Sue’s Musings

I’ve been doing some musing on what it means to “Grow Where We Are Planted.” This has been one of our guiding principles as we plan our church activities – does what we do show our commitment to the neighborhood we are planted in? Does it invite others in? How well do we welcome the community when they walk through our doors? Do we have space for more community activities? I invite you to consider those questions with me. For example:

- **We are an Open and Affirming Church** – As one of the few churches in town that has a LGBTQ person in the pulpit how can we share with others in our community that this is not only a safe place to be, but a place where people of any sexual orientation or gender identity can find their place to serve and fulfill their calling to be full participants and contributors to the ministry we are all called to?

- **We are a BUSY church in the mornings** – Southeast Community College, Lincoln Literacy, and McPhee all have classes and groups that meet here during the mornings. We’re a pretty quiet church in the afternoons, which means we have lots of building resources that are underutilized. Are there groups whose goals are to support and serve others who could use a place to meet?

- **We have four AA groups that meet here – Monday thru Thursday evenings** - What can we do to build connections with them?

These are some of the things I’ve been thinking about. I welcome your ideas in response to these questions – and wonder – what other questions to you think about, when it comes to our church and growing where we are planted? And do you have connections with groups we can reach out to?

Pastor Sue

~ Rooted in God ~ Open to Grace ~ Filled with Joy ~
Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, April 22 | Sanctuary | Following 11:00 am service

Join us to elect elders and deacons and to approve changes to the Bylaws. To read the proposed bylaw changes, go to pages 14-15.

Do You Feel Called to Care for Members of Our Church?

Maybe God Is Calling You to Be a Deacon! The Session has decided to reform a Board of Deacons, who will focus on member care. We have had groups doing this under different names in the past (Care of Members Committee, Member Nurture and Evangelism Committee), however we feel it is time to bring back formal deacons.

The Deacons will meet once a month, and will also need the support of people who may not be ordained deacons or serve on the Board, who enjoy visiting. If you feel called to explore the ministry of deacon or visitor, or want more information please be in touch with Nate Van Meter, chair of the Congregational Nominating Committee.

Would You Like to Help Grow our Church?

Would you like to be part of growing the fellowship of our church? Then come join the Member Fellowship & Evangelism Committee, which is focused on strengthening the fellowship of the church and reaching out to new guests and members. We are looking for fresh and creative ideas so if you are interested in joining us please contact Dianne Frydendall-Smith or Pam Boyle.
Spaces and Places

Here some of things we’ve done to spruce up our church in March:
1. Paint the Church Administrator’s Office
2. Set up the library office
3. Put up new curtains and blinds in several offices and rooms
4. Put up the last of the art in the Rousseau Gallery

We’ve already done a lot, but we have more projects ahead of us. Please contact Dianne Frydendall-Smith or Lynne Hughes if you’re interested in helping out!

McPhee Science Fair

On Thursday, March 8th, members of our congregation took time out of their days to help judge the McPhee science fair. This is an annual event that FPC members help with and they had a lot of fun this year!

Kris Brammer listening intently to a presentation
Pam Carrier watching a project at work!
Session Highlights

Christian Education
Kris is leading the Senior High Youth Sunday School class during Lent, teaching the “Gospel Portraits of Jesus”. FPC will hold a combined VBS with Eastridge church this year, which will be held at Eastridge the week of June 4th in the mornings. Graduate recognition will be held June 3rd.

Member Fellowship and Evangelism
Session approved reconvening the Board of Deacons. The job duties were approved by session. Grocery Cards will be sold on the first and third Sunday’s each month.

Music and Fine Arts
Working on the lineup of artists and concerts for the AFTS 2018/2019 season of events.

Property
Working on parking policy, creating stickers for member’s cars as well as those that are here on a regular basis and new parking signs.

Session
We have tentatively set April 22nd for a congregational meeting to elect elders, deacons, and approve the bylaw changes.

2018 Spring Fellowship Trip
May 18-20
To commemorate our 11th trip, we’ll be visiting the site of our first trip in 2007 - the western Sandhills in the area north of Ogallala. We will leave around noon on Friday, May 18 and return by early evening Sunday, May 20. To sign up, contact Walt Schacht (wschacht@unl.edu; 402-326-0086) and fill out a registration form, found in the church office, by May 1. The trip will be limited to 50 people.
Thank you to the Christian Education Committee for all their work and time to help host last month’s Jesus Seminar on the Road event. And thank you to all who donated cookies, treats, and funds for cookies and treats for the event. We couldn’t have pulled it off without you!

