgettable concert.

Bring your appetite because Javi's Tacos is bringing its food truck and will serve tacos, quesadillas, churros, and ice cream. The first fifteen children under 12 will receive a free churro! Don't forget your lawn chairs.



New Chairs in the Choir Loft

Last spring, the Building and Grounds Committee and Worship & Music Committee members began exploring the possibility of updating the choir loft with new chairs. After working with a local office supply company and gathering input from choir members and the congregation, the decision was made to purchase sixty choir chairs with a generous gift from Gift & Memorial funds. The new chairs should arrive and be in place by late October or early November.

We must find ways to repurpose or donate the old choir chairs. After the new chairs arrive, congregation members are welcome to take as many chairs as they'd like to donate or use in their homes. If you know of another church, school, or other organization that could use the chairs, don't hesitate to get in touch with Kristi or Rock.



Kristi Treu

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

Worship & Music Committee Moderator:
Linda Matson



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS/EVENTS

Presbyterian Men on October 12

Saturday, October 12 at 9:00 am, PCOC men are invited to attend a continental breakfast and program in the Welcome Center featuring Todd Petrick, Forensic Investigator. Todd will speak about the forensics work he has done with the Omaha Police Department. He will also share the work he does training agencies throughout the country in the use of equipment like GPS, Laser Scanners, and Drones to map crash and crime scenes, then present that data in 3D. You won't want to miss this special program! Please sign up to attend at the Information Desk by Sunday, October 6. Invite someone to attend with you. Contact Jon Boomgaarden with questions.

GALS Giving & Gratitude on October 20

Come together in Fellowship for Gratitude and Giving on Sunday, October 20 at 5p.m. This event will include a snack potluck, gratitude craft and a donation to support women in our community. Please sign up to bring a sweet or savory snack to share online. We'll talk about the importance of gratitude in our lives and create a craft to enhance this in our lives. Please bring a new gently used bra to donate. We will do a blessing of the bras and donate them to a local charity. Please contact Staci Voss with any questions.

Active Minds in October

Active Minds Fellowship will be offering 2 games in October: Mahjongg and Canasta. We meet every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30-4:00pm in the lower level Great Room. You may choose the same one every week, or play some of each! You are welcome to join us after Bible study.



Please call Earlene and leave me a message if you plan to play Mahjongg. It is important as we need to have the correct number of game sets and cards available. Hope you can join us for some laughter and new friendships.

Coordinator: Earlene Uhrig

Presbyterian Women October 3

Come join our Presbyterian Women's Circle on Thursday, October 3 at 9:30 am in the *Courtyard Room* in the Welcome Center. We are continuing our study from "Growing Older and Wiser" by Dale and Sandy Larsen which features various Bible passages and related discussion questions. This month we will look at Colossians 2: 1-10, with the question "Where can wisdom be found?" Please contact Cindy Nisley, our moderator if you're interested.



49ers on October 1

Our program for Tuesday, October 1 will be John Dineen, General Manager of Sol's Jewelry & Loan. JOHN IS THE FIRST SPEAKER THAT 49ERS HAS EVER HAD AS A REPEAT. John will give each and every one of us an education and new outlook as to what Sol's Jewelry and Loan is all about. I promise you that you will be surprised as to the information he will bring to our meeting as to the business he manages. Sol's is MUCH MORE than a place where people take jewelry or other items to obtain money when they are in need. Quite an interesting program is promised.



The lunch location is Wheatfields, One Pacific Place, at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you are 49, younger or older, come join us! We will order from a special menu. For reservations or questions, please contact Mary Ott, or Judy Sundberg. We also have a sign-up sheet at

the Information Center.

Coordinators: Judy Sundberg and Mary Ott

Friday Night Gourmets on October 11

The next Friday Night Gourmet Dinner will be on October 11 in the party room of Charlie's On the Lake, 4150 S. 144 Street, Omaha. Social hour is at 6:30 pm with a buffet dinner beginning at 7:00 pm. The cost is \$45 per person (this includes tax and gratuity) which is required at time of sign-up. Checks should be made out to PCOC, or you can pay with cash. All are welcome to join us for an enjoyable evening. Please sign up at the Information Desk. The deadline is October 7. Our hosts are Susan Price, and Nancy Koehler. Feel free to call with any questions.



PCOC Book Group on October 16

PCOC Book Group will meet October 16 in Room 13 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. to review *Fever in the Heartland* by Tim Egan. 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



Heartland Hope Mission October 5

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) 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Our next opportunity will be Saturday, October 5th. Some of the duties include 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 food. You could also help in the clothing area.

Heartland Hope Mission "The Stars Among Us" Gala October 10

Heartland Hope Mission will be holding their annual fundraiser gala dinner "The Stars Among Us" on Thursday, October 10 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, please contact John Bennett. Thank you for your continuing support of Heartland Hope Mission!

