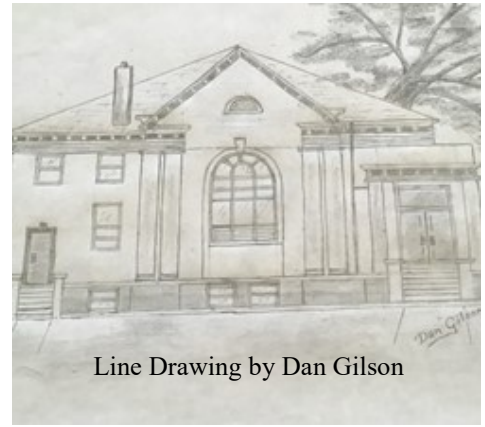


THE PUCC PERSPECTIVE
Presbyterian United Church of Christ
Aurora, Nebraska

MAY 2023



Line Drawing by Dan Gilson

PASTOR PENNY'S 2 SHEKLES....

Ancient Words! That could not be more fitting. The trip to Israel was beyond exhilarating, mind exploding, awe inspiring and deeply moving. As you might be aware I did have the blessing of going there 4 years ago, however this time we saw all different places and dove into more of the archeological and fallen realm spiritual battle grounds. This trip was way more physically challenging, but the satisfaction it gave when one conquered the obstacle was so rewarding. The very thought that we were walking the paths of all of those before us going back 4 and 5000 years! To stand on that small spot on Mt. Kibir where God took Abraham when he showed and told him I will make a great nation from you and your descendants. While standing there if you looked to your left, is Mt. Ebal where Joshua's altar stands, commemorating 800 years later when Joshua dedicated the spot to God before moving into the promise land. And if you looked down below to the north your eyes gaze on Samaria, we could see Joseph's tomb and Jacob's well (where Jesus met the woman at the well) They are about 4 blocks apart. To the south was Shekem.

We stood on Mt. Nebo where God took Moses just before he died and gazed at the same Promised land that stretched from the upper part of the dead sea through the Jordan river valley, Jericho, Mount Zion (Jerusalem) and all the way to the peaks of Northern Mt. Hermon. If that wasn't awe... humbling I don't know what is.

We went by armored bus that weighed 27 ton, when normal buses weigh 12. We skated the line of Syria at Gilgal and the Golan Heights, we were by Lebanon as we went to the area of the Tower of Babel, the transfiguration of Jesus and the Gates of Hell. We slid past the fence of Palestine as we walked the streets leading to and from Ancient Hebron (where Sarah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are buried) Oh and we were within 15 ft of their tomb. We walked the 8 miles through Petra taking in the magnificent beauty of God's creation. Saw artifacts including the oldest statues ever found in Ammon Jordan.

We stood in awe at Shilo taking in not just the view but standing where the Ark of the covenant would have sat. (The Holy of Holies!) The spot where the tabernacle found its permanent dwelling place for all 12 tribes to see. I was blessed to read aloud Hanna's prayer that was uttered after conceiving Samuel and giving him back to Eli the High Priest.

We sat in the seats where Gladiators fought and Chariots raced. I was asked to sing Amazing Grace from the stage at the Colosseum to demonstrate the acoustics, and I stood right where Paul would have when he pleaded his case to be tried in Rome. We sat in the boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee worshipping singing praises to our God that literally calmed the storm right there, and pulled Peter out of the water. The spot that caught the miraculous catch not once but twice. We walked the ancient streets that Jonah and Peter did in Jaffa, we admired the multitude of mikvahs (ritual baths) that Qumran's (where the dead sea scrolls were found) Priestly Essences used. We floated in the Dead Sea, felt the Spirit's presence in the Jordan as I had the humbling blessing of baptizing 27 people!!

The ancient tunnels, aqueducts that we maneuvered through under the Holy City started in the Citadel of David and took us to the ginormous 40ft x 20ft stone used in the temple wall, that we literally put our hands on from King Solomon. Heard the scriptures of the last supper while standing in the Upper Room and stood on the temple mound.

