



## YOUR FCC CONNECTION

JUNE 2024

Summertime, summertime sum, sum summertime... sing with me I know the Beach Boys song is running through your head. At least it is mine. A time full of family, fun, vacations, maybe lazy days, gardening, home projects, doing favorite outdoor hobbies or pastimes. As I was looking at my calendar for June it is packed. It will be over before it starts, but it will be full of opportunities for God to move and work. I just love those times when God plants either someone right in front of you or you in front of them to be an answer to a prayer, or a question. When one has been asking, seeking and knocking for a while and then God uses you in the equation, well that for me is just about the coolest thing. The problem is so many of us do not recognize or appreciate those moments when they come. We do not always Thank God for blessing us with this encounter. Far too often we spend our time preoccupied, noses in our phones or tablets. Consumed with the day-to-day stuff that we are oblivious to those random, precious moments when God is trying to get our attention.

I love spring as it is full of hope, new life, rebirth. I do love the process of planting a seed and watching it grow, or appreciating those seeds that were planted in the fall, die in the winter only to emerge full of life in the spring, and continue to flourish through the summer. It is a terrific reminder that God is in control, he brings forth life and new birth. He pays attention to all of his creation, even watching over the sparrow so I know he watches over me.

I am so blessed to be presiding over a wedding in our church this weekend. What joy, a new start together as man and wife. A new beginning as a family unit. One that when focused on God and His design for our lives will be forever a blessing. The men and women that God has put into this young couple's lives to help nurture, encourage and love on them is not an accident, but a divine appointment.

In the Book of Acts we discover that for the Disciples it was a time of new birth as well. Now filled with the Holy Spirit they were emboldened to forge out into uncharted territory spreading the Gospel message to any and all who would listen. There is example after example of God appointed moments when he placed the apostles and those who were searching and seeking in front of each other. Lives were changed, baptisms occurred, people were healed, blessed and lives started anew. They were aware of how God was moving and orchestrating these crucial moments. Ones that either softened hearts or turned them away. Moments when the truth caused religious leaders to writhe in fury, or times when someone was cut to the core, humbled themselves and repented.

What divine appointments has God orchestrated for you? Were you recently the recipient or the one being the vessel? I personally had 4 such moments all in one day, from a bank teller to a gas station worker, a migrant and medical personnel. What Joy to be used by him to deliver a word of hope, an answer, and to be a blessing.

As you go about your summer fun and absorb the warmth of the sun, remember to pay attention, to be willing to be used by God, because when you do the warmth of the SON will spring forth new life.

Shalom

Pastor Penny

## WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

The Center of Church Development and Vitality is asking our church to put together a collection of images or video clips that capture the heart and soul of our church, and answers the following questions:

**What is something our congregation does well? Our strengths? What would make someone want to come join our church?**

**Reversely, what is something our congregation wants and needs to work on?**

Pastor Penny has graciously agreed to put this together, but she needs our help. Please email, text, or write and hand deliver your answers to these questions to her by Sunday June 16 so that she has time to create our masterpiece. Everyone's opinions are important and welcomed!

## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

First Christian Church,

Thank you for the lovely basket of Mother's Day flowers delivered by Pat Phillips. What a kind and welcoming thought. Walt and I also greatly appreciate the beautiful cards Karen Holloway sends on special occasions. It is heartwarming to be thoughtfully remembered by the congregation in this way.

Ardis & Walt Jacobs

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 help out, please contact Linda See at 402-694-1717, or Karen Holloway at 402-694-2220 and they can assist you.

## WE'RE WORSHIPPING OUTSIDE!

Starting in June, we are going to meet one Sunday per month (usually the first Sunday) at 9:30 AM for a joint, outdoor worship service. We will meet in the lot east of the PUCC, which we have decided to call the East Porch. There will be music, communion, a wonderful message, and as always amazing fellowship. There will even be food (except for this first Sunday in June). Bring a lawn chair, or a tailgate, and join us for worship on the porch!



