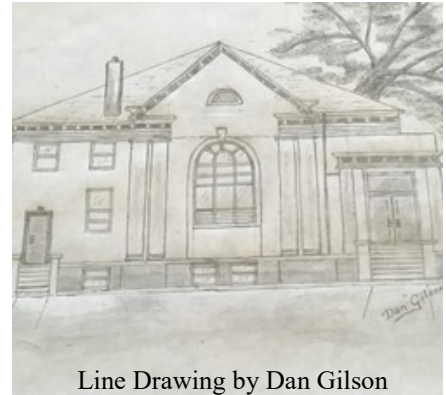


THE PUCC PERSPECTIVE
Presbyterian United Church of Christ
Aurora, Nebraska

SEPTEMBER 2023



Line Drawing by Dan Gilson

PASTOR PENNY'S TWO CENTS.....

As I sit here pondering what words of wisdom or encouragement I can give you this month, my mind is flooded with thoughts. So much has happened and is happening, how does one focus and narrow it down to one thing? You can't. Life is racing and, for so many of you, this year has not been kind. Circumstances have happened that we have no control over whether it be with family members, health issues, finances, loss or change in job, retirement, or the overwhelming world events that frankly we have no control over. And IF you are a control freak it can send you reeling and grasping for something— anything to hold on to. I get it. I think that regardless the situation the feelings are timeless.

King David penned these words in Psalms 121 when his life was feeling out of control. “ I lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.” Even in all the chaos and turmoil David could have found himself slipping into depression but he knew WHO was in control. He knew WHERE his help came from..... God, the one who made everything. The One who knew before anything was spoken into existence or breathed into what the outcome would be, and yet loved us so much before we were even created that he was willing to go through with all of it. Even loving us so much that He sent his one and only Son to the cross to cover all of the world's sin and man's curse. That is Grace, true Grace. Not getting what we deserve, Paul says in Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the Chaos of your life right now... Who can you extend grace to? Is it a family member, a co-worker, a friend or neighbor? Maybe right now the biggest person on your list that desperately needs grace extended to is YOU! That may have stung a bit, but it is true. It is so much easier to forgive and extend grace to others, but something that can be really hard and elusive for ourselves. Is it because we feel that WE don't deserve it? We can't forgive ourselves, we should be better, wiser, work harder, just push through or figure it out without help? I have a feeling that a lot of you right now can relate.

Grace is not such an easy thing to do especially when we continue to get hurt by offering it, but we are not doing it alone. We are simply mirroring what God has already done for us, offered His Grace to us. Jesus said in this world you will have trouble, but take heart I have overcome the world. He overcame All of the World's Sin and He conquered Death. When he said it is Finished He meant it. His blood covered all of it, even the craziness and messiness of your life. Even the chaos of this world, which he had a lot to say about these times. But the most important message is His Grace and Salvation which is for all, it is free and he does not want even one to perish. His grace is that deep and wide and his Salvation is that sufficient.

So, amongst everything you have going on right now, take a moment to breathe. Sit down or step back and realize that the world will not get any less chaotic, but YOU personally know the one who calmed the storm, you know the one who knows the ending to our story and you Know the one whose Grace is sufficient for whatever you are currently going through or needing right now at this moment.

Shalom,

Pastor Penny



God, we come to you today to offer prayers for our family and friends. We ask that you look after them today and keep them safe.

Donna Goertzen , De Sandell, Don “Sonny” Hofmeister, Zandee Nelson, Louise Hack, Lee & Val Jones, Bob & Sharon Nunnenkamp, Rob Nunnenkamp, Helen Nowka, Dick and Janet Grosshans, Jim Ptacnik, Tanna Skarniak, Mary Jacobs, Linda Ott, Betty Stephenson, Gus Jacobitz, Heather Epp, Renee Enderle, John Schulz, Chantelle Schulz, Shirley Barnell, and Stacey Holloway..

We also pray for all those in our congregation and beyond who may be suffering from with illness or the stress of a family situation..

We pray for those who suffer in silence that they may feel our prayers.

If you want to add someone to our prayer list, we don’t need to have a last name or know their situation. They do not have to be a member of our congregation – we pray for all the people. All requests are by permission only. Please contact: Linda Ptacnik (402-694-3297). (lindap@hamilton.net or 402-631-9422 or fcc@hamilton.net) I will see that your requests are shared – as well as updates as they are received.

When I am out of town and/or unavailable, Tanna will be handling the e-mail requests. You may contact her at 308-391-9054 (eagleskarn@gmail.com.)

A NEW BIBLE STUDY will be starting Tuesday, September 12th at FCC! We will gather in Friendship Hall for our first session which will begin at 6:30 and last 60-90 minutes.

Tanna Skarniak will be conducting the 6-week study—MAX LUCADO—*In the Footsteps of the Savior: Following Jesus Through the Holy Land*

You and your friends are invited to attend!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 11 Georgie Sinner
Sept 20 Kathy Moderow

Sept 2 Dick & Janet Grosshans
Sept 3 John & Penny Schulz
Sept 4 Norm & Alice Krueger

Update your family & friends - send me an email
to lindap@hamilton.net

**Prayer is not a spare
wheel that you pull out
when you are in
trouble. Use it as a
steering wheel that
keeps you on the right
path throughout your
life.
Amen.**

Liturgist for September 10—Ray Maul

Usher for September—Ray Maul

The Goodwill Trailer will be at the Methodist Church from August 28—September 4. Please consider donating your gently used items to support individuals with disabilities and barriers improve their quality of life.



Pastor Penny Schulz
Phone 402-440-4605

Email: pastorpennys2cents@gmail.com

Website: puccaurora.org

YouTube: Presbyterian United Church of Christ of Aurora NE

Facebook: Presbyterian United Church of Christ of Aurora NE

Youth Group

We are gearing up for an exciting year with the Youth of both the FCC and PUCC on Wednesday afternoons at 2:15 till 3:30. Beginning September 13th—Come for Food, Fellowship, Games and a great way to Learn about God's word and how it applies in our lives today. We will be expanding the youth group and offering two age groups. Bring your friends and anyone who wants to learn about the Love of Jesus!

Keep in touch with those who can't be in church each week—a card—a call—a text—a visit—they all make a difference to them and will make a difference in you as well.



Live Life in the Spirit

How exciting we have now recorded 16 episodes! Wow God is Good and we have redone our studio, and people from all over the world are tuning in! Reaching the lost for Christ, and help Christians dig into the Bible and waking up those who have been asleep was the goal from the beginning. If you have ever found yourself saying I have read the Bible and I don't remember that, or this is all brand new information then this is the place for you. We dig in and answer those burning questions that most of you have always pondered.

Plus, we have our first apparel for sale! We have our T Shirts "God is still writing your story, stop trying to steal the pen". Be sure to contact Kristen or Pastor Penny if you would like one, they are a Great way to start a conversation and share the Good news and salvation of Jesus.



You can catch up or binge episodes on our website livelifeinthespirit.com or watch us on our Youtube Channel Live Life in the Spirit, Rumble, our Podcasts are on I Heart Radio, Spotify, Google Podcast, Apple Podcast, Amazon Music plus many, many more! Be sure to subscribe and we will only notify you when new content goes up.

From Kenda Creasy Dean:

Faith makes you live differently!

A BIT OF INFORMATION TO SHARE? A PICTURE THAT BRINGS YOU HAPPINESS AND JOY TO SHARE? SOME INFORMATION ON THE HAPPENINGS AT CHURCH COMING UP????

THIS SPACE CAN DO JUST THAT! JUST CALL OR MESSAGE ME AND I CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!

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