



YOUR FCC CONNECTION
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH—AURORA, NEBRASKA
JUNE 2023

Pastor Penny's 2 shekels

I know I'm a little late, but as a busy mom I am sure most of you reading this can relate. It has been a whirlwind of a couple of weeks.

Our youngest just graduated high school. The middle daughter finished her second year of college and just got an apartment, which needs furnishing. Throw in mother's day and oh Kristen and I just launched our brand new vodcast/ podcast lifelifeinthspirit.com, which has been a huge success. Talk about a daunting task!

So how does one deal with the craziness of life? How do you keep your head above water? And most importantly when you are in the throes of the chaos trying to still prioritize all that HAS to be done, how do you savor those moments and keep from losing YOU?

You, The person behind or under all of the hats. The person who is frantically running around trying to keep all of the plates spinning and juggled balls from hitting the floor. How does one pause long enough to take a breath, to step back and enjoy the special moments little lone life?

I am sure I'm not alone in this. In fact, you are probably asking right now, "How does she know my life?" I get it.

While I may be looking at empty nest with anticipation for what lies ahead I also know that for many, you are going.... "How in God's green earth am I going to handle the kids home from school all summer along with everything else!? And keep my sanity?"

When David penned the words to the 23rd Palms, it was not during a peaceful, easy time. He was literally on the run. Walking through the "Valley of Shades" the tombs of the giants, aka the valley of the shadow of death; but that will be a vodcast episode. His world was crumbling, and in chaos. It was far from the green pastures and quiet waters we envision.

Yet even in the crazy turmoil of his current point in life, David knew who was in control. He knew that God, Adoni, was the one looking out for him, guiding his path, sustaining him and giving protection. Even in the whirlwind of David's life, the sparse grass and little stream of water he didn't see what he was lacking. Instead he took that time to sit by what God had given him. What had been provided not just physical nourishment but most importantly nourishment for the soul. He was able to carve out time to just be. To find himself, cherish the moment and rest.

Where ever you are at today in all of the craziness I encourage you to just stop, even for a second. Stop, take a breath. Don't look at all that HAS to be done. All that has not been completed.

Instead focus on what joy is waiting right here in the moment. Focus not on what you are lacking, but on what God is providing. And the biggest treasure right now just may be a well-deserved break and moment of rest.

Shalom,
Pastor Penny



Hi.. as many of you know our blog site has really taken off and now couple with that our new vodcast/ podcast as well. Every week you will be able to tune in on YouTube Live Life in the Spirit, or our Website livelifeinthepirit.com to watch the latest from the week. Or if you are a podcast person and just want to listen we are on 9 different streaming services, like Apple podcast, Spotify, Rumble, iTunes, I heart radio just to name a few. Kristen and I have the opportunity to look into the oddities, the obscurities, those passages in the Bible that leave you scratching your head and wondering why is it there and how does it fit in? We have already had great response from around the world and we are having a blast doing it..

We want to thank the FCC for the use of the old Youth Group Room as we have claimed it for our new studio!

If you are needing some Joy, a pick me up, some inspiration or just a desire to dig into God's Word, make sure you take some time to go to our site and check out our blogs and weekly episodes. And most importantly subscribe and Share! Tell your friends it is an easy way to share the Gospel of Christ. For those of you techy we even have a QRC code that you can just scan with your phone and it will take you right there.



SCAN ME



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, Donna Goertzen, De Sandell, Don "Sonny" Hofmeister, Zandee Nelson, Louise Hack, Lee & Val Jones, Bob & Sharon Nunnenkamp, Rob Nunnenkamp, Helen Nowka, Dick Grosshans, Jim Ptacnik, Lee Hutchison, Karren Radcliff, Connie Nicklasson, Karen Wilshusen, Dave and Jean Sanderson, Tanna Skarniak, John Schulz, Pat Anderson, Betty Stephenson, Gus Jacobitz and Mary Jacobs

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.

WE REMEMBER....



