



YOUR FCC CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2023

## PASTOR PENNY'S TWO CENTS.....

### Pastor Penny's 2 Cents

When it rains it pours.... That saying is so true. I am sure there are many reading this right now going through this. I know it is literally a drought outside, but the circumstances in my life at this moment.... Well I'm experiencing a down pour, and I can't keep my head above water. Maybe I am just solely speaking from my life right now, but I have a feeling there are many of you reading this nodding in agreement.

I had the pleasure of accompanying a friend and congregant to Kentucky to see the Ark Encounter. It definitely lives up to its name. An Encounter it is. A FULL SIZE replica of what the ark was like on the outside and a very good depiction of what it very well looked like on the interior. As with anything in life we have a perception, and idea of what we think something or someone is like. However, until we actually experience or go back and reread a scripture, a story, or get to know that person, we can not fully comprehend or grasp the fullness unless we get to experience it.

Just the sheer size of the ARK is awe-inspiring and I love how the Holy Spirit moved them to recreate with unbelievable organization what the 3 levels, the cages, food and water system and living quarters might have looked like. If you get a chance to go you will not be disappointed.

But if you think to the events leading up to that first drop of rain, Noah had to have such unbelievable faith and obedience. In a world that had literally gone mad, corrupt, profaned and something that even the best horror film could not fully depict, he put it all on the line when God chose him and his family to be the ones to start again. God could have, and probably should have, called it quits at that point. Humanity and the Angelic realm had done nothing but disappoint and turn their backs on him.

As a parent, nothing hurts more than when your kids purposely disobey, do the opposite and turn their backs on you. Yet as a parent we can't help but STILL love in spite of the pain and rejections.

God not only spared Noah, his family and the species HE created, but it had to be so difficult and painful to see everything and everyone one He created fight until they couldn't keep their heads above water. Here's the thing though, it didn't have to be that way at all. It didn't, it was a choice by each and every one that was born or cast down to this earth. Noah chose wisely.

God gave another gift and that was a sign, a rainbow that shimmers in the light after every storm as a promise to us and a reminder to him that no matter how bad it gets here, he will never wipe away the world with a flood again. So the next time you see the rain, remember that is a gift from a curse. It had never rained until 7 days after God shut Noah, his family and the animals in the Ark. And there had never been the promised sign in the sky until after that horrific stormy trial was over.

There was a mural on the wall there depicting what the cities, temples and people might have looked like when the monstrous waves came crashing through. There was a lady holding an infant on the side of the mountain reaching up for a man's hand in desperation. That picture was a million words. You could not look at that and not feel God's heart breaking.

It didn't need to be that way. It was a choice.

Jesus tells us a time is coming soon when another door will be shut and those who chose not to heed God's call or accept Christ will be on the outside of that door in frantic screams, and he will have to say with broken heart once again. "I Do Not Know You". It doesn't have to be that way. It is a free gift, given in grace and mercy.

If you feel yourself drowning in situations or circumstances beyond your control, take heart, have hope. My prayer is if you have held fast to the savior's arm just like Peter did when the water was above his head it will be Christ who will pull you up out of those raging waters. And if you have accepted him, He will call you by name, and say I DO know you, I've Got you and I will never let you go.

It was Jesus who climbed into the boat holding Peter BEFORE he calmed the storm. If the storm is still raging, and you have reached out, know that the Savior has grabbed you, he is holding you tight in the boat until the storm is calmed. It is a choice.

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, Dick Jim Ptacnik, Tanna Skarniak, Mary Jacobs, Betty Stephenson, Gus Jacobitz, 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](mailto:lindap@hamilton.net) or 402-631-9422 or [fcc@hamilton.net](mailto: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](mailto:eagleskarn@gmail.com).)

DEACONS / ELDERS / COMMUNION PREP

Oct 1

Deacons: Luthy/Luthy/Willis  
Elders: Sanderson / Sanderson  
Communion Prep: Pat Anderson

Oct 8

Deacons: Anderson/Weinrich/Skarniak  
Elders: Nielsen / Anderson  
Communion Prep: Sandy Anderson

Oct 15

Deacons: Forsman/Nunnenkamp/Nunnenkamp  
Elders: Anderson / Nielsen  
Communion Prep: Jean VanBibber

Oct 22

Deacons: Enderle/Dorsey/See  
Elders: Phillips / Phillips  
Communion Prep: Jean Sanderson

Oct 29

Deacons: OUR YOUTH  
Elders: Phillips / Phillips  
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.*



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

- Oct 1 Dick Phillips
- Oct 2 Brittain Luthy
- Oct 3 Marty Auman
- Oct 4 Margie Gross
- Oct 7 Dave Sanderson'
- Oct 9 Jim Holtzen
- Oct 10 Bonnie Campbell
- Oct 12 Mary Plock
- Oct 14 Richard Sigel
- Oct 14 Jeremy Keezer
- Oct 16 Jean VanBibber
- Oct 19 Pat Willis
- Oct 19 Edie Williams-Swolley
- Oct 25 Ashley Williams
  
- Oct 3 Heath & Dawn Enderle
- Oct 4 Jim & Deb Willis
- Oct 16 Bob & Jane Kipper
- Oct 20 Mike & Margie Gross

**BIBLE STUDY**

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

**Tuesdays (3-10-17-24) - 6:30 PM**

**Friendship Hall**

**CWF LADIES**

**October 3, 2023**

**2:00 PM**

**Senior Center**

**Pastor Penny**

**Cell Phone: 402-440-4605**

**Email: [pastorpennys2cents@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpennys2cents@gmail.com)**

**Website: [fccaurorane.org](http://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 had a good turnout for our CWF Salad Supper on September 5th. Approximately 20 ladies gathered for a variety of salads and desserts.

