

THE PUCC PERSPECTIVE
Presbyterian United Church of Christ
Aurora, Nebraska

MAY 2025



Line Drawing by Dan Gilson

PASTOR PENNY'S 2 CENTS

Change is a comin'! That is what the disciples realized in a hurry after Jesus' death, resurrection and final days on earth. Soon they would be without him, their leader to navigate through the tough times, the scary times, the difficult times, the unknown. What would they do now? Knowing how much they did not understand what Jesus was telling them before he was crucified, I doubt they grasped all that would happen when he ascended and sent them out on their own.

I have been to the spot where Jesus anointed his disciples, over 350 of them, both men and women. I have stood there on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem, the garden of Gethsemani, and the garden tomb. What a thrill to also be anointed on that spot not knowing exactly what God had in store for me going forth in ministry, but knowing that it was not a whole lot different for all of those who he anointed over 2000 years before. Pilgrims come to the spot every year seeking and asking what God has in store for them, what he is calling them to become.

We call ourselves disciples of Christ, and that we will always be. (As we are always learning), however there was a shift. Jesus quit calling them disciples and moved them into a new title of Apostles. Which means sending forth and teaching others.

I think too often we get very complacent and comfortable with just learning on our own time, in our own way, at our own speed, when it fits into our lives and schedules. I know that is an ouch, but we are called to so much more. Jesus left the disciples with the Great Commission. One that sent them out into the unknown to share his gift of salvation, to heal, do miracles, and spread the Gospel message.

Fast forward over 2000 years and here we are being called to do the same. With the blessings of technology, we can reach people all over the globe. Our Sunday services and my new Facebook live "The Long short of it" has reached 500 to 1,500 views per episode. Yep, that's right, so if you say something loud enough in church it is literally heard around the world. Ha ha!

There is definitely a parallel here as well. After 19 years in ministry, I am blessed with a sabbatical. I will be taking these next 3 summer months off June, July and August to spend time in healing, prayer, study, and a chance to go out beyond.

Like the disciples you will get a chance to also venture out and be more engaged with Sunday services and the ministries of the church. Most people do not realize that Ministry is 24/7, there really is no time off, no time to just "be". I am very much looking forward to this time of rest and renewed energy for when I see you again in the fall.

I encourage you during this time to not ask what the church can do for you, but what you can do for the church and the church family.

Shalom, Shalom,..... God's Perfect Peace.



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 Kliewer, Martha Salmon, 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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May 8 Madison Manley
May 17 Brooke Schulz
May 18 Dick Schanou

May 25 Roger & Mary Holling
May 26 Chris & Vonnie Whiting
May 27 Jack & Pat Pickering

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

THE CHOSEN—SEASON 4

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Evenings—6:30 PM

PUCC Sanctuary

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



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

We have been busy this last month at youth group, as the weather finally cooperated on Wednesdays so we could meet!

We discussed how our faith can move mountains, and what it means to produce good fruit. We taught and talked about the last couple of weeks of Jesus' life, starting with him raising Lazarus from the dead. We journeyed through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and of course Resurrection Sunday!

Our youth had the opportunity to decorate mountains and trees of life, braid black (sin), red (Jesus' blood), and white (we are made pure through Christ's sacrifice) threads to make a chain for a cross necklace, paint some beautiful wooden crosses, and of course eat, eat, eat! The way to a teenager's heart is through their stomach!

April 30 will be our last youth group gathering before we break for the summer. It promises to be an epic send off!



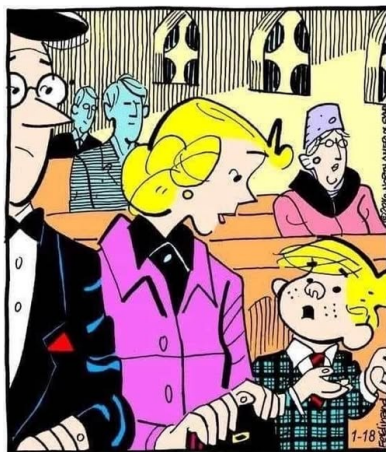
Join us May 18th at 10:30 following the church service at the First Christian Church in Aurora to "shower" the NEW teacher! Ms. Schulz will be teaching 3rd grade at Blue Hill Community Schools in Blue Hill, NE. If you would like to get the graduate a gift and you're not sure what to get, I am registered at Amazon. (QR Code Below)!



Ms. Schulz's Classroom Registry

W Photo

Hallmark



"HOW COME WE ASK FOR 'DAILY BREAD'... WHEN WE COULD BE ASKIN' FOR 'DAILY DONUTS'?"