

THE PUCC PERSPECTIVE
Presbyterian United Church of Christ
Aurora, Nebraska

AUGUST 2024



Line Drawing by Dan Gilson

PASTOR PENNY'S 2 CENTS....

Sometimes we are all a little “fruity”, others just plain “nutty”. However according to the scriptures, we are supposed to be “full of the fruit” and I’m not talking Juicy fruit.

As the world keeps speeding through this new trajectory, we saw from King Solomon that nothing is new under the Sun, what goes around, comes around and history repeats itself. That being said, what is happening today has happened before. So, how do we as Christians navigate through these waters?

The media is sure pushing an agenda and a description of Christianity and trust me, if you have read or heard any of it, it is not in a good light. They are trying to change and move people in a direction through shame, fear and lies. Now as we all know, there are always radicals and craziness on every far extreme of every scale. Again, that is not new either. But what does it mean to be a Christian regardless of the time or space you are living in? What is the difference between living a life of Change vs. Justification?

Paul tells us in the book of Galatians Chapter 5. We know it as the fruits of the Spirit. But it is much, much more than fun tantalizing treat. When you dig in and study these characteristics, we see that it is the embodiment of Christ. Love, Joy, Peace, Perseverance, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control. Against such things there is no law.

What does this mean? That when we accept Christ and have been baptized, the Holy Spirit enters our lives. We then, when seeking to be like Christ, can be filled with his goodness and these attributes. Now are we perfect like he was? Of course not. Hence, why it is a lifelong pursuit to obtain and display these qualities.

The first one listed is the Largest one to fill, however we are not the one manufacturing love. (1 John 4:19) ¹⁹ We love because Christ first loved us. We have love because Christ gave it freely to us and asks us to pass it on. (John 15:13) Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. That seems like a pretty tall order until you look at John 3:16 For God so **loved** the world that he **gave** his one and only Son, that **whoever believes** in him shall not perish but have eternal life. God gave up his son, Jesus gave up his life for the atonement of all sin for each and everyone of us. He already did what he is asking us to be willing to do. Putting others before ourselves.

We will be exploring the other attributes of the fruit in the next several weeks. Jesus was the embodiment of Love, and in him we have Joy. Jesus said Peace I leave with you, Peace I give to you not as the world gives let not your hearts be troubled neither let them be afraid. (John 14:7) Patience (Philippians 4:6-8) and remaining list of fruit that is just bursting with nourishing goodness.

So what does it mean Change vs Justification? It is easy to try to justify our behaviors based on if we think we are good Christians or went to church. You know the clique' "Easier to ask forgiveness than permission". We laugh, but are we really always joking? We tell ourselves we can indulge in things we shouldn't because, well, I will be in church on Sunday. True Change is when we take "Church" Christ with us when we try to grow in these fruits of the Spirit and allow the Holy Spirit to change us from within. When that happens. then... We can be assured we are displaying the attributes of Christ and Christianity to the World.



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

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.

When Linda is out of town and/or unavailable, Tanna will be handling the prayer chain requests. You may contact her at 308-391-9054 or eagleskarn@gmail.com



WE'RE WORSHIPPING OUTSIDE!

Starting in June, we are going to meet one Sunday per month (usually the first Sunday) at 9:30 AM for a joint, outdoor worship service. We will meet in the lot east of the PUCC, which we have decided to call the East Porch. There will be music, communion, a wonderful message, and as always amazing fellowship. Bring a lawn chair, or a tailgate, and join us for worship on the porch!

**August 4
September 8**

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES**

Aug 19 Yvonne Bradley
Aug 21 Carolyn Pence

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

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

Pianist/Musician

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!

Liturgists & Ushers

Pastor Penny Schulz
Phone 402-440-4605
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"The LORD's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him. Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!" Psalm 32:10,11

God controls and allows every detail of our lives. Nothing happens without His knowledge and approval. Every day, little changes in schedule or small irritations occur. Everyday, we can choose to let these obstacles upset us, or we can rest in the knowledge that God lovingly ordained them as small irritants to help us look to and rely on Him. For example, we can grumble about the frustrating traffic jam that is keeping us from getting somewhere on time, or we can remember that God knows about our deadlines and view the time sitting in traffic as an opportunity to pray. We can complain, or we can rejoice.

May we allow the knowledge that we are continually surrounded by God's unfailing love to permeate our lives and chase away our complaints and fears.

God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile" - Max Lucado



SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 28TH—4:30—6:30

3RD ANNUAL BBQ COOK-OFF CHEER FUNDRAISER

AG BUILDING—AURORA FAIRGROUNDS

Some things will be the same and some will be different. We will have a panel of judges. They will be on the stage and will sample the entries. They will select the winners (1st, 2nd and 3rd). The guests will get to enjoy the meats, beans, side dishes, cookies and bars.

Christ of Cross Church will be in charge of the Silent Auction.

This has become a really fun community-wide families of faith event. We will also hope to represent our individual churches by wearing matching t-shirts. We will also have posters above the church's roasters. This will make it very clear where the meat or beans came from.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!



Pastor Penny and John are inviting the youth and their families out to their house for a BBQ and pool party. Sunday, August 18, 2024. The festivities will kick off around 2:00 PM with swimming and outdoor fun. The "Grill Master" will cook up some meat for supper, so bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Don't forget swimsuits, beach towels, a change of clothes, and lawn chairs if you've got them. Their address is 1512 Rd 13, York NE.

Please RSVP to Pastor Penny at pastorpennys2cents@gmail.com or 402-440-4605 so they know how much meat to cook. Hope to see everyone there!