

Midtown Manna



First
Presbyterian
Church of Omaha

Food For Thought

November 2019

Signs of Change

As much as some of us might not want to admit it, the autumn and early winter season has come upon us:

- You can hear the wind blowing through the trees
- You can smell the fireplaces lighting up, beginning to warm our homes and hearts.
- You can feel the briskness of the cooler air.
- You can taste the tastes of the season: turkey, pumpkin, warm soups...
- You can certainly see the season change as trees lose their leaves.

It is undeniable. The days are shorter, and the nights are longer as we prepare for winter. It is a normal part of the cycle of life: Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter. As each season transitions to the next, there are always signs of a change, signs of the patterns of the seasons.

God also sends signs and prepares us as our lives change and transition from one season to the next.

- The seasons may be age related: infant- child -young adult – adult – elderly
- The season may be based on our mental/emotional state: happy–sad–lonely– excited...
- The seasons may be based on our employment: working -searching – retired ...
- Or the seasons may be based on workings that only you sense.

How is God preparing you for the season you are in right now? How about for the season to come? Can you sense God at work in your life right now? God will always prepare you, God will always support you, God will always love you.

Right now, God is preparing each of us for what comes next. God speaks to us through the Bible, through our studies, through our friendships, and through so many other ways, letting us know we are loved and supported by the one who came to this earth to die for us, so that we might live forever!

In Him,
Pastor Jon

Manna is the name of the food which was eaten by the Israelites during their travels in the desert during the Exodus from Egypt. God provided the Israelites with Manna from Heaven each day, sustaining them throughout their journey in the wilderness until they reached the Promised Land.

Pantry News

Pantry volunteers are always needed and appreciated to set up and serve every Thursday from 3:15-5:30 & to unload the truck the 3rd Thursday of every month at 8:30.

This is a wonderful outreach opportunity and a great way for students to stay connected during the summer. The next pantry truck to unload is scheduled for Thursday, September 19 at 8:30 a.m. **Please call Judy Money for more information. 402-557-8674.**

November Mission Focus *Service Sunday, November 10*

November 10th is our next chance to be the hands and feet of Christ and serve those in need as we hold a Service Sunday. The schedule will be similar as previous times: a shortened worship service at 10:30 followed by brunch at 11:15 and then on to the projects.

Here's a run-down of the projects:

1. Making Christmas stockings for the men in the work release program who participate in Crossroads Connection. We will decorate the socks and stuff them with personal care items. These men are trying to build new lives and in this way, we show they are thought of during the holidays.
2. Writing Christmas cards with notes of encouragement to be included in the Christmas stockings going to the men of Crossroads Connection.
3. Putting together bags with school supplies. Some Kellom Elementary families may not have the necessary tools for their children to do their homework, so we will help in this way.
4. Making "Happy Birthday, Jesus" bags for our pantry clients. Each bag will include a cake mix and other things to celebrate our Savior's birth.
5. Cleaning at Rejuvenating Women. We will do some cleaning and/or sorting of clothes and other items: whatever is needed.
6. Cooking a meal for Youth Emergency Services. Like last time, we will make a delicious meal for youth who are homeless or otherwise at risk and use YES for support.
7. The Tweens will tie fleece blankets for Angel Tree recipients. Just the thing for winter weather and the Christmas season!

These projects are subject to change. Please put November 10th on your calendar and plan to spend a couple of hours helping with these worthwhile projects. You have shown great enthusiasm for these events, and let's keep it going!

Angel Tree

It is almost Angel Tree time!! A time for all Angels to come forward to help those in need of a little Christmas cheer. Soon there will be a Christmas tree in Calvin Hall full of angels. Each angel will have gift ideas for a child in foster care. We would like for you to help by taking one or more of the angels, purchasing the item and returning the wrapped gift to the church office by December 8th. Please be sure to attach the angel back to the gift so we know who the gift is for. If you are unable to get out to shop, there will be "Angel Envelopes" that you can place or mail a donation for the Deacons to purchase needed items (groceries, gift cards, etc.) for the families. Thank you!

Upcoming Crossroads Connection Dates for 2019

The next Sunday evening that we will be leading worship and providing a meal at Crossroads Prison Ministry is on November 3rd.

If you would like to help with this ministry, please talk to Kathy Stockham.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

All are invited to join in our prayer shawl ministry as we knit or crochet together and pray over our creations to be given to those in need of prayer or comfort.

Our next meeting will be on November 19th. If you know of someone in need of a prayer shawl, please contact Melissa Davis or Phyllis Phillips.

W

C

H

V

R

E

S



Have you recently experienced the loss of a loved one? Are you having a difficult time dealing with your grief? It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. GriefShare may be just what you need. GriefShare is a special seminar and support group for people grieving loss of someone close.

We are hosting a 13-week GriefShare support group on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in South Calvin. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of this support group please talk with Pastor Jenni, Leanne Johnson or call the church office.