Ordination & Installation of Joshua A. Garry

We kindly invite you to join us for the service of Ordination and Installation of Joshua A. Garry on Sunday, November 3 at 4 p.m. at Presbyterian Church of the Cross. The sermon will be delivered by Rev. Dr. Frederick G. Garry of First Presbyterian Church Metuchen, New Jersey, with a reception following the service in the Welcome Center, hosted by the Congregational Life Committee.

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 prayerteam@pcoc.us
and Judy Arms

Reminder: Call the church office when you or a family member is hospitalized.

- 10/1 Mary Johnson, Betty Woodhull
- 10/2 Spencer Evers, Cadence Fritz, Sarah Koch, Karen Metzger, Piper Mooney, Roger Utman, Eileen Wright
- 10/4 Brem Bremers, Christian Fritz, Tom Searson
- 10/5 Bobbi Dyer, Larry Keating
- 10/6 Loren Penkava, Sam Rennick, John Stalnaker
- 10/7 Melissa Rock, Polly Wyatt
- 10/8 Brad Gibson
- 10/9 Susan Emmert
- 10/10 Adam Luke, Donna Wilhite
- 10/11 Donna Adams
- 10/12 Brody McGuire
- 10/13 Mike Morey, Amen Sekle, Bob Wyatt
- 10/15 Kathleen Cain, Lori Pirnie
- 10/16 Kenneth Penney, Barb Stuedemann, Nadia Garry
- 10/17 Velma Juarez
- 10/18 Jenn Luth, Jennifer Spann, Lindsey Woods
- 10/19 Sue Jenkins, Eliza Lewis
- 10/20 Philip Holubeck, Linda Rathman, Stanton Weyand
- 10/21 Nancy Buda, Becca Frampton
- 10/22 Linda Miller
- 10/23 Barrett Ballou, Hallie Ballou, Don Miller, Tina Morgan, Karen Saunders, Lennox Mendick
- 10/24 Callen Moore, Barbara Wolpa, Dave Woods
- 10/25 Mason Downes
- 10/26 Beckett Friesen, Dianne Witmer
- 10/27 Pat Vint
- 10/28 Avery Fuller
- 10/29 Sally Hansen, Becky Zieman
- 10/30 Wendy Chapman, Doug Larson
- 10/31 Laura Falcone, Betsy deStwolinski

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for all the prayers, cards, visits and get well wishes after my knee surgery. I also want to thank Marshall and Josh for their visit. A big THANK YOU to Deacon Jane Burch who made and brought a delicious meal to me. I am truly blessed to be part of such a caring community.
Thank you, Donna Turner



Welcome our New Member Alicia Jones

When Alicia joined our church Aug. 25, it was like a family get together for her



in some respect, since her parents, Scott and Kim McCormick, recently joined PCOC and her cousins, Noah and Meghan McClain also belong to PCOC. Alicia was born and raised in Sioux City, IA, and has lived in Omaha for twelve years. She is being received into

membership by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church Omaha where she served as a Deacon. Alicia and her husband, Aaron, have been married for three years. Currently she is a dental hygienist, but is working on a master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling and will be working as a therapist in a year. Alicia enjoys running, reading and volunteering. Please welcome Alicia to our church family.

Piecemakers Schedule Huge Inventory “Sale” 2024

Mark your calendars! The Piecemakers are having a “sale” of fabric and quilting accessories on Sunday, October 27, 2024, in Fellowship Hall. Piecemakers Inventory “Sale”

**Fabric, Scraps, Notions, Patterns, Accessories
Browse, “Buy,” and Donate to PCOC Youth
Mission Trips**

**Sunday, October 27, 2024
9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

In 2001, at the suggestion of Associate Pastor Regina Maas, the PCOC Piecemakers group was formed to make quilts for the new babies in our congregation. Since then, an ever-changing group of quilters, some experienced and some first-timers, have been meeting weekly in Room 11 at the church, enjoying the fellowship and creative energy. Over 250 baby quilts have been pieced, quilted, bound, and labeled with loving hands to welcome the newest additions to our church family.

Along the way, the Piecemakers also found the time to make over 35 bed quilts, delivered to our partner

church in Gnozdovo, Russia, when our mission teams visited their newly constructed camp building.

Now, 23 years later, the Piecemakers are changing the way they do things. Instead of meeting as a group, they are inviting all quilters in the congregation to make a baby quilt at home to supplement the Piecemakers inventory for future newborns yet to join us. With this change, Piecemakers no longer need to keep a supply of fabric, notions, patterns, and accessories in storage to be used each week.

