



YOUR FCC CONNECTION

MARCH 2024

PASTOR PENNY'S TWO CENTS...

The Footsteps of Jesus, what did that really look like? It is far more than geographical. Yes, his feet trod many a stone and pebble along some of the most traveled roads and some of the most quiet solitude paths.

As we are into the season of Lent, our theme this year is the Footsteps of Jesus. Looking at the many places his feet touched ground, but the purpose behind each step. The destination, the people he touched and healed along the way. The relationships he forged with his 12 chosen and his extended disciples and their families.

He stepped into the cold water of the Jordan and was baptized by John; He walked out with the Spirit of God upon him. Then he walked the lonesome valley into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan, where he endured the most physically exhausting time he would have to endure until the final trek to Jerusalem. We have followed his footsteps to Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee. To Nazareth his home town where he was almost pushed off Mr. Precipice, and was never able to return. We followed him back to the Sea and saw the water he would have walked on, and the storms he calmed.

It has been such an honor and a blessing to have had the opportunity not once but twice to Go to Israel and walk those same paths, touch some of the same stone steps, look down on the water that he would have walked on, stand in and above the synagogues that he preached in.

Kristen Scharrenberg and I are doing a Lenten series on Wednesday nights at 6:30 where we are showing some of the pictures from our trip almost a year ago, does that even seem possible?!? But it is not just a slide show, it is the path that Jesus traveled and why. What happened along the way, showing the scriptures in living color and the people, the lives that were restored, made clean, healed, brought back to life and touched. But that is the physical locations.

What about walking a mile in His shoes, one could say well we can't he is God, true. Yet he became Man to SAVE man and so we could relate to him. We could "see God". Jesus limited himself in the form of man to experience what we experience. To "feel and touch, be sore, endure cuts, scrapes, viruses, tears of both pain and joy, to laugh and feel the exhilaration of standing on a mountain top, or the pride in finishing a project, creating a masterpiece. He didn't have to. He didn't have to physically walk or experience the pain of this world, BUT he CHOSE to.

We will be coming to the part where Jesus turns his face towards Jerusalem for one last time, fully knowing what will happen with this final journey. We will walk the path across Bethpage, Lazarus' tomb, The Mount of Olives, the City of David, up the steps of the Temple Mount, we will walk towards the pool of Bethesda where he healed the paralyzed, we will sit on the steps where Jesus taught. We will walk down the long and winding road where he sat on a Donkey that Blessed Palm Sunday. We will stand inside the Upper Room where Jesus sat and ate his last meal with his disciples.

We will stand near the place where Jesus wept 3 times knowing that soon guards would be coming to take him away. We will journey from the far east side of town to the far west side where Caiaphas' home resides, see the place where they had a mock trial and found him guilty, the dungeon where he might have spent the remainder of the night and then follow them to where they drug him to Pilot in the morning. We will then continue on to King David's Palace where Herod resided when he came to town to question Jesus and then back to the lonely hill where Jesus most likely was crucified and the discovered tomb where he most likely could have been buried.

We can walk the steps of Jesus geographically, but not spiritually. Even for those who have been brutally tortured, and physically harmed we can never walk the road spiritually. Jesus came as a man to take on the Sins of all man. He became the Guilt Offering taking on all the guilt of the world. He became the sacrificial lamb that would pay the final price for sin and death.

We just finished the Book of Revelation and while some may still struggle with some of the words on the page, it is the Words of Jesus himself. It is why he came to show us what the rooms look like that he went to prepare for us one day! The New Heaven and the New Earth. How glorious, how marvelous, how precious the undeserved gift of salvation that both you and I get to receive when we ask him into our hearts as our Lord Adoni and Savior. Jesus said He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end, the first and the last. He is the slain lamb, but also the Lion of Judah. He is fully divine, yet became fully human. He is Yeshua which means Salvation.

As we continue to tread the steps that Christ traveled let us go humbly, in reverence remembering that he deviated from that road to seek out the lost, the undesirable, the least of these.

And if we want to walk where he walked let us do the same. As his disciples, Jesus has given us the gift of example, let us drop our nets and follow in his footsteps.

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, Stacey Holloway, Karren Radcliff, Stacey Friesen, Jason Wilson, John Schulz, Marlene Flodman, Mark Shaneyfelt, Riley Willis, Marti Engert, Gena Waterman See, Jean VanBibber, Marty Paz and the family of Tony Cordova.

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.)

