

## Sue's Musings

Last month I encouraged you to think about how we can open our space for more community groups to find a home, and how we can up our hospitality to those who have found a home here. It was kind of an inward focused article – how can we serve our community through opening our hearts, arms, and space?

This month, let's look outward – rather than how can we invite others to come to us, how can we go to them?

I shared with the session that one thing that makes a big difference in sharing who we are and how FPC can spread the word that we are here to make a difference in the name of Christ, is that we GET OUT OF THE BUILDING and be visible in other places.

**How visible are you, as a member of FPC, in the community?**

**Do you share with others that you attend here?**

**Do you share the great things that are happening here?**

Is this easy? Maybe for the extroverts among us! But for us introverts, especially, us shy ones, it is really hard to break out of our quietness and to be visible and to share the good things we're doing. I fall under the category of a shy introvert. I have asked the session to help me get out more – to invite me to join them at community gatherings, events that are in line with our mission, and to join them in gathering with groups of people who share our passion in caring for others and making a difference.

But your pastor shouldn't be the only one out in the community. You will actually have a bigger impact than I ever could with your friends by sharing with them what we're doing and how they can join us in making a difference.

So your assignment is two-fold:

- Be visible! Be loud! Share with others what we're doing here and invite them to join us in the work.
- Take an introvert with you. (I know I'm not the only one in the congregation!)

*Pastor Sue*

*~ Rooted in God ~ Open to Grace ~ Filled with Joy ~*



# Congregational Events & News

## Sunday Worship Hours - It's that time of year again!

- May 27 (Memorial Day weekend): ONE service only at 10 am (Sanctuary)
- Every Sunday between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend: TWO services at 8:30 am (Great Hall) and 10 am (Sanctuary)
- September 2 (Labor Day weekend) ONE service only at 10 am (Sanctuary)
- September 9 and Sundays following: TWO services at 8:30 am (Great Hall) and 11 am (Sanctuary)

In addition, our Sudanese service will be at its regular time Sundays at 12:30 pm in Great Hall, every Sunday except the first Sundays of the month.

## Summer Choir & Bells

Starting in June we will have summer choir and handbells. Both are for not only those who have sung or played before, but also for those who have never sung or rung bells but would like to give it a try.

The only rehearsals will be on the Sunday morning before we play. We will meet at 9:10 a.m. and take part in the 10:00 a.m. service (for the bell Sunday please be there 9:00 am to get setup).

No choir robes or bell black dress. The music will be easy to learn in the short rehearsal time before church. This would be a great way for new people to give it a try!

It would be helpful for both groups, but especially for the bell Sunday if you would let Brian Pfofner know in advance if you plan to come.

### Schedule

June 3	Choir
June 10	Choir
June 17	Choir
June 24	Choir
July 1	Bells



# Congregational Events & News

## 2018 Spring Fellowship Trip May 18-20 - deadline to sign-up May 9

Join us to commemorate our 11th trip, where we'll be visiting the site of our first trip in 2007 - the western Sandhills in the area north of Ogallala. To sign up, contact Walt Schacht ([wschacht@unl.edu](mailto:wschacht@unl.edu); 402-326-0086) and fill out a registration form, found in the church office.

## McPhee SPLASH Thursday, May 10 | 5:30 PM | McPhee Elementary School

SPLASH stands for Super Plans and Learning Activities for Summer Happenings and every spring we at FPC host this event at McPhee Elementary with games, prizes, food and ideas for summer learning fun for the children. This year **we need 150 donations of regular sized toothpaste & toothbrushes and books!**

Monetary donations are also accepted. Drop off any donations off to the church by **Sunday, May 6**. Contact Pam Carrier ([pamcarrier@gmail.com](mailto:pamcarrier@gmail.com)) if you are interested in helping out.

## Capital Campaign for Parking & Community Gardens

You voted to purchase, you voted to provide funding, and in faith we moved forward!

The lot on 17<sup>th</sup> & F has been purchased, the houses have been raised and the ground has been prepared for the new community gardens that will fill it this fall. Now all that's left is to pay for it, and for the new parking lot that will be coming to our lot on 18<sup>th</sup> St.

We are trying to raise \$100,000 in gifts and gift commitments for the project between now and June 30. Payments can be pledged over the next two-plus calendar years, with final payments due Dec. 31, 2020. Questions about the project can be directed to Pastor Sue, or any member of the Session.

## Do you like to knit or crochet?

We have a place for you! We are looking to start our knitting group back up to work on Prayer Shawls, Baptismal blankets or other projects that may need to be done. If you are interested please contact Carrie ([churchadmin@fpclincoln.org](mailto:churchadmin@fpclincoln.org)) or call the church office to let her know!

## Session Highlights

At our April Session meeting, we did some pretty amazing things. We:

- made plans for a death-row prison art exhibit;
- officially endorsed a therapy pet/animal program;
- purchased two virtual solar panels from LES;
- contracted with a wayfinding architect to help us with signage both inside and out;
- approved installing some new beveled clear glass in the sanctuary to enhance the safety and aesthetics of the space;
- heard about the interest of 8 people in joining our church;
- christened the new projector/speaker system in room 106;
- heard about plans to upgrade our sound and video system in the sanctuary and fellowship hall this summer;
- learned that we have finished the work of stabilizing the wall in the gym (a need first identified in 2004!);
- finished the concrete work where the air conditioners are to combat a leakage issue in the basement
- got an update on the continued work of cleaning out closets and painting that has been happening over the past year.

Thanks to session for being willing to take risks and to dare to dream that God has great things planned for us in the future!

