

## Remembrance, Thanksgiving, & Anticipation

**Remember to Fall Back!** Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. on November 3. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, so you're on time for your church events on Sunday.

**All Saints Day** is on Sunday, November 3. At both worship services, we will remember those in the congregation who have passed away in the last year.

**Ordination & Installation Service** 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. A reception following the service in the Welcome Center, hosted by the Congregational Life Committee.

**Fall Clean-Up is Saturday, November 9.** 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. Thank you!

**A Saturday Evening Vesper Concert on November 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary** Founded and directed by UK transplant Glenn Greet (also founder and owner of Chippy's Omaha), the NEBB is the only British-style brass band in the local area. Consisting of thirty-four musicians, the NEBB has attracted professional players from all areas of the state and even beyond. Nebraska's premier brass band has a unique sound capable of playing whisper-soft passages and powerful fortissimos. Don't miss a fantastic opportunity to hear great hymns of the faith with brass, choir, organ, and percussion.

**Remembrance Service is Sunday, November 10 at 4:00 p.m.** Our church's Cross Care Connections program is reaching out to members and families to come and remember your loved one during our annual afternoon service in our Sanctuary. You are invited to stay after the service for continued fellowship at a reception in the Welcome Center.

**Advent Workshop & Lunch on Sunday, November 17.** Our Senior High Youth Group will prepare and serve lunch after late worship. After lunch, attendees are invited to make a variety of Christmas crafts. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!

**Presbyterian Men Shrimp Boil** Sunday, November 24, 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. The entertainment will be Heartland Acoustic Omaha, led by our own Jim Butler. Come and enjoy scrumptious 'JUMBO' fresh shrimp (or chicken cordon bleu) served with all the fixins!

**Hanging of the Greens** on Saturday, November 30 at 10:00 am. We might still be stuffed from Thanksgiving dinner, but the new Christian year is beginning with Advent on December 1, a time of anticipation and preparation for the coming Christ Child.

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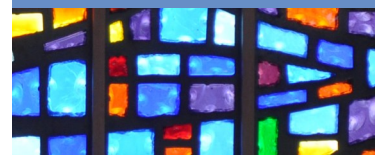
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## Knowing Who to Thank

As we turn the calendar page to November, we find ourselves nearing the end of our Stewardship Campaign for 2025. It's time to think about next year. To those who have already done so, thank you for sending in your pledge cards. It is trite but true - every pledge really matters. Especially yours!

As our Moment for Stewardship speakers kept mentioning, each Christian is called to support God's activity through the church. We are blessed to be part of a congregation which gives 20% of our total pledged amount to mission. We have a beautiful campus to maintain. We have quality education programs for children, youth, and adults. Our music program is well received and well supported. We are a mix of long time and brand new members. We keep attracting new members who jump right in and find their niche to serve. We are blessed by God in so many ways.

As followers of God, we need to be gracious people who know who to thank. Time and time again the psalmist exhorts us to "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; His love endures forever."

Thanksgiving is not meant to only happen once a year. While it's great to have a national day to give thanks, God's people are to exhibit our thankfulness every day. As God blesses us, we return thanks, acknowledging God as the source of all our blessings. What are you especially thankful for, this year at Thanksgiving time?

This year, Becky and I are thankful for our recent trip to Lithuania, teaming up with Anne Wattles as part of a Presbyterian Travel Study Seminar to study the long-range effects of war and oppression in society. Lithuania has a long history of oppression, both from the Nazis in World War II, which was then followed by the imposition of Soviet Communism for the next 50 years. While not a "feel good" trip, it still was a valuable and important trip as we worked through the meanings of important words such as acknowledgement, responsibility, reparations, justice, punishment, reconciliation, and forgiveness, to name a few. More than

mere concepts, learning how to implement these actions is truly important for recovering from past grievances and suffering on a societal level, and also on a personal level, such as working through conflict in a family. I am thankful to have been a part of this group on this trip.

And, of course, I'm thankful for all the saints at PCOC and our partnership in the gospel!

Your pastor and friend,

*Marshall Ziemann*



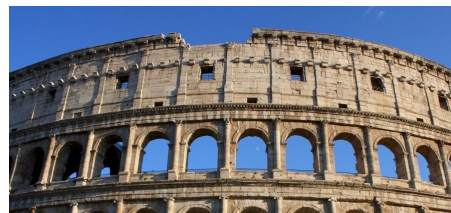
**Pastor/Head of Staff  
Marshall Ziemann**  
(402)333-7466 Ext. 1  
marshall@pcoc.us

And I'm also thankful for the members of...

