



YOUR FCC CONNECTION

AUGUST 2025

This month we have a message from Kristen Kipper.....

Inspiration can come in the most unexpected places, and the inspiration for this blog fits into that category.

My mom and 6-year-old niece Madison called me the other day to let me know that my niece had broken her wrist. The “how” was similar to a story from my childhood, so they wanted to call and share the news. My mom told Madison that she needed to learn how to fall and not get hurt, and had suggested that Madison watch her older brother Marshall, as he isn’t afraid to fall and so seems to get hurt less when he does. As I pondered those words, the truth and depth behind them really started to sink in.

For someone like Madison (and admittedly, me for much of my life) fear can really get in the way. Fear of falling, or fear of failing, can keep us paralyzed and from even attempting anything new or potentially dangerous. If we never did anything that involved any risk, our lives would be so boring! There can be physical risk, like learning to roller skate or giving paddleboarding a try. There could be professional risk, like suggesting a new way of doing something or pursuing your dream job. It could be emotional risk, like telling someone you love them or letting someone in and being vulnerable. If we never did any of those things, think of what we could be missing out on. A new passion for sports and physical health, landing your dream job, falling in love, finding a best friend. In all of those, the rewards truly outweigh the risks.

Going back to my mom and sweet Madison, the second part to that conversation was my mom encouraging Madison to watch her brother so that she could learn how to fall. That one hit me so hard. It’s not a lesson we think of pursuing or teaching very often, but oh what an important lesson it is. Mom suggested Marshall was the one to watch, because he isn’t afraid to fall. I suppose it’s really more that he isn’t afraid of getting hurt. That’s not to say that he wants to get hurt, or that he just brushes it all off if it’s bad. But his focus isn’t on the fall, it’s on what he might achieve or get from trying. There is power in that perspective!

The mind believes what you tell it, and feeds what you feed it. So if your focus is on how good it will feel when you make the jump, or get the job, or find true love, then you are far more likely to be successful than someone who focuses on how much it will hurt if they fall off their bike, or what rejection feels like from a company or a person, or how much it hurts when someone you trusted betrays you. And your mind and body will work together to make what you focus on more likely to happen. Whether you are conscious of it or not. Even after the fall, if you keep your focus on getting up and trying again, the pain isn’t nearly so bad. If your eye is on what to try next, or a different approach or tactic, then the bad becomes smaller and the good is in reach.

The Scriptures have a lot to say about fear. Isaiah 41:10 “do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

In Psalm 56:3, David has this to say, “when I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”

Of course, no conversation about fear would be complete without Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

What Paul is telling us is that instead of worrying, we need to go humbly before God in prayer with gratitude and ask for the desires of our heart (making sure you are asking for the right kinds of things is a whole other blog in itself, but if you are the results are worth it). If we do this, he promises us the most precious of gifts...peace. The kind of peace that only comes from God. Then as an added bonus, that peace will actually protect our thoughts and emotions and keep them focused on Christ...that is powerful!

If you feel like you're someone who spends much of your time being afraid of trying anything risky, take a look around for the Marshalls in your life. Watch them, talk to them, see how they handle their fear. And don't forget to take it to God in prayer as well. And go boldly with these words from Joshua 1:9 “I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Hugs & Blessings,

Kristen

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, Lori Comer and Lorie Hosier, Bonita Forsman, Louise Mills.

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.

DEACONS / ELDERS / COMMUNION PREP

Aug 3

Elders: Dick Phillips / Pat Phillips
Deacons: Enderle / Enderle / Parker
Communion Prep: Linda Ptacnik

Aug 10

Elders: Pat Phillips / Dick Phillips
Deacons: Willis / Enderle / See
Communion Prep: Kristen Kipper

Aug 17

Elders: Dave Sanderson / Jean Sanderson
Deacons: Forsman/Nunnenkamp/Nunnenkamp
Communion Prep: Sarah Enderle

Aug 24

Elders: Jean Sanderson / Dave Sanderson
Deacons: Weinrich / Dorsey / Weinrich
Communion Prep: Dawn Enderle

Aug 31

Elders: Sandy Anderson / Linda Ptacnik
Deacons: OUR YOUTH
Communion Prep: Sandy Anderson

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!!

During Pastor Penny's Sabbatical, your Elders will be visiting the shut-ins and doing hospital visits. Their phone numbers are listed below....if you need to reach out, please do so!