DEACONS / ELDERS / COMMUNION PREP

Mar 3

Deacons: H Enderle / D Endere / Parker
Elders: Sanderson / Sanderson
Communion Prep: Jana Luthy

Mar 10

Deacons: C Enderle / Willis / Paz
Elders: Sanderson / Sanderson
Communion Prep: Pat Willis

Mar 17

Deacons: Forsman / Nunnenkamp / Nunnenkamp
Elders: Anderson / Nielsen
Communion Prep: Louise Mills

Mar 24

Deacons: See / Dorsey / Weinrich
Elders: Nielsen / Anderson
Communion Prep: Cindy Weinrich

Mar 31

Deacons: OUR YOUTH
Elders: Phillips / Phillips
Communion Prep: Cadance Enderle

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.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

Mar 6 Colleen Elge
Mar 8 Danille Derr
Mar 10 Chantell Schulz
Mar 17 Jim Ptacnik
Mar 18 Karen Holloway

Mar 2 Joe & Louise Sigona (59)
Mar 5 Marty & Stephanie Auman
Mar 15 Dave & Jean Sanderson (60)

BIBLE STUDY

AFTERNOON Bible Study

March 12th, 19th, 26th

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 March 5th
2:00 PM—Senior Center
Study Lesson—Help is Here!
By Max Lucado**

BOARD MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH

FOLLOWING SERVICES

**ALL BOARD MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED
TO ATTEND**

Pastor Penny

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Email: pastorpennys2cents@gmail.com

Website: fccaurorane.org

You Tube: First Christian Church of Aurora NE

Facebook: First Christian Church of Aurora NE

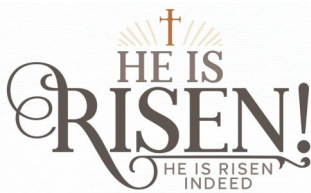
For Inspirational Messages, go to YouTube Penny Schulz



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
MARCH 10TH
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR

THANK YOU for being so kind to me. Your support has helped me through my losses. Thank you also for the beautiful wooden cross that you gave me. Thanks again for being my friends and a comfort to me.

——Rita Bunner



EASTER WEEK HAPPENINGS

Ash Wednesday services were held on February 14th in the FCC sanctuary.

Each Wednesday in Lent, beginning with February 21st, combined services will be held at the PUC Church at 6:30 p.m. (Please read Pastor Penny's 2-Cents article this month)

March 13th—Combined Lenten Service—FCC—We will have a guest speaker—the full announcement can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

Palm Sunday, March 24th, the men of our congregation will prepare and serve a pancake brunch following morning services. Having pancakes, sausages and more! A free-will offering will be taken.

March 27th—Combined Service—Maundy Thursday Communion Service—6:30 PM at FCC

March 31st—Easter Sunday

The **CWF SOUPER FUNDRAISER** on February 11th was a success—Thanks to you, we raised \$189 this year. Casseroles were provided by Jean Sanderson and Pat Phillips. Sandy Anderson provided us with breakfast pizza and super bowl popcorn balls. Tear-apart cinnamon rolls were made by Louise Mills and Linda Ptacnik. Pat Willis provided some bars and Connie Nielsen brought her deviled eggs and served up drinks from her famous “coffee cart.” Other goodies (biscuits, gravy, fruit cups) were provided by the Membership Committee.

MANY THANKS to everyone who has been providing cookies to begin (and end) our morning services. Your kind donations are much appreciated by everyone. If someone would like to step up and help out, please get in touch with Linda See or Karen Holloway and they can assist you.

FOOD PANTRY NOTES!

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!

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

Our Food Pantry request for the Month of March will be monetary donations to help offset the cost of Easter Hams to be distributed. You may give your envelope directly to Pat Willis or leave it in the offering plate. This annual event cannot be made possible without people like you—and these contributions are greatly appreciated!



Soup Bowl Fundraiser

Date: March 22

Time: 11:30 - 1:30

This will be the “Backpack Crew’s” first fundraiser. We have been very blessed with donations from local Churches, private donations, local businesses and service organizations, regional businesses as well as the Hamilton Community Foundation. Because of the generosity of HCF we are able to participate in Go Big Give.

We hope we have great attendance at our Soup Bowl Fundraiser. The event is scheduled for Friday March 22, from 11:30-1:30 in the fellowship hall of PUCC.

Guests will choose a hand made bowl by local potters (Mardell Jasnowski, Pastor Rudy Flores and Pat Pickering) with the suggested donation of \$15.00. Guests will get a bowl, soup, bread and dessert and drink. If we run out of pottery bowls, we will give rain checks for hand made pottery bowl. Carry out will be available.



Never forget the difference you make!



Our Lenten services will come to an Epic end with a Presentation from Rebekah Miller from the Chosen People's Ministry as she will go through the element for the Seder Meal that our Jewish brothers and sisters have be celebrating for thousands of years. There will not be a meal with this service, however it will be very enlightening, educational and a perfect time to connect with our Jewish roots.

We will be taking up a Love Offering for their ministry so plan to come celebrate and help spread the Gospel Message. Service is Wednesday the 13th of March at 6:30 at the FCC Sanctuary.

Spread the word invite your friends, neighbors and even acquaintances.



Isaiah 43:1

Israel, the Lord who created you says. "Do not be afraid—I will save you. I have called you by name—you are mine."



Paper Airplane Christians

In this youth Bible Study, Paper airplanes are used to remind us that we also do not have to be weighed down, but can fly to great heights in our relationship with God.



Our younger youth decided to make paper airplanes to fly in the sanctuary during the opening hymn on February 11th. Unfortunately, things did not go as planned and the planes barely made it over the balcony. We will hire a rocket scientist to create planes that fly better and will surprise everyone at a future time. The kids had a blast and loved it that they got to "throw" things in the church and not get scolded!