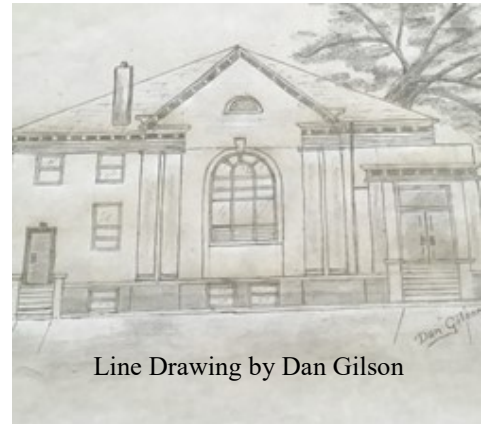


THE PUCC PERSPECTIVE
Presbyterian United Church of Christ
Aurora, Nebraska

APRIL 2023

PASTOR PENNY'S 2 SHEKLES....



Line Drawing by Dan Gilson

Anticipation!! Have you ever anticipated something to the point, that every emotion flooded every fiber of your being? I am sure you are recalling many times by now. Maybe your wedding, birth of a child, new job, or home. Maybe the Spirit grabbed ahold of you and said now is the time for something different, a new drastic change and you knew that life would never be the same.

With every marker down the journey of our lives God opens anticipation for the new, exciting, scary, and wonderful glory around the bend. I write these words as I anticipate my new journey back to Israel and the wonders that God has awaiting me this time around. The anointing of a new turn in ministry, (don't misunderstand me **I'm NOT LEAVING!**) Ha! No just refocusing and God is opening more doors and windows to reach the multitude with the Hope, Peace, Love and Redemption of His Saving Grace.

We will be going on an archeological tour, exploring areas that have been unseen and unknown to the rest of the world for centuries and millenniums. We will be visiting the site of the graves of the Giants, going to Joshua's Alter, possibly the newly discovered site of Sodom and Gomorrah, areas of the Dead Sea that are surfacing with the long drought and receding waters, the new olive trees thought to be extinct for over 2000 years, that have just started popping up in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives starting in 2019 when I was last there.

As Kristen and I have anticipated this trip it has come in a whirlwind life events and emotions. Due to a turn of events we will get to stay one extra day which will bless us with the chance to meet up with my Hebrew instructor in the morning and then a trip back to the Mt. of Olives, the Garden and joining the Palm Procession down the path that Jesus rode on that colt over 2000 years ago.

That is right! I have to pinch myself as I take it all in. I have been down that street before. Yet to process down it with Palm branches on Palm Sunday, the day the sacrificial lambs were being chosen and taken into the Jewish homes, Jesus the sacrificial lamb descended that very road as King of the Jews, their High Priest and the Ultimate Sacrifice all together. I know how electric the atmosphere was when I was there 4 years ago without the pomp and circumstance.

Imagine what it must have been like? The anticipation of the Disciples following Jesus knowing that something BIG was about to happen, but not really getting the full picture. Jesus had just raised Lazarus from the dead not too long before. He had just been anointed by Mary ushering in his Kingship and Priesthood. And now the flood of emotions.

They knew that if Jesus returned the officials wanted him killed. Yet here they were like Thomas said, "Let us go and die with him", risking it all, experiencing the joy and anticipation of what THIS descent down This road would fully mean.

Jesus started on the mountain top and then didn't stay there he had to descend to the bottom of the valley to put it all into motion. However, he didn't stay in the valley. Many times throughout that week he walked up that lonesome path to a quiet garden, the one that contained the grave that he would soon enter, to spend time praying to His Father. The Garden a place of solitude, a place where one can anticipate going to meet

God while we pour out our hearts. A place of beauty and thorns. A place where we are pulled out of the chaos of life to just sit and be, anticipating the presence of God.

I can not begin to imagine the emotions and events that the disciples, those whom Jesus himself loved with his whole heart, experienced that last week. From Joy, elation, anxiety, bewilderment, pain, sadness, anger, fear, grief, distraught, a lack of understanding, brain fog, a glimmer of hope, back to elation and then Utter Joy.

If we are honest we have all been there. The far reaching swing of the pendulum of emotions and anticipation through life's journey. I am very much anticipating my chance to sit with God on the mountain top, in the garden just spending time with Him, and having a chat about what new, exciting direction he has for my journey as well.

Shalom



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, Johnny & Donna Goertzen, De Sandell, Don "Sonny" Hofmeister, Zandee Nelson, Louise Hack, Maddy Manley and her parents, Brock & Kara, Lee & Val Jones, Bob & Sharon Nunnenkamp, Rob Nunnenkamp, Helen Nowka, John Schulz, Dick Grosshans, Skip Schulz, Lee Hutchison, and Jim Ptacnik.

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.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 3 Mary Holling
Apr 15 Glenda Allen
Apr 16 Anthony Lopez
Apr 17 Mary Maul
Apr 17 Roger Holling
Apr 21 Pastor Penny Schulz
Apr 24 Vonnie Whiting
Apr 25 Cierra Toland
Apr 30 Zandee Nelson

Apr 6 Ray & Shelly Maul

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

PROCLAMATION will have rehearsals
each Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM in the
PUCC Sanctuary.

THANK YOU to the people who filled
the pulpit while Pastor Penny was on
Vacation. Rick Goertzen with the Gide-
ons, Mike Allen, and Mary Schulz.
Your messages were greatly appreciated.

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



Our Youth Group continues to grow—we generally have ten kids each week. The time will be changing due to the fact that the “early dismissal” times for the school system will have to be discontinued because of weather closures this winter. We will continue to meet—just after school (3:30-ish) until 4:30 or 5:00.

On the 22nd, we had a birthday celebration (cake and ice cream) for Annabelle Manley, who was turning 12 the next day. Annabelle cut and served the cake.

**Linda speaking. I have had the pleasure of helping Pastor Penny and the kids for a few weeks now. Last Wednesday (March 22) I actually taught the lesson. We talked about the Good Samaritan and the ways we could do kind things on a daily basis. Thank you, Louise Mills, for the help with the food and clean-up. You are amazing and we will continue on the next couple of weeks.

- ♦ **April 16th**—2:00 PM—Easter Cantata at the Methodist Church in Aurora.

All are welcome!