



YOUR FCC CONNECTION  
SEPTEMBER 2023

## PASTOR PENNY'S TWO CENTS.....

As I sit here pondering what words of wisdom or encouragement I can give you this month, my mind is flooded with thoughts. So much has happened and is happening, how does one focus and narrow it down to one thing? You can't. Life is racing and, for so many of you, this year has not been kind. Circumstances have happened that we have no control over whether it be with family members, health issues, finances, loss or change in job, retirement, or the overwhelming world events that frankly we have no control over. And IF you are a control freak it can send you reeling and grasping for something— anything to hold on to. I get it. I think that regardless the situation the feelings are timeless.

King David penned these words in Psalms 121 when his life was feeling out of control. “I lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.” Even in all the chaos and turmoil David could have found himself slipping into depression but he knew WHO was in control. He knew WHERE his help came from..... God, the one who made everything. The One who knew before anything was spoken into existence or breathed into what the outcome would be, and yet loved us so much before we were even created that he was willing to go through with all of it. Even loving us so much that He sent his one and only Son to the cross to cover all of the world's sin and man's curse. That is Grace, true Grace. Not getting what we deserve, Paul says in Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the Chaos of your life right now... Who can you extend grace to? Is it a family member, a co-worker, a friend or neighbor? Maybe right now the biggest person on your list that desperately needs grace extended to is ..... YOU! That may have stung a bit, but it is true. It is so much easier to forgive and extend grace to others, but something that can be really hard and elusive for ourselves. Is it because we feel that WE don't deserve it? We can't forgive ourselves, we should be better, wiser, work harder, just push through or figure it out without help? I have a feeling that a lot of you right now can relate.

Grace is not such an easy thing to do especially when we continue to get hurt by offering it, but we are not doing it alone. We are simply mirroring what God has already done for us, offered His Grace to us. Jesus said in this world you will have trouble, but take heart I have overcome the world. He overcame All of the World's Sin and He conquered Death. When he said it is Finished He meant it. His blood covered all of it, even the craziness and messiness of your life. Even the chaos of this world, which he had a lot to say about these times. But the most important message is His Grace and Salvation which is for all, it is free and he does not want even one to perish. His grace is that deep and wide and his Salvation is that sufficient.

So, amongst everything you have going on right now, take a moment to breathe. Sit down or step back and realize that the world will not get any less chaotic, but YOU personally know the one who calmed the storm, you know the one who knows the ending to our story and you Know the one whose Grace is sufficient for whatever you are currently going through or needing right now at this moment.

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.

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, Tanna Skarniak, Mary Jacobs, Linda Ott, Betty Stephenson, Gus Jacobitz, Heather Epp, Renee Enderle, John Schulz, Chantelle Schulz, and Stacey Holloway..

**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](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).)

## *WE REMEMBER*



Harry Christian Sorensen, aged 92, passed away on Friday July 28, 2023. Harry was born to parents, Randolph and Marie Sorensen and was married to Shirley Ann Hansen of Aurora. Among his survivors is his sister, Lori Comer of Aurora. Services were held at Pleasant View Bible Church on August 7, 2023.



Michael Shaneyfelt passed away on August 9, 2023 . He was the son of Paul Shaneyfelt (Launa Fuller) and Debbie Shaneyfelt (Brunken). Among his survivors are his parents, his brother, Richard; his wife Stacia and their three children, Cailyn Rose, Addison Marie, and Jaxson Corey; his grandfather, Richard Shaneyfelt and his aunt and uncle, John and April Campbell. A celebration of life was held on August 20th in Grand Island.