**June 2**  
**July 7**  
**August 4**  
**September 8**



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, Lee & Val Jones, Bob & Sharon Nunnenkamp, Rob Nunnenkamp, Jim & Linda Ptacnik, Tanna Skarniak, Mary Jacobs, Stacey Holloway, Jason Wilson, John Schulz, Marlene Flodman, Marti Engert, Jerry & Maxine Hurlbut, Linda Ross-Happy, Michael Wienrich, Ardys Jacobs, Robyn Cush, Jean Sanderson, those impacted by the tornadoes, especially in Nebraska, Iowa, and Oklahoma

**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)

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

As a congregation, I would like us to prayerfully consider the following:

The backpack program, which sends home supplies on Friday afternoons during the school year, served 41 families (185 people) this past school year. In visiting with Pat Pickering from the PUC, I have found that they are also in need of funds. I would like to suggest that for those who feel called to give, that we could give them our financial support on odd months, & the Food Pantry on even months. Financial donations can be mailed to:

Pat Pickering  
803 15th St  
Aurora NE 68818

As always, thank you for your continued support and generosity!

-Pat Willis

### **FOOD PANTRY UPDATES**

Memory has graciously agreed to be our new representative from the FCC. Several of us will continue to volunteer as her “helpers.” We all so appreciate her willingness to take this on! Thanks Memory!

## 10/11 CAN CARE-A-VAN

**Tuesday, June 11, 2024 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

HAMILTON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

1118 N Street in Aurora (corner of 12th & N Streets)

This is the **20th year for the annual Can Care-A-Van**, a huge donation drive for the Hamilton County Food Pantry. **The goal this year is to collect 20,000 lbs of food.** Cash donations are counted as 2 lbs of food for every \$1.00 in cash donated, and are used locally to purchase needed food items

**Food items needed:** canned soup, pasta sauce, peanut butter, canned tuna or chicken, canned fruit, cold cereal, pork & beans, boxed macaroni & cheese, toilet paper, laundry detergent

**Donations may be mailed to:** PO Box 7, Aurora NE 68818 (Please mail early to ensure they are received by Tuesday, June 11, 2024)

**Mark your calendars**, and plan to stop by to make a donation, and take the opportunity to meet and greet KOLN/KGIN personalities.

Any questions may be directed to:

Judy Werth at 402-725-3528 or Kathy Ramsour at 402-694-2325

### Live Life in the Spirit is 1 year old!



Can you believe it??? We can't! Forty-two episodes in fifty-two weeks! We have discussed everything from how to face your giants and what true healing looks like, to letting God write your story and what it would take for God to be enough. We are almost finished with our deep dive into the book of Revelation. We have shared joy and laughter, tears and tough topics. We have bared our souls, and done our best to bring more to Christ! This ministry has reached people in countries all over the world, from Germany to Aukland, Israel to Mexico, and so many in between! Friends and followers everywhere from Oregon to Tennessee are supporting us by wearing our "God Is Still Writing Your Story" t-shirts (if you're interested, let Pastor Penny or Kristen know!).

Though we have been at this for a year, we are still growing and learning in so many areas. Unlike many other content creators, we don't have a team of people doing all the work behind the scenes...we do it all! Our content can be found not only on our website, <https://livelifeinthespirit.com> but also on YouTube, Rumble, and most of the podcast feeds (iHeart Radio, Apple podcasts, Amazon Music, Spotify, Podcaster, and many more). We are also on Facebook, TikTok, most recently X, and soon to be Instagram as well.

We both feel incredibly blessed to be able to spread the Good News of Salvation in Jesus to so many people around the world, to share the truth of what is happening in the world around us, to offer hope in what can seem like very dark times, and to get to do this together. It is hard work. Sometimes it is frustrating work. We have prayed our way through many trials. We often record in spite of being sick, or tired, or needed in a hundred different places. We do it because we feel led and called. We do it because we love it. And we do it because maybe someone will find an answer they are looking for in what we put out there, and their life will be forever changed.

As we say at the end of every episode, "Once you know, you can't un-know" and what you chose to do with the information we share is up to you, but "You can't say we didn't tell you."

