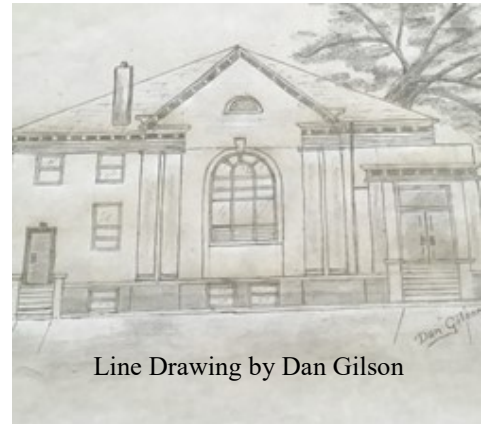


THE PUCC PERSPECTIVE  
Presbyterian United Church of Christ  
Aurora, Nebraska

AUGUST 2023

PASTOR PENNY'S TWO CENTS.....



Line Drawing by Dan Gilson

Have you ever thought about yourself as a complainer? If you are honest then you know if you are. I used to think that was my gift because I was so good at it. Actually, if I am honest I am kind of an expert at complaining. However, a long time ago, I was devastated to find out that nowhere in the Bible is it one of the gifts of the Spirit. On the contrary, the scriptures have a lot to say about grumbling, and complaining and it isn't good.

Why do we complain? For starters, if you are like me it starts with the little inconveniences. Then the major annoyances and those flat-out things that make us mad and angry. In our culture, we want things our way, in our time, without any roadblocks. So when things do not go smoothly or cause us to have to wait, to be patient, or to do it differently, it can make us uneasy or frustrated.

I think that God uses those times to teach us valuable lessons and maybe even keep us from harm. Mostly he wants us to focus on Him. When we are grumbling, is it because the issue is something we should take to God in petition and prayer? Or are we trying to forge ahead ignoring the direction that God wants us to take? Let me ask you this, if you were to ask your friends or family, would they say you are never happy, always complaining? That can be an ouch.

As I said, there are many reasons for grumbling, but not being content is the biggest. What would it take right now in your life for you to be content? What would it take for God to be enough? If we are not content it is because we are trying to fill a deep void, a void where God should reside. If that void is there then God is not, which means you have not allowed him to be enough for you at this point in time, you are still searching. God has promised to provide for your needs. If in your need you ask, he will provide food, shelter, clothing, peace, grace, whatever it is that you are lacking.

For a lot of us, we do not have because we have not asked, and we do not ask because we do not have that personal one on one relationship with our Lord and Savior. When God becomes as close or closer than your best friend then you will not have a problem talking to him. Telling him about your frustrations, your worries, your anxieties, the things that make you angry or scared. I can guarantee that when we have created that kind of relationship, we will find that the void is filled and the complaining will, well.... not be gone entirely, but you will find yourself in a better place to handle life's inconveniences and annoyances without grumbling.

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.

Scott, Donna Goertzen, De Sandell, Don “Sonny” Hofmeister, Zandee Nelson, Louise Hack, Lee & Val Jones, Bob & Sharon Nunnenkamp, Rob Nunnenkamp, Helen Nowka, Dick Grosshans, Jim Ptacnik, Lee Hutchison, Connie Nicklasson, Tanna Skarniak, Pat Anderson, Betty Stephenson, Gus Jacobitz and Mary Jacobs

**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](mailto:lindap@hamilton.net) or 402-631-9422 or [fcc@hamilton.net](mailto: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](mailto:eagleskarn@gmail.com).)

We need to see prayer as the greatest gift we can give, not as a last-ditch effort. Promising that you will keep others in your prayers means that you will continue to pray for them, without ceasing, and you hear of a resolution to their problem. “I’ll pray for you” are words that offer hope and life to people who are hurting.

*Dear Jesus, please forgive me for all the times I promised prayer in vain. Call to mind the people I need to bring before Your throne each day. Amen*

HOW CAN I BEGIN TO THANK YOU for your faithful support of thoughts and prayers, as well as the generous monetary gifts towards my rent and utilities. You are the true example of what a Church Family is and I’m honored to be a part of it. God’s Blessings and Thank You!

Connie Nick

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS &  
ANNIVERSARIES**

Aug. 5 Jack Pickering  
Aug. 19 Yvonne Bradley  
Aug. 21 Carolyn Pence  
Aug. 24 Shawna Kliewer

Aug. 2 Bruce & Yvonne Bradley  
Aug. 15 Dick & Jan Schanou  
Aug. 19 Mike & Glenda Allen

Update your family & friends - send me an email  
to [lindap@hamilton.net](mailto:lindap@hamilton.net)

**SCHOOL STARTS** on August  
15th....Several volunteers in our congrega-  
tion provided backpacks for school students  
in Aurora and Giltner. We received a list of  
supplies needed for the gender and grade and  
went from there. They will be delivered to  
the school for distribution on August 7th.

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.



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**YouTube: Presbyterian United Church of Christ of Aurora NE**

**Facebook: Presbyterian United Church of Christ of Aurora NE**

It has been so hot and humid the past several weeks—we need to keep our el-  
derly friends and neighbors safe—call on them—in person or by phone. Keep  
hydrated and keep those outside pets safe as well.

**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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