



YOUR FCC CONNECTION

AUGUST 2023

PASTOR PENNY'S TWO CENTS.....

Have you ever thought about yourself as a complainer? If you are honest then you know if you are. I used to think that was my gift because I was so good at it. Actually, if I am honest I am kind of an expert at complaining. However, a long time ago, I was devastated to find out that nowhere in the Bible is it one of the gifts of the Spirit. On the contrary, the scriptures have a lot to say about grumbling, and complaining and it isn't good.

Why do we complain? For starters, if you are like me it starts with the little inconveniences. Then the major annoyances and those flat-out things that make us mad and angry. In our culture, we want things our way, in our time, without any roadblocks. So when things do not go smoothly or cause us to have to wait, to be patient, or to do it differently, it can make us uneasy or frustrated.

I think that God uses those times to teach us valuable lessons and maybe even keep us from harm. Mostly he wants us to focus on Him. When we are grumbling, is it because the issue is something we should take to God in petition and prayer? Or are we trying to forge ahead ignoring the direction that God wants us to take? Let me ask you this, if you were to ask your friends or family, would they say you are never happy, always complaining? That can be an ouch.

As I said, there are many reasons for grumbling, but not being content is the biggest. What would it take right now in your life for you to be content? What would it take for God to be enough? If we are not content it is because we are trying to fill a deep void, a void where God should reside. If that void is there then God is not, which means you have not allowed him to be enough for you at this point in time, you are still searching. God has promised to provide for your needs. If in your need you ask, he will provide food, shelter, clothing, peace, grace, whatever it is that you are lacking.

For a lot of us, we do not have because we have not asked, and we do not ask because we do not have that personal one on one relationship with our Lord and Savior. When God becomes as close or closer than your best friend then you will not have a problem talking to him. Telling him about your frustrations, your worries, your anxieties, the things that make you angry or scared. I can guarantee that when we have created that kind of relationship, we will find that the void is filled and the complaining will, well... not be gone entirely, but you will find yourself in a better place to handle life's inconveniences and annoyances without grumbling.

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.

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, Connie Nicklasson, Tanna Skarniak, 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.

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.)

HOW CAN I BEGIN TO THANK YOU for your faithful support of thoughts and prayers, as well as the generous monetary gifts towards my rent and utilities. You are the true example of what a Church Family is and I’m honored to be a part of it. God’s Blessings and Thank You!

Connie Nick

Editor’s Note: It was so good to see you behind the keyboard piano doing duets with Pat Wills on Sunday, July 23rd...you two are awesome!

Blessed are those who:

Keep my calendar changed each month

Help me fold bulletins and send out the newsletters

Recognize the needs to make my office more organized and functional and donate those items

Keep my trash can emptied

Leave treats in the fridge for me to munch on (my favorite)

CHRIS & MARCUS SKARNIAK would like to thank the church for allowing them to attend Church Camp. The boys attended camp at Timberlake Ranch Camp near Central City and talked about it during church on Sunday, July 23rd.

DEACONS / ELDERS / COMMUNION PREP

Aug. 6

Elders: Phillips / Phillips

Deacons: Luthy / Luthy / Willis

Communion Prep: Kristin Scharrenberg

Aug. 13

Elders: Sanderson / Sanderson

Deacons: Anderson / Weinrich / Skarniak

Communion Prep: Karen Holloway

Aug. 20

Elders: Sanderson / Sanderson

Deacons: Forsman / Nunnenkamp / Nunnenkamp

Communion Prep: Dawn Enderle

Aug. 27

Elders: Nielsen / Anderson

Deacons: Enderle / Dorsey / See

Communion Prep: Sandy Anderson

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.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 1 Greg Luthy

Aug 3 Eldon Burling

Aug 6 Nevaeh Miller-Willis

Aug 7 Edna (Mary Lou) Williams

Aug 8 Pat Anderson

Aug 9 Linda Ptacnik

Aug 10 Jean Sanderson

Aug 12 Dawn Enderle

Aug 12 Amber Keezer

Aug 17 Walt Jacobs

Aug 18 Tanna Skarniak

Aug 19 Yvonne Bradley

Aug 20 Stacey Holloway

Aug 22 Louise Hack

Aug 23 Robert Auman

Aug 24 Tyler Auger

Aug 27 Chris Skarniak

Aug 28 Mary Jacobs

Aug 31 Laykin Enderle

Aug 2 Bruce & Yvonne Bradley

Aug 22 Butch & Nancy Furse

Aug 26 Jon & Amber Eaton

CWF LADIES

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

We are working on a special meeting for the month of October...Tanna and I visited with a lady from York who paints rocks with an inspirational touch. She has offered to do a workshop with us that month. More details will be available in the coming months. SO EXCITED!!!

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

I am sure many of you have seen me doing “attendance records” each Sunday. At one time, the Church Directory (on the State side) asked about the attendance numbers each week throughout the year for their annual report. My friend, Barb Perry used to keep track for me (only needed the numbers but she included names each week as well). We (Karen Holloway) and myself decided to keep up the weekly tally. We no longer have to report the numbers to the State. The reason behind this is not to see who is in church each week, but more to see who isn’t in church—those who may be ill or just need a visit. We have many viewers on our websites, but a little “human” contact—face to face or a card—would make a person’s day! My notes are always welcome to be shared.

If you have been watching our website services or attending morning worship, you may have seen a couple of new faces joining Pat Phillips and Pastor Penny leading the hymns on Sunday. **Cadance Enderle** and **Caleb Struble**, we thank you and hope to see you more and more. Perhaps for a special music moment during services?????????????

SCHOOL STARTS on August 15th....Eight volunteers in our congregation provided seven backpacks for school students in Aurora and Giltner. We received a list of supplies needed for the gender and grade and went from there. They will be delivered to the school for distribution on August 7th.

There is a basket at the back of the sanctuary to collect donations for Women in Crisis. Tanna will be taking these (and blessings boxes) to the CWF Retreat on August 12th in Nebraska City. If you want to go and need more information, please see Tanna.

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 need to see prayer as the greatest gift we can give, not as a last-ditch effort. Promising that you will keep others in your prayers means that you will continue to pray for them, without ceasing, and you hear of a resolution to their problem. “I’ll pray for you” are words that offer hope and life to people who are hurting.

Dear Jesus, please forgive me for all the times I promised prayer in vain. Call to mind the people I need to bring before Your throne each day. Amen

FOOD PANTRY FOR AUGUST IS BOXED CEREAL