



YOUR FCC CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 2024

## PASTOR PENNY'S 2-CENTS.....

Things that are hard to comprehend.... Everything that is going on currently in our world, the individual things that each and everyone of us is dealing with in our own personal lives, the fact that fall is already upon us and soon it will be all the holidays. And the reality that I am now officially going on my 6<sup>th</sup> year as your pastor! Sometimes we are faced with impossibilities, things that are just hard to comprehend, or an impasse that is leaving us with more questions than answers. Maybe you are there? Maybe you are struggling to figure things out, or make sense of what you are dealing with individually, as a family or maybe with your friends? Maybe you have felt disillusioned because you have done all the right things, been obedient to God and yet things seem to be getting harder or more difficult than they were when you weren't?

I get it and I am here to tell you, You are NOT alone. Here's the thing, most generally when you find yourself listening to the voice of God, when you start following His will even as uncertain or crazy as it may seem at times instead of life being easier it usually becomes harder for awhile or a long while. See the enemy doesn't usually bother you if you are just minding your business and not following God's plan for your life. Why? Because you are no longer a threat. It is when we dig into His word, listen to God's leading and are willing to step out in faith and follow even into the unknown, that the opposing forces usually emerge and try anything they can to distract, discourage or even throw a full onslaught of nastiness at you. Yes, that's my term. But trust me I have been there and done that and been a recipient.

The price of discipleship. Jesus didn't say follow me and I will lead you through rose gardens, however even if he did and you could enjoy the gorgeous sights and fragrances, you still would have to be careful as there are thorns that can draw blood. Instead, he said, "Pick up your cross and follow me."

If we are seeking an example of true obedience, we have to look no further than Yeshua, Jesus. He was constantly saying, "I am here for my Father's Will", "I do what the Father Wills me to", "I and my Father are one", "Not my will but Your will be done". Jesus, out of love and obedience came to this sin filled world. It was not easy even from his very birth. The enemy tried to have him killed as an infant, tried to kill him or make him submit in the wilderness and then ushered him to the cross. The love Jesus had for this world and us, also forced him to endure thorns that drew blood. Yet he did so with joy in his heart knowing that he was the ultimate Salvation for all of us. The ultimate cancellation of sin and darkness. He chose to make away for us to have a choice between Life or death. A choice of Sin and darkness or Light and Forgiveness.

Are you at an impasse? Are you struggling with being obedient to God's nudging or calling? Have you found yourself wondering, "What's next? Or I didn't think I signed up for this?". My prayer and blessing to you is whatever place you are finding yourself in at the moment, take heart Jesus said, "in this world you will have trouble, but take heart for I have overcome the world."

That is the faith and hope that we cling to on those unbelievably rough days. The Hope that we long for when we are faced with very difficult decisions and looming questions. It is the joy that we feel the small spark of warmth growing deep within when we CHOOSE to follow Him and His leading, knowing that when we do, ...well we don't need to worry about the outcome because God already has it all figured out. So, as I always say, "Buckle up because it is going to be a crazy, wild, scary but fabulously wonderful, beautiful ride, because I know WHO is in the driver seat, with a promise of an eternal destination."

Shalom Shalom



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.

Louise Hack, Bob & Sharon Nunnenkamp, Rob Nunnenkamp, Jim Ptacnik, Tanna Skarniak, Stacey Holloway, John Schulz, Marti Engert, Robyn Cush, Sandi (Willis) Geier, Brittany (Regier) Stockstill, Harley Niles, Freddie (the Fighter) Farrell, Renee Enderle, Delores Ellyett, The Family of Mary Jacobs and Chantel Schulz

**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](mailto:lindap@hamilton.net) or 402-631-9422 or [fcc@hamilton.net](mailto:fcc@hamilton.net)) She will see that your requests are shared – as well as updates as they are received.

