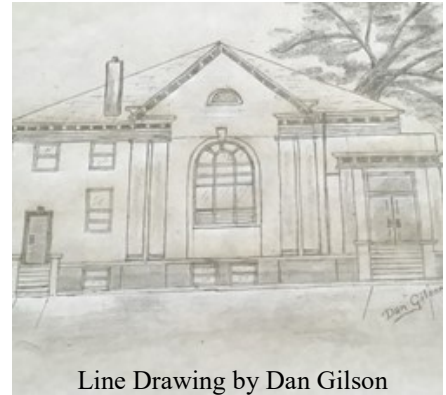


THE PUCC PERSPECTIVE
Presbyterian United Church of Christ
Aurora, Nebraska

MARCH 2024



Line Drawing by Dan Gilson

PASTOR PENNY'S TWO CENTS.....

The Footsteps of Jesus, what did that really look like? It is far more than geographical. Yes, his feet trod many a stone and pebble along some of the most traveled roads and some of the most quiet solitude paths.

As we are into the season of Lent, our theme this year is the Footsteps of Jesus. Looking at the many places his feet touched ground, but the purpose behind each step. The destination, the people he touched and healed along the way. The relationships he forged with his 12 chosen and his extended disciples and their families.

He stepped into the cold water of the Jordan and was baptized by John; He walked out with the Spirit of God upon him. Then he walked the lonesome valley into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan, where he endured the most physically exhausting time he would have to endure until the final trek to Jerusalem. We have followed his footsteps to Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee. To Nazareth his home town where he was almost pushed off Mr. Precipice, and was never able to return. We followed him back to the Sea and saw the water he would have walked on, and the storms he calmed.

It has been such an honor and a blessing to have had the opportunity not once but twice to Go to Israel and walk those same paths, touch some of the same stone steps, look down on the water that he would have walked on, stand in and above the synagogues that he preached in.

Kristen Scharrenberg and I are doing a Lenten series on Wednesday nights at 6:30 where we are showing some of the pictures from our trip almost a year ago, does that even seem possible?!? But it is not just a slide show, it is the path that Jesus traveled and why. What happened along the way, showing the scriptures in living color and the people, the lives that were restored, made clean, healed, brought back to life and touched. But that is the physical locations.

What about walking a mile in His shoes, one could say well we can't he is God, true. Yet he became Man to SAVE man and so we could relate to him. We could "see God". Jesus limited himself in the form of man to experience what we experience. To "feel and touch, be sore, endure cuts, scrapes, viruses, tears of both pain and joy, to laugh and feel the exhilaration of standing on a mountain top, or the pride in finishing a project, creating a masterpiece. He didn't have to. He didn't have to physically walk or experience the pain of this world, BUT he CHOSE to.

We will be coming to the part where Jesus turns his face towards Jerusalem for one last time, fully knowing what will happen with this final journey. We will walk the path across Bethpage, Lazarus' tomb, The Mount of Olives, the City of David, up the steps of the Temple Mount, we will walk towards the pool of Bethesda where he healed the paralyzed, we will sit on the steps where Jesus taught. We will walk down the long and winding road where he sat on a Donkey that Blessed Palm Sunday. We will stand inside the Upper Room where Jesus sat and ate his last meal with his disciples.

We will stand near the place where Jesus wept 3 times knowing that soon guards would be coming to take him away. We will journey from the far east side of town to the far west side where Caiaphas' home resides, see the place where they had a mock trial and found him guilty, the dungeon where he might have spent the remainder of the night and then follow them to where they drug him to Pilot in the morning. We will then continue on to King David's Palace where Herod resided when he came to town to question Jesus and then back to the lonely hill where Jesus most likely was crucified and the discovered tomb where he most likely could have been buried.

We can walk the steps of Jesus geographically, but not spiritually. Even for those who have been brutally tortured, and physically harmed we can never walk the road spiritually. Jesus came as a man to take on the Sins of all man. He became the Guilt Offering taking on all the guilt of the world. He became the sacrificial lamb that would pay the final price for sin and death.