Pray and Play,
Kris “Bubba” Brammer

What’s Happening in April!

**Children’s Ministry**

April 1 - Easter Sunday (no Sunday school or activity time)

April 8, 15, 22, 29 - Children’s & Youth Sunday School

**Youth Ministry**

April 1 - Easter Sunday (no Youth Group)

April 8, 5:30 pm - Youth Group, Canned Food Challenge

April 15, 5:30 pm - Youth Group @ FPC

April 22, 5:30 pm - Youth Group (location TBD)

April 29, 5:30 pm - Closing Party & Cookout @ Kris Brammer’s home

**Adult Ministry**

Bible Discovery Class (Sundays, 9:45 am, Room 105) - The theme will be “All Glory and Honor” with passages from Luke, John and Revelation as they discuss the glory and honor due upon the Christ Risen

Rousseau Class (Sundays, 9:45 am, Room 107) - Is starting a new study called “Embracing Emergence Christianity.” This DVD based series is based on Phyllis Tickles’s idea of the church’s next great “rummage sale.”

Third Sunday HeBrews (Sunday April 15, 10:00 am, Room 211) - This month’s workshop is “Adult Confirmation 101: Who is God?” We will explore the different understanding of who God is, what God does, and how these debates have shaped the church as it is today.

**FORUM | April 29**

This will be the final FORUM of the spring (for April & May) where we will be led by some members of the Stephen’s Ministry group to tell us about their mission and what their ministry is all about. Hope to see you there!
Thank you...
to everyone who attended the luncheon on March 11th, especially to those who prepared food, served and help clean up. Contributions to the Birthday Offering came to over $400 which will greatly help with the mission work for a needy organization.

A long time member of this church, Twila Schafer died in March and the Funeral Committee served luncheon to the family.

If anyone is interested in helping with funerals or providing food, please contact either the church office or Terri Sherman (402) 525-6008.

The Spring Gathering  
*Isaiah 60:1*  “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.”

Hickman Presbyterian Church | Saturday April, 28 9:00 am-1:00 pm

NAME: ______________________ ADDRESS: ________________________________

PHONE NUMBER: _______________ EMAIL ADDRESS: ________________________

CHURCH TOWN: ____________________

Number attending:

Registration due by March 30th to:
Charlene Cochell  
24375 S. 54th Firth, NE 68358  
(402)792-2826

Cost is $8.00. Please mail check and this form to the contact listed above. Thank you!

Join us in donating a children’s book to women’s shelters with an emphasis on domestic violence and sexual assault awareness.
April brings us **Earth Day and Arbor Day**, two opportunities to help us celebrate this amazing world. Browse the selection of books focusing on **God’s Creation**.

We also have a number of new books, for adults and children, across all areas of interest. Please drop in and take a look!

**Frequently Asked Questions about the Library:**

**Q - Who can check out books from the FPC Library?**
A – Anyone! Check out is simple, using a self-checkout system. Fill out the book card found in the card pocket in the back of the book and drop the card in the book card box on top of the book return. You are done!

**Q – For how long can books be checked out?**
A – Books are checked out for three weeks. If you keep the book for longer, that is fine. There are no late fees. If it is still out after several months, you may be contacted about returning it.

**Q – Do you take suggestions for book titles for the Library?**
A – Yes! If you have ideas for books that would be a good addition to the Library, please let Julie Van Meter know. A suggestion box should also be coming soon, so watch for that.

**Q – How can I donate books to the Library?**
A – If you have books that you would like to donate, bring them to the Library, and set them on the counter in the orange donations box. If they are a good fit for the Library, they will be catalogued and added to the shelves. Books that can’t be used in the Library will be donated.

**Q – Can groups meet in the Library?**
A – Yes, the Library is a perfect meeting spot for small groups. Please contact the church office to reserve the Library for your event or meeting.
The Crossroads Project
Friday, April 27th | 7:30 PM

The Crossroads Project is the collective effort of a scientist and a community of artists who are committed to moving our world toward a sustainable, just, vibrant future. Crossroads is powerful storytelling – grounded in science, elevated by art – igniting informed response through live performance and shared experience.

