

THE PUCC PERSPECTIVE
Presbyterian United Church of Christ
Aurora, Nebraska

OCTOBER 2024



Line Drawing by Dan Gilson

PASTOR PENNY'S 2 CENTS....

A Change is a comin'! You can say that about a lot of things. School is in full swing, fall sports will be wrapping up in this month, harvest is in full production, and leaves will turn colors and start to fall. We will start Bible Study again with the 4th Season of the Chosen. It will definitely be an exciting one! With everything going on in the world Change is a comin'! Between all that is happening across the seas, the unrest in the world, elections soon to take place, things that we know and those we don't, are shifting and turning tides within our country which can leave one feeling one of two things. It can prompt the fight or flight feeling or you might just want to crawl under the covers or bury your head in the sand and hope it all just passes by.

What do we do when there is so much in our lives that we have absolutely no control over, the outcome whatever it may be is unpredictable, and it is all moving at warp speed? Maybe you are someone who struggles with and has dealt with anxiety either recently or for years. If so you are not alone and when we face many things with uncertainty it can seem as though our stress level is off the charts and you just say I can't deal with this anymore. Again, I get it you are not alone.

Where do you turn to ease that nervous jitter or palpable fear? The world will tell you turn on CNN, or any other news cast. Or you might be inclined to listen to the thousands of podcasts out there all coming from a doom and gloom secular angle. But as Christians we know that we have been given the playbook. We know roughly what to expect and how to handle it. Jesus said in John 16: 3 "I have told you these things, so that in me you might have peace in Me. In this world you WILL have Trouble, but Take Heart I have Overcome the World!"

This is where OUR Peace comes from, this is where our Help lies, our Perspective on the world, our Comfort comes from knowing God has told us what to expect. I have always been of the mindset that I can endure about anything if I know what is coming. When you know what is to happen you can face it head on. As Christians Jesus has told us step by step how to tackle what the world is throwing at us and how we can find a rest and peace in and through him that we will NEVER find in this world. But he doesn't just leave it there, no he has equipped each and every one of us with the tools and the hope to go out and share that with others.

There is a world that is desperately searching and grasping for answers to the chaos, craving peace, looking for something to ease the stress and anxiety. This is where we come in the Church body. We are called to walk along side, share where our Hope, tell the Gospel message and help others learn what it looks like to have a personal relationship with their Creator and Savior Jesus Christ. The Bible has never been more exciting with prophecies exploding daily right before our very eyes.

WE ARE the generation that has seen more Bible prophecies fulfilled than any before in history. WE ARE the generation that saw God's chosen People Israel become a nation, WE ARE the generation that has witnessed the mapping and way paved for the lawless one. WE ARE the generation that has seen and witnessed God's hand in protection of his people, and the chess pieces that are all moving into place.

This is where I would be remiss if I did not take this time to say if you are struggling to find peace, if you do not know Jesus, maybe you have never accepted him as your Lord and Savior. Maybe you have, but he seems like some mean judgmental guy in the sky, maybe you have never had that one-on-one personal relationship with him. It is not too late.

As things are rapidly moving in the world there will come a time when we will no longer have that opportunity here on earth to seek him out and grab hold of the free gift of salvation, free ease of mind, free peace that only he can give.

Yes, Change is a comin' and when you do have Jesus as Lord of your life it is a Change you Can believe in. It is a Change that everyone around you will notice and it is a Change that can help Change others around you towards a changed life as well. So right now, take a Deep Breath. Inhale the Peace and Love of God and exhale all the worry and anxiety that has been pent up. Breathe in the Hope and Serenity that Christ has to offer and grab hold of the truth that Jesus does have all of this covered. And hey who doesn't want to know how it all turns out and who wins in the end? The best part is it's the Church the Bride of Christ.

Shalom 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. 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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 9 Heidi Bergen
Oct 12 Mary Plock
Oct 14 Jack Pickering
Oct 17 Pat Pickering
Oct 24 Deanna Powell
Oct 28 Mike Salmon

Oct 16 Mike & Deanna Powell
Oct 26 Doug & Kathy Klierer

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

October Usher—Doug Klierer



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

PROCLAMATION REHERSALS will begin again on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Hoping for an October play date!

“Kindness is one thing you can’t give away. It always comes back.”

—George Skolsky



Last week we got to the heart of toxic relationships. If that left you wondering what to do if you are in one, or you know of someone who is, this is the episode for you!

There are times when we are called to bite our tongue, to remain quiet or keep the peace. But there are also times when silence is not golden, and when speaking up truly is what Jesus would do.

Our next episode is live...When Silence Is NOT Golden. Join us as we look at how and when we need to speak up in our relationships, whether for ourselves or someone we care about.

Youth group is back in full swing on Wednesdays at 2:15

This year we started talking about the importance of relationships-healthy relationships, and what they look like. We discussed families, friends, and building a relationship with God.

The youth also got to show off their painting skills by painting wooden signs that said HOME and FAMILY.

This last week, everyone practiced giving compliments to and finding good qualities in each other and got to leave with a paper of all the wonderful things that were said about them!



We have awesome, enthusiastic, creative, kind, funny, energetic, caring, silly, and responsible kids in our bunch (just to name a few!)

AND.....BIRTHDAY CAKE AND ICE CREAM FOR KRISTIN!

MAY ELIZABETH KALIFF was born July 8, 2024. Parents are Mattie and Damon Kaliff. Grandpa and Grandma are Russ and Mary Plock. Great Grandparents are Skip and Mary Plock. May is the great niece of Pastor Penny and John Schulz.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!





Another Successful Barbecue & Baked Bean Contest!

THANKS to many hands from many places, the total raised was over \$4000 for the Hamilton County Cheer fund.

Winners were judged by some "celebrities" in the community...Claire Fervert, John Seifried, Mike Allen, Marlin Seeman, and Jeremy McCoy.

Winners were:

Meat

1. Jon Boeder
2. Roger Christensen
3. Roger Scott

Beans

1. Kristin Scharrenberg
2. Pat Pickering
3. Troy McCain

