

THE PUCC PERSPECTIVE
Presbyterian United Church of Christ
Aurora, Nebraska

JUNE 2024



Line Drawing by Dan Gilson

PASTOR PENNY'S TWO CENTS.....

Summertime, summertime sum, sum summertime... sing with me I know the Beach Boys song is running through your head. At least it is mine. A time full of family, fun, vacations, maybe lazy days, gardening, home projects, doing favorite outdoor hobbies or pastimes. As I was looking at my calendar for June it is packed. It will be over before it starts, but it will be full of opportunities for God to move and work. I just love those times when God plants either someone right in front of you or you in front of them to be an answer to a prayer, or a question. When one has been asking, seeking and knocking for a while and then God uses you in the equation, well that for me is just about the coolest thing. The problem is so many of us do not recognize or appreciate those moments when they come. We do not always Thank God for blessing us with this encounter. Far too often we spend our time preoccupied, noses in our phones or tablets. Consumed with the day-to-day stuff that we are oblivious to those random, precious moments when God is trying to get our attention.

I love spring as it is full of hope, new life, rebirth. I do love the process of planting a seed and watching it grow, or appreciating those seeds that were planted in the fall, die in the winter only to emerge full of life in the spring, and continue to flourish through the summer. It is a terrific reminder that God is in control, he brings forth life and new birth. He pays attention to all of his creation, even watching over the sparrow so I know he watches over me.

I am so blessed to be presiding over a wedding in our church this weekend. What joy, a new start together as man and wife. A new beginning as a family unit. One that when focused on God and His design for our lives will be forever a blessing. The men and women that God has put into this young couple's lives to help nurture, encourage and love on them is not an accident, but a divine appointment.

In the Book of Acts we discover that for the Disciples it was a time of new birth as well. Now filled with the Holy Spirit they were emboldened to forge out into uncharted territory spreading the Gospel message to any and all who would listen. There is example after example of God appointed moments when he placed the apostles and those who were searching and seeking in front of each other. Lives were changed, baptisms occurred, people were healed, blessed and lives started anew. They were aware of how God was moving and orchestrating these crucial moments. Ones that either softened hearts or turned them away. Moments when the truth caused religious leaders to writhe in fury, or times when someone was cut to the core, humbled themselves and repented.

What divine appointments has God orchestrated for you? Were you recently the recipient or the one being the vessel? I personally had 4 such moments all in one day, from a bank teller to a gas station worker, a migrant and medical personnel. What Joy to be used by him to deliver a word of hope, an answer, and to be a blessing.

As you go about your summer fun and absorb the warmth of the sun, remember to pay attention, to be willing to be used by God, because when you do the warmth of the SON will spring forth new life.

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, the family of Dick Grosshans, Janet Grosshans, Shirley Barnell, Jim & Linda Ptacnik, John Schulz, Tanna Skarniak, those impacted by the recent tornadoes, especially in Nebraska, Iowa, and Oklahoma

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. There will even be food (except for this first Sunday in June). Bring a lawn chair, or a tailgate, and join us for worship on the porch!



June 2
July 7
August 4
September 8

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES**

June 12 Doug & Carolyn Pence
June 21 Jim and Barb Johnson
June 22 Doug Pence
June 27 Shelly Maul

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

Pianist/Musician

June 2 Pastor Penny Schulz
June 9 Connie Nicklasson
June 16 Connie Nicklasson
June 23 Connie Nicklasson
June 30 Beth Johnson

Liturgists & Ushers

June 2 Outside worship on the Porch
June 9 Ray Maul
June 16 Kristen Scharrenberg
June 23 Pat Pickering
June 30

FCC BIBLE STUDY

**Has been cancelled for the
foreseeable future.
We will reassess interest in the fall.**

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



SUMMER MISSION

The mission for June, July, and August is the 3rd Annual Barbeque Cook-Off! This event brings together churches community-wide to raise money for the Hamilton County Cheer Fund. These funds are distributed by the Ministerial Association to members of our community that qualify and have a financial need. We are confident this event will continue to be supported by many local families of faith, and are excited to participate once again.

The date and location have not yet been determined, but we will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

If you are a BBQ aficionado, a chef in the making, or just want to compete and have fun, keep this event in mind as it is both a great fundraiser and a blast for all!

ANOTHER MISSION

We have been invited to participate once again in helping to provide school supplies for children whose families cannot afford it. We have joined in this wonderful mission from the start...let's keep up the good work! Vonnie Whiting is our point of contact, and is collecting names of people who are willing and able to help financially. Please email, text, or call her by June 9 at 402-631-1019, or vonnie.whiting@auroraboardworks.com

Live Life in the Spirit is 1 year old!



Can you believe it??? We can't! Forty-two episodes in fifty-two weeks! We have discussed everything from how to face your giants and what true healing looks like, to letting God write your story and what it would take for God to be enough. We are almost finished with our deep dive into the book of Revelation. We have shared joy and laughter, tears and tough topics. We have bared our souls, and done our best to bring more to Christ! This ministry has reached people in countries all over the world, from Germany to Auckland, Israel to Mexico, and so many in between!

Friends and followers everywhere from Oregon to Tennessee are supporting us by wearing our "God Is Still Writing Your Story" t-shirts (if you're interested, let Pastor Penny or Kristen know!).

Though we have been at this for a year, we are still growing and learning in so many areas. Unlike many other content creators, we don't have a team of people doing all the work behind the scenes...we do it all! Our content can be found not only on our website, <https://livelifeinthspirit.com> but also on YouTube, Rumble, and most of the podcast feeds (iHeart Radio, Apple podcasts, Amazon Music, Spotify, Podcaster, and many more). We are also on Facebook, TikTok, most recently X, and soon to be Instagram as well.

We both feel incredibly blessed to be able to spread the Good News of Salvation in Jesus to so many people around the world, to share the truth of what is happening in the world around us, to offer hope in what can seem like very dark times, and to get to do this together. It is hard work. Sometimes it is frustrating work. We have prayed our way through many trials. We often record in spite of being sick, or tired, or needed in a hundred different places. We do it because we feel led and called. We do it because we love it. And we do it because maybe someone will find an answer they are looking for in what we put out there, and their life will be forever changed.

As we say at the end of every episode, "Once you know, you can't un-know" and what you chose to do with the information we share is up to you, but "You can't say we didn't tell you."

Shalom,
Pastor Penny and Kristen

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

The Center of Church Development and Vitality for the FCC is asking our church to put together a collection of images or video clips that capture the heart and soul of our church, and answers the following questions:

What is something our congregation does well? Our strengths? What would make someone want to come join our church?

Reversely, what is something our congregation wants and needs to work on?

Pastor Penny has graciously agreed to put this together for the PUCC as well, but she needs our help. Please email, text, or write and hand deliver your answers to these questions to her by Sunday June 16 so that she has time to create our masterpiece. Everyone's opinions are important and welcomed!