We just finished the Book of Revelation and while some may still struggle with some of the words on the page, it is the Words of Jesus himself. It is why he came to show us what the rooms look like that he went to prepare for us one day! The New Heaven and the New Earth. How glorious, how marvelous, how precious the undeserved gift of salvation that both you and I get to receive when we ask him into our hearts as our Lord Adoni and Savior. Jesus said He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end, the first and the last. He is the slain lamb, but also the Lion of Judah. He is fully divine, yet became fully human. He is Yeshua which means Salvation.

As we continue to tread the steps that Christ traveled let us go humbly, in reverence remembering that he deviated from that road to seek out the lost, the undesirable, the least of these.

And if we want to walk where he walked let us do the same. As his disciples, Jesus has given us the gift of example, let us drop our nets and follow in his footsteps.

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, Dick & 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 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 (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.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES**

Mar 3 Barb Johnson
Mar 5 Shirley Barnell
Mar 5 Dick Grosshans
Mar 5 Martha Salmon
Mar 10 Chantelle Schulz
Mar 11 Jo Gilson
Mar 13 Jan Schanou
Mar 13 Ray Maul
Mar 16 Doug Kliewer
Mar 21 Kara Manley
Mar 23 Annabelle Manley

Update your family & friends - send me an email
to lindap@hamilton.net or call 402-631-9422

PROCLAMATION

Rehearsals are now on
Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM

FCC BIBLE STUDY

AFTERNOON Bible Study

**March 12, 19, 26—2:00 pm
Aurora Senior Center**

Lisa Harper—8-Week Study

Wonderful Words of Luke

****Will not meet the 1st Tuesday of the
Month**

**If you or someone you know would like to
attend and need a ride, please contact
Linda Ptacnik and she can make
arrangements to have someone come for
you. 402-631-9422**

Liturgists & Ushers

Doug Kliewer / March Ray Maul / April



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
MARCH 10TH
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR**

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Soup Bowl Fundraiser

Date: March 22

Time: 11:30 - 1:30

This will be the “Backpack Crew’s” first fundraiser. We have been very blessed with donations from local Churches, private donations, local businesses and service organizations, regional businesses as well as the Hamilton Community Foundation. Because of the generosity of HCF we are able to participate in Go Big Give.

We hope we have great attendance at our Soup Bowl Fundraiser. The event is scheduled for Friday March 22, from 11:30-1:30 in the fellowship hall of PUCC.

Guests will choose a hand made bowl by local potters (Mardell Jasnowski, Pastor Rudy Flores and Pat Pickering) with the suggested donation of \$15.00. Guests will get a bowl, soup, bread and dessert and drink. If we run out of pottery bowls, we will give rain checks for hand made pottery bowl. Carry out will be available.



Isaiah 43:1

Israel, the Lord who created you says. “Do not be afraid—I will save you. I have called you by name—you are mine.”





Our Lenten services will come to an Epic end with a Presentation from Rebekah Miller from the Chosen People's Ministry as she will go through the element for the Seder Meal that our Jewish brothers and sisters have been celebrating for thousands of years. There will not be a meal with this service, however it will be very enlightening, educational and a perfect time to connect with our Jewish roots.

We will be taking up a Love Offering for their ministry so plan to come celebrate and help spread the Gospel Message. Service is Wednesday the 13th of March at 6:30 at the FCC Sanctuary.

Spread the word invite your friends, neighbors and even acquaintances.

MARCH MISSIONS

The Missions we are supporting in March are the PCUSA -4 of 4 and the UCC - 5 of 5.

**all members who attended the annual meeting in March of 2023 received a hand out explaining each of these missions.

There are copies at the back of the sanctuary with explanations of these missions.

Members can send their donations:

- ◆ Through the PCUSA at specialoffering@pcusa.org.
- ◆ For further information and donation options for the United Church of Christ contact giving@ucc.org.
- ◆ If you choose to have the Church Treasurer send your donation along with the allotted donation from the endowment, please mark your check accordingly.

EASTER WEEK HAPPENINGS

Ash Wednesday services were held on February 14th in the FCC sanctuary.

Each Wednesday in Lent, beginning with February 21st, combined services will be held at the PUCC Church at 6:30 p.m. (Please read Pastor Penny's 2-Cents article this month)

March 13th—We will have a guest speaker—Rebekah Miller—the full announcement can be found on this page of your newsletter.

March 28th—Maundy Thursday—Communion Service at 6:30 PM—Sanctuary of FCC

March 31st—Easter Sunday

Never forget the difference you make!