



YOUR FCC CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2024

PASTOR PENNY'S TWO CENTS...

As we find ourselves wrapping up the Book of Revelation, I can't help but stand amazed at how God's timing has been perfect. We were at Chapter 19 during Christmas Eve where Jesus is coming back! And now as we end with Chapters 21 and 22 it will fall on Valentines Week. What a Valentines gift! Exploring the New Heaven and New Earth and the wonderful splendor of what God has waiting for each and everyone of us who have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior!

This very book of the Bible has promised us a blessing just for reading or hearing it. That in itself is a profound gift, but the treasures that we have uncovered, the depths of God's grace and love that we have witnessed, the lengths that Christ has gone to so that no person should perish leaves me in total awe.

This book was not penned to scare us, or to make us shy away from it. In fact, just the opposite, God want's us to be aware, to understand the words and to use it as a tool to prepare for the future, to share the Gospel message with others and to be ready and waiting for His return. Oh what a glorious day that will be!

I know this month we will be thinking and sending Valentines cards, notes and gifts to those that we love, but what gift will give them eternity? Flowers will die, cards will be tossed, candy will be eaten and stuffed animals will collect dust. But telling them about the saving grace of Jesus, telling them how they too can have eternal life is the only gift that will last beyond this life time.

In Chapter 20 we looked at the different Books that God has, our names are written in them, our tears and prayers have all been remembered and recorded. That's right before you were conceived your name was written down. Your days were known by God himself. He loves you so much that he has even given you a choice. You can choose to turn your back and reject what he freely offers, OR you can choose to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior the wonderful gift of grace, mercy and salvation.

Only one choice will lead to Your Name written in the Book of Life when you stand before the Lord, his blood acquitting you of all of your sin. He paid for every sin you have ever committed. If you feel unworthy, if you feel unforgiveable, if you feel alone or unheard, if you feel unlovable, know that the God who created both this world and Heaven has already gone to prepare a room for each of us in the New Heaven and New Earth. How exciting is that?!

It reminds me of 2 of my favorite songs. When we all get to heaven what a day of rejoicing that will be, when we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory. And the song from Irving Berlin "Always" has forever been a treasured favorite of mine as I can see God singing the words to me. I'll be loving you always, With a love that's true always, When the things you've planned Need a helping hand, I will understand always, always. Days may not be fair always. That's when I'll be there always, Not for just an hour, Not for just a day, Not for just a year. But always.

Happy Valentines,

Pastor Penny Schulz

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, Stacey Holloway, Karren Radcliff, Stacey Friesen, Jason Wilson, John Schulz, Peggy Dick Ladd, Marlene Flodman, The Family of Rita Bunner, The Family of Karen Wilshusen, Mark Shaneyfelt, The Family of Curtis Hill and the Family of Mary Maul.

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

A MISSION REQUEST

Paul, from India, whom we have supported, has started yet another congregation! This is a congregation of Hindu converts. They need Bibles in the Telegu language. To provide a Bible to every household, he needs 70 Bibles at \$5 US currency per Bible. I am trying to help him raise \$350.

The PUCC Mission committee has pledged \$200. I am asking that congregants between the two churches prayerfully consider donating to this wonderful and exciting cause....the Gospel of Jesus Christ, placed into the hands of those who have never read the words of salvation.

———Thank you, Pastor Penny.

Checks or cash for your contribution can be ear-marked Mission and left in the offering plate—checks can be made payable to First Christian Church.

DEACONS / ELDERS / COMMUNION PREP

Feb. 4

Elders: Anderson / Nielsen

Deacons: H Enderle / D Enderle / C Parker

Communion Prep: Nancy Furse

Feb. 11

Elders: Nielsen / Anderson

Deacons: Willis / Paz / C Enderle

Communion Prep: Chawntiel Parker

Feb. 18

Elders: Phillips / Phillips

Deacons: Nunenkamp / Nunnenkamp / Forsman

Communion Prep: Sandy Anderson

Feb. 25

Elders: Phillips / Phillips

Deacons: See / R Dorsey / M Weinrich

Communion Prep: Karen Holloway

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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

Febr. 4 Christopher Weinrich

Febr. 7 Terry Willis

Febr. 15 Zoey Swikkey

Febr. 18 Robyn Cush

Febr. 20 Connie Nielsen

Febr. 22 Karen Wilshusen

Febr. 23 Stacey Friesen

BIBLE STUDY

AFTERNOON Bible Study

Beginning February 13th—2:00 pm

Lisa Harper 8-Week Study

Wonderful Words of Luke

****Will not meet the 1st Tuesday of the Month**

Meet at the Senior Center

CWF LADIES

**Tuesday February 6th
2:00 PM—Senior Center
Study Lesson—Help is Here!
By Max Lucado**



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





We Remember....



Stanley Wilshusen, age 81 passed away on Monday, January 1, 2024 at home. Services were held at our church on January 6th with Pastor Penny Schulz Officiating. Stan was a 55-year member of First Christian Church.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Karen, and Children, Tammy, Kevin, Angela; and 8 grandchildren and 10 great-grand children.

Gordon Bunner, husband of Rita Bunner was born March 22, 1936 and passed away January 11, 2024. Gordon's wishes were to be cremated and inurnment will be held at a later date. Rita and Gordon were married for 62 years and raised children, Peggy, Gerald, and Glenda.