## Tuesday Bible Studies

Both the 7AM (men) and 1PM (everybody) Bible Studies continue in November.

This fall, we continue through the book of Romans. Bring your favorite Bible and join us in the Welcome Center on Tuesdays.



## 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



### Three Months In

Well. Somehow it's November. And my family and I have already spent a quarter of this year living in Omaha. We are so happy to have become a part of Presbyterian Church of the Cross and remain very excited to share our new life here with visiting friends and family. We thank God, and all of you, for making this chapter in our life a gift that we continue to treasure.

As one might imagine, our new chapter here has been full of adjustments, observations, and relationship building. As Associate Pastor, getting to know our church has been a fascinating and joy-giving experience. Importantly, one of the things that has struck me time and again during my first few months here, is the genuine and deep sense of hospitality and social connectivity that exists at our church.

During what I am sure will be a tumultuous national-political reality for us all throughout this month (regardless of your preference for who wins the election), I would like for us all to take some time and think on our church's present sense of unity.

When I look out at our congregation during fellowship hour, cornerstone, or any other number of our wonderful programs we offer, I see bonds that go beyond the cordial pleasantries of familiarity and acquittance. In this time of national division and caustic rhetoric, I want us to consider how we can be intentional about maintaining our sense of unity and identity beyond the immediate future while continuing to grow spiritually.

For me, as I consider such, the imagery of Ephesians comes to mind: Christ is the cornerstone of the Church and each new believer is grafted into the body/building of the Church. In this way, the Church is always growing, and yet the identity and foundation of the Church does not waver. How do we maintain the better parts of our collective being while actively pursuing that kind of growth and continuity?

Another image that comes to mind for me may seem subversive: Robert Frost's poem *The Mending Wall*; for those of you who are unfamiliar with it, *Mending Wall* is the source of our great American axiom "good fences make good neighbors." Ironically, I think knowing and understanding an appropriate

amount of distance actually helps people to feel like they belong. After all, boundaries are what helps us define where "home" begins and ends. And yet, along with mending walls, I think longer tables also tend to make good neighbors. Can we draw closer to our neighbors by inviting them in for a meal and yet give them ample space at the same time?

More importantly, how do we convert our abstract questions and considerations and apply them more concretely? Maybe it starts by exploring new ways to serve with those among us who have recently joined. Perhaps it has to do with branching out a bit more, getting to know and care for the generations of our church beyond our own. I'm not sure where to start, but I'm betting you have plenty of thoughts and some good ideas. Maybe some of them will fruitfully manifest.

So as we wander through this messy month of dichotomous division, let us carry these meditations with us. It is my hope in doing so that we find peace, comfort, and a sense of belonging to the Lord and each other in a time where such relation remains a rare and precious commodity.



**Associate Pastor  
Joshua Garry**  
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**Deacon Moderator**  
Neal Hubbard

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

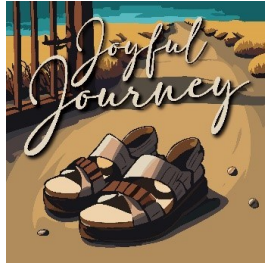




## The View from My Office

### STEWARDSHIP MONTH MOVES INTO BUDGET MONTH

THANK YOU to each member and family who has taken the time to prayerfully consider a financial response to this year's stewardship campaign. Your faithful support helps me, as the Business Administrator work with the Finance Committee and Session to prepare the 2025 Budget.



Committees have been looking ahead to next year as to what could be offered in areas of Christian Education, Membership, Church Activities, meaningful Worship Activities, and Mission Outreach.

It is inspiring to work with these creative leaders as they dream of ideas for our church and how we can become better Christians individually and together as our Church becomes what God is asking of us.

I encourage you to pray for the Session members, our Deacons, committee members, volunteers, and staff. Our church is fortunate to have so many committed people who offer so many talents and give their time freely.

### NEW LANDSCAPING AND TREES

The Building and Grounds Committee has contracted with Mulhall's to design and plant the landscaped areas surrounding the Welcome Center. We have arranged to have our sprinkler system expanded to include drip hoses in these areas to give our new fall plantings a boost.

New trees have also been added to the east side of our property. One will be planted to the east of the Hearth Room. Then a few more will be added along the connecting drive to add to our beautiful, wooded area. There will be plenty of green space for our youth to play and for concerts to be held.