Johnny Goertzen who passed away on May 19th at the age of 91. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Donna of Aurora; sons, Matthew and Craig of Aurora, Troy Goertzen of York, Chad (Kira) Goertzen of Lincoln and George (Gabrielle) Brosman of Aurora; daughter, Crystal Gayle Goertzen of Grand Island; 7 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Sharon Goertzen of Hampton; brother, Denton Goertzen; sisters Josephine Troutman of Holdrege, Elizabeth Bicknase and Amanda Williams of Aurora, and Marlene (Bob) Walton of Lincoln; sisters-in-law Erma Goertzen, Linda Blackburn, and Glarae (John) Johnston; and many nieces, nephews other family members and friends.

DEACONS / ELDERS / COMMUNION PREP

June 4

Elders: Nielsen / Anderson
Deacons: Luthy / Luthy / Willis
Communion Prep: Kristin Scharrenberg

June 11

Elders: Anderson / Nielsen
Deacons: Anderson / Weinrich / Sharniak
Communion Prep: Dawn Enderle

June 18

Elders: D Phillips / P Willis
Deacons: Forsman / Nunnenkamp / Nunnenkamp
Communion Prep: Lyn Seifried

June 25

Elders: P Willis / D Phillips
Deacons: Enderle, Dorsey, See

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.

If you cannot serve on your Sunday, please get someone to replace you.

We are currently passing the offering plate and communion—there will be disposable communion available at the back of the sanctuary until the current stock is depleted.

If you are comfortable with it, it is satisfactory if only One Elder offers prayers and serves.

Pastor Penny

Cell Phone: 402-440-4605

Email: pastorpennys2cents@gmail.com

Website: fccaurorane.org

**You Tube: First Christian Church of Aurora NE
Facebook: First Christian Church of Aurora NE
For Inspirational Messages, go to YouTube Penny**



MAY BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

- June 1 Amber Eaton
- June 2 Lori Comer
- June 2 Jerry Hurlbert
- June 5 Connie Nicklasson
- June 5 Jay Mitchell
- June 6 James Anderson
- June 7 Grace Holtzen
- June 11 Dorothy Hanway
- June 11 Shayn Holloway
- June 14 Connie Sears
- June 22 Bev White
- June 25 Risa Holloway
- June 27 Mary Campbell

- June 3 Jim & Grace Holtzen (56 Years)
- June 5 Doug & Pat Anderson
- June 25 Dennis & Jill Comer
- June 27 Ron & Fern Paider (59 Years)

CWF LADIES

**Next Meeting
Salad Supper
September 5, 2023**

On Memorial Sunday, May 28th, we remembered and gave thanks for the members and friends of congregation who now share in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Barb Perry

11/29/51—6/21/22

Kathy Wilson

9/10/49—10/22/22

Johnny Goertzen

11/1/31—5/19/23

Honored, Remembered, Loved



CAN-CARE-A-VAN returns to Hamilton County on June 6th. Any monetary or other donations received between now and then will be appreciated. There is no church competition this year. A few different items not previously mentioned that are needed include laundry soap and feminine hygiene products. Canned fruit is always needed (we have plenty of mandarin oranges, but peaches, pears and applesauce are always in demand). We also have plenty of vegetables. As always, any monetary gifts are welcome. \$1 = 2# of food. Hours are 8:00 am—2:00 pm.

John & Taryn Vanderford from 10-11 News in Lincoln will be available to help with your donations and visit.

This congregation has been a fantastic support all the years I have been associated with the Pantry. I would also like to recognize our volunteers who do so much—Jean Sanderson, , Dick & Pat Phillips Bonita Forsman and Terry Willis.

—Pat Willis

Our CWF ladies had a great year full of the three “F’s”....Friendship—Fellowship—Food.



Here are some of the highlights.

AT LEFT: Ladies Day Out was spent at Kerry’s in McCool. Lori Comer, Linda Ptacnik, Memory Auger, Tanna Skarniak, Pat Willis, Pat Philips, Alice Bair, Connie Nielsen, Jean VanBibber and Karen Holloway.



AT RIGHT: Connie Nielsen wouldn't miss a meeting—even injured and in her jammies. Helped by Karen Holloway.

At our Salad Supper Meeting in May, we had more than delicious salads and bars, we had a demonstration and display of Diamond Dot Paintings shared by the ladies in our congregation. At right is Pat Willis who has created this beautiful sunflower picture. At left is Tanna Skarniak who has created the diamond dot picture of the Last Supper. (This has been donated to FCC and is on display in the sanctuary.) Karen Wilshusen had several of her pictures on display as well, including a picture featuring her family dog who passed—a painting created from a favorite photograph.