Ukrainian Family Update By Kathy Stockham

(Update on the refugee family from Ukraine we co-sponsor in the summer of 2017. The 7 adults and one child joined a sister, Luba, and her family who lived in Omaha for several years. We provided household and personal care items, some language and culture lessons, and baby items when the young couples had 2 more children.)

The parents of the young adults, Vasyl and Galyna, have returned to Ukraine. An elderly parent was quite ill, and with safer conditions, they returned to their church mission. One of the daughters and her husband, Tetiana and Alex, have two sons: Natan (born in Ukraine), and Ethan (born here in Nov. 2017). They are expecting a baby in November and bought a house. The other daughter and her husband, Ohla and Serhii, have a daughter Evelyn Grace born here in May of 2018. The son David bought a condo. Both he and Alex work for Tyson Foods and have been promoted several times. I believe Serhii works with his brother-in-law who lays flooring. I may not be up-to-date with that. He is a pastor for their church. Luba and her husband Nick have three children, are faithful and dedicated Christians with their mission to bring the word of God to Slavic-speaking people in Omaha. Their church, House on the Rock, is housed in Westside Baptist Church. They also host home Bible studies. Serhii serves as the minister, and David conducts a music ministry, but they all are deeply involved. Luba told me their church group had grown for 2 years, but now that growth has slowed. She said she felt as though their light was still shining but only for themselves, and they are praying to be shown how to share their light effectively. She asked for our prayers for their ministry. Luba said conditions in Ukraine are better with the election of a different president. The military is still present, but she didn't know for what purpose. One of her children is visiting her parents in Ukraine, and the church hopes to send a few people next summer to help with a kids' camp. Their parents are doing well. Luba also said we at FPC will always be in their hearts for the support we gave them. They are highly appreciative. She said this more than once during our phone conversation. Several of us from First have had get-togethers with the family, and we hope to do that again. We may see if they can come to our Thanksgiving dinner.

You could see pictures of their ministry at domnakamne.com.

I thank God for the opportunity for us to serve Him in this way and for our connection with this wonderful family and wonderful addition to our community and country.



As Thanksgiving approaches and we enter into the hustle and bustle of the Holiday seasons we know how quickly the joy can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Ministers: *Leanne Johnson, Sherri Krivanek, Leanne White or Pastor Jenni.*

Our Stephen Ministry team are here to care!

Cantata Guest Singers

Here's an open invitation for people who would enjoy singing with the Chancel Choir for this year's Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 15th in worship. Plan to attend 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsals on Wednesday nights, November 20th, December 4th and 11th, as well as the dress rehearsal on Saturday morning, December 14th. Please let Tim know as soon as possible that you'd like to be included so that he can make sure there's music for everyone who wants to share in the experience.

Tim Houfek, Music Director
thoufek@fpcomaha.org

GROW WITH



THRIVE

There is something about Fall that I love! I think it is a combination of all the things that go into the changing of the season; the cooler weather and the colors on the trees as they begin to shed their leaves.

Fall reminds me that all things have a season, even us! Sometimes we are in a season of growth, like the new growth of spring. Other times we are in a season of steadiness like summer or preparation like fall. Maybe even that of winter's death where all things seem to stand still. Here on fall's doorstep we are reminded of the beauty that comes with time. In the midst of fall, as we begin to see glimpses of nature's eventual rest, we know winter is coming. But, I remind myself always, that all seasons are necessary; without winter's death, spring's new growth would not be possible. So it is with our own spiritual growth. Sometimes we are in a stage of new growth or rest...but even in rest growth is happening.

This past year has been an extremely tough one for me personally. Last October I lost my dad very unexpectedly and it has been the hardest thing I have ever had to face. I miss him every day and I am extremely grateful for the love and support he gave me and the strong faith that he instilled in me. As I stand and look back at the year, I see winter, desolate and lonely. Yet, I know that God is continuing to work in me, and I am beginning to see signs of new growth taking root. That is thriving! Holding on to my faith, continuing to struggle, all the while trusting God to hold me, to guide me, and to teach me daily.

I know grief is a season and some seasons can last for a while. I also know that God is present in my grief and through it I will continue to thrive.

Blessings,
Pastor Jenni

*The righteous thrive like a palm tree and grow like a cedar tree in Lebanon.
Planted in the house of the LORD, they thrive in the courts of our God.
They will still bear fruit in old age, healthy and green
Psalm 92:12-14 (HCSB)*

Sunday Morning Schedule:

8:45 am – 11:45 am	Nursery Care Provided
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Christian Education Hour for all ages in Millard Hall
Adult Class	<u>The Present Word</u> , led by Amy Rodie
Children & Youth Classes	
	Preschool
	Kindergarten – 5 th Grade
	6 th Grade – 8 th Grade
	9 th Grade – 12 th Grade
10:30 am -Worship	Godly Play following Children's Message (1 st grade & younger)