DEACONS / ELDERS / COMMUNION PREP

Sept 3

Deacons: Luthy/Luthy/Willis

Elders: Anderson/Nielsen

Communion Prep: Lyn Seifried

Sept 10

Deacons: Anderson/Weinrich/Skarniak

Elders: Phillips/Phillips

Communion Prep: April Campbell

Sept 17

Deacons: Forsman/Nunnenkamp/Nunnenkamp

Elders: Phillips/Phillips

Communion Prep: Marlene Flodman

Sept 24

Deacons: Enderle/Dorsey/See

Elders: Sanderson/Sanderson

Communion Prep: Connie Nielsen

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.*



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 6 John Campbell

Sept 11 Linda Ott

Sept 13 Josh Auman

Sept 17 Chawntiel Green

Sept 18 Troy Holloway

Sept 18 DawnMarie Moe

Sept 20 Aaron Campbell

Sept 20 Heath Enderle Sr.

Sept 24 Renee Enderle

Sept 24 Heath Enderle Jr.

Sept 25 JoAnna Auger

Sept 25 Kristin Scharrenberg

Sept 25 Helen Nowka

Sept 28 Donna Goertzen

Sept 28 Karen Perry

Sept 29 Dennis Comer

Sept 29 Lovit Enderle

Sept 3 Jim & Sandy Anderson (57)

Sept 3 John & Penny Schulz

Sept 5 Stan & Karen Wilshusen (58)

Sept 5 Greg & Jana Luthy

Sept 8 Ron & Karen Perry (60)

Sept 11 Chuck & Renee Enderle (52)

Sept 19 Jim & Linda Ptacnik (54)

Sept 27 Jerry & Maxine Hurlburt (59)

MAX LUCADO Bible Study

Tuesday, September 12th—6:30 PM

Friendship Hall

CWF LADIES

Next Meeting

Salad Supper

September 5, 2023

Pastor Penny

Cell Phone: 402-440-4605

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

Website: [fccaurorane.org](http://fccaurorane.org)

You Tube: First Christian Church of Aurora NE

Facebook: First Christian Church of Aurora NE

For Inspirational Messages, go to YouTube Penny Schulz

The Goodwill Trailer will be at the Methodist Church from August 28—September 4. Please consider donating your gently used items to support individuals with disabilities and barriers improve their quality of life.

We are kicking off our CWF meetings for the fall and winter with a Salad Supper on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>! We will gather at the church at 6:00 and plan to eat at 6:30. Bring a salad to share (along with the recipe if you can)...there will be table service provided – along with water, tea, and coffee (upon request).

We will be having a special presentation from “Mia” representing Willow Rising, Inc. (Formerly known as Crisis Center). Willow Rising is dedicated to creating new beginnings for those impacted by domestic and sexual violence by providing safety, support, education, and survivor empowerment.

There is a list of needed items they can use at the back of the sanctuary – you need not participate, but should you like, you may bring some of these items to donate – either the night of the supper or to church on Sunday. I like the idea of providing candy for the Trunk or Treat event.

For those of you who follow the news closely, there has been a HUGE amount of domestic violence situations that have resulted in the death of the spouse/companion as well as the children. The aggressor has ended their life as well. This only solves his/her problems, but does nothing but cause pain and suffering for the survivors of their selfish actions. I am sure Willow Rising and their staff has probably saved many of those situations from the endings we hear about on the news. Let’s hear their story and pray for those who work so hard to keep this from happening.

A NEW BIBLE STUDY will be starting Tuesday, September 12th! We will gather in Friendship Hall for our first session which will begin at 6:30 and last 60-90 minutes.

Tanna Skarniak will be conducting the 6-week study—MAX LUCADO—*In the Footsteps of the Savior: Following Jesus Through the Holy Land*

*We hope you can come—and bring a friend!*

### FOOD PANTRY UPDATES

Our Congregation is AWESOME! Small but Mighty! In August, 46 pounds of food (mostly cereal) was donated, in addition to those giving financial gifts and gifts of time by working one shift a month at the Pantry. This is very much appreciated by our clients. In August (through the 27th) 55 families, 175 people, were served.

September items requested are personal hygiene supplies; toothpaste, tooth brushes, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, etc. We already have a 12.6 pound donation towards September’s items.

