



YOUR FCC CONNECTION

MARCH 2025

## PASTOR PENNY'S 2 CENTS...

Servanthood. What comes to mind when I say that word? For me I immediately start singing my favorite hymn, “Make me a Servant”. It’s not only a pretty tune, but the words are so fitting “Make me a servant, Humble and meek. Lord let me lift up Those who are weak. And may the prayer of my heart always be, Make me a servant, Make me a servant, Make me a servant today.” If you know the song, I am sure you are singing along.

But did you pay attention to the words. Humble, Meek, an intercessor, and an attitude of constantly looking to God for the ability to fulfill this calling. That’s big, Huge, Colossal! That is if we mean what we ask for.

This year with our youth we have focused on “others”. Helping, giving and serving. We did the mac n cheese drive which was a phenomenal amount of noodles! Then for Christmas with the help of the CWF, money was contributed for the dollar store so that each child could purchase gifts to give their parents and siblings.... Even a pet or two got a gift. You should have seen how much joy was on their faces for some this was the first time that they had “money” to buy gifts for their loved ones and they got to decorate the bags that they went in.

For Valentines we held a youth Spaghetti Fund Raiser.... They eat a lot so we called it “Feed the Children” Ha ha! And we have been doing more crafts and some will go to help with camps. This was a sit-down affair for all of the sweethearts. The kids, in black aprons waited on those who came bringing them their choice of beverage, then salad and dressing, followed by Spaghetti and finally the amazing cupcakes. It was a HUGE success, everyone that came left stuffed and blessed to be served. We raised a good amount as well. And the best part, the kids were so excited to play their role! Plus staying to clean up. They are getting the idea of what it means to be a servant not by reading about it, but by “doing”.

We are starting a series on the “Sermon on the Mount” in Matthew. Last Sunday was the Beatitudes or Blessings. Interesting how several resonated with the lyrics to the song, Humble, Meek. Jesus starts his sermon not with the list of dos and don’ts but of blessing for all no matter what station in life you are in. God sees you; He loves you and he assures you that He’s got you.

The sermon is one that is ultimately what we are concerned about, what the world says we need, but how God's plan is so much different. He will provide, he will calm your anxious mind and soul, he will give rest and power to the powerless. His focus is not on earthly things, but of the Kingdom of Heaven and where our riches should be stored. What we do down here affects how we will be in eternity.

Servanthood was a big priority for Jesus as he spent his whole ministry "serving", setting the example that we are to imitate. He said unless you become like little children you can not inherit the kingdom of God. What do kids do? Imitate, they trust and rely on the adults in their lives to take care of them, they are innocent and open minded to let the teachings of Jesus permeate their lives. As adults, we are called to do the same. Imitate Jesus, be his hands and feet, serve those that God places in front of us, trust that He will provide for our every NEED, not want. And come with innocence to the wonders that he has in store for each and everyone of us.

Now that is a sermon. That is a way of life. Not one of just listening, but of DOING! So Go be a Servant Today!

Showers of Blessings,

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.

As you take time for prayer each day, please include:

Bob & Sharon Nunnenkamp, Rob Nunnenkamp, Jim Ptacnik, Tanna Skarniak, John Schulz, Marti Engert, Robyn Cush, Sandi (Willis) Geier, Brittany (Regier) Stockstill, Harley Niles, Freddie (the Fighter) Farrell, Karen Thayer, Genene Willis, The Family of Roger Liebhart, Bruce & Yvonne Bradley, Jimmy & Stephany Miller, Lori Comer

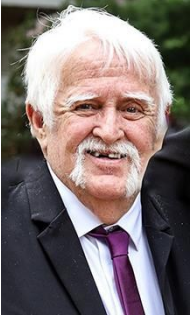
**We also pray for all those in our congregation and beyond who may be suffering from an illness or the stress of a family situation.**

*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](http://fcc@hamilton.net)) She will see that your requests are shared – as well as updates as they are received.

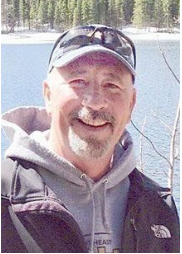
Words from Max Lucado's book—**Start With Prayer**

*Don't worry about having the right words; worry more about having the right heart. It's not eloquence he seeks, just honesty.*



**WE REMEMBER...**

Roger Liebhart passed away in Lincoln, Nebraska on January 29, 2025 at the age of 74. Roger was baptized in our church at the age of 10. He leaves behind two daughters, one son, two grandchildren, and a sister, Margie (Mike Gross). A celebration of life was held for Roger on February 13th with Pastor Penny officiating. Cards of condolence may be mailed to: Margie Gross, 609 K St., Aurora, NE 68818



We want to remember the family of Steve Miller in our prayers. Steve was the brother of Jimmie Joe (Stephany) Miller and was baptized in our church at the age of 10. He was born on November 25, 1955 and passed away on February 9, 2025. In addition to his brother, he is survived by his wife, Gina, two sons, one grand daughter and two brother-in laws. Cards of condolence may be mailed to: Jimmie Joe Miller, 919 9th St., Aurora, NE 68818

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Pastor Bruce and Yvonne Bradley. Yvonne’s mother, Velta Lee Hutchins, passed away on February 5, 2025 at the age of 91. She was born on December 27, 1933. She is survived by Yvonne & Bruce, one son-in law, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Cards of condolence may be mailed to: Yvonne & Pastor Bruce Bradley, 311 Alder Dr., Raymore, MO 64083.



**OUR LITTLE ‘COOKIE’ MONSTER** has a story to tell...and she shared it with the news media.

Elizabeth Sweet was born with a heart defect called patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) on May 29, 2019. Then, 15 months later, her parents Robert and Megan Sweet, said doctors discovered something was wrong with her.