"A performance piece that draws on music, painting, photography and scientific research to entertain, enlighten and, ultimately, encourage people to live sustainably."
- The New York Times

"Arts to stir hearts – performance art and performance science..."
- NPR

With physicist Dr. Robert Davies, the Fry Street String Quartet, original music by composer Laura Kaminsky, and visual works by artist Rebecca Allan and photo-journalist Garth Lenz

To purchase tickets you can order them through the church office (402) 477 - 6037 or online at www.fpclinoln.org
On Sunday, March 4th, we welcomed John Ferguson for the Hymn Festival. John is one of the foremost experts in performing church music and we were lucky enough to have John work with the FPC choir and even run a workshop!

John Ferguson rehearsing with the FPC and Presbyterian Church of the Cross Chamber Singers

Pictured (left to right) are Brian Pfoltner, Kristi Treu (conductor of PCC Chamber Singers) and John Ferguson following the concert
Revamping our Newsletter

You may have noticed some changes to our newsletter - we have left off the calendar and birthdays, for separate reasons. Because the calendar often changes, we felt it would be better to leave it off. Regarding the birthdays, we left if off because the newsletter can be accessed by anyone over the internet and we want to avoid any kind of identity theft/fraud. Both the church calendar and member birthdays can be seen through the First Online or Sunday bulletin insert.

Women in Community Service (WICS) Annual Soup Supper
Tuesday, April 3rd | Southview Christian Church | 4:00 pm

This is a fundraiser for the WICS transitional home for girls. Tickets are $7 for adults, $3 for children over 3 years old. Tickets may be purchased from Arta Smith (smith.arta@gmail.com, or call (402) 613-6931) or at the door. Five homemade soups, bread and pies will be served.

Church Women United
Friday, April 6th | Christ United Methodist Church | 6:30 pm

Please join us where we will welcome Alynn Sampson from the food bank who will be presenting on the topic of “Bridges out of Poverty”.

Sand Dollars Potluck
Friday, April 13th | Fellowship Hall | 6:30 pm

You won’t want to miss our program featuring our own Paul Jasa, a highly regarded biological systems engineer with the UNL extension service. He’s going to discuss the question “How is crop agriculture going to continue to feed the world?” To RSVP contact Arta Smith. All are welcome!!
Flyleaf Book Club
Friday, April 20th | Library | 9:00 am

The book club will be discussing the book Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi in April.

Help with painting Fellowship Hall
Friday, April 20th | 6:30 pm, Saturday, April 21st | 2:00 pm

Andrew Peterson will be painting Fellowship Hall with his Eagle Project, representing Troop 12. If you are interested in helping, please contact Andrew at andrewpeterson2000@gmail.com

FPC Prayer Chain

We have a new email prayer chain! If you are needing prayer, please contact the church office. If you feel called to pray for others please stop by the Volunteer Opportunities in Service and Ministry table located in the Welcome Center for information about joining the prayer chain.

Sunday Morning Drivers

Our drivers are Pam Boyle, Nancy Field, Lynne Hughes and Nancy Janike.

If you are in need of a ride to Sunday worship, call or email the church office (402-477-6037, info@fpclincoln.org).
Call for hygiene products

We're taking donations of hotel/travel size toothbrushes & toothpaste, soap, shampoo and any other hygiene items you can think of. These items are placed in the bathroom nearest the East Entrance and our neighbors really appreciate being able to take the toiletries they need. Drop any off any donations in the church office.

Ways to Give!

Amazon Smile
Sign up at smile.amazon.com, choose First Presbyterian Church as your charity, and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to FPC! You MUST enter through smile.amazon.com for your purchase to qualify.

Propelr with Union Bank
Visit this link - https://www.ubt.com/personal-banking/debit-cards/propelr - and choose First Presbyterian Church as your selected organization. Participating merchants will donate a percentage of the purchase with your UBT card to FPC.

Online
Go to: www.onrealm.org/fpclincoln/Give and follow the directions.

To donate via text
Text the message Mission Possible to 73256 and follow the directions.
The growth of the congregation and the steady encroachment of businesses upon the church brought about the decision to sell the church building and the lot at 13th and M Streets. The builders of the Cornhusker hotel paid $75,000 for the building and lot in March of 1925 and the last service was held Sunday, July 12, 1925.