We were entertained by a special presentation from Mia Wyatt representing Willow Rising, Inc. (Formerly known as Crisis Center). Willow Rising is dedicated to creating new beginnings for those impacted by domestic and sexual violence by providing safety, support, education, and survivor empowerment.

Our ladies donated several items for their organization to use in their ministry.

**YOUTH GROUP** officially kicked off on September 20th, and we started off with 12 kids, including several new ones! We divided into two groups, one with younger elementary school kids, and the other with the older kids. After enjoying a snack all together, we divided into the two groups and the kids got to start learning about James, the brother of Jesus. We ended the afternoon all together again and took advantage of the nice weather, playing a game outside to finish the day. A good time was had by all!



Live Life in the Spirit has had a big month! Episode 17 went live this past Sunday, and Episode 18 is being recorded this week. The work we're doing is starting to catch on, and one of our videos received over 1500 views this month!

Pastor Penny and Kristen also had the opportunity to go to a conference/benefit where two of the guest speakers were comedy genius Anita Renfroe and legendary singer Sandi Patty. This was a smaller event, so they had the opportunity to meet and speak with these two wonderful ladies, and gave them each a Live Life in the Spirit t-shirt. Anita Renfroe even said she had forgotten to pack a shirt to wear home, so suggested she would wear our shirt. Wouldn't that be AMAZING!

First day of Sunday School was Sunday, September 10, 2023. All children grades K-12 were invited to attend. There will be devotionals and crafts each week. Classes begin following Children's Moment during worship services. All parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, guardians are encouraged to arrange for their children to attend—they may even bring a friend!

Following worship services, we enjoyed a homestyle chicken dinner complete with all fixings—mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, green beans and a dessert— It almost didn't happen—at the last minute (Saturday morning) we got a call from our chicken supplier saying they couldn't do the chicken for us—a quick call to the Grand View Café and a trip to Sam's Club, we had a roaster full of chicken ready by lunchtime on Sunday. And it was really, really good!

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

October 14th, 4:30—6:30

Bremer Center—Aurora, NE

Poster In Church or Contact—Pat Pickering (402.631.9433 or Brock Manley (971.226.6300

Proceeds will help those in need of assistance with utilities, food and gas.

The Membership Committee ordered and delivered fall bud vases to our congregants who are living in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. Each one has sent their heartfelt thanks to the church.

Donna Goertzen writes—Thank you so much for the beautiful bouquet of lavender rose buds. I've so enjoyed them! Thank you for the nice evening out. (Donna came to our CWF salad supper).

I have been so fortunate to be the “editor” of your church newsletter for the past 25-30 years. I remember Pastor Jay Mitchell helping me prepare it—he would actually print the articles out and I would copy the text and print it. Then we would gather it together— fold it in half— and staple it— put on the labels (I believe Jean Sanderson printed them off)- and then we would stamp them and SORT THEM into zip codes (just so we could get a break on our postage).

It is so much more simple now—I have everything on the computer and print out only those who do not have internet or want to receive a “hard” copy. I have Linda See (and others who can) help with the production line. I mail about 45-50 copies a month and the rest (about 120 copies) go out via email.

The newsletter goes out (via email only) to past and present members, friends, family, and friends of family and friends—whoever has an email address can get the newsletter. If you have someone you want to share the newsletter, just let me know and I can make that happen!

My e-mail address is lindap@hamilton.net and my phone is 402-631-9422 (no land line).

**Which brings me to the point of this article—IT IS YOUR NEWSLETTER—I only provide what information I am given. If you have something to say to everyone, please feel free to do just that. I received the following anonymously this week.**

*“I came into our church basement from the back door the other day and I noticed a new entrance floor mat. One or more of the quiet heroes in our flock saw a need and fulfilled it.*

*I think God has a special place in his heart for quiet heroes, and our flock happens to be blessed by many quiet heroes. These folks go about their days serving God and the people about them in many different ways. They do these things quietly and often time anonymously.*

*I have a wish—I wish God's richest blessings on the quiet heroes in our congregation, because my dear friends, you deserve nothing less.”*

—Anonymous

We now have 10 great grandchildren!! Noan Patrick was born on August 31st to Jared and Megan (Wilshusen) Haag of Fairbury. Grandfather is Kevin Wilshusen of New Mexico. Noah is the 5th grandchild for Kevin and the 5th grandchild for Tammy. We are so blessed.

—Karen & Stan Wilshusen