

YOUR FCC CONNECTION
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH—AURORA, NEBRASKA
JANUARY 2022



PASTOR PENNY'S 2 CENTS....

We have just come off a season of preparing. Preparing for what? Well that is a good question

For the last two years we have found ourselves preparing during the pandemic. Preparing for shortages, preparing for rising prices, preparing whatever may lie ahead and Oh Yeah. Preparing for the anticipation of the arrival of our Lord and Savior.

Sometimes in the craziness of life one of the biggest events can seem to be an, Oh yeah one more thing to fit into our schedules. Maybe it is because Jesus came over 2000 years ago. He's no longer a baby. Maybe it is because we have lost the yearning for his return.

Jesus was also called Immanuel, which means God is with us. While we may take time to commemorate when he was born we shouldn't lose sight that he is still here now. And he will be making a Big appearance when he does come back for all to see, and reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. But until that day comes we can place our hope and trust in a God who is Immanuel.

He is with us in our pain. He is with us in our grief. He is with us in our confusion. He is with us in our anxiety, He is with us in our "change". He is with us in our joy and happiness. He is with us no matter where we are in our life journey. That is comforting to know that we are never alone.

So while last year was a year for preparing I think that this year God is moving us into "Rebirth". I like new beginnings, the anticipation for starting over or starting something new. It is a clean slate, the old is gone and the bright shiny new awaits. What are you wanting to start over from? What new thing would you like to try or accomplish?

We spent 2021 preparing for the Harvest. Jesus said the Harvest is ready, but the workers are few. Now he is sending us out into the fields to reap that which we have not sown. There are souls now more than ever that are hungering and yearning for the knowledge and love of God.

So I challenge you this month, this year to start off on a new foot. Take 2022 as surmountable possibility and let the Holy Spirit move you through the year of "Rebirth". I can guarantee it is going to be an exciting year in ministry, and we need all of you! Would you pray with me that Laborers will be in abundance for the Harvest that awaits?

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:

Scott, Johnny & Donna Goertzen, De Sandell, Don “Sonny” Hofmeister, Zandee Nelson, Louise Hack, Maddy Manley and her parents, Brock & Kara, Lee & Val Jones, Bob & Sharon Nunnenkamp, Rob Nunnenkamp, Sherry Cusmanon, the family of Jay and Trudy Mitchell, and Earl, Edie (Williams) & Zoey Swolley in your prayers. **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.

DEACONS / ELDERS / COMMUNION PREP

Jan 2

Deacons: Luthy / Luthy / Skarniak
Elders: P Phillips / D Phillips
Communion Prep: Nancy Furse

Jan 9

Deacons: VanBibber / Willis / Perry
Elders: D Phillips / P Phillips
Communion Prep: Robyn Cush

Jan 16

Deacons: Forsman / Nunnenkamp / Nunnenkamp
Elders: J Sanderson / D Sanderson
Communion Prep: Bonita Forsman

Jan 23

Deacons: M Weinrich / Furse / Furse
Elders: D Sanderson / J Sanderson
Communion Prep: Pat Phillips

Jan 30

Deacons: OUR YOUTH
Elders: S Anderson / C Nielsen
Communion Prep: Jana Luthy

Parents: Our Youth is scheduled to fill the 5th Sunday of the month. Please be sure to have them to church a little early for a walk-through.

While we are on in-pew communion and offering, we will only need one Elder and no Deacons.

If you cannot serve on your Sunday, kindly get someone to fill in for you.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 1 Stan Wilshusen
Jan 1 Holee Nunnenkamp
Jan 1 Linda See
Jan 4 Jana Luthy
Jan 4 Allyson Schmidt
Jan 5 Louise Mills
Jan 7 Ryan Campbell
Jan 7 Heather Enderle
Jan 8 Terry Ott
Jan 9 Deb Willis
Jan 11 Lyn Seifried
Jan 14 Mike Weinrich
Jan 15 Ron Elge
Jan 16 Nancy Furse
Jan 17 Max Clark
Jan 18 Ashley Schulz
Jan 20 Sandy Anderson
Jan 20 Stephanie Holloway
Jan 29 Mallory Norton
Jan 31 John Seifried

Jan 10 Thad & DawnMarie Moe
Jan 21 Ron & Colleen Elge

BIBLE STUDIES & CWF CWF LADIES

We will not meet in January. Our next meeting will be February 1.

