



YOUR FCC CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 2023

PASTOR PENNY'S TWO CENTS.....

I know for many of you reading this you have been listening to the news around the world for quite some time. From Covid, Ukraine to now what is going on in Israel. From the very beginning I have always said just look at a variety of sources for information to make sure what you are hearing is actually the truth. And when all else fails, what does the Scriptures say? Surprisingly you can find a lot of your answers within the pages of history and prophesy. You may be saying that is great but how is that really going to help me sleep at night, or keep my anxiety in check from all that I have no control over?

I get it, really, I do. Life happens, things out of our control blind side us and leave us reeling, whether it be from a loss or change in job, a move wanted or forced, medical news that is life altering or NOT what you wanted to hear, loved ones suffering, passing or going astray. Add in the external country and world's chaos, it can seem like there is no sure footing any more, just shifting sand.

I was so amazed at Youth Group this week at the knowledge and questions that the kids were asking us about the world's events. They know way more than we give them credit for. They had serious questions and had been listening to a lot of sources from school, Youtube and TikTok. But the cool thing was they were saying, "well we have talked about a lot of this in Youth Group!" Or they knew the prophecies, and geography of where these stories were coming from.

It is times like this that I realize and say a prayer of Thanksgiving that we are raising a generation that is listening, they are asking and wondering and most importantly taking our advice by trying to look at events and stories through the lens of scripture. Honestly that is all any of us can do.

So, when everything seems like it is falling apart and we have lost our footing what foundation are you trying to stand on? Are you grabbing for yet another news story to make sense? Are you looking at an event that will change the trajectory of your circumstance, to others to help your hurting heart? Or are you taking all of this to Jesus who said he is the Solid Rock, The Cornerstone, the Foundation.

At times like these I can not help but hear those old hymns of wonderful theology that give me peace, strength and Assurance. Blessed assurance Jesus is mine, oh what a foretaste of glory divine. I've Got Peace Like a River in My Soul, How Firm a Foundation ye saints of the Lord, It is well with my soul, Grace greater than all our sins, and right now the one that keeps looping is My Hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness. On Christ the Solid Rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

It is the solid rock of scripture that gives us the firm foundation to stand on when the world is spinning, when chaos exudes, when uncertainty rages around and maybe our world seems like it is unraveling. Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble, but take heart for I have overcome the world." He also told his disciples that there would be wars and rumors of wars, but we have also been given many, many prophecies of Christ's return for His saints. We know that ultimately, he is coming back for his Bride and will establish his kingdom here on earth and reign for 1000 years.

We will be starting a journey through the Book of Revelation. Why is it important to read and know it? At the very beginning John tells us that there is a special blessing to each one who reads the words of the book. And there is a lot that not only applies, but ultimately is written to give us HOPE, Peace, Assurance and a Promise that Christ has not forsaken us and at the midnight hour is coming back! What a wonderful Promise!

As you go through your days, weeks and month rest assured if you are grounding yourself on the solid rock of Christ, no amount of wind, storms or shifting sand will move you. Cling to the one, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and End, the One who was and Is and Is to Come the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

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 , Louise Hack, Lee & Val Jones, Bob & Sharon Nunnenkamp, Rob Nunnenkamp, Helen Nowka, Jim Ptacnik, Tanna Skarniak, Mary Jacobs, Betty Stephenson, Gus Jacobitz, Connie Nicklasson, Lori Comer, 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.

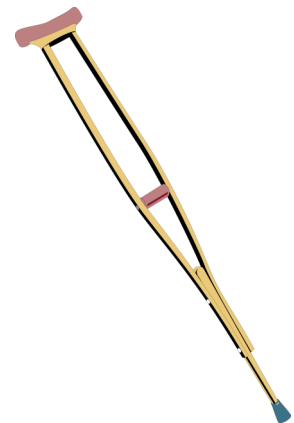
If you want to add someone to our prayer list, we don't need to have a last name or know their situation.

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 (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.

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.)

Here is an update (as I am aware) on our “wounded” who are in need of prayer....

- Karren Radcliff remains hospitalized in Lincoln
- Bud Mills is doing well after a procedure done on his wrist
- Connie Nick is still doing swing bed at Memorial Hospital—Doing Well
- Lori Comer is doing well after a bout with pneumonia
- Stacey Holloway has finished harvest and is still under a doctor's care
- Betty Stephenson (Louise Mills' sister) is doing very well.
- Tanna will begin treatments again soon—she continues to work from home on our websites



DEACONS / ELDERS / COMMUNION PREP

Nov. 5

Deacons: Luthy/Luthy/Willis
Elders: Sanderson / Sanderson
Communion Prep: Kristin Scharrenberg

Nov. 12

Deacons: Anderson / Weinrich / Skarniak
Elders: Sanderson / Sanderson
Communion Prep: Louise Mills

Nov. 19

Deacons: Forsman / Nunnenkamp / Nunnenkamp
Elders: Nielsen / Anderson
Communion Prep: Robertta Dorsey

Nov. 26

Deacons: Enderle / Furse / Furse
Elders: Anderson / Nielsen
Communion Prep: Nancy Furse

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.