So, on Sunday, October 27, 2024, from 9:00 to 1:00, we will be displaying our entire inventory of fabric, etc. in Fellowship Hall. We invite you to come and shop, take whatever you can use in your own projects, and make a free will donation to the youth mission trips – many of the same young people who received a Piecemakers quilt when they were born!

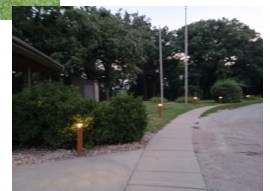
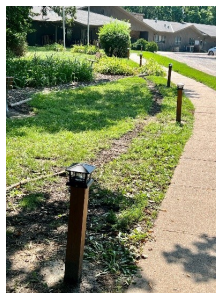
And if you wish to donate a hand-made baby quilt to the Piecemakers inventory, contact Karen Morey or Linda Miller.

Camp Calvin Crest Mission Work Projects



Several Presbyterian Men volunteered at Camp Calvin Crest on Friday, August 16th to install 21 pathway post lights. They were: Mike Howland, Ed Leach & Frank McMullen. They worked with Bob Tokorny, the maintenance man and also ate lunch

together with Craig Huffman, the director. Thank you volunteers for your contribution; you made the camp better by serving in mission!





Agape Book Review

submitted by Ann Pearson

Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America, by Dr. Ibram Kendi

Reading a 525 page history book is not something many of us would willingly take on. I know when I started this book, I wondered how far I would get. Imagine my surprise when I couldn't put this one down.

Dr. Kendi has completed extensive research on multiple origins and dynamics of racism - from how it was practiced in Europe to its migration to the United States. Origin stories are varied and alarming. Early religious efforts focussed on saving souls. Some scientists claimed African women had conceived babies with apes. Others argued that Africans were a different species - like animals who "live only to satisfy bodily wants."

Kendi explores three aspects of racism:

1. Segregationists who believe Black folks are naturally and irreversibly inferior.
2. Anti-racists who blame racism for causing inferiority in Black folks
3. Assimilationists who think that if only Black people tried to be like White people, they could improve themselves.

All three of these ideas assume the premise that Blacks are inferior to Whites.

As slavery migrated from Europe to America interesting dynamics developed. Americans felt like "slaves" to the British while actively practicing and promoting slavery in their own country. There was a lot of tension regarding this idea. The bottom line was that slavery was essential to both economies. In order to justify the cruel practices of slavery, slaves had to be considered inferior. A number of theories were developed by researchers and doctors. A few examples include:

1. A study which claimed that Black's skulls were smaller than White's skulls, thus they contained smaller amounts of brain matter.
2. Northern free Blacks were ten times more likely to be declared insane than enslaved Blacks.
3. Biracial people were said to have shorter lives due to their compromised genetics.

This book review will be continued next month, highlighting events and attitudes as the Civil War approaches. It will include how ideas of inferiority continued to develop in newer and more subtle forms

which were less obvious than slavery, but just as effective, in reinforcing the idea that Blacks were "naturally inferior." In spite of Black's emerging freedoms, White people continued to develop cruel and insidious ways to keep Black people "in their place."

We have so much to learn.

Autumn Clean-Up!

**Saturday, November 9
9 am - Noon**

Calling all members to bring your garden gloves, rakes, shovels and trash barrels!

We will be raking leaves and cleaning up the landscaped areas.

Help **spruce up** our church's lawn and landscaping by **lending a hand**.

Juice, coffee and treats will be available.

 **PRESBYTERIAN**
Church of the Cross

All church event sponsored by your B&G Committee

Rain/Snow date set for Saturday, November 16.

SHF Invites Adults 55+ to Bingo and Soup

The SHF youth would like to invite folks who are 55+ for some fun and fellowship on Sunday, October 20, from 5 – 7 p.m. We will start out by sampling an assortment of soups and desserts, then we'll play some Bingo. This is a great opportunity for both generations to get to know each other better. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Heather or sign up on the sheet at the Information Desk in the Welcome Center.



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:

- Rene Myers, Ministry Engagement Advisor from the Office of Ministry Engagement and Support for the Presbyterian Church (USA), thanks you for your gift of \$1,820 which will help with mission around the world.
- Pastor Chelsea Salifou, CEO of Heartland Hope Mission, thanks you for your contribution of \$465 which helps area working poor families.
- Your sponsorship of \$7,500 for the Voices for Children in Nebraska’s Raise Your Voice event is greatly appreciated.

Siena Francis House Servers Needed

**Sunday, October 13
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

Let Justice Roll Down October Classes

It is not too late to sign up for a class offered on the first four Thursday evenings in October, from 6 - 7:30. Bring your own brown bag dinner and join us in the Welcome Center for a study of "Let Justice Roll Down", a curriculum offered through PCUSA. Bring your questions and perspectives.