Midweek @ Midtown

4:30 pm	Adult Bible study
5:45 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm	Midweek Kids
	Youth Group
	Adult Study

Youth Calendar

Nov. 13 th	HS Eat out night
Nov. 15 th	College age trip to Joe's Karting
Nov. 17 th	4:12 Meeting
Nov. 20 th	HS Challenge Night
Nov. 22 th	Young Adults Game Night at Spielbound
Nov. 24 th	Children's Choir sings in worship



Nursery Ministry

Our nursery provides childcare in a loving, nurturing environment for infants through three-year-olds. Nursery care is provided Sunday morning during Sunday school (9am-10am) and Worship (10:30am) from 8:45 am until 15 minutes after the completion of Worship approximately 11:45 am. On Wednesday nights, childcare is provided from 6:00pm until 7:30pm during Midweek @ Midtown.

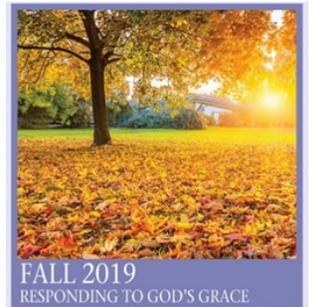
Our goal is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for each and every child. If you have any questions about FPC's childcare, please call Pastor Jenni 402.345.5383.

Adult Discipleship

Sunday Morning— The Present Word

Our Fall quarter continues as we focus on God's gift of faith and how we respond to it both personally and communally. Together we will discover how the Bible shows us how God's grace affects the lives of all believers, as demonstrated in obedience, gratitude, and holy living.

This Sunday morning class meets in Millard Hall at 9:00am.



FALL 2019
RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE



Godly Play: age 7 & younger

All children are invited to participate in worship each Sunday morning.

Younger children, following the children's message, may exit to Millard Hall to participate in Godly Play. What is Godly Play? Children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play.

Sunday Morning Kids

We hope everyone had a safe and fun Halloween with the frights of the plagues behind us we move on to one of the most influential people in the bible: David. Come learn his story this November with Spark Sundays! For those of you who don't know, our morning together will begin at 9:00am in the Temple as we gather, worship and head off on our adventures for the day. Each week we will experience the Bible story in a new ways like Art, Science, Drama, Technology, and so much more. See you there!





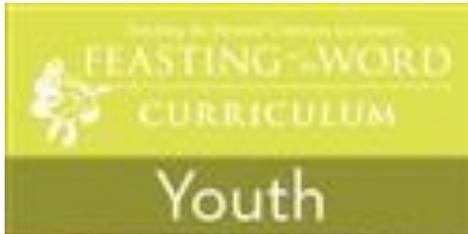
Children's Choir will gather together and make a joyful noise for the Lord every Sunday from 10:00-10:20 following Sunday School. We will sing "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" on November 24th during worship. In order for the Children's Choir program to flourish it is critical for the youth to attend as many rehearsals as possible to ensure they feel comfortable with the material.

I can't wait to sing with you!

AJ Baratta

6-8th Grade Sunday School

Brand new this year we have our 6-8 grade bible study taught by Susan Smith! This is a new program that hopes to help familiarize our youth with the bible itself. Even as adults it is easy to get intimidated by the bible, but by taking an in depth look at how and why it was written we hope to use the bible as a tool for understanding and faith formation. This class meets Sunday mornings at 9:00am in the Tween room.



Sunday morning our Youth will be studying God's word using Feasting on the Word. Together we will explore our personal and communal identity in Jesus Christ through meaningful community-building experiences, engaging Bible study, and relevant learning activities. Biblical stories will come alive in new and creative ways. In response to God's amazing, unconditional love, youth will be challenged to put their faith into action as they grow to understand themselves as Christ's disciples.

MidWeek @ MidTown

DINNER | ADULT CLASSES | YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Midweek @ Midtown continues each week with dinner served from 5:45pm-6:15pm. Following dinner, at 6:30, you will find something for everyone as our children, youth and adult programs begin.

If you will be planning to join us for dinner don't forget to RSVP by signing up on the bulletin board on Sunday morning or calling the church office by Tuesday afternoon. This will help us to be better stewards of our resources as we prepare and serve meals.



4:30 Bible Study

Join us Wednesday afternoons in Jenk's lounge for an eight-week Bible study on The Writings.

The Books of the Bible presents the books of the Bible in a fresh yet ancient arrangement that helps you see the unfolding drama of Scripture more easily. Many distractions have also been eliminated so readers can experience Scripture the way its original authors intended. There are no chapter and verse numbers, no study notes, no cross references or footnotes, and no red letters. In NIV, The Books of the Bible: The Writings we will find wisdom in stories, poetry, and songs as we read (Psalms, Lamentations, Song of Songs, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, Chronicles, Ezra-Nehemiah, Esther, and Daniel)

Wednesdays @ 4:30 in Jenk's lounge.