Linda Ptacnik	402-631-9422
Sandy Anderson	402-694-6024 or 694-1208
Dick Phillips	402-694-3302 or 694-9036
Pat Phillips	402-694-3302 or 694-9832
Jean Sanderson	402-694-1459
Dave Sanderson	402-604-0530

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 1 Greg Luthy
Aug 6 Jeannie Maw
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 15 Wendell Perry
Aug 17 Walt Jacobs
Aug 17 Louise Sigona
Aug 19 Yvonne Bradley
Aug 20 Stacey Holloway
Aug 23 Robert Auman
Aug 24 Tyler Auger
Aug 27 Chris Kipper
Aug 31 Laykin Enderle

Aug 2 Pastor Bruce & Yvonne Bradley
Aug 22 Butch & Nancy Furse

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

Another reminder—When alone in the church, it is important that the doors be locked for your safety. It is also recommended that the doors on the east side of the church be kept locked during Sunday worship. It is a sad day when our church doors must be kept locked, but society today has changed radically and the safety and well-being of our congregants is very important.

It has also been brought to my attention that the front door to the east has been left unlocked on occasion.. This door should always remained locked as we only use the front two doors each week.

**We have a surprise message for our front page next month—
stay tuned!**

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



Ian Charles Hammerschmidt and Chloe Elizabeth Alma St. John were June graduates from Wilford Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Among those in attendance were proud mom, Lesley Cook, and grandparents, Jim and Sandy Anderson.



Celebrating 25 years of service with South Valley Middle School were Eric Forsman and Sara Forsman. Eric is PLTW Teacher/ Athletic Director and Sara has been teaching middle school.



During our Children's Sermon on July 6th, we donned some crazy, fun sunglasses! Pictured are (left to right)

Elizabeth Sweet, Dora Friesen, Allyson Schmidt, Dawn Enderle, Pat Phillips, Linda Ptacnik, Rene Enderle, Robertta Dorsey and Marcs Kipper.

Some of the quilts on display at the Auroran' Days Quilt Show in June. These were made by our own Karen Wilshusen. I am sure you will have seen more entries at the Hamilton County Fair—she does great work!



The quilt on the right was done by Karen and her Mom many years ago.

We are moving on....Kristen, Chris, and Marcus have changed their last name to Kipper as of July.





This is the softball team that Nevaeh Willis plays for. She is the daughter of Sara Willis and the granddaughter of Deb Willis. Nevaeh is in the second row—4th from the left. **3rd place 2025 -Nationals in Wichita.** So proud of this team and thankful for our coaches as we finish out the season. Go Gold!

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

First Christian Church of Grand Island—2400 West 14th Street
Thursday—Friday—Saturday—August 7, 8, & 9th
9:00-4:00 Thursday & Friday—9:00-3:00 on Saturday
Large Variety of Goodies—\$7 Bag Sale for Clothes Only!



OUR CHRISTMAS IN JULY service on July 13th was amazing, to say the least. And it was all made possible by the scripts and music prepared by Connie Nicklasson and Pat Willis. We even had a small Christmas tree all decorated with lights and everything, thanks to Sandy Anderson. Lyn Seifried did the children's sermon and did a wonderful job—we even had the Grinch (Rene Enderle) present! Huge thanks to Cadance Enderle for sharing her voice with us while leading our hymns!! It was joyous as only a Christmas service can be!

The Worship Committee would like to thank everyone who has helped with the services during Pastor Penny's Sabbatical. Many have been asked to step in and serve and not one person has said "no." The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer have been done by our Elders and Elders' Emeritus' - Dave, Jean, Dick, Pat, Linda, Sandy, Lyn, and John. Our youth has led the Call to Worship most weeks and they do such a great job! Filming has been done by Kristen or Linda and is being shown on our Public Facebook Page. It has been said many times—WE ARE FAMILY! We are a Family of God!

Proud Grandma, Chawntiel Parker, is happy to announce the birth of Paisley Rae born to son, Nathan, and Rachelle, on July 24, 2025. Paisely weighed six pounds, two ounces and was 19-3/4" long.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!!





Aurora Dawn Biek was born on July 15, 2025 to Amber Bramman Bieck and Brad Bieck. She was 7 pounds, 7 ounces and 20.5" long, Maternal Grandparents are Sandy and Tony Bramman. Great Grandparents are Bud and Louise Mills.

So happy for all!!

The Membership and Worship Committees are working together with the Elders of the church to make sure our shut-ins and homebound members are shown our love....the first Sunday of the month, there will be a small floral arrangement on the communion table which will be delivered to a deserving individual. There is no order for delivery, but everyone will be remembered. With the bouquet will be a card that reads:

This flower has been in our Church where hymns were sung, prayers offered and the sermon preached.

Now, with their silent message, they come to you with our love and good wishes.



Thank you for your service!

Mike Powell was awarded the Quilt of Valor in July.

Beside him is his wife, Deanna.

The quilt was made by Karen Wilshusen!



Dick & Robin Blakemore



Children's Sermon July 27th

Left to Right:
Marcus Kipper, Chris Kipper, Layken Enderle, Ally Schmidt, Lowett Enderle, Elizabeth Sweet



SOME PICS OF THE CHURCH "PICNIC" WITH ROBIN BLAKEMORE, Interim Regional Pastor for Christian Church of Nebraska.