Scripture challenges us to care for our earth and all who dwell in it, bearing in mind the impact our actions have on society’s least powerful members.. A study guide



Mission Committee Moderator:

Anne Wattles

will be provided. (\$10 donation welcome) You can pick up your book on the Office Lobby table. Sign-ups are available on the website and at the Information Desk.

- October 3 Environmental Justice and Land Justice.
- October 10 Food Justice
- October 17 Water Justice
- October 24 Air Justice

Discussions will be led by Kathy Moore, Earlene Uhrig, and Patty Ritchie.

Race and Reconciliation Dinner October 27th

Join Kathy Moore and Patty Ritchie for a delicious soup supper and discussion. Hosted by Pamela Berry, at Trinity Lutheran Church at 6340 North 30th St. at 5:30 p.m, This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the past and build bridges for the future with folks from across Omaha. Our church members who have attended previous dinners have found these evenings very meaningful and enlightening.

Contact Kathy Moore if you are interested in attending. mooreomaha@yahoo.com or 402-880-3844. Registration will also be available at the Information desk.

Save this date! - April 8 “Divisible - a documentary” - What is RedLining?

Join congregants from several Omaha churches and other community members at the Omaha Conservatory of Music, Simon Concert Hall located at 69th and Cass St. The evening will feature a documentary film and a panel discussion.

Embracing Community Connections Speaker Series

Sunday mornings, in the Welcome Center
November 3, 10 and 17, 10:10 -11:00AM.
In the Courtyard Classroom
(Please arrive before 10:10)

November 3 – Connecting with the Latino Center of the Midlands



Albert Varas, CEO of the Latino Center of the Midlands

"As a seasoned leader with over two decades of experience in education, nonprofit, business, and public health sectors, Albert has dedicated his career to making a tangible

difference in his community. In his role as CEO of the Latino Center of the Midlands for the past six years, he has spearheaded numerous initiatives, modernizing the organization's finances and technology and cultivating vital partnerships with community organizations, businesses, and other key stakeholders.

November 10- Connecting with Health Equities in our Community and State

Echohawk Lefthand, Administrator for the Office of Health Disparities in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Echohawk Lefthand is an enrolled member of the Diné (Navajo) Nation and has been a Public Health champion for over 15 years. Echohawk was a recent recipient of UNMC's Distinguished Alumnus Award. His life and work experiences exhibit his great passion and dedication to promoting health and elevating quality of life for all. Prior to DHHS Echohawk served as the director, manager, and specialist of the Title VI Indian Education Program with Omaha Public Schools, Veteran Affairs, and Indian Health Service, respectively.

November 17 – Connecting with the Latino Economic Development Council and new endeavors in South Omaha

Itzel Lopez, CEO of the Latino Economic Development Council

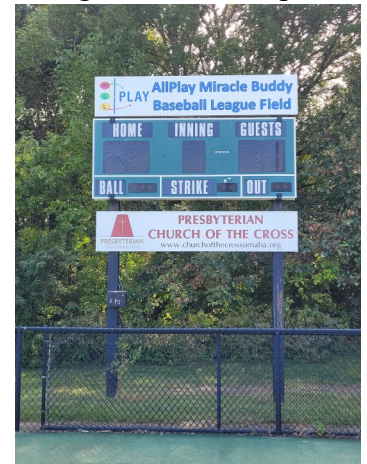
Born and raised in Hidalgo, Mexico, Itzel's transformative path began when her family moved to

Omaha when she was 12. Through a connection to a Latina community leader, Itzel was able to secure academic scholarships at Bellevue University where she earned degrees in Business Administration, Communication Arts and Marketing. For several years, Itzel worked as an Executive at the AIM Institute, focusing on underrepresented groups in the tech sector and addressing the talent gap in STEM fields.

She volunteered in several ways in the community including as festival director for Omaha's Cinco de Mayo celebration. In her current position she is excited to be spearheading a project to revitalize a civic park, Plaza de la Raza, at the heart of the Latino business community. As the inaugural CEO of the Latino Economic Development Council she looks forward to the renewal of South Omaha and the potential for even greater vibrancy in the future.

New Sign at All Play Baseball Field

In gratitude for the support that so many of our church members have shown to the All Play Miracle Baseball League, our church logo now holds a permanent position on their outfield sign! All Play is a special non-competitive baseball league for children with special needs with over 500 players in 2023 on over 32 teams. Over 125 volunteers are needed each game day. Their beautiful sports complex is located in Seymour Smith Park, at 6802 Harrison Street in Omaha.



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

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
October 18, 2024**

Cross Currents

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

Communications: Christian Fritz
communications@pcoc.us

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