THANK YOU so much for the flowers, cards and prayers before and after surgery. Things are slowly getting better. Words cannot express our gratitude for the help and caring of our Christian Church family.

—Karen and Stan Wilshusen



Congratulations to our Sarah Enderle, who recently graduated with the 2022-2023 Hamilton County Leadership Tomorrow Class.

Sarah is the Customer Service Associate Supervisor/Officer with Heartland Bank here in Aurora.

Shown presenting her diploma is Justis Rhoden with the Chamber of Commerce.

On Sunday, May 14, Roger Hattan from The Gideons International, shared his ministry with our church. We received a letter of thanks—part of it shared here.

“It was a great blessing to be a part of your church service yesterday. The warm reception from your church was greatly appreciated. Your congregation’s love for a lost world and the Word of God is wonderful to see. The generous offering in the amount of \$207 demonstrates the faithfulness of God in the partnership between your church and The Gideons. These funds will be used in their entirety to provide Scriptures in areas served by the Gideons, both locally and across the globe. Please pray with us that many people will come to faith in Jesus Christ through these Scriptures.”

—Roger Hattan, The Gideons International

IMPORTANT FACTS TO REMEMBER AS YOU GROW OLDER

- ◆ Death is the number 1 killer in the world
- ◆ Life is sexually transmitted
- ◆ Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- ◆ Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won’t bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.
- ◆ Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday...lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
- ◆ All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- ◆ In the 60’s people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- ◆ Don’t worry about old age; it doesn’t last that long.

*It was never easy, but you did not give up.
And now, you're a step closer to your dreams.*



LEFT: Terry & Pat Willis with Grandson, Tanner

*We are so proud of you for yet another
milestone in your life!*

No pictures available but still some awfully
proud Grandparents!

Dave & Jean Sanderson
Granddaughter, Meredith

Bud & Louise Mills
Grandson, Colin



BELOW LEFT: Dick & Pat Phillips with Grandson, Charlie

BELOW RIGHT: Skip & Mary Plock with Granddaughter, Brooke Schulz





It's so great to have some new faces joining us the past few weeks.

We're reminded of Paul's words to the church in Rome, "therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." We hope that our time together brings glory to God as well.

If you haven't already, take time to introduce yourself and welcome them to our church. We love having them participate in our Sunday services and hope they feel the need for Jesus in their lives as we do ours.

We do have an "All Church Workbook" available for newcomers and if you would like to have a copy, please contact Linda Ptacnik.

Here is a list of our Chairpersons for Committees at FCC. In the back of your church workbook, there is a "job description" for each committee and officer. Should you have something to discuss or see an issue that needs to be addressed, please give the chairman a heads up and they can help you or direct you to the person (or persons) who will help. .

Worship—Pat Willis 402-694-2079

CWF Treasurer—Karen Wilshusen 402-694-3486

Christian Ed—April Campbell 402-2523

Memorial—Jean Sanderson 402-694-2700

Property—Terry Willis 402-694-2029

Membership/Stewardship—Pat Phillips 402-694-3302

Pastor/Parrish—Carol Nunnenkamp 402-694-1428

Edgerton—Bonita Forsman 402-694-2899

CWF Church Leader—Jean Sanderson 402-694-2700

A PRAYER FOR OUR FATHERS....

Father's Day holds different meanings for each of us. It is a day for many of us to show our gratitude and appreciation. Some may celebrate our fathers with a dinner party or [heartwarming messages](#). But, one of the best ways to thank our fathers is through a father's day prayer.

This Father's Day, let us dedicate a father's day prayer to our fathers. Whether they're still with us or have passed on, those who never knew their biological fathers, or soon-to-be dads, let us bless them with a short prayer. And on this very day, may we also remember our heavenly father who sacrificed so that we may live.

Dear God, we come before You today with a heart of thanksgiving for all fathers in the world. Thank you, Father, for designing fathers to be the pillar of support in families, the breadwinners, and the essential support in child-rearing. Whether they have been good or bad fathers, may we find it in our hearts to forgive them because no one is perfect. You always have a reason for creating families the way they are, and every father in every household has been placed there according to Your will. Amen