When Linda is out of town and/or unavailable, Tanna will be handling the prayer chain requests. You may contact her at 308-391-9054 or [eagleskarn@gmail.com](mailto:eagleskarn@gmail.com)

***“Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud.”***

*—Maya Angelou, Reader's Digest, April 2019*



## *We Remember...*

Mary Jacobs was born on August 28, 1927 and passed away in Aurora on October 8, 2024 at the age of 97. Pastor Penny officiated at the service which was held at the Higby-McQuisiston Chapel on Tuesday, October 15th. A private burial was held at the Aurora Cemetery. Immediate survivors include her son Jerry Jacobs of Phillips, daughter Joy Jacobs of Lincoln, and a brother-in-law Walt (Ardis) Jacobs of Aurora.



To First Christian Church -

On behalf of the Hamilton County Inclusive Playground Committee, I want to thank you for the generous donation toward the development of the playground. Your donation reflects the spirit of the community and will have a lasting impact on the lives of so many children and their families. Thanks Again!

—Cami Knust



Dear Church Family and Friends -

Thank you so much for the beautiful wooden cross with wooden, white flowers. So beautiful! We appreciate all the prayers lifted up for Jim while he was sick. We are so blessed to have all of you in our lives.

—Jim Willis Family

Deb, Sara, Nevaeh Willis

## *You're Invited*

**TO A BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE**

**FOR BONITA FORSMAN'S 75TH BIRTHDAY**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH—2:00—4:00 pm**

**BREMER CENTER—AURORA, NEBRASKA**

DEACONS / ELDERS / COMMUNION PREP

Nov 3

Deacons: Enderle / Enderle / Parker  
Elders: Phillips / Phillips  
Communion Prep: Karen Holloway

Nov 10

Deacons: Enderle / Willis / Volunteer  
Elders: Sanderson / Sanderson  
Communion Prep: Cadance Enderle

Nov 17

Deacons: Nunnenkamp / Nunnenkamp ./ Forsman  
Elders: Sanderson / Sanderson  
Communion Prep: Louis Mills

Nov 24

Deacons: Weinrich / Dorsey / See  
Elders: Anderson / Ptacnik  
Communion Prep: Robertta Dorsey

**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.*

*Please show up when it is your turn to serve—or let someone know so that a replacement can be found before the morning service—we have had to pull folks out of their pews—not that they mind, but it is not their responsibility at that given time.*



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 6 JoAnn Luthy (90)

Nov 9 Bonita Forsman (75)

Nov 11 Jill Comer (60)

Nov 15 Joe Sigona

Nov 18 Bud & Louise Mills

Nov 11 Terry & Linda Ott

**Season 4 of The Chosen is being released!**

Anyone interested in continuing with a Chosen Bible study, please let Pastor Penny or Kristen know (by text or email...so we have it written down!) Then we can decide together when we want to get started!

It probably won't be until late summer, just starting the conversation now!

**CWF METTING**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH—2:00 pm

SENIOR CENTER

If you need transportation, please let Linda Ptacnik or Pat Phillips know and we can help with that.

**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**

**The church mailing address is: Box 143, Aurora, NE 68818**

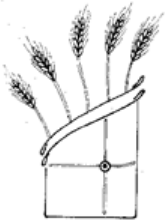
**The Hamilton County Food Pantry: Box 7, Aurora NE 68818**

THE ALL CHURCH WORKBOOKS will be coming out the middle of December (or thereabouts) so please get with Linda Ptacnik on any changes, corrections, and additions.

## YOUTH GROUP

Over the last month we learned about just how big our God is, and how small we really are in the universe. And yet, God knows our name, and the number of hairs on our head. He collects our tears and celebrates our joys with us. Sandy Anderson joined us to help lead youth group a couple of times this month and it was great having her there. Hopefully she will come back again!

If there is anyone else interested in helping to lead youth group, please reach out to Pastor Penny or Kristen. We would love to have a small group of leaders to draw from. Then we could potentially trade off so people could help, but not have to commit to every week. And we do have a pretty great group of youth that would bring life and excitement to anyone's week!