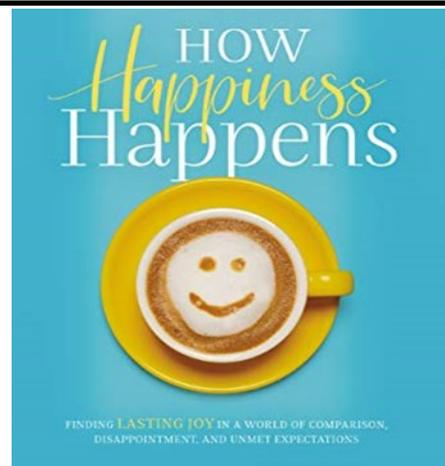
6:30 Adult Study

Refugees in America. It's a tough topic, both at a local community level and from a national policy perspective. Through this study we will seek to bring perspective and meaningful conversations around this topic through eight unique perspectives from experienced authors from renowned organizations such as World Relief and Church World Service that provide insight into refugee stories and experiences.

The Dialogues On: The Refugee Crisis offers us differing dialogues on today's situation for refugees in America, helping unpack the issue and drive conversations. Join in the conversation for this nine-week discussion to turn conflict into community.

Wednesdays @ 6:30 in Jenk's lounge.





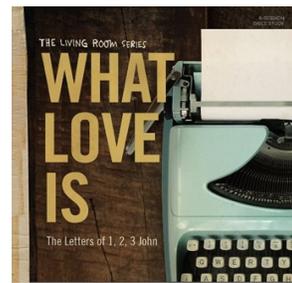
Tuesday Evening Small Group Study

Our culture tries to convince us there is one way to happiness: aspire, acquire, desire, retire. Happiness depends on what we hang in our closet, park in our garage, and deposit in our bank account. Yet, it's a path that always fails to deliver. In this six-week Bible study, we will look at several "one another" statements in the Bible that reveal how the happiest people on earth aren't those who have the most but those who are willing to give the most away.

God wants to bring joy to the people of this generation, and in his Word, he has given us practical and applicable ways to quarry that joy by sharing it with others. Although the world can be a lonely and disappointing place, we can be God's representatives to bring about a cascade of kindness! While we won't be able to solve every problem, we can bring a few smiles to a few faces—and in this way, we might even initiate our own quiet revolution of joy.

Hosted by Scott & Trudy Darling this six-week study continues @ 7:00pm in Jenks Lounge

Women's Bible Study



The Letters of 1, 2 & 3 John were written to encourage followers of Jesus to remain faithful to the truth. As believers we are challenged to look at contrasting themes such as walking in the light instead of darkness, truth versus lies and deception, loving God more than loving the world, and the meaning of true fellowship and community rather than shallowness. This seven-session study continues this month, it is not too late to join.

Tuesdays @ 10:30 in Jenk's lounge

midweek
KIDS

In trying to be aware of the busy lives of parents and youth this holiday season our normal Midweek Kids programming will be on a brief pause starting Nov. 6th. This change is to make time and space for Children's Christmas Celebration practice without adding yet another commitment to our busy lives. We hope to see you at our first practice Wednesday Nov. 6th at 6:30 pm.

Discipleship Small Groups

Are you interested in developing a deeper relationship with Christ? Would you like to be a part of a discipleship small group? We are getting ready to launch our new discipleship group for the 2019-2020 school year but it is not too late to be a part of this exciting time of exploring what we believe together.

Christianity is not merely a belief system, however important that is, it is also a way of life. Throughout this discipleship experience we will explore core teachings of our faith.

New catechumenate small group every other Monday @ 6:30pm.

Please talk with Pastor Jenni to find out more, or if you would like to be involved.

Christianity is not merely a belief system, however important that is, it is also a way of life. Throughout this discipleship experience we will explore core teachings of our faith.

If you would like to be a part our ongoing discipleship group please talk with Pastor Jenni or Pastor Jon today!

We would love to have you join this faith deepening group.



All High School students are invited to weekly Youth Group!

We meet every Wednesday evening to fellowship and learn about Jesus Christ together. This month we have our group eat out night Nov. 13th and our Challenge night Nov. 20th.

We hope to see you there!



Did you know that God is a foodie? All throughout the pages of scripture we see the savory beauty of God's creation and provision.

This six-week study continues this month. Join Joy Heller for this course where we will truly *Taste & See* as we make a connection between scripture and the culinary art of cooking. Reserve your spot today! See you around the table!

Mondays @ 6:30 pm in the Kitchen



Faith & Film November 19 @ 6pm

dinner, movie & a conversation. Join us for an evening of faith and film as we watch *Fireproof* followed by a time of conversation about the film and our faith. Dinner will be provided but RSVP's are needed.

Holy Friends at Eastridge Presbyterian Church in Lincoln

A series of monthly conversations with representatives from the Lincoln faith community to encourage interfaith dialogue and promote cultural understanding. Holy Friends is "a small window on a large subject," as Barbara Brown Taylor writes in her most recent book, *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*.