### Children and Youth Giving

All last month, I challenged our children and youth to meet a \$240 goal by year end to provide a

beekeeping opportunity for a farmer. And they have met it, twice.



Simply have your child write their name on a blue envelope each Sunday with their offering to have their gift counted towards this effort. Bees help crops — and income — grow. In parts of the world where harvesting a seasonal crop might not provide enough money to live on all year, beekeeping can help farmers supplement their earnings. In Guatemala, for example, farmers earn 23% more each month by selling honey. Provide positive change for a village by contributing to the installation and management of beehives.

Encourage our youth to participate in worship by helping them read a response or sing a hymn. Help our young families BELONG at PCOC.



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



## Advent Workshop – Sunday, November 17 at Noon

We know how much our families and children have enjoyed the spaghetti lunch and craft time in the past. This year, the Advent Workshop will have a new feel to it! We have selected 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. We hope to see ALL ages at the Advent Workshop this year. Come for lunch and stay for the crafts!



**Register online by November 8.**

**Here are the crafts that will be made:**

Shut in Craft



Snowflake Ornament



Advent Calendar



Reindeer Craft

## Children’s Christmas Pageant

The Children’s Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 8 at 5:00 p.m. Pre-schoolers – high school youth are invited to participate! **Registration is required – deadline November 1.**



### Important Dates to Remember

November 6	Triennium Info Zoom, 7:30 p.m.
November 17	Advent Workshop and Lunch, Noon
December 1	Triennium Gathering, 4 – 6 p.m.
December 4	Pageant Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
December 7	Pageant Rehearsal, 2 – 4 p.m.
December 8	Pageant Rehearsal, 10 a.m.
December 8	Children’s Christmas Pageant, 5 p.m.
December 11	Confirmation Christmas Party, 6 p.m.

## Bible Explorers Sunday School Classes



Our Sunday School for children in kindergarten through 5th grade is called Bible Explorers. They use the curriculum, Deep Blue – A Weekly Adventure Through the Bible. The children enjoy rotating through different workshops, like Art, Games, Science, Cooking, Drama, Spiritual Practices, and Mission, learning about the same Bible story in many ways.

Our first unit was Abraham and Sarah, where we learned that God promises to be with us. Our current unit, Moses and His Sister, reminds us that we are all a part of God’s family. The last unit of the year is Celebrate the Birth of Jesus, where we will celebrate the birth of God’s only son.

Sunday School begins at 10:00 a.m. We meet in the Gathering Space for a short introductory activity with Sue Thomas, and then we split up into our groups and attend class. Class ends at 10:50 a.m. and parents can pick up their children in the Gathering Space. We would love to see your children on Sunday mornings! If you have any questions, please contact Heather.



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

**CE Committee Moderator:** Kathryn Vint —

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

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



## Triennium 2025 – As If We Were Dreaming

The nationwide gathering of high school youth that meets every three years has been on hold since the pandemic. I'm happy to report that it's back! Teens from all over the country will meet in Louisville, Kentucky the last week of July where they will worship, learn, fellowship, and play as a hopeful and joyful community of faith at the 2025 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. The experience will be one of those life-shaping faith-forming events that they will never forget!

Our presbytery is already planning for this amazing experience.

Join us for an Informational Zoom Meeting on Wednesday, November 6 at 7:30 p.m. to learn more.

PCOC will host a presbytery wide get-to-know you event on December 1 from 4 – 6 p.m.

Put these dates on your calendars now!

For more information about Triennium, visit this website:

<https://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/faqs/>



## MUSIC NOTES

### A Saturday Evening Vesper Concert on November 9 at 7:00 in the Sanctuary

The Nebraska Brass Band (NEBB), together with Alleluia Singers and Mark Kanitz, organ, will present "A Fanfare of Praise" on November 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Founded and directed by UK transplant Glenn Greet (also founder and owner of Chippy's Omaha), the NEBB is the only British-style brass band in the local area. Consisting of thirty-four musicians, the NEBB has attracted professional players from all areas of the state and even beyond. Nebraska's premier brass band has a unique sound capable of playing whisper-soft passages and powerful fortissimos. Don't miss a fantastic opportunity to hear great hymns of the faith with brass, choir, organ, and percussion



many poinsettias purchased by church members. This year, orders are due by Wednesday, November 20, and will arrive in time for the 3rd Sunday of Advent on December 13. Order forms can be found at the Information Desk or online and will be mailed with the November issue of Cross Currents. The cost for each poinsettia plant is \$17. Please make checks payable to Presbyterian Church of the Cross.

