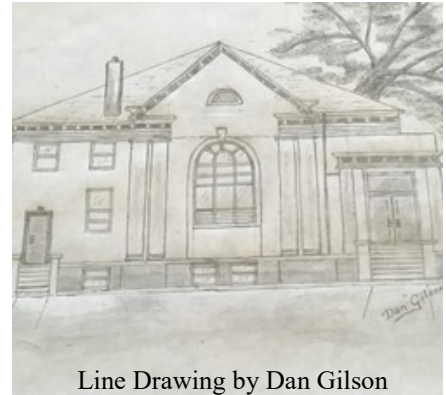


THE PUCC PERSPECTIVE
Presbyterian United Church of Christ
Aurora, Nebraska

NOVEMBER 2023



Line Drawing by Dan Gilson

PASTOR PENNY'S TWO CENTS.....

I know for many of you reading this you have been listening to the news around the world for quite some time. From Covid, Ukraine to now what is going on in Israel. From the very beginning I have always said just look at a variety of sources for information to make sure what you are hearing is actually the truth. And when all else fails, what does the Scriptures say? Surprisingly you can find a lot of your answers within the pages of history and prophesy. You may be saying that is great but how is that really going to help me sleep at night, or keep my anxiety in check from all that I have no control over?

I get it, really, I do. Life happens, things out of our control blind side us and leave us reeling, whether it be from a loss or change in job, a move wanted or forced, medical news that is life altering or NOT what you wanted to hear, loved ones suffering, passing or going astray. Add in the external country and world's chaos, it can seem like there is no sure footing any more, just shifting sand.

I was so amazed at Youth Group this week at the knowledge and questions that the kids were asking us about the world's events. They know way more than we give them credit for. They had serious questions and had been listening to a lot of sources from school, Youtube and TikTok. But the cool thing was they were saying, "well we have talked about a lot of this in Youth Group!" Or they knew the prophecies, and geography of where these stories were coming from.

It is times like this that I realize and say a prayer of Thanksgiving that we are raising a generation that is listening, they are asking and wondering and most importantly taking our advice by trying to look at events and stories through the lens of scripture. Honestly that is all any of us can do.

So, when everything seems like it is falling apart and we have lost our footing what foundation are you trying to stand on? Are you grabbing for yet another news story to make sense? Are you looking at an event that will change the trajectory of your circumstance, to others to help your hurting heart? Or are you taking all of this to Jesus who said he is the Solid Rock, The Cornerstone, the Foundation.

At times like these I can not help but hear those old hymns of wonderful theology that give me peace, strength and Assurance. Blessed assurance Jesus is mine, oh what a foretaste of glory divine. I've Got Peace Like a River in My Soul, How Firm a Foundation ye saints of the Lord, It is well with my soul, Grace greater than all our sins, and right now the one that keeps looping is My Hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness. On Christ the Solid Rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

It is the solid rock of scripture that gives us the firm foundation to stand on when the world is spinning, when chaos exudes, when uncertainty rages around and maybe our world seems like it is unraveling. Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble, but take heart for I have overcome the world." He also told his disciples that there would be wars and rumors of wars, but we have also been given many, many prophecies of Christ's return for His saints. We know that ultimately, he is coming back for his Bride and will establish his kingdom here on earth and reign for 1000 years.

We will be starting a journey through the Book of Revelation. Why is it important to read and know it? At the very beginning John tells us that there is a special blessing to each one who reads the words of the book. And there is a lot that not only applies, but ultimately is written to give us HOPE, Peace, Assurance and a Promise that Christ has not forsaken us and at the midnight hour is coming back! What a wonderful Promise!

As you go through your days, weeks and month rest assured if you are grounding yourself on the solid rock of Christ, no amount of wind, storms or shifting sand will move you. Cling to the one, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and End, the One who was and Is and Is to Come the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

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:

De Sandell, Don "Sonny" Hofmeister, Zandee Nelson, Dick Grosshans, Jim Ptacnik, John Schulz, and 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.

When I am out of town and/or unavailable, Tanna will be handling the e-mail requests. You may contact her at 308-391-9054 (eagleskarn@gmail.com.)



We Remember...



Dan Gilson, retired teacher and coach, and loving father and husband passed on to a better place on the morning of September 9, 2023. A memorial service was held at the Presbyterian UCC church on September 14th with Rev. Bruce Bradley officiating.

Dan is survived by his wife, JoAnn, daughter Melissa, son Justin, daughter-in-law Katie, grandson Lucas and a host of friends and family.

His line drawing of the Pucc church is used in the header of your newsletter.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 6 Jonna Whiting
Nov 7 Alice Krueger
Nov 12 Jim Johnson
Nov 13 Debra Salmon
Nov 24 Mike Powell

Update your family & friends - send me an email
to lindap@hamilton.net

A BIT OF INFORMATION TO SHARE? A
PICTURE THAT BRINGS YOU HAPPINESS
AND JOY TO SHARE? SOME INFORMATION
ON THE HAPPENINGS AT CHURCH COMING
UP????

THIS SPACE CAN DO JUST THAT! JUST CALL
OR MESSAGE ME AND I CAN MAKE IT
HAPPEN!

lindap@hamilton.net

402-631-9422

Liturgists & Ushers

Nov 12 Greg Maul
Nov 19 Ray Maul
Nov 26 Mike Powell
Dec 3 Mike Allen

Ray Maul November—Doug Kliever December

PROCLAMATION rehearsals are now on
Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM

Our church has had the privilege of listening to
their performances in October and November.
Check your bulletins for upcoming events.



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

THE BACKPACK is working on a
soup fundraiser for January or
February—pottery is also involved.
Stay Tuned for more information!!

WORRY is a conversation you
have with yourself about things
you *cannot* change.

PRAYER is a conversation you
have with God about things **HE**
can change.

Keep in touch with those who can't be in church each week—a card—a call—a text—a visit—they all make
a difference to them and will make a difference in you as well.



Live Life in the Spirit (the blog, vodcast, and podcast that Pastor Penny and Kristen are doing) has had another big month. We have posted several new blogs, and are up to episode 21 on our vodcast/podcast.

Episode 22 is recorded (after much difficulty...the third time truly was the charm!) and should go live over the weekend of October 28-29.

October was a busy month for YOUTH GROUP ! We finished a study on the book of James (ask any of our youth what is special about the authors of both James and Jude...I bet they can tell you) and had many great discussions about living a life of integrity.

At the request of a couple of our youth, we took a week to discuss prayer, not only why we do it, but the nuts and bolts of how we do it. They had excellent insight into whether or not there are right or wrong ways to pray, and left with both heads and hearts a little more confident in their ability to talk with God.

We finished the month talking about Israel, and were surprised and hopeful at all of the knowledge our youth brought to the table on this topic.

2ND ANNUAL HAMILTON COUNTY CHEER FUN-D-RAISING BBQ BAKED BEAN CONTEST

Was held on Saturday, October 14th. Over \$2600 in donations were collected for the Hamilton County Cheer Fund. The Cheer Fund is a Hamilton County blessing that helps anyone who is in need of assistance with utilities, additional food and gas. In these times of dire need, we showed our support in a fun way—connecting each other and the community.

Thanks to everyone who contributed food, time and auction items!