This is not a primer on religions; rather a space to explore what is opened and what is revealed when we accept the invitation to investigate all the wonder before us. Here we learn not only that God's preferred language is driven by curiosity and specialize

Schedule: Nov 25: Buddhism Jan 27: Judaism Feb 24: Islam
Mar 23: Christianity Apr 27: Review and Next Steps

Registration is free and limited to 30 participants. Attendance at all dates is strongly encouraged, but not required. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/HolyFriends>

For more information, contact: Thomas Dummermuth (tdummermuth@eastridge.org), Lew Kaye-Skinner (lew@kayeskinner.com), or [facebook.com/FaithCoalitionLC](https://www.facebook.com/FaithCoalitionLC) s in questions, but we also discover the spiritual riches God can teach us from the faith of others.

Meetings will be monthly (with the exception of December) on the 4th Monday, from 7:00-8:30 pm at Bryan West, Conference Center A/B, 16th/South.

Middle School Girl's Bible Study

Last spring a group of middle school ladies were wanting more Bible study opportunities, so we here at First Presbyterian are glad to provide. I am happy to share we are continuing our study *Looking for Lovely* on **Wednesdays @ 6:30pm**. This incredible study helps empower our women of tomorrow. By offering the guidance of Christ in this time of growth and discovery we hope to make Jesus a focal point in their lives. We hope to see you there!



Calling all kids 5th - 8th grade!

4:12 is back in action with a special meeting this month. We love having visitors here at 4:12 so this month is "Bring a Friend Day!" Please invite a friend or two to this truly special place! This unique group is 5th-8th graders. We will meet on the third Sunday of the month at 4:12 in the afternoon for fun, food, and other festivities. See you **Sunday November 17th @ 4:12pm - 6:30pm!**

*4:12 Tweens comes from 1 Timothy 4:12 which says, "Don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity."

PMRV Leadership Team - Special Announcement

With reverence and joy we share the fruit of deep discernment. Our presbyter, the Rev. Dr. Mary Newbern-Williams, is officially preparing to retire. As she follows her call, she is working with the Presbytery's call, current ministry needs and timeline.

We hope you will join us in sincerely thanking our ground-breaking presbyter for all the ways she has resourced and blessed us. Please share your best wishes and blessings with Mary at the October presbytery meeting or drop in or send a card. Her mailing address is 1370 S. 157th Court, #110, Omaha, NE 68130.

COMMUNITY

Annual First Presbyterian Church Thanksgiving Meal

Our Thanksgiving meal will be held Sunday, November 24th following worship in Knox Dining Hall. A free-will offering will be taken for turkey and all the fixings!
 Please come and give thanks with your church family for all our blessings!
 Sign-up in Calvin Hall after worship - to eat and/or help. Please sign up by November 17th. You may also sign up by calling the church office.

With the nights getting darker and colder what could be better than a nice hot drink and some time together?
 Please join us at Spielbound on the evening of Nov 22nd at 7pm.
 All costs will be covered so grab a game and a cup of coffee or tea and join



College Age Fellowship Opportunities

With everything ramping up as we approach Christmas I feel you all deserve some time to escape. I can think of no better way than through the high octane racing at Joe's Karting in Council Bluffs at 6pm November 15th.

In fact we here at First Presbyterian think you need the break so much we are willing to cover the cost! To sign up for this free event please RSVP by text or Email to AJ Baratta to ajbaratta@fpcomaha.org by Wednesday November 13th to secure your spot.

November Birthdays

Brian Switzer	November 1
Charlie Darling	November 2
Lois Goss	November 2
Rosanne Carmichael	November 5
Joseph Girthoffer	November 7
Natastia Brooks-Carnes	November 8
Bronson Boosalis	November 10
Scarlett Cowles	November 10
Brian Keister	November 10
Susan Kawamoto	November 11
Aaron Kittrell	November 11
Greg Dowding	November 13
Brady Johnson	November 14
Mark Smith	November 14
Riley Schulz	November 17
Jody Nunez	November 18
Rodney Halverson	November 20
Brittany Lever	November 21
Oliver Rincon	November 23
Ruth Schuck	November 23
Kate Johnson	November 25
Pat Gates	November 27
Barb Petersen	November 27
Jenni Blake	November 28
calla McCune	November 30

November Anniversaries

Robert & Marla Boyd	November 3
Chris & Salome Majeres	November 6
John & Karen Kroupa	November 11
Stephen & Lisa Boyd	November 12
Donald & Bonnie Jensen	November 12
Rob & Joy Heller	November 13
Robert & Bonnie Newman	November 14
Bob & Sarah Williams	November 19
Phil & Theresa Franco	November 30

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know! Contact Sherri at spetersen@fpcomaha.org or call 402-345-5383.



Hearing Amplifiers

Hearing amplifiers are available in a basket in the South Narthex. The Welcome Team will put them out before each service.
 If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis Phillips or a member of the Welcome Team.



