



YOUR FCC CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 2025

Some words of wisdom from a very dear friend and former pastor.....

A Pastor's Notes

I thought I'd share a few thoughts about what happened at Raymore Christian Church on July 13. We were focusing on the statement of Jesus in Matthew 25, that whatever we do for the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters we do for Him. I stressed the word whatever, and that Jesus wasn't necessarily looking for us to do huge things. Whatever we do to help someone else, Jesus notices.

After I finished greeting people, someone told me that there was a lady at the door, who needed to talk to the pastor. When I got there one of our elders, Ray, was ushering her into the office so she could have some privacy. As the door shut, I asked how we could help. She told us that she needed money for gas for her car, and to feed her kids. She was shocked when without another word, Ray and I both dug into our wallets and gave her more money than she expected. When she expressed her surprise that we were so giving, I explained that we just had a sermon on helping others, what else could we do? She then said that God must have intentionally sent her to that specific church, because He had prepared us. I asked her name, we had prayer, and she left the building praising God.

Something we should all learn is that God sometimes likes to give us pop quizzes, to see if we were really paying attention. So pay attention to Rev. Jim and Pastor Penny, and look for ways to practice what they taught you. God might put you somewhere where you will need to use what you learned. I'll close with the benediction, mostly from the Talmud, but one line that you've seen a lot.

The Talmud's commentary on Micah 6:8

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.

Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly now.

You are not obligated to complete the work,

but neither are you free to abandon it.

**And, as always, remember it is your turn to change this world,
one person at a time. Amen**

Yours in Christ,

Bruce

Thank you for sharing, friend. You always have been and always will be an inspiration to all of us here at First Christian Church in Aurora. Come see us again!!



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:

Bob & Sharon Nunnenkamp, Rob, Carol and Holee Nunnenkamp, Jim Ptacnik, John Schulz, Marti Engert, Robyn Cush, Sandi (Willis) Geier, Brittany (Regier) Stockstill, Mark Shaneyfelt, Pastor Penny, Skip & Mary Plock, Bonita Forsman, Karren Radcliff, Louise Mills, Lucky & Karen Seyler. Renee Enderle.

We also pray for all those in our congregation and beyond who may be suffering from an illness or the stress of a family situation.

*We also pray for those who, for whatever reason, suffer in silence.
May they 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 people. All requests are by permission only. Please contact: Linda Ptacnik (lindap@hamilton.net or 402-631-9422 or fcc@hamilton.net) She will see that your requests are shared – as well as updates as they are received.

THANK YOU for the beautiful bouquet in such aa patriotic motif that you brought to my apartment for me to enjoy. What a thoughtful gesture! They lasted a whole month and the star flag that was a part of the bouquet, I put into a special plant in my east window. I send my love to all of you in the First Christian Church Family. ———Donna Goertzen

CWF kicks off the fall and winter season on Tuesday, September 2nd, with a Salad Supper in Friendship Hall at 6:30 PM. Please bring a salad to share and stay for a short devotional and program.

Thank you to our church family for the lovely roses you gave us for our 66th wedding anniversary . We are so thankful to have a family such a you and allow us to be a part of it Thank you, thank you, thank you!

—— Butch and Nancy

DEACONS / ELDERS / COMMUNION PREP

Sept 7

Elders: Ptacnik / Anderson

Deacons: Enderle / Enderle / Parker

Communion Prep: Lyn Seifried

Sept 14

Elders: Phillips / Phillips

Deacons: Willis / See /

Communion Prep: April Campbell

Sept 21

Elders: Phillips / Phillips

Deacons: Nunnenkamp / Nunnenkamp / Forsman

Communion Prep: Holee & Carol Nunnenkamp

Sept 28

Elders: Sanderson / Sanderson

Deacons: Weinrich / Dorsey / Weinrich

Communion Prep: Linda See

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

We want to thank our “Junior Deacons” for doing the Call to Worship during our morning services. We appreciate your service!!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 7 John Campbell

Sept. 11 Linda Ott

Sept. 17 Chawntiel Parker

Sept. 18 Troy Holloway

Sept. 18 DawnMarie Moe

Sept. 20 Heath Enderle Sr.