### Hanging of the Greens on November 30

All are invited to help us decorate the Sanctuary at the Hanging of the Greens. Our Sanctuary is such a beautiful place during the Advent and Christmas season. It takes many hands to make it that way, and we hope you can help us! We'll hang evergreen garlands and bows and decorate trees on the morning of November 30 at 10:00 a.m. Festive music for the season and sweet treats will make for a fun morning. All ages are welcome! Please sign up online so we know how many people we will have to help.

### One Worship Service on Sunday, November 10 at 11:10 only

The Nebraska Brass Band will provide special worship music on November 10. To ensure that everyone may enjoy the special music, we will have only one worship service that day, at 11:10.

### It's Time to Order Christmas Poinsettias



The sanctuary is so beautiful during the Advent and Christmas seasons, especially with the addition of the



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

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





## Active Minds in November

For the month of November Active Minds will be playing Canasta. Join us any Tuesday, from 1:30-4:00pm in the Lower Level Great Room. Feel free to come down after Tuesday Bible Study. We have very patient teachers, so come learn something new! Questions? Contact Earlene Uhrig



**Coordinator: Earlene Uhrig**

## Friday Night Gourmets on November 15

The next Friday Night Gourmet Dinner will be on November 15 at Greek Isles. Drinks will be at 6:30 with dinner at 7:00. All are welcome to join us for an enjoyable evening. Please sign up at the Information Desk. We will order off the menu with separate checks provided. Co hosts are Charlene and Lloyd Meyer and Mary and Bob Ott.



## Presbyterian Women November 7



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

You're invited to join the Presbyterian Women's Circle on Thursday, November 7 at 9:30 am in the Courtyard classroom. Our Bible study is from Growing Older and Wiser. This month Kathy Nickel will lead the discussion on Job 32, "Listening to the Young" (a new twist on "listen to your elders"). Please contact Cindy Nisley if you are interested.

## 49ers on November 5

Our program for Tuesday, November 5, 2024, will be Karen Morey "Write your own story". All of us have a rich treasury of memories, many of them never recalled, considered or shared. Karen's intention is to help you bring those memories into the light of day. With a simple process of answering questions, Karen will help you sample writing of your own life stories, one memory at a time.



The lunch location is Wheatfields, One Pacific Place, at 11:30 a.m. Every one 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**

## PCOC Book Group on November 20

PCOC Book Group will meet November 20 in Room 13 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. to review *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* by J. Ryan Stradal. All readers are welcome! Questions? Contact Charlotte Hubbard



## Classic Shrimp Boil Dinner & Fundraiser November 24

Presbyterian Men are once again hosting an old-fashioned shrimp boil on Sunday, November 24th in Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm. The entertainment will be the Heartland Acoustic Omaha, led by our own Jim Butler. Come and enjoy scrumptious 'JUMBO' fresh shrimp (or chicken cordon bleu) served with all the fixins! The suggested donation is only \$20 per person. ALL proceeds will go to purchase "baby formula" for Heartland Hope Mission. Sign up and pay in advance (checks to Presbyterian Men) at the Information Desk by Sunday, November 17th. Contact Jim Miller or Frank McMullen with questions.



## 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—



- 11/1 Joshua Bumsted, Sandy Simpson
- 11/2 Charlie Darling, Greg Hanson,
- 11/3 Jameson Huff, Chad Justice, Earlene Uhrig
- 11/4 Anna Flairty, Kim Petersen
- 11/5 Neal Hubbard
- 11/7 Liam Frampton, Ruth Madison
- 11/8 Ruth Haycraft, Corey Prideaux,  
Pam Swenson
- 11/9 Carla Fritz, McKenzie Johnson
- 11/10 Jane Hawkins, Ethan Lindsey
- 11/11 Paula Allen, Bridgette Bunjer, Harper Ellis,  
Dorothy McIntyre, Karen Smith
- 11/12 Fred Henry, Margaret Knight,  
Ashley Sherlock, Rylee Spencer
- 11/13 Sandi Stuckey
- 11/14 Jim DePooter, Beth McGrath, Garrett Voss
- 11/16 Betty Mack, Trudy Meyer
- 11/17 Doug Buchanan, Rob Koch, Bob Mooney,  
Nancy Quine
- 11/18 Jean Cambridge, Agustina Lopez,  
Linda Madison, Evan McFadden
- 11/19 Kate Trapp
- 11/20 Colton Hansen Holdren, Angela Holdren
- 11/21 Lance deStwolinski, Sarah Grady,  
Natalie Piotrowski
- 11/22 Mimi Bauer, Bob Hansen, Judy Thomas
- 11/23 Chet Thompson
- 11/24 Rod Adams, Sophina Kebeh
- 11/25 Liam Kort
- 11/26 Libby Graves, Nickie Quartoroli
- 11/27 Doug Wells
- 11/28 Sharon Jelinek, Carter Kahler, Janis Phelps
- 11/29 Ginny Redden, Bryant Schiessler,
- 11/30 Jayne Frederickson

### Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

The congregation, as of Oct. 20 have donated \$11,265 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for help with Hurricanes Helene and Milton. In addition, the Mission Committee will be fulfilling their pledge to match up to \$3,000. If you still want to donate, the church office will accept your donation. Make your check out to Presbyterian Church of the Cross and in the memo line write PDA. Thank you for your generosity! You never cease to amaze with your giving spirit!



A heartfelt “Thank You” to this very special congregation for all the thoughts, prayers , cards and hugs received from all of you after the passing of our dear friend Bob Reisser. And a special thanks to Marshall and Josh for the beautiful service, and to John Morey, Marietta Morhardt, and Jayne, and Larry Frederickson for the wonderful quartet. And finally an extra thank you to the hardworking folks who served such a delicious luncheon afterwards. You are such a loving and giving church family. Gratefully  
Ann Pearson

### 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 or  
and Judy Arms



**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.**

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



## International Peacemaker visits Church of the Cross



(Training The Trainers) seminars.

Dumitru Roibu is Executive President of YMCA Moldova. His history of YMCA community service includes roles such as World YMCA Youth Empowerment assistant and YMCA Change Agent (a global leadership program), and participation in YES (Youth Engagement in Sports) and TTT

Dumitru Roibu (Dima) was a big success for all those involved! During Dima's five days with us, he made his presentation about his work in Moldova to five churches in the Presbytery, and was well-received everywhere. He presented to small groups of very interested people at New Life Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church of the Master, Discovery Church (all in Omaha), and Westminster Church in Clarinda, Iowa.

At Presbyterian Church of the Cross in Omaha, he spoke in two worship services, met with Junior and Senior High youth, and gave his full presentation at a congregational luncheon for 80 attendees. In every case, he was well-received, answered lots of questions, and captivated and inspired every audience.

In addition to church appearances, we took him to meet Executive Directors of Immigrant Legal Center, Omaha Street School, NorthStar, YMCA of Greater Omaha, and Dr. Nicolai Roddy at Creighton University. He enjoyed every conversation and soaked up information like a sponge. Dima also attended the Voices for Children Gala with some of our team members and was very interested in seeing an example of American fund-raising methods. He was even fascinated by the Iowa and Nebraska countryside on the way to Clarinda! After a farewell dinner on Sunday evening – a Slavic feast hosted by our Associate Pastor – Dima flew to St. George, Utah, for his final visit on his International Peacemaker itinerary.

Dima's innovation and passion is an inspiration to us all. His presence had a positive impact on our church and community as together we worked for peace and justice.

Dima is now home in Moldova and sends his gratitude and thanks to all for his visit to Omaha.

## Deacons Update

Submitted by Carla Fritz

Your PCOC Deacons remain busy taking care of our church community via hospital visits, care calls and outreach. If there is anything you or someone you know that may need assistance, please reach out and we can connect with them.

Our blood drive in September had a total of 19 successful donations. Thank you to all who donated! We are looking ahead to the Advent dinner in December. The Deacon's host and serve a dinner after the children's Christmas pageant. This is a favorite tradition for many!



### Heartland Hope Mission November 2

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, November 2. 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.

### Remember to Fall Back!

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. on November 3, 2024. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, so you're on time for your church events on Sunday.



**Deacons Moderator:**  
Neal Hubbard



### The Mission Committee Mailbox

The Mission Committee would like to share with you some of the mail we receive every month from the organizations which are the grateful recipients of your generosity. Below are the latest thank you notes we have received:

- The Presbyterian Church (USA) Ministry Engagement and Support thanks you for your giving of \$1,820 for mission support.
- Pastor Chelsea Salifou, CEO of Heartland Hope Mission thanks you for your \$485 donation that will provide working poor families with a week’s supply of groceries. She greatly appreciates your generosity toward assisting those in need in our community.

### Siena Francis House Servers Needed

**Sunday, November 10  
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  
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.