**Food Pantry requests for NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER will be monetary donations to help with the preparations for the Christmas Food Baskets**

**Donations may be placed in the offering trays or mailed directly to the Hamilton County Food Pantry, PO Box 7, Aurora, NE 68818**



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH honors and respects all members of our church family and friends who have served in the military. If you have not noticed before, we have a registry of these fine individuals at a place in our sanctuary.

On Sunday, November 10th, we will re-dedicate this honor roll. At that time, we will add the names of Jason Wilson, Vencil (Jim) Ptacnik, and John Jacobs.

If you want to add a family member to our honor roll, please contact Pat Phillips.

**Gracious God, we thank You for our veterans.** Their service and sacrifices have preserved our freedoms. We are grateful for their dedication and bravery. Bless them abundantly for their selflessness. May they feel appreciated and honored. Let our gratitude be a source of encouragement and strength for them. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## BOARD NEWS

On September 29th, we held a special board meeting to update the “Memorial Need and Want” list. We deleted items already finished and one that was just not financial feasible. We added a request for big screens and projectors for the sanctuary to enhance our worship experience and to show videos during funeral services. And the GOOD NEWS is that the screens are installed and we are waiting to install the projectors (which will operate remotely with wi-fi). They look so nice!

On Sunday, October 20th, we held our Annual Board Meeting. It was well attended with a light lunch served after morning worship. The budget was approved and an election of officers was held. Reports done by the Committee Chairmen were given to Church Secretary, Holee Nunnenkamp, and copies can be requested if you would like one.

The following Officers were elected:

### ELDERS

Dick Phillips

Pat Phillips

Linda Ptacnik

Sandy Anderson

Dave Sanderson

Jean Sanderson

### DEACONS

Heath Enderle

Dawn Enderle

Chawntiel Parker

Linda See

Cindy Weinrich

Robertta Dorsey

Pat Willis

Bonita Forsman

Mike Weinrich

Carol Nunnenkamp

Holee Nunnenkamp

Cadance Enderle

### DEACONESS

Dolores Ellyett

Louise Mills

Karen Holloway

Renee Enderle

Linda Ptacnik, Treasurer

Carol Nunnenkamp, Asst. Treasurer

Bonita Forsman, Financial Secretary

Karen Wilshusen, Asst. Financial Secretary

Connie Nielsen, Historian

Bonita Forsman, Edgerton

Elections for Board Chair, Church Secretary, and Vice Board Chair will be done at our January meeting.



Picking up cups with a balloon—not as easy as one would think. The kids always have a good time with the games as part of their learning experience.



As we approach the Thanksgiving Season, we reflect on the many blessings we have received this past year. We are grateful for this church family and we know that God's wisdom and love will enable us to see wonderful possibilities in the coming year. Through technology and great people, we are able to see the sermons and hear the beautiful music, all of which keeps us connected as a congregation.

In this 2024 year, still with many challenges, we will continue our yearly campaign and will again have our Harvest Festival dinner on November 17th. We will combine our Harvest Festival and Thanksgiving Dinners together this year and will be delivering meals to those special members that are home bound.

Our Monetary Goal for 2024-2025 is \$15,000.

Please join us on Sunday, November 17th for our Thanksgiving Dinner and to Celebrate our Harvest Festival.

Turkey, Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Dressing, Drinks Will be Furnished

Please bring a complimentary side dish or dessert to complete the meal.

Our Church Family will, once again, be participating in the Christmas Cheer Program for the Aurora Public Schools. I explained to Paige McQuiston (Cheer Co-ordinator) that we would be doing a monetary donation like we did last year. She said that would be terrific as it fills the gaps for any new students added and will provide additional funds going forward.

If you want to participate in this Christmas Mission, please give your donations to Linda Ptacnik or place them in the offering plate and Bonita will see to it that Linda gets them. She will deposit the checks to FCC and will issue one check to the school. A donation check will be hand delivered to Ms. McQuiston on December 3rd.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH will be hosting their annual Soup and Pie Day on Tuesday, November 5th. A flyer is up at the back of the sanctuary.

VOTE and come out to the church for food and fellowship! Serving from 11:00 am—7:00 pm. Take-out is available!