Sept. 24 Renee Enderle

Sept. 24 Heath Enderle Jr.

Sept. 25 Kristen Kipper

Sept. 25 JoAnna Auger

Sept. 27 Caryn Sparks

Sept. 28 Donna Goertzen

Sept. 28 Karen Perry

Sept. 29 Dennis Comer

Sept. 29 Lowit Enderle

Sept. 3 Jim & Sandy Anderson

Sept. 3 John & Penny Schulz

Sept. 5 Greg & Jana Luthy

Sept. 8 Ron & Karen Perry

Sept. 11 Chuck & Renee Enderle

Sept. 19 Jim & Linda Ptacnik

Sept. 27 Jerry & Maxine Hurlbut

Reservations for Friendship Hall can be made by contacting Linda Ptacnik or Pat Phillips. Dates reserved thus far in 2025 are:

Nov 22 Mills Family Thanksgiving

Dec 31 Mills & Friends



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

The church mailing address is: Box 143, Aurora, NE 68818

The Hamilton County Food Pantry: Box 7, Aurora NE 68818

TO CELEBRATE THE FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 7TH, THE CONGREGATION AND THE SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS WILL HAVE A BREAKFAST BEFORE MORNING SERVICES.

We will share Breakfast Pizza, Drinks, Biscuits and Gravy and go upstairs with a full belly!

SOMETHING OF THIS....SOMETHING OF THAT....

What is happening with your family and friends this summer? Let me know and it can go in our "Something of This....column. We can always use a good story and/or a laugh or two at your expense. Hahahah



Making an appearance on August 10th was Gracelyn Rae Horschig, daughter of Brandon and MacKenzie Horschig. Maternal grandparents are DeAnne and Mark Lake. Paternal grandparents are Pat and Jill Horschig of St. Louis. Maternal great-grandmother is Lori Comer. And now the numbers....Gracelyn is the 5th child of Brandon and MacKenzie; the 12th grandchild of DeAnne and Mark, and the 22nd great-grandchild of Lori Comer. Whew! Welcome to the World Gracelyn!!!

Another Hamilton County Fair has come and gone. If I remember correctly, the weather was extremely hot but we had no storms. We acknowledge those in our congregation who had winning entries -

Pat Wills—a lot of entries on her baking and garden goodies. I think we all deserve to have a couple of her award-winning cookies and breads at our next get together.

Karen Wilshusen put her sewing skills to work, receiving many ribbons for her quilts, table runners, and other handcrafted items.



Absent this year, were the many entries from Bonita Forsman who had recent surgery to replace a hip, but I am sure she will be back next year!



Marisa Powell, daughter of Chrissy Powell and granddaughter of Mike & Deanna Powell, is a 2025 graduate of Millard North High School. Marisa is currently a student at The University of Nebraska Lincoln where she was awarded a "full-ride" scholarship from the Peter Kewitt Foundation, majoring in Civil Engineering. This month Marisa made the Color Team for the UNL Marching Band. A very busy young lady with a very promising future. Best of luck in all you do, Marisa!

Thank you so much to my Church Family and friends for the beautiful flowers and all the cards for my 80th birthday. It warmed my heart to be remembered by so many. Glod's Blessing and love to each of you. —Jean Sanderson

Lori Comer traveled to Omaha on August 16th to attend the wedding of her granddaughter, Abbey Claussen who married Dylan Weber. Parents of the bride are Jay & Debra Claussen of Omaha. Parents of the groom are Darren & Lorie Weber of Lincoln. It was a Hot Day but Lori managed to stay cool for the outdoor ceremony.



The students, pictured above, are looking for Pat Phillips who had each one speak into the microphone with their name and the grade they will be in. Left to right are: Hailey, Matthew, Kinsley, Killian, Elizabeth, Lowit, Allyson, Carter, Charlotte, Laykin, Chris and Marcus.