Doctors confirmed that she had a heart murmur and a hole in her heart. They determined that she needed to have surgery to go in and fix her mitral valve. Megan said it was hard to hear that they want to cut your child open to fix their heart.

All this was in August 2022 and this is the only surgery Elizabeth has had. She is hopeful and stable now, however she needs her meds every night before bed.

Elizabeth, now five years old, shared she wants to be a voice for her peers and raise awareness to children born with heart defects.

**AND HERE SHE IS—OUR COOKIE MONSTER— THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR STORY WITH US!!**

DEACONS / ELDERS / COMMUNION PREP

Mar 2

Deacons: H Enderle, D Enderle, Parker  
Elders: Dave & Jean Sanderson  
Communion Prep: Jana Luthy

Mar 9

Deacons: P Willis, C Enderle, See  
Elders: Jean & Dave Sanderson  
Communion Prep: Pat Willis

Mar 16

Deacons: Nunnenkamp, Nunnenkamp. Forsman  
Elders: Sandy Anderson & Linda Ptacnik  
Communion Prep: Louise Mills

Mar 23

Deacons: Dorsey, Weinrich, Weinrich  
Elders: Linda Ptacnik & Sandy Anderson  
Communion Prep: Cindy Weinrich

Mar 24

Deacons: **OUR YOUTH**  
Elders: Dick & Pat Phillips  
Communion Prep: Cadance Enderle

**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 10 Chantell Schulz

Mar 17 Jim Ptacnik

Mar 18 Karen Holloway

Mar 26 Hailey Sweet

Mar 2 Joe & Louise Sigona (62)

Mar 5 Marty & Stephanie Auman (37)

Mar 11 Robert & Megan Sweet

Mar 15 Dave & Jean Sanderson (61)

CWF

NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY,

MARCH 4, 2025

2:00 PM—Senior Center

**Youth Group** meets after early school dismissals on Wednesday in Friendship Hall. If there is no school, we will not meet. We now have a text-mail group set up and will send out notifications as necessary.

**VOLUNTEERS** are needed for helping with Youth Group. If you can help, please get in touch with Pastor Penny or Kristin. **\*\*No experience required. Will train\*\***

The Worship Committee has received an order of Lenten Devotionals and they are located on the desk at the back of the Sanctuary. Please pick up your copy this week.



**Pastor Penny**

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

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

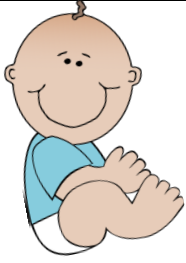
**Website: [fccaurorane.org](http://fccaurorane.org)**

**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**



BRENT DEAN FURSE was born February 6, 2025 to Tom and Rikki Furse of Grand Island, weighing 8 pounds 2.5. ounces and 21.5 inches long. Welcoming him home are 2-1/2 year-old twin sisters, Clara and Allison. Grandparents are Sandy Milton of Grand Island and Cheryl Furse of Grand Island. Great-grandparents are (Gigi and Papa) Butch and Nancy Furse.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!!

On Super Bowl Sunday (February 8th), the CWF hosted their annual fundraiser soup dinner for the congregation. We took in \$103 for the free-will offering—and WE THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

We enjoyed five different kinds of soup (Chicken Noodle, Ham and Bean, Cheeseburger, Chili, and Cheesy Potato) and ham salad sandwiches, bars and treats. Our group of ladies included: Pat Phillips, Pat Willis, Dawn Enderle, Carole and Holee Nunnenkamp, Linda Ptacnik, Connie Nielsen, Louise Mills, Sandy Anderson, Karen Holloway and Karen Wilshusen.

**REMINDER**—the last Sunday of each month is when we ask our Youth to help with the morning services. Our “Young Deacons” have helped several Sunday’s in the past, but if there are any new youth who would also like to participate, please let your parents know and we can help them. Our next Youth Deacons are scheduled for March 30th.



**DON’T FORGET**—Daylight Savings Time Change is coming right up—March 9th! Please remember to set your clocks forward one hour the night before!

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

**PUCC Church. Wednesday, March 5th at 6:30 PM**

**COME & JOIN US FOR A WONDERFUL  
TIME AND THINK SPRING!**



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SPRING CRAFT & VENDORS SHOW

2400 WEST 14TH ST—GRAND ISLAND

FRIDAY MARCH 28TH—12:00 PM—5:00 PM

SATURDAY MARCH 29TH—9:00 AM—3:00 PM

**Church folks and  
God’s folks are not the  
same thing. Church  
folks go to church.  
God’s folks are the  
church.**

We would like to say a big thank you to all who came out and supported our youth for the spaghetti dinner, donated time, money, supplies, and helped prepare or clean up. It was a great opportunity for our youth to practice what they are learning about being a servant and serving others. I want to say a special thank you to Dawn, Warren, and Pastor Penny, who worked tirelessly to make sure everything went smoothly. Dawn-the cupcakes were delicious! The evening was a huge success!

We continue to have a pretty amazing group of kids who come back each week for food, fun, fellowship, and to learn more about the Lord. A couple of our youth had people outside of church ask them about God and their faith because they were wearing clothes or jewelry that talked about God. This led to a great discussion about all of our faith, and the most important things people need to know about God. We also discussed how what we wear can become an opportunity to tell people about God. This led to Dawn (our newest youth group volunteer...and a blessing for both the youth and the adults!) to offer a very special opportunity to the youth. I won't say any more yet...stay tuned for pictures in the coming months. It will be epic!

—Kristen Scharrenberg, Contributor



L-R: Marcus—Kyler—Warren—Allyson—Annabelle—Chris