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

fccaurorane.org

YouTube First Christian Church of Aurora NE

Facebook First Christian Church Aurora NE



Front Row: Max Clark and Joanna Auger

Back Row L-R: Tyler Auger, Mattie Auger, Allyson Schmidt, Chancylor Scott, Chris Skarniak, Marcus Skarniak

We had a wonderful Christmas Eve Service with these kids filling the stage to re-enact the Birth of Jesus. (Robertta Dorsey video-taped the kids and posted it to our FaceBook page)

Thank you to all the participants—Pat Phillips—Readers, Tanna Skarniak, Memory Auger, Linda Ptacnik—Musicians, Pat Willis, Walt Jacobs, Charlie Phillips—Ushers, Karen Holloway, Barb Perry—Special Music, Brooke Schulz.

It was a fun and beautiful way to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Kids will be kids....watch the video if you can.

Special Thanks to the Schulz Family for the lighting of the Advent Wreath!

Our Kids also decorated and filled boxes with cookies and candy to be delivered to our shut-ins and those who could not get out for Christmas. They also colored a tree decoration for the top of the package.

Thank you, Pat Willis, for the M&M'S and the M&M story. They were enjoyed by many on Christmas Eve.

It really hasn't been determined when we will take down the Christmas decorations, however, the person in charge of each area will contact the group to help. We will have the Memory Tree up through January again this year.

TAKE A SECOND...THINK IT THROUGH....

OH WHAT GOD WILL GO AND DO!!!

OUT WITH THE OLD—IN WITH THE NEW!

Merry Christmas to ourselves—we now have new (and much needed) new porcelain in three bathrooms! The seats are higher, but are still “cold” when you sit...too much information, but we don’t need those kinds of surprises at our age! The CWF ladies are contributing two—if you would like to contribute to the fund, just let a CWF member know.

Need to use Friendship Hall for a family gathering or any kind of event, just let Linda or Pat know and we will get you on the calendar!

For your safety and the safety of others, please keep the back doors locked when you are in the church by yourself and kindly make sure both doors are shut tight and locked when you leave.

I would like to thank everyone for the calls, texts, and messages I received when my cat mauled my foot and for offers of help while my husband underwent several surgeries and changes to his medical treatment. It means a lot to me and I love you all so much!

——Linda P.

*Baby
it's
cold
outside*

shutterstock · 481789150

It has been such a nice month of December (weather wise) but it is supposed to change for January—please be safe when you are out and about on the sidewalks and highways—just drive like a Nebraska native and pretend everyone else on the road is from a warm state. WE NEED YOU IN OUR PEWS!

Poinsettias adorned our church again this year...in memory of or in honor of our loved ones.

The cards were read in church on Christmas Eve and the Sunday after Christmas.

Jack & Margery Graham

Helen Kohtz

Ted & Viola Mapes

Vonny

Paul & Betty Phillips

Joe Krantz—Sis—John

Linda Phillips

Larry VanBibber

Mary Graham Timmins

Veda Jacobs

Murlin Campbell

Gerald & Marge Hohnstein

Dale & Gertrude Campbell

Ralph & Dora Willis

Earl & Irene Strong

Hilda Willis

Melvin & Dora Campbell

Dean & Camelia Radcliff

Ada & George Campbell

Mary Charlton

Connie Shaneyfelt

Bob Holloway

Steve Dorsey

Ray & Verla & Roger Perry

James & Edna Samples

Janice Danhauer

Mildred Dorsey



You have permission to rest.

You are not responsible for
Fixing everything that is broken.

You do not have to try and

Make everyone happy.

For now, take time for YOU.

It's time to replenish!

A little something I have in my office at home—it is nice to look at and remember to do this! Snip it out and put it on your bathroom mirror as a reminder.

Thank you to all those who did our Advent Readings each Sunday ...Sandy Anderson, Dave & Jean Sanderson, Pat Phillips and the FCC Kids, Butch & Nancy Furse, John & Lyn Seifried, and the Schulz Family. How many of us still have the tune to "One Candle Is Lit" going through our minds???

You may think that you are completely insignificant in this world.

But someone drinks coffee from the favorite cup that you gave them.

Someone heard a song on the radio that reminded them of you.

Someone read the book that you recommended, and plunged headfirst into it.

Someone smiled after a hard day of work, because they remembered the joke that you told them today.

Someone loves themselves little bit more, because you gave them a compliment.

Never think that you have no influence whatsoever.

Your touch, word and good deed which you leave behind cannot be erased.

happy new year