We were very happy to have a nice group of students in church on August 10th. The service focused on blessing the students, their backpacks and their teachers. Special bag tags were made by Linda Ptacnik from FCC to remind them that our prayers would continue for them throughout the school year. A blessing for the teachers was given by John Seifried and Sandy Anderson provided the history of the school project.

Blessings were also offered for the eight backpacks our church contributed to the School Supplies Campaign 2025. This program, coordinated by Laura Jobman and Marilyn Verona from the Messiah Lutheran Church, works with the school to provide the needed school supplies and backpacks for students in need. Eight churches generously provided 130 backpacks for Aurora, Hampton and Giltner students. Before the first day of school, students are given the opportunity to pick out a backpack and supplies for their specific grade level.

The motto chosen for this project is “God’s Work, Our Hands..” It is a pleasure to see churches in our community come together for this worthwhile project. Thank you to each member of our congregation that contributed to make the first day of school special for all students.



Pictured left are all the backpacks—personal ones the students brought to church and the eight that were contributed by FCC.

While in Aurora for a visit recently, Ron Strong (a member of our church forever and a son to Irene Strong) commented on the banner in the choir loft. And how appropriate that the words at the bottom say it all....

TEACH US—GUIDE US



These are the many faces who made our Sunday morning services memorable while Pastor Penny was on a three-month sabbatical.

Connie Nicklasson, Pat Phillips and Pat Wills did three services which featured the music of the gospel. A favorite was Christmas in July.

Rev. Jim Garfield blessed us three Sunday mornings with his inspirational words. Always a joy to have him with us.

Kristen Kipper did three services for us...nervous as she was, she did a great job and we enjoyed her very much.

Karen Bortz came from FCC in Grand Island one Sunday. She has been at our church several times and we always enjoy her message.

Robin Blakemore, our Interim Regional Minister came in July and shared her message and joined us for a chicken dinner afterwards.

Kevin Wagner did a service in August and it was very good. A sermon based on Proverbs is always welcome.

We also thank the Elders of the church as they participated in each service with the Prayers of the People, The Lord's Prayer and the Benedictions.

GOD IS GOOD!

I would like to personally thank Rev. Jim Garfield, Kristen Kipper and Pastor Bruce Bradley for providing the monthly message for the newsletter. You guys saved this old gal a lot of work and research and I sure do appreciate you!!!! —Linda P.



Changes are coming! For numerous reasons, we are moving the day and time for youth group! Youth group will be starting Sunday, September 14 at 5:00 PM. We will begin with a meal, and then move into the music, lesson, and games portion of the evening.

In order for us to be able to continue offering, and hopefully growing, this important ministry, we need help from all of you! First, we will need people to help prepare food for our youth. And we would encourage you to stay and get to know our youth a little more. You would be amazed at what gets shared while sharing a meal!

Second, Pastor Penny and Kristen have agreed to lead the older group, the 7th-12th graders. (That's not to say we wouldn't welcome additional help, so that way we all might be able to take turns!) We hope to be able to offer this to our elementary school kids as well. However, we are doing a great disservice to both groups trying to do the lessons together. No one is able to learn or grow in their faith nearly as well when we are trying to meet the needs of such a wide age range. We are working to get a curriculum, so the lessons will be available to anyone who is willing to show up and help!

We will get a sign-up sheet going for meals, and for leading both groups. If you have any questions, or are ready to answer the call to serve our youth, please reach out to Pastor Penny (402-440-4605) or Kristen (402-217-1083), or you can let Linda know as well.

You're Invited! ✨

Join us as we break ground on the inclusive playground!



Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025—4:00 PM



Location: At the playground site on Old Creek Road, Aurora, NE

Be part of this special milestone as we take the first step in making our community's vision a reality!
Everyone is welcome!

COME TO PASTOR PENNY AND JOHN'S ANNUAL YOUTH POOL PARTY



Sunday, September 7th—2:30 PM

1512 Road 13—York Nebraska

Meat and Drinks Provided—Bring a Side to Share

Bring your swim suits, towels, and lawn chairs!

There will be Cornhole—Sand Volleyball—Karaoke—and a Fire Pit with Smores.

Open to the FCC and PUCC congregations for supper and a evening of fun!