Operation Christmas Child

With Christmas just around the corner we have the opportunity once again to help make the season one to remember with Operation Christmas Child.

Until November 17th we will be collecting filled donation boxes. If you would like to help spread some Christmas cheer it's very easy! First collect a box from us and pick either boy or girl and the age group you would like to get gifts for. Once you have gathered the gifts, school supplies and hygiene items for your box, all you have to do is pack it and pray over it.

Once finished, return the box back to us by November 17th so we can get them sent in for distribution. With our help we can make sure every child is reminded of the love that Jesus Christ has for each and every one of us!

Christmas Poinsettias

As we get nearer to Christmas, please keep in mind that poinsettias will have to be ordered by November 25th. The plants are red or white in 6" pots and cost in the \$7 range.

Please watch for order forms near Thanksgiving. Thanks!



Bottom Page Thoughts “

Many years ago Keith and I were part of a Bible Study series by Ray Vanderlaan. If you have never heard any of Vanderlaan's studies, please seek one (or more) out...they are amazing. This particular one is titled "In the Dust of the Rabbi." Vanderlaan teaches from the very places where the events of Jesus' life occurred, He explains that those lucky enough in Biblical days to find a good rabbi, followed him so closely that their feet would become covered in the dust stirred up by their teacher. Knowing that Jesus is the Son of God, I often wonder if the disciples followed Him even closer that they would be covered in His dust from head to toe. Did Jesus' followers feel sadness when they washed their feet, knowing that they were rinsing off the sacred ground where Jesus Himself walked? Dusty feet were a real issue back then. If you recall Jesus' instructions to His disciples when traveling in Matthew 10:14: *"If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet."* In today's world, it would be equivalent to blocking someone from your social media account! It is to separate yourself from views you did not want to be associated with. Of course in Biblical days it was a grand gesture that everyone took note of and wasn't caused by a simple disagreement, such as today's internet debates over the perceived color of a dress or the debate over what is fake news and what is real. I can't even imagine what it would have been like to be one of the disciples, being chosen by Jesus to follow Him, to learn from Him, to be cared for by Him...or then again, I am blessed to experience this attention everyday. I also can't imagine the grief I would feel if the dust from my house would be emphatically brushed away on my front stoop by someone close to the Lord.

I wonder when washing my own feet if it's possible the dirt I so casually wash down the drain could have been touched by Jesus. With wind conditions, weather fronts, storms, and world-wide travel, how many times does soil blow around the world? How many others have shared the same clouds of powdered earth that encircle me as March comes in like a lion or October begins to imitate December?

I recalled the Vanderlaan study and subsequent thoughts in mid October while spending time with my son, Dan and his wife, Vanessa in South Carolina. Any previous family vacations to the coast, would include time to walk the beach, allowing the ocean waves to splash until we almost lost our balance in the tide. When Keith and I traveled alone, he was unable to drive past a beach entrance without stopping to enjoy the often freezing cold sand and surf as we ambled barefoot where the water and beach mesh together. During a tour of the Hoover Dam, I was told that all the water on earth now is all the water there ever has been, and ever will be. So during the Carolina trip, I closed my eyes and imagined Keith next to me, holding my hand as we walked and laughed and marveled at the beauty that surrounded us. In the harsh reality of his absence, I took great comfort in believing that time and tide make it highly likely that the water both crashing against my legs one moment and delicately caressing my ankles the next, was water that had washed over Keith on previous trips. That water could have touched him on at least one occasion and was now offering me the warmth and comfort I needed to feel. That water washed away some of the loneliness and sadness that is ever present in my life right now. That water washed away some of the fear and hesitancy of the future. That water was a gentle reminder that if I walk closer to Jesus, I will be splashed and dusted and touched by His words, His comfort, His compassion, His understanding, and His love.

Just as the Lord continues to show Himself to me through His creation, Keith continues to show himself through the beautiful family we created. I pray that we all seek to follow the Master; to kick up the dust of the Lord who leads us daily; and to be confident that His influence will find a way to cling to us; to drift into our eyes, our hearts and our souls.

WARRIORS

Shares and Prayers

Prayer is such a powerful thing, and when we gather together as the Body of Christ to lift our voices in prayer, God can do amazing things.

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers throughout the month.