Curtis Hill, grandson of Rita Bunner passed away unexpectedly January 25th in Grand Island. Curtis is also survived by his two children, McKenzie and Jaden. Services will be held February 1st—1:30 pm— at Livingston-Sondermann Funeral Home in Grand Island. His giving spirit lives on as an organ donor.



During the month of January, Pastor Penny and I continued our dive into Revelation on Live Life in the Spirit. Chapters 1-4 are live and ready for you to listen or watch, and we have recorded several more.

We also began recording short clips specifically for TikTok, and have reached anywhere from 300 to over 1000 views with each video.

Visit our website at <https://livelifeinthspirit.com> or our YouTube, Rumble, or TikTok channels, all under Live Life in the Spirit, to see what we have to say.

SOUPER SUNDAY BRUNCH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024 FOLLOWING MORNING SERVICES

OUR CWF FUNDRAISER FOR 2024

SERVING—A VARIETY OF BREAKFAST CASSEROLES—BISCUITS & GRAVY—PULL APART CINAMMON ROLLS—FRUIT CUPS—AND MORE

DRINKS AND TABLEWARE WILL BE PROVIDED

FREE WILL DONATION FOR CHRISTIANS WOMEN FELLOWSHIP

REHERSALS for the 2024 Easter Cantata! Rehearsals began on Sunday, January 7th at 2:00 PM at the United Methodist Church here in Aurora. **“Once Upon a Morning” by Pepper Choplin!** Books will be available and are \$10 Each. There is still time to participate and attend rehearsals. ****Side note—last year our church was represented by Tanna Skarniak and she will be in the choir again this year.**

HARVEST FESTIVAL TOTAL IS \$22,575, which is over \$6000 of our goal. We thank the congregation and friends of the church for the many blessings we have received this year. We couldn't have done it without YOU!

The All Church Workbooks are done and many of you have picked them up at church or have had them delivered to you. I will be mailing books to those who did not get them—probably the week of January 7th. As always, there are some corrections and additions -

- ◆ Lori Comer needs to be added to the CWF Ladies
- ◆ Bonita's cell phone number is 402-631-9563
- ◆ Linda speaking: I haven't gotten books mailed yet...but will shortly. I am leaving this out here another month so corrections have been made.

FOOD PANTRY NOTES!

We are so grateful for the congregational support received this past year. In addition, all the schools in Hamilton County and many of the churches made wonderful contributions.

We served 131 families with 378 members this year—and many of these families required more than just one visit for our assistance.

The many holiday food drives and donations have our shelves fully stocked with non-perishable items for the next few months. Again, thanks to you!

That being said, it is past time for someone else to “take the reins” from our church and be our new representative. It requires a one-hour commitment to work a shift 11:30—1:30 on a Tuesday; 5:30—6:30 on a Thursday evening or a 9—10 commitment on a Saturday morning, plus a quarterly board meeting.

Occasional extra help is requested after food drives to sort donated items; check for outdated items; and put items on the shelves.

I want to help orient you and you could recruit your volunteers.

—Pat Willis

WELCOME TO THE WORLD LITTLE FOLKS!

KINGSTON BENTLEY LONG was born on December 27, 2023 to Alisha & Cameron Long. Maternal grandparents are Buck & Chris Mills. Maternal great grandparents are Bud & Louise Mills. Kingston weighed 7.2 pounds and was 19-3/4" long.

CALLAN GUNNAR CARLSON was born on December 28, 2023 to Logan & Tori Carlson. Maternal grand parents are Justin & Lisa Rasmussen. Maternal great grandparents are John & Lyn Seifried. Callan weighed 7 pounds 8 ounces.

Edna Swolley and Earl Swolley want to welcome (**HANNAH CAROLE-KAY SWOLLEY**) to this world on January 25th, 2024 at 2:02pm . 4lbs 9oz , 17 1/2 long.....she made her debut and is striving great!!!!!! She will reside in the NICU for a few weeks before she is allowed to come home.



We want to wish Maddie Auger a fast and complete recovery following her tonsillectomy on January 30th. Maddie...don't be afraid to ask for ice cream and popsicles whenever you feel like it—and maybe share with Tyler and Jo-Anna.

Tanna Skarniak, recently named Vice President of our Regional CWF, sends this message.

We had our meeting for the regional CWF and we came up with our first retreat possibility. We will finalize the plans in March, but the tentative date is April 20, 2024 and we will open this meeting to both men and women. We will have an interesting speaker who went to China and Japan for Women to Women.

Our theme this year is once again domestic violence and sexual assault victims. So .. on Thursday wear something black.

CHURCH TIME CHANGE

Once again, we will split our starting times for morning services. This was not changed for the All Church Workbook, so please make that change for me.

We will meet January 1—June 30 at 9:30 AM
We will meet July 1—December 31 at 11:00 AM

THANK YOU for the peace lily. The thoughts and prayers from our church family were a great comfort during this difficult time.

—The Family of Stan Wilshusen—Karen, Tammy, Kevin and Angela

What gives me the most hope every day is God's grace; knowing that his grace is going to give me the strength for whatever I face, knowing that nothing is a surprise to God."

— Rick Warren