Shalom,  
Pastor Penny and Kristen

DEACONS / ELDERS / COMMUNION PREP

**June 2**

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

**June 9**

Elders: Sandy Anderson & Connie Nielsen  
Deacons: T Willis, C Enderle, M Paz  
Communion Prep: Kristen Scharrenberg

**June 16**

Elders: Connie Nielsen & Sandy Anderson  
Deacons: Nunnenkamp, Nunnenkamp, Forsman  
Communion Prep: Dawn Enderle

**June 23**

Elders: Dick & Pat Phillips  
Deacons: Weinrich, Dorsey, See  
Communion Prep: Lyn Seifried

**June 30**

Elders: Pat & Dick Phillips  
Deacons: YOUTH  
Communion Prep: Nunnenkamps

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.*



JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

June 1 Amber Eaton  
June 2 Lori Comer, Jerry Hurlbut  
June 5 Connie Nicklasson, Jay Mitchell  
June 6 James Anderson  
June 7 Grace Holtzen  
June 11 Dorothy Hanway, Shayn Holloway  
June 22 Bev White  
June 25 Risa Holloway  
June 27 Mary Campbell

June 3 Jim & Grace Holtzen (56 years)  
June 5 Doug & Pat Anderson  
June 25 Dennis & Jill Comer  
June 27 Ron & Fern Paider (59 years)

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Has been cancelled for the foreseeable future.**

**We will reassess interest in the fall.**

**CWF LADIES**

**We are done meeting for the summer.**

See you in September!

**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**



## **Baptisms and Dedications...what a glorious Sunday!**

Pastor Penny has shared with many of us that one of the most treasured times she had on our trip to Israel was getting to be a part of baptizing 25 people in the Jordan River. Being a part of someone's baptism, of that outward expression of their inward faith and walk with Christ, is not only special but sacred and holy.

On May 19, all who were present had the honor of witnessing four baptisms and two child dedications. And water from the Jordan River may just have found its way into the baptismal!

Renee Enderle, Sarah Enderle, Stacey Friesen, and Aly Schmidt were baptized

Laykin and Lowit Enderle were dedicated

God's continued blessings, protection, and provision for all six of them!



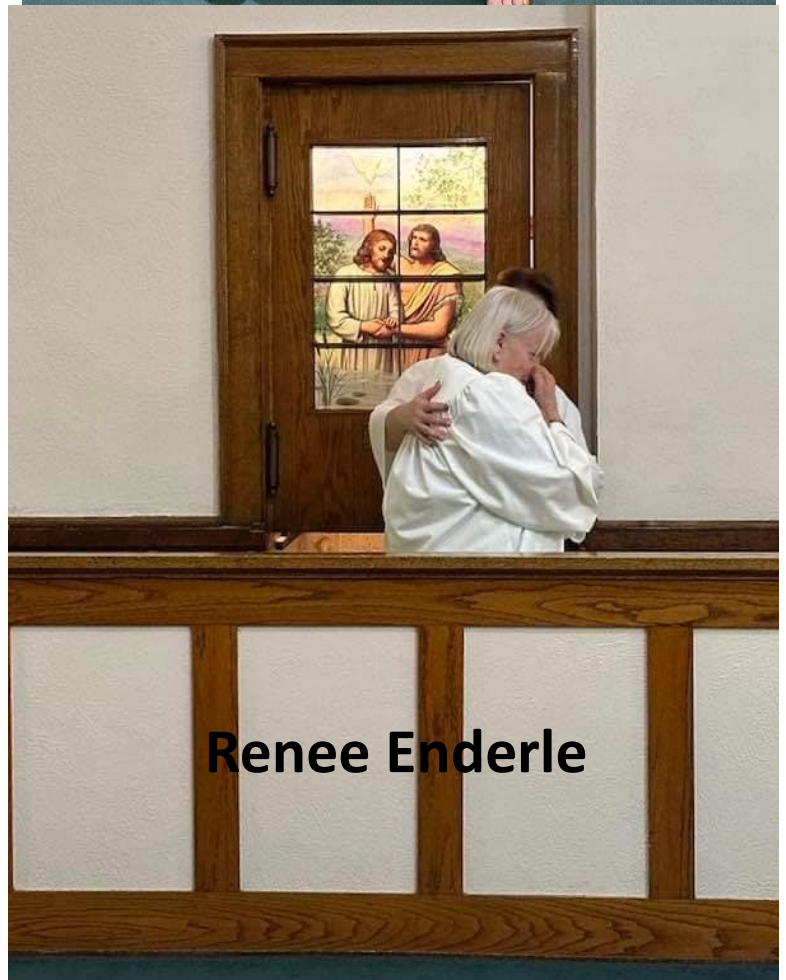
**Aly Schmidt**







**Stacey Friesen**



**Renee Enderle**





Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.

We are all one in Christ Jesus.

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as members of the family of Christ.