I sang “The Holy City” as we took a break in Old Jerusalem and twice on the bus. We walked down the long, steep winding path of Jesus’ triumphal entry, meditated in the garden of Gethsemane, stood at the more than probable site of Jesus’ crucifixion, sang “Up from the Grave He Arose” in the massive garden tomb across the street and stood at the spot where Jesus is coming back.

This was just a snippet of the miraculous adventure; one that with every step, turn, rock, hill, mountain, valley or site proved the existence of both God and Christ. It literally rang out the fulfillment of ancient prophesies. The Ancient Word... Yohoshua, Yahweh, Adoni, Messiah, Emmanuel, Jesus the Word the Creator God that became flesh and dwelt among us. We serve and can discover Our God who is so big and magnificent, creator of all, and yet literally met his people on the mountains, in the valleys, on the water and walked beside them. The Word is the same from the beginning of time to right now in our time. How Great is our God. Sing with me How Great is Our God.

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.

Scott, Johnny & Donna Goertzen, De Sandell, Don “Sonny” Hofmeister, Zandee Nelson, Louise Hack, Lee & Val Jones, Bob & Sharon Nunnenkamp, Rob Nunnenkamp, Helen Nowka, John Schulz, Dick Grosshans, Lee Hutchison, and Jim Ptacnik.

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 (402-694-3297). (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.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES**

May 12 Cheyenne Bergen
May 15 Alice Bair
May 17 Brooke Schulz
May 18 Dick Schanou
May 28 Jon Powell

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

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

HOSTESSES FOR MAY

May 7 Jo Gilson
May 14 Glenda Allen
May 21 Parish Care—Brooke Schulz
Graduation Reception
May 28 Deanna Powell

A letter of thanks to the PUCC Congregation:

I would like to thank you for the monetary gift
you sent. I will use it to help with gas to get to
and from treatments which are every two
weeks.

Sending my deep appreciation
Tanna Skarniak

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

Sometimes...

The best thing you can do for someone is
pray for them and let God do for them what
you can't. Amen

YEA! And THANK YOU! For all those
who participated in the Special Runza Back-
pack Fundraiser. We collected 25% more
than last year.

*You have a God who hears you, the power of love behind you, the Holy Spirit within
you, and all of heaven ahead of you.*

—Max Lucado

A Prayer for Mother's Day

Dear Lord, we give thanks to the mothers in our lives and those women who come into our lives and are so close, we call them "mother" as well. We've learned that this huge responsibility is the one that has no job description. There's no special college degree, no on-the-job training program. Help each mother realize that You offer something even better than those things: Your Spirit and Your Word.

And for anyone who has lost their mother, we pray for your peace and comfort. For the aching, empty place in their hearts, we ask that You fill it with Your presence. Help them feel Your presence surrounding them and know that they never walk alone; You are always with them. We pray



We encourage everyone to get on, SUBSCRIBE and Please pass it on to your family and friends! We also encourage you to leave a comment, a question or if you have a prayer request that will remain completely confidential. We will also have a button that you can choose if you would like to listen to the post instead of read it. The Podcast will follow shortly after Easter. Again we **NEED YOUR HELP**. Pass on the word!

Livelifethespirit.com

On Sunday, April 16th, Tanna Skarniak participated in the 2023 Easter Cantata held at the Methodist Church. The production can be viewed on the Methodist Church website. A nice article in the Aurora News Register—Tanna right there in the front row!

HAMILTON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

June 6th is the date for the Can-Care-A-Van will be in Aurora. This program benefits the Food Pantry and has always been a huge success. The hours will be 8:00—2:00. More information will be included in your June Connection.

As of right now—the Pantry is in need of canned fruit (peaches, pears, applesauce), boxed macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, and laundry detergent. Monetary donations are always appreciated .



BROOKE SCHULZ, daughter of Pastor Penny and John Schulz graduates at 2:00 pm on Saturday May 13th from McCool Jct. Public School. Party following at the McCool Jct. United Methodist Church.

There will be a reception in her honor on Sunday, May 21st here at the PUCC Church.

CONGRATULATIONS BROOKE!