—Pat Willis

***Prayer is not a spare wheel that you pull out when you are in trouble. Use it as a steering wheel that keeps you on the right path throughout your life. Amen.  
(shared from a post on Facebook)***

TANNA SKARNIAK represented First Christian Church as our representative to the CWF Retreat held in Nebraska City on August 12th. The Bible Study, based on Genesis 11:1-9, was led by Pastor Michael Schmidt of Nebraska City.

A representative from Project Response spoke on domestic abuse. Tanna has the slides from the presentation if anyone would like to view them. Comfort bags (which we gathered items for at FCC) were made for those who seek help from Project Response.

Pastor Julie Western gave a presentation on Adaptive Leadership.

The day ended with a Worship Service conducted by Tanna and the comfort bags were blessed.



### Live Life in the Spirit

How exciting we have now recorded 16 episodes! Wow God is Good and we have redone our studio, and people from all over the world are tuning in! Reaching the lost for Christ, and help Christians dig into the Bible and waking up those who have been asleep was the goal from the beginning. If you have ever found yourself saying I have read the Bible and I don't remember that, or this is all brand new information then this is the place for you. We dig in and answer those burning questions that most of you have always pondered.

Plus, we have our first apparel for sale! We have our T Shirts "God is still writing your story, stop trying to steal the pen". Be sure to contact Kristen or Pastor Penny if you would like one, they are a Great way to start a conversation and share the Good news and salvation of Jesus.



You can catch up or binge episodes on our website [livelifeinthespirit.com](http://livelifeinthespirit.com) or watch us on our Youtube Channel Live Life in the Spirit, Rumble, our Podcasts are on I Heart Radio, Spotify, Google Podcast, Apple Podcast, Amazon Music plus many, many more! Be sure to subscribe and we will only notify you when new content goes up.

### Youth Group

We are gearing up for an exciting year with the Youth of both the FCC and PUCC on Wednesday afternoons at 2:15 till 3:30. Beginning September 13th—Come for Food, Fellowship, Games and a great way to Learn about God's word and how it applies in our lives today. We will be expanding the youth group and offering two age groups. Bring your friends and anyone who wants to learn about the Love of Jesus!

Sadly, the refrigerator in the west kitchen passed away last month. Dick and Bud checked out the inventory at Schneider's here in town and selected one to fit our needs. Special thanks to Health Enderle and Chawntiel Green for help getting the new down the stairs and through the kitchen and moving the old one out! Bud and Dick thank you so much!! And...special thanks to our Benefactor Account for footing the bill. God is Good! (And my ice cream melted— so sad)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF  
HOMESTYLE CHICKEN DINNER  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**

First day of Sunday School will be Sunday, September 10, 2023. All children grades K-12 are invited to attend. There will be devotionals and crafts each week. Classes begin following Children's Moment during worship services. All parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, guardians are encouraged to arrange for their children to attend—they may even bring a friend!

Following worship services, we will be having a homestyle chicken dinner to share with the entire congregation and their guests. All fixings—mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, green beans and a dessert— will be furnished.

For chicken ordering, it would be helpful (but not required) to let us know how many are attending—a sign-up sheet will be at the back of the sanctuary.

Chris and Dan Phillips and their family (Jane, Charlie, Jack) would like to extend their thanks for all the good things the church has shared with them over the years. They will, sadly, be finishing their move to Nashville the first week of September. Charlie will be close (Omaha) but everyone else will be housed in the Volunteer State. Jack has pretty much been a highlight each time he visits us and we will miss that little redhead and his pal Kermit.

I think everyone is enjoying the later church hours—no waiting for your favorite after church restaurant to open and not to mention that extra hour of sleep everyone gets. If you are an early riser and can't resist getting to church a bit early each week, we do have cookies and water available in the sanctuary. Gives many of us time to chat with our friends and catch up on our week before we enjoy the Prelude.

From Kenda Creasy Dean:

***Faith makes you live differently!***

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.