

THE PUCC PERSPECTIVE
Presbyterian United Church of Christ
Aurora, Nebraska

FEBRUARY 2025



Line Drawing by Dan Gilson

PASTOR PENNY'S 2 CENTS

Anticipation. That is the word God gave me for this year. As you may recall, God has given me a word that describes what to expect or look for at the beginning of each year. And to no surprise that word has always encompassed the summation, what that year had in store for us personally or as a whole. This year the word is Anticipation. Actually, that is really a loaded word and can go in a lot of directions.

There are always things we anticipate. It could be a finding the right person to make a home with, anticipating babies or grandbabies, even fur babies count. A long-awaited phone call from a loved one or someone who has been estranged. Anticipating a new home or a new job or career. Starting school, ending school, graduating, getting a degree, achieving a life long goal, taking that trip of a life time or just one that you desperately needed to get away.

But not all anticipations are good. Maybe, you are waiting for an unpleasant or daunting appointment, maybe test results, it could be wondering if you will get the notice that you will be laid off, or the news of an expected passing of a loved one, or a trial to be over. We anticipate so much from the big things in life to just surviving until Friday. We anticipate seasons, months, holidays, celebrations, or the reminders of those now gone.

What are you anticipating this year? For some it is a new season, some are anticipating spring, maybe surgeries, weddings, new births, new jobs, a vacation. But do you anticipate the time you get to spend one on one with God? Or dare I ask..... Do you anticipate Sunday worship and stepping aside from the rat race to quiet your soul in the presence with the one who knows your worries, your anticipations, the One who SEES you?

We come on Sunday and those times in the week before the one who created the entire universe and beyond, yet knows everything about you and what you are facing and what looms ahead. We come anticipating peace, hope, rest and assurance that while we may have to wait and not know the outcome, God does. And he says I've got this. All this worrying, fretting, impatience and trepidation will not affect the outcome one bit, ...But if you will quiet yourself, if you will pray and talk to me I can give you that which you are longing for.

Sometimes, like Moses, we are so caught up in our own messiness that it takes something as extraordinary as a burning bush to grab our attention. When Moses wanted to know the name of this Hebrew God he was told “I Am who I Am”. The nation of Israel spent years in captivity anticipating the day that God would deliver them from the bondage of Egypt. A little less than 1500 years later the anticipation of the long awaited Messiah was to be full-filled as Jesus stood among the Jewish nation and when asked, “Who are you?” He just spoke two words. “I Am”. If you are thirsty, he says “I am the living water”, if you are hungry he says, “I am the bread of life.” If you are broken and worn, he says, “I am your healer and restorer.” If you are scared or alone, he says, “I am the Rock of Ages and your friend.” If you are anticipating forgiveness or redemption, he says, “My blood was poured out for the forgiveness of all sins and if you accept me I am the light of your salvation.”

See “I Am” covers it all. So whatever you are anticipating, whatever you are in need of “I Am” has it covered. I am looking forward to 2025 even though there are some anticipated unpleasant-ries awaiting, but I know that God has it covered. And whatever befalls He is all I need. And I anticipate the day when he has promised to come get his bride and take us all to be with him.

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. As you take time for prayer each day, please include:

Don “Sonny” Hofmeister, Zandee Nelson, Janet Grosshans, Shirley Barnell, Jim Ptacnik, John Schulz, Tanna Skarniak, Georgie Sinner, Doug Kliever, Martha Salmon, Ray Maul, Pastor Penny, and Pat Pickering’s mother, Eunice Kehler.

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

*We also pray for those who for whatever reason suffer in silence.
May they 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 people. All requests are by permission only. Please contact: Linda Ptacnik (lindap@hamilton.net or 402-631-9422 or fcc@hamilton.net) She will see that your requests are shared – as well as updates as they are received.

Youth Group meets after early school dismissals on Wednesday in Friendship Hall. If there is no school, we will not meet. We now have a text-mail group set up and will send out notifications as necessary.

VOLUNTEERS are needed for helping with Youth Group. If you can help, please get in touch with Pastor Penny or Kristin. **No experience required. Will train**

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES**

Febr 7 Brock Manley
Febr 20 Kathy Kliewer

Please contact Linda with any updates at either
lindap@hamilton.net or 402-631-9422

This space is available for any past or future happenings. Just contact Linda Ptacnik and she can help you fill it!

402-631-9422
lindap@hamilton.net

Liturgists & Ushers

January Usher: Ray Maul

Liturgists: To be announced

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

**Pianist/Musician
To Be Announced.**

Season 4 of The Chosen is being released!

Anyone interested in continuing with a Chosen Bible study, please let Pastor Penny or Kristen know

(by text or email...so we have it written down!)

Then we can decide together when we want to get started!



PROCLAMATION REHERSALS will be held on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm.



Youth Group Fundraiser!

Treat Your Sweet Heart to a Delicious Spaghetti Dinner!

Sunday February 16th 5-6:30pm

FCC Friendship Hall

Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and dessert

Free Will Offering — Bring all of your Sweethearts!





HAMILTON COUNTY BACKPACK SOUP BOWL FUNDRAISER

United Methodist Church—1104 “A” Street

Thursday, February 20th—11:30—1:30

Purchase a handmade, painted pottery bowl.

Fill it with your choice of soup, plus bread and a bar or cookie (Take Out Available)

\$20 Suggested Donation

All proceeds go to supporting the Hamilton County Backpack program.

Our Youth group spent one of their sessions painting bowls to be sold. Shown are the bowls before they headed to the kiln to be heated and glazed and a photo after.

Pat Pickering shared her talent of painting the bowls with different methods and the kids did the rest. She even gave a hands-on demonstration of how to create them on her pottery wheel. Shown is Ally Schmidt giving it a try while Megan and Myra Williams await their turn.



Above Left: Bowls painted and waiting for the kiln & Finished Product..

Above Right: Pastor Penny & Warren Schmidt painting their bowls.

At Left: Pat Pickering with Ally on the wheel and Megan & Myra waiting.

At Right: Pat Pickering giving Anna-belle Manley a few tips.

Not Pictured: Khloe Williams, Chris Skarniak and Marcus Skarniak, Kristen Scharrenberg