The building was demolished on Monday, July 13th 1925 with the bell tower being dynamited and the blast causing streets to be closed as well as breaking windows. Our current lot was purchased from Mrs. A.J. Sawyer, widow of the former Mayor of Lincoln in May of 1925.
Proposed Bylaw Changes

The Session has been working on updating our bylaws to keep pace with how we communicate and work in the 21st Century. At our next congregational meeting (set for Sunday, April 22 following the 11 am worship service), the session will be presenting the following bylaw changes for your approval:

Article IV Section 4. Notice of Meetings. Oral or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of any meeting of members shall be sent delivered either personally or by mail, or by electronic or digital means to each member entitled to vote at such meeting, not less than two successive Sundays nor more than fifty (50) days before the date of such meeting. Such notice may be made by (i) announcement at regular Sunday morning worship services or (ii) mail, if included in any publication regularly and frequently published and sent mailed to members by deposit with the U. S. Postal Service at such members' address as appears on the books of the Corporation, postage prepaid.

Background: This recognizes that communication today also includes email and text.

Article V Section 4. Notice. Notice of any special meeting of the board of directors shall be sent given at least two (2) three (3) days prior thereto by written notice delivered personally, by telephone, or by mail, or by electronic or digital means to each director at such director's address as shown by the records of the Corporation.

Background: This allows the session to respond more quickly if needed to issues that arise.

Article V Section 10. Action Without Meeting. Any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Session [board of directors] may be taken without a meeting if authorized by a writing signed by all two-thirds of the Session Members [directors] and filed with the Secretary of the Corporation. Email, text, or other electronic or digital means are considered a signed writing.

Background: This allows the session to act if needed, if some session members are unavailable to respond to requests for action without a meeting. Generally these requests for action are either non-controversial, or there are unusual extenuating circumstances that make having a meeting not practical or possible.
Article V Section 11. **Remote Attendance Telephone Conference.** Session Members [directors] may participate in a meeting through the use of conference telephone, video meeting software, or similar communications equipment so long as all Session Members [directors] participating in such meeting can hear one another. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this section shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

**Background:** This recognizes that today’s technology makes other ways of participating in a meeting possible.

Article VI Section 7. **Treasurer.**
The **Church Administrator or other such person designated by the Session**, Treasurer shall have responsibility for (1) all funds and securities of the Corporation; (2) the receipt of all moneys due and payable to the Corporation; (3) the deposit of all such moneys in the name of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositaries as shall be designated by the Session [board of directors]; and, in general, perform all the duties incident to the **responsibilities of financial oversight and management**, office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or by the Session [board of directors].

The **Session shall appoint a treasurer, who shall serve on a finance review and oversight committee, and is responsible for reconciling bank accounts, reviewing detailed financial reports, annual audits and financial reviews, and monitoring adherence to the church finance policy.**

If required by the Session [board of directors], the Treasurer **or person designated by session for financial oversight and management** shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of duties in such sum and with such one or more sureties as the board of directors shall determine.

**Background:** Since we hire someone to handle all of our financial business, the treasurer has not done the work defined in our bylaws for many years. This change recognizes our current practice, and gives specific responsibilities to the treasurer that allows us to have a good system of checks and balances in our practice.
First Presbyterian Church
Where faith is nurtured, curiosity is encouraged, diversity is welcomed, and all are loved.

For after-hour calls to the church office, 402-477-6037, the staff voicemail extensions and e-mail addresses follow:

Pastor/Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Sue Coller
x 103 scoller@fpclincoln.org

Parish Associate for Sudanese Ministry:
Rev. Jock Tut Paleak
x 114 jtutPaleak@gmail.com

Music Director: Dr. Brian Pfoltner
x 121 musicdir@fpclincoln.org

Organist: Dr. Charles W. Ore
charles.w.ore@gmail.com

Director of Christian Education: Kris Brammer
x 106 dce@fpclincoln.org

Church Administrator: Carrie Cross
x 102 churchadmin@fpclincoln.org

Office Assistant: David Kamran
x 101 Office Assist@fpclincoln.org

Custodian/Maintenance: Jeff Kephart
maintenance@fpclincoln.org

Outside Classes and Programs @ FPC:

ESL SCC - Monday-Thursday
McPhee Parent Group - Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri
Irish Dancers - Mondays
Men’s AA - Mondays
Women’s AA - Tuesdays
LGBT AA - Wednesdays
Big Book Club AA - Tuesdays and Thursdays
Lincoln Lit - Tuesdays & Wednesdays
OLLI Book Club - 3rd Friday of the month

Here at FPC, we warmly welcome any sort of group or organization that provides needed services for members of our community.

Please notify the church office of any name, address, email, and/or telephone changes.