# SPIRIT OF MISSION

**Mission Committee Moderator:**  
Anne Wattles

### 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.



## Christmas Giving and Volunteer Opportunities with Heartland Hope Mission

Our Mission Committee, with our mission partner of over 15 years, Heartland Hope Mission, has provided several opportunities for Presbyterian Church of the Cross members to give by purchasing gifts or giving monetary donations for local families in need, this coming Christmas season.

First, for Heartland Hope Mission's annual Hope-Filled Christmas celebration, we will continue the tradition of having our Giving Tree that will be located in our Narthex beginning Nov. 17th. Every year we have green and red paper angels on the tree with gift suggestions for boys and girls between the ages of 11 – 14 years old. Please take an angel from the tree, shop for a gift, and bring it back to the church by Sunday, Dec. 8th. These gifts will be delivered to HHM and be available for parents to select for their children at one of several December HHM Hope Filled Christmas events.

A second option to support Heartland Hope Mission's Christmas event is to adopt a local family in need and provide gifts for their children. If you choose this option, you may sign-up in November on HHM's website at [heartlandhopemission.org](http://heartlandhopemission.org). A final option is to provide a monetary donation to HHM through their website or our church offering.

If you would like to volunteer to help sort gifts, set-up gift tables, assist parents select gifts for their children at one of the Hope Filled Christmas events or participate in adopting-a-family please sign-up online on the HHM website. Approximately 1,500 volunteers are needed. Over 5,000 local children will be provided with gifts who otherwise would probably not receive anything for Christmas.

Another option for giving this Christmas season will be located in the lobby outside of the church offices at a table with a beautiful hand-made wooden Mission Giving Tree placed on top of it. Donation envelopes are provided to donate to your choice of three other PCOC Mission Partners.

I would also like to thank the congregation for your continuing support of the HHM pantry collection at our church every 3rd Sunday of the month and for volunteering at the West O HHM pantry location every first Saturday of the month.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

**John Bennett – Mission Committee**

## Agape Book Review

submitted by Ann Pearson

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

As I continue to read this book, it becomes apparent that no matter what Black people do to try to please White people, justifiably resist White people, make progress, improve themselves, or educate themselves, they are actively resisted by White people. As Kendi reviews US history from the decade before and during the Civil War, he describes the fact that Lincoln, when running for office for an Illinois Senate seat in 1854, stated his purpose was "to free all the slaves and send them to Liberia." His reasoning was "to keep them among us as underlings" was not an acceptable option. After the war he emancipated 50,000 slaves in some of the Confederate states; Lincoln could not (and did not) emancipate another 500,000 million slaves in bordering confederate states, because he would have lost the loyalty of their owners. From then on it was up to the slaves to escape on their own to the Union states to obtain their freedom. At another point in the Civil War, Lincoln requests that a Black Regiment be formed, thereby giving these black soldiers a reason to believe they could earn their citizenship. At the end of the war thousands of the Regiment had been killed and they too had killed thousands of Confederate soldiers. Ironically after the war members of the Black Regiment were viewed as "docile enough" to take orders, while at the same time being "uncontrollable brutes" and "brutal killers." White soldiers complained because they had to serve "shoulder to shoulder" with these "seething, sooty negroes." At the end of the war, the "Cincinnati Enquirer" announced "Slavery is dead; the negro is not. There is our misfortune." A few days later, John Wilkes Booth commented "That means n—— citizenship." And a short time later, Lincoln was assassinated in Ford's Theatre. As Blacks migrated north to seek freedom, they were regarded as being idle criminals. As they arrived in the cities and were working hard at resisting discrimination, building churches and schools, and striving for economic security, they merely infuriated the southern White population. Their presence was used by Whites to justify lynching and widespread violence. White Southerners wanted to be free from the "semi-barbarous" Black voters who "longed to subject their White women to their unbridled lust." And this is only the beginning of the struggle for human rights and dignity for Blacks in America. I will be honest: This has been a very challenging book report to write. The author packs in so much critical and essential information about Black History in America that it is difficult to reduce it to a few simple paragraphs. There will be a third (and final) report on this book for December. It will encompass the last third of the book.

We have so much to learn.



Presbyterian Church of the Cross  
1517 South 114th Street  
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**Next Cross Currents Deadline is:  
Third Friday of the month  
November 15, 2024**



The choirs of Presbyterian Church of the Cross present “Hope for Tomorrow,” featuring the debut of an original composition by Omaha composer Dave Gardner, and anthems, songs, and congregational hymns to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons. A professional chamber ensemble will accompany the choirs. This is an excellent opportunity to reach out and invite your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to Church of the Cross.

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

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