For Peace and Comfort to the Families of Those who Died: Bernie Baratta * Heather Sjodin * Eileen Samway * Donovan Schuler * Keith Petersen (Sherri Petersen's husband) * James Kindig (Melissa McBride's father) * Marva Reese (Sondra Reese's mother-in-law) * Elmer Reynolds (Cindy Wolf's father)

For Healing & Strength/Blessing & Guidance: Jane Adams * Natalie Bauerkemper * Bill Beatty * Doris Buford * Mary Buford * Jean Carter * Pat Carsner * Christine * Trudy Darling * John Davis * Donald * Arlis Dowding * Steven Durant * Renata Girthoffer * Grace (Merryellen Towe-Schulz's granddaughter) * Keith Gustafson * Heather * Larry Heidebrecht * Lauretta Heidorn * Jensen Family * Maryellen Johnson * Jennifer Kneibler * Lizzie * Larry MacDonald * Peggy McDonald * Bonnie Newman * Paula Peek * Diana Simons * Pam Smith * Louise Rodriguez * Stryker * Robert and Holly Sutherland and baby girl Leanne Malecha White * Kathy Wilson * Wayne Woodard * Lenn Woods (Jennifer Davis' father)

For Those On-Going Special Prayers of Care: Don Brewer * Ann Brietenbauch * Jean Carter * Esther Dye * Gwen Elsasser * Betty Fulton * Lois Goss * JoAnn Haafke-Anderson * Shirley Hancock * Martha Helligso * Jeff Hogue * Carol Hunter * Jon * Pauline Kawamoto * Tyler Keenan * Connie Krause * Ralph Kroupa * Bee Lowrey * Linda Lynch * Lyndsay MacDonald * Doug Marr * Kathy McDonald * Lindsey McKee * Mary McLendon * Karen Morrison * Verlyn Olsen * Grace Perleberg * Pat Rock * Danny Simms * Dolly Wilson *

For Those with Cancer: Alex Barrett * April Clark * Debbie Donahoo * Steven Durant * Dee Engelbert * Sally G * Phyllis Gentry * Michelle Kirkpatrick * Joyce Kubichek * Michelle Miles * Linda Nelson * Norma Olsen * Leona Post * Michelle Sheets * Kim Shillito * Bill Spransy * Chae Starks * Terry * Velvet * Teri Viseck * Michelle Williamson

Care Members and Home Bound

Brietenbauch, Ann:	Lakeside Village Assisted Living 17600 Arbor St. #4 Omaha, NE 88130-4649
Dye, Esther: Lowrey, Bee	Elmwood Tower, #604, 801 S 52 St., Omaha, NE 68106-1810 Brookestone Meadows, 600 Brookestone Meadows Plaza, #1301, Elkhorn, NE 68022
McLendon, Mary:	Skyline Retirement Community, 7350 Graceland Dr., Omaha, NE 68134-4301

***The prayer requests we receive will be published on this prayer list for one month's time. We would be glad to renew the request, simply let us know.**

Prayer Requests can be emailed to spetersen@fpcomaha.org

The FPC Sunday sermons are now available on-line.

The sermons can be streamed directly from the First Presbyterian Church website (fpcomaha.com) or downloaded for portability. To see a list of sermons ready to stream, please follow this link:

<http://www.fpcomaha.org/media/>



MISCELLANEOUS

*E-Giving:
E-asy
E-efficient
E-ssential*

Want to give electronically to First Presbyterian Church?

You can by visiting the website(www.fpcomaha.org) or use your smart device to scan here



Parking /Building Reminders

The refrigerators throughout the buildings will be cleaned out on the first Tuesday of every month. Please mark anything you want to keep. Also, for the safety of all, please park in designated areas only. The alley can be used for immediate loading and unloading only. Vehicles must not be left unattended. Thank you for your cooperation.

Church Van Info

The van drivers are more than happy to pick people up and bring them to church, and to return people to their homes, but due to insurance concerns, the church van drivers are not permitted to make stops for errands or lunch breaks.

Pictures, Please!

If you have pictures of church events from 2019, please share them! You can email pictures to pictures@fpcomaha.org. Pictures may be used before church and/or at the annual meeting. Thanks!

Church Web Site fpcomaha.org

Our goal is to keep our website fresh and full of the latest information pertaining to news and events here at FPC. Contact Pastor Jenni if you would like to make a submission.

2019 Per Capita: \$39.55

Per Capita is per member dollar amount that each church pays to our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. This is to help cover the costs of having resources available to us from these higher governing bodies. These resources appear in the form of staff members, (like an Executive Presbyter or Stated Clerk), Call Process help when calling a pastor (like the Church Leadership Connection national database), our regular Presbytery and Synod meetings, and national General Assemblies, as well as various educational resources for all Presbyterians.

Many church members have made a decision to pay their own per capita, which helps First Presbyterian Church greatly. If this is something you would do to help, simply indicate on a check, or on an envelope that you would like that payment to go towards your per capita. Thank you!

Reminder

Anyone who enters the building is asked to advise the staff of your arrival and departure. Due to safety concerns it is important that the staff is aware of those working in the building.

Directory Updates

Did you know that First Presbyterian Church has an on-line church directory? Anyone with an email listed in the directory can access it.

Go to InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the instructions to sign in.

*Please let us know...*Occasionally throughout the year we are required to complete congregational reports which ask about the ethnicity of the congregation. If you identify yourself as being a part of a particular ethnic group and wish to be considered such for the sake of statistics, please let us know! Thanks.