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 6 JoAnn Luthy

Nov. 9 Bonita Forsman

Nov. 11 Jill Comer

Nov. 18 Bud & Louise Mills

Nov. 22 Terry & Linda Ott

BIBLE STUDY

*MAX LUCADO—In the Footsteps of the Savior:
Following Jesus Through the Holy Land*

**Tuesday, November 7—6:30 PM
Session 5**

**Tuesday, November 14—6:30 PM
Session 6
Friendship Hall**

CWF LADIES

**Tuesday, November 7th
2:00 PM
Senior Center**

We have several things to discuss so please try to join us.

CONNIE NICK sent us a nice thank you card -

Thanks so much for the beautiful fall floral arrangement and card. They sure perk up my hospital room!
Miss you All!



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 Schulz

Due to the projected forecast on October 3rd, our monthly CWF meeting was postponed—the weather threat came later that evening— and the postponed date did not work for many of our members so our next meeting will be **Tuesday, November 7th**.

We will be discussing several items so we would like to see as many ladies as possible. The meeting will be at 2:00 pm at the Senior Center.

October was a busy month for YOUTH GROUP ! We finished a study on the book of James (ask any of our youth what is special about the authors of both James and Jude...I bet they can tell you) and had many great discussions about living a life of integrity.

At the request of a couple of our youth, we took a week to discuss prayer, not only why we do it, but the nuts and bolts of how we do it. They had excellent insight into whether or not there are right or wrong ways to pray, and left with both heads and hearts a little more confident in their ability to talk with God.

We finished the month talking about Israel, and were surprised and hopeful at all of the knowledge our youth brought to the table on this topic.

Live Life in the Spirit (the blog, vodcast, and podcast that Pastor Penny and Kristen are doing) has had another big month. We have posted several new blogs, and are up to episode 21 on our vodcast/podcast.



Episode 22 is recorded (after much difficulty...the third time truly was the charm!) and should go live over the weekend of October 28-29.

We did two very powerful episodes on overcoming temptation and where we turn during life's storms. That led us directly into our 20th episode on healing.

2ND ANNUAL HAMILTON COUNTY CHEER FUN-D-RAISING BBQ & BAKED BEAN CONTEST

Was held on Saturday, October 14th. Over \$2600 in donations were collected for the Hamilton County Cheer Fund. The Cheer Fund is a Hamilton County blessing that helps anyone who is in need of assistance with utilities, additional food and gas. In these times of dire need, we showed our support in a fun way—connecting each other and the community.

Thanks to everyone who contributed food, time and auction items!

AND.....our very own John Schulz placed first in the Rib Cook-off!!!

Our Hamilton County Food Pantry continues to be thankful for the support of the many churches who staff and restock needed items for the less fortunate.

Through September of 2023, we have served a total of 639 family units, 1885 people, which is close to the same as last year at this time. However, as anyone knows who are buying groceries and paying household bills, the costs have gone up for everyone! The vouchers given out to each family (for milk, bread, potatoes, cheese and margarine) have gone up about \$2 each.

Our contributions for November and December will be monetary to help cover expenses associated with the items that will be purchased for Christmas cheer baskets. Checks may be made to the Hamilton County Food Pantry and placed in the offering plate each week or mailed to P.O. Box 7, Aurora, NE 68818. The distribution of these baskets will be December 8th and clients will be notified by mail about this.

We realize that some may not be able to contribute on top of their own expenses—please do not feel you have to do this if you are not able.

Thanks to my helpers who volunteer their time each month. I appreciate each of you!!

...Pat Willis, FCC Representative

We are going to participate in the **Christmas Cheer Program** for the youth at the Hamilton County Schools. The school is asking how many students we can help (I think last year we had at least five). I would like to get the number to them before November 10th. I told them we would provide gift cards, which they say is fine. We need to have the gift cards to the school the week of December 4th so that they may do the buying for us. There is a sheet at the back of the church for you to write down the amount you are willing to donate—if you give the \$\$ to me, I will be happy to purchase the cards and deliver them.

OUR HARVEST FESTIVAL DINNER will be held on November 12th following worship. Turkey (maybe ham also), mashed potatoes, gravy, and drinks will be provided. We ask that you bring a dish to compliment the meal.

Harvest Festival letters have been mailed to our entire membership. Our fundraising goal this year is \$15,000 and is a very achievable goal. The “Harvest Chest” will be in the sanctuary or your may use the self-addressed envelope to send in your donation.

The Harvest Festival fund is used to supplement tithes and offerings throughout the year and to help fund special projects as approved by the congregation.

Our Annual Board Meeting was held on Sunday, October 22nd. All minutes and committee reports were read and submitted to Holee Nunnenkamp (Secretary of Board). If you would like to see a copy of these, please see Linda Ptacnik and she will get them to you. The approved budget and elected board members are posted on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary. New assignments will be posted in December.

A light lunch was prepared for the meeting and was enjoyed by the congregants as the meeting was held. Thanks to Pat Phillips, Linda Ptacnik, Louise Mills, Pat Willis, Connie Nielsen and Sandy Anderson.