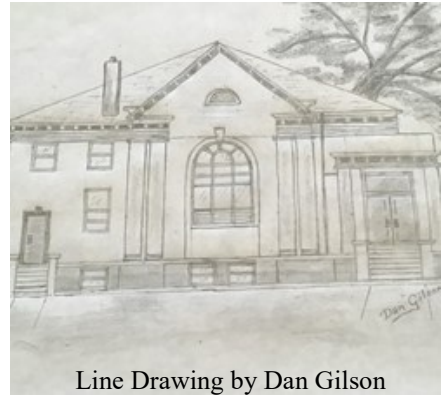


THE PUCC PERSPECTIVE  
Presbyterian United Church of Christ  
Aurora, Nebraska

DECEMBER 2023



Line Drawing by Dan Gilson

PASTOR PENNY'S TWO SHECKLES.....

What does Thanksgiving, Christmas and the Book of Revelation have to do with each other? Good question, glad you asked. More than you realize.

God pressed hard upon my heart that now was the time to do a deep dive into the book of Revelation. With everything going on in the world currently and people asking so many questions where does one turn for the answers? Definitely not the major news networks or Facebook. The Bible, God's Holy word that is chalk full of answers if we are willing to go and find them.

You might be one that has said I would like to read Revelation, but I just won't understand it, or it is scary, or all just a mystery. Actually, you would be wrong on all accounts. Most of everything that is penned in this last book of the Bible is referenced throughout all of the Old Testament, spoken through God's prophets, apostles and talked about by Christ himself. This book is a lot more black and white than one might think, and a lot more literal than just figurative.

That being said, I can only imagine what John saw as he gazed upon the throne room of God! There are just some things that cannot be put into words. You have experienced that. A sunset or mountain view that is so breath taking that no picture can capture, no words can describe the sense of awe and wonder that you are experiencing at the moment.

So, what does this have to do with Thanksgiving? When you step back and look at the horrible judgments one might be tempted to say, "what kind of a loving God would do that?" One that after sending his people throughout the world to share the wonderful Gospel news of his son Jesus Christ Promises to take us up to him. And then instead of calling it quits allows those judgments to be drawn out and lengthened so that no one SHOULD perish. But there will still be those whose hearts will be hardened.

Why did God send 10 plagues to Pharaoh? Because he refused to bend and yield. If he had of after the first plague the story would have been done. But he could not and so suffer from his own doing. If you take a deep look at these judgements God keeps putting the pressure on, and yet in the end there will be those who still CHOOSE to run and hide from him instead of running towards, kneeling and bowing.

As I said with the Story of the flood, it didn't need to be that way and it still doesn't. We come with complete thanksgiving to the loving, merciful Almighty God (El- Shadi) who wants us so much that he made a way for us to one day see him in all of his glory just as John experienced.

We come at Christmas time knowing that the Word, Emmanuel God with us left that throne room and came to Earth to make a way. To become that sacrificial, slain lamb, the only one who owns the deed to this earth and can open the scroll. He is not just the lamb, but also the Lion of Judah, the mighty King and Bridegroom who has promised to return for His bride.

This year we focus on the Lion and the Lamb and anxiously await his return. While we do not know the day or hour, Jesus said you will know the season. The words in Revelation and throughout scripture give us the answers of what will happen not for fear, but for Hope, for Assurance, For an ultimate total Peace in and through him and a Final Victory.

Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many rooms, I go to prepare a place for you." He did and He is coming back at the appointed time when God says, "Okay now go get your bride!". What unbelievable love! What excitement knowing the time is getting near, but it is not just a present to keep. We are called to go and tell everyone we know and meet about the saving blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, lest no man, woman should perish.

God is working even in the midst of the Chaos. This past week hundreds of Palestinian men had dreams where Jesus visited them and they all accepted his free gift of salvation. We serve a God that is definitely NOT DEAD, but Alive and coming back!

What better gift to give someone than those precious words? Everything of this world will be destroyed, it is and will become worthless. This year give the gift that is Eternal! And who knows maybe this time when you read through the only book that promises a blessing just for reading it, you will also experience a Revelation!

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas And God's Abundant Blessings

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:

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](mailto:lindap@hamilton.net) or 402-631-9422 or [fcc@hamilton.net](mailto: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](mailto:eagleskarn@gmail.com).)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS &  
ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 4 Debby Powell  
Dec. 10 Courtney Pence  
Dec. 24 Janet Grosshans

Dec. 23 Mike & Alice Bair

Update your family & friends - send me an email  
to [lindap@hamilton.net](mailto:lindap@hamilton.net) or call 402-631-9422

Liturgists & Ushers

Dec. 3 Mike Allen  
Dec. 10 Greg Maul  
Dec. 17 Ray Maul

Doug Kliewer / December Ray Maul / January

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

We will rehearse

- November 28
- December 4 (Saturday 9:00 am)
- NO REHERSAL ON DEC. 5TH
- December 12

We will take off December 19th & 26th.

Our church has had the privilege of listening to  
their performances in October and  
November.

NEXT PERFORMANCE IS  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH



**Pastor Penny Schulz**

**Phone 402-440-4605**

**Email: [pastorpennys2cents@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpennys2cents@gmail.com)**

**Website: [puccaurora.org](http://puccaurora.org)**

**YouTube: Presbyterian United Church of Christ of Aurora NE**

**Facebook: Presbyterian United Church of Christ of Aurora NE**



**FCC BIBLE STUDY**

**AFTERNOON Bible Study**

**Beginning January 16th—2:00 pm**

**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**



Live Life in the Spirit continues to grow and reach more people, spreading the light of God's word to any who want to hear it. Recently we did a series on healing, which highlighted this gift of the Spirit and showed a glimpse of what is possible with that ministry. Then we tackled what is happening in Israel and around the world, and how to look at it all with a Biblical world view. This week our first episode digging into the book of Revelation goes live. We will dig in more than Pastor Penny can in her sermon, but not so far as taking it line by line. You can find us on YouTube, Rumble, iheart Radio, iTunes, Spotify, the list goes on, and of course always on our website at <https://livelifeinthespirit.com>

YOUTH GROUP only met a couple of times in November because of scheduling issues and the Holiday vacation. However, we did have an active couple of groups with lots of discussions, crafts, games, and FOOD.

SADLY, four of our original members moved from Aurora to Monroe, Nebraska. Jade, Kierra, Eli, and Alik Samples—you guys will be missed—don't be strangers—if you are ever visiting Aurora, please stop and visit. (I know I spelled some names wrong, but I will find my notes and get them fixed. Hard being a senior citizen these days!)

We did do a thing at our last meeting—We played shuffle board! The game has been painted on the floor in Friendship Hall for years but hasn't been used much. We found the pucks, the sticks, and what a game we had! The girls did the best but I am sure the guys will improve with time!

We will continue to meet each Wednesday after school until **3:30 PM**. With more school vacations, times will certainly change so we will let everyone know when that happens.