SCRIP NEWS...SCRIP is handy to have for Birthdays, weddings get well gifts, vacations and year-round fun! Order through Pastor Jon or check with Sherri to see what is on-hand. Your order means money back to FPC!

November 2019

November 2019

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2019

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Welcome Team News: In order to prevent duplication of services throughout the church, Session approved the combining of the Usher Team and the Greeter Team. The Welcome Team will now greet those entering the church, present them with a bulletin and be available to answer questions and provide directions. More volunteers are always appreciated. If you would like to become part of the Welcome Team, please inform the church office. Each team is responsible for a month or two scheduled within the year. Your Welcome Team for this month: Rob & Joy Heller, Mark & Susan Smith, David & Shelly Smith

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2
CCLI License to be renewed Daylight Savings Time 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:30am Worship w/Comm 12:30pm Grace of Unity 6:00pm Crossroads	Carpets cleaned in Millard Hall 5:30pm Bldg/Grnds 6:00pm GPPP Group 6:30pm Small Group: Catechumanete	Election Day 10:30am Women's Bible 5:00pm Mission Ministry 6:45pm Fellowship 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Small Group:	1:30pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm Bible Study 5:45pm M@M Dinner 6:30pm Bible Studies/Youth 6:30pm Children's Christmas 6:30pm Grief Share	3:30pm Pantry 6:00pm Outreach & Evangelism 6:15pm Personnel	Order Christmas Eve candles and bulletin covers: 350 10:00am PW Coordinating 4:30pm Brown rehearsal	10:00am Grace of Unity Prayer Meeting 4:00pm Brown wedding
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:30am Worship/Service Sunday 12:30pm Grace of Unity Church	Veteran's Day 6:00pm GPPP Group 6:30pm Budget, Stew & Mem Mtg	5:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry? 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Small Group	1:30pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm Bible Study 5:45pm M@M Dinner 6:30pm Bible Studies/Youth 6:30pm Children's Christmas 6:30pm Grief Share	3:30pm Pantry 5:30pm CLW Meeting 6:30pm Session Mtg	5:30pm Rehearsal: Sweetwood 6:30pm Castelar Kids	4:30pm Wedding: Sweetwood
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
David McBride in Kitchen 9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:30am Worship/Service 4:12pm 4:12 Tweens 5:00pm Van for Crossroads	6:00pm GPPP Group 6:00pm Stephen Ministries 6:30pm Small Group: Catechumanete	5:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry? 5:30pm Finance Mtg 6:00pm Faith & Film Fireproof 7:00pm Boy Scouts	Order GameStop Angel Tree 1:30pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm Bible Study 5:45pm M@M Dinner 6:30pm Bible Studies/Youth 6:30pm Children's Christmas	8:00am Pantry Truck Unloading 3:30pm Pantry 6:30pm Deacons Mtg 6:30pm Trustees Mtg	Advent Devotional Deadline Newsletter Deadline	9:30am Children's Christmas Rehearsal
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00am Sunday School for all ages 10:30am Worship 11:30am Thanksgiving Luncheon 12:30pm Grace of Unity	6:00pm GPPP Group	7:00pm Boy Scouts	1:30pm Staff Meeting	Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)	Day After Thanksgiving	Day After Thanksgiving
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

*First Presbyterian Church of Omaha
"Keeping Christ Central"
216 South 34th Street
Omaha, NE 68131*

*Return Service
Requested*

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Omaha Nebraska
Permit #171



First Presbyterian Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Dr. Jonathan Sloan jsloan@fpcomaha.org

Associate Pastor: Dr. Jennifer Blake jblake@fpcomaha.org

Music Director: Timothy Houfek thoufek@fpcomaha.org

Organist & Pianist: Alex Barrett

Director of Next Generation Ministry: AJ Baratta ajbaratta@fpcomaha.org

Admin. Assistant: Sherri Petersen spetersen@fpcomaha.org

Building/Finance Manager: Sondra Reese sreese@fpcomaha.org

Part-Time Office Staff: Phil Franco pfranco@fpcomaha.org

Judy Boswell jboswell@fpcomaha.org

Building Specialist: Greg Lincoln

Custodian: Rick Murray

(Please contact Sondra to reach Greg or Rick.)

Newsletter Editor: Sherri Petersen spetersen@fpcomaha.org

FPC Ministry Team Chairs

Budget, Stewardship & Memorials: Mark Lynch

Youth Ministry: Merryllen Towey Schulz

Adult Discipleship: Scott Darling

Mission Ministry: Kathy Stockham

Church Life & Worship: Brad Davis

Fellowship & Hospitality: Michaela Kanoski

Outreach & Evangelism: David McBride

Music: Alan Reinarz

Personnel: Bonnie Brown

Security & Safety Team: Mark Lynch

Presbytery: Bonnie Brown

Nominating Representative: Scott Darling

Clerk of Session: Leanne Johnson



First
Presbyterian
Church of Omaha

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Phone: 402-345-5383

Fax: 402-345-5227

Website: www.fpcomaha.org