## The Green Initiative: Solar Panels

One of the most common ways we think of God is as the creator of this beautiful world we live in. We, as God's people, are entrusted with the care and use of this world, not only for our sake, but for our children's sake. As part of our church's commitment to caring for creation, we have purchased two virtual solar panels at the LES community solar facility northwest of town. Generating 5 megawatts of solar energy, the LES community solar facility is the largest and first utility-scale solar installation in Nebraska, as well as one of the largest in the region.

## Gluten Free Communion

Communion should be a time to bind us together, yet for many, health issues preclude full participation in the sacrament of communion. Therefore beginning immediately, we will be using bread that is 100% free of gluten and corn products.



# Congregational Events & News

## Therapy Dog Program

First Presbyterian Church is going to the dogs! The session recently voted yes to allowing a Therapy Dog program to be developed as a permanent and ongoing program at FPC. The development of this program will be unfolding over the next year and will be guided by Linda Brodzik. This project is only in its beginning stages and still has much work to do in its development and community outreach functions. If you are interested in joining this program, with or without a therapy pet of your own, please contact Linda Brodzik at [Linda@InRelationWithDogs.com](mailto:Linda@InRelationWithDogs.com).

Therapy dogs can have many functions including visiting nursing homes, hospice care, reading with children, as well as offering comfort and/or support in physical, emotional or mental therapy programs. It is our hope to build and utilize this program within the community to the very broadest of its ability.

Throughout the week and on occasional Sundays you might see dogs being handled and trained in the church halls and sanctuary. This is to prepare for testing for a national registration as a therapy dog. So if you see Katie, the always gregarious, Welsh Springer Spaniel, or Jolie, the "everyone is my best friend", Black and Tan Coonhound, roaming the church with either Linda or Pastor Sue, please stop and say hello. They would love to meet you!

## FPC Parking Permits

Parking has always been a concern of this church. In addition to needing more off-street parking for our members and guests, we also deal with people parking in our lots when they are visiting or doing business elsewhere in the neighborhood, and at times that has impacted parking available for our activities. Thus the Property Committee and Session have created a parking policy to both be good neighbors and to assure that parking is available when we need it.

We are issuing to all members and regular attendees parking permits (stickers or laminated passes – your choice) to be put on the front driver's side windshield of their cars. Temporary permits will be given to those who regularly use the parking lot on a more temporary basis, such as SCC, McPhee etc. **These permits are available now in the church office.**

Generally the parking lots will be checked each morning about 8 am. For special events (Arts for the Soul concerts, funerals, weddings, etc.), we will be patrolling the lots prior to those events to make sure spaces are available for those attending. We will not worry about passes for people stopping in the office during the day as we do not anticipate doing any mid-day towing unless we discover we are having issues. **It is important that all members and regular attendees use the parking permits, because we don't want to inadvertently tow your car!**

A letter will be put on a car without a parking sticker or pass explaining our policy. This license will be recorded so if a second violation occurs, the car will be towed.

## Death Row Prison Ministry Art Exhibit

Did you know FPC has a death row prison ministry? Paul Smith heads that up, and organizes quarterly visits to the Nebraska inmates on death row. We believe that no matter what you have done, you are still a child of God, and we are moved by Jesus' parable in Matthew 25 about those who do his work when he said "I was in prison and you visited me..."

In May we will be hosting an exhibit of four pieces of art created by death row inmates, in the hallway from the East Entrance into the main church. We hope you will stop by and view the art, read about the prisoners and the ministry.

There will be opportunities for you to support this ministry by:

- Praying for the prisoners, for those visiting, for those affected by the actions of the prisoners
- Donating funds to meet specific needs
- Writing notes to the prisoners

Prison ministries are often uncomfortable because we don't want our ministry to be seen as condoning the crime or minimizing the consequences. In the end, we recognize that Jesus calls us to see the humanity in another, to see the image of God in another, no matter what they have done, and to love them, even as Christ loves us.

## Safety and Beauty – a Great Combination!

We have a beautiful sanctuary! Part of what makes it beautiful also creates both a safety concern and a barrier to visitors. Along the back wall of the sanctuary and in the north doors are beautiful green glass, made to replicate a style of glass that would have been used when the sanctuary was first built. However, the green glass also stops us from seeing if there is someone outside the doors, and it stops visitors from seeing what's going on inside if the doors are closed when they arrive.

So we have contracted with the same company who originally made and installed the green glass to create some inserts with beveled glass that we can see through. They have created a beautiful design that draws on shapes in our current stained glass windows.

It will take a couple months for the glass to be created and installed, so this summer, look for a change in the sanctuary!

## **Pentecost Party**

**Sunday, May 20 | 9:45 - 10:45 am |  
Fellowship Hall**

Join us as we celebrate Pentecost and the end of a great CE year with a Pentecost Party. We will have Pentecost themed activities, hear the Pentecost story, and enjoy some refreshments together.

Don't forget to wear the color red, which in this town should be pretty easy to do! #GBR #pentecostred

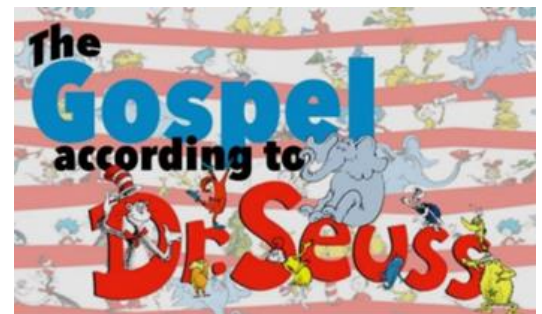


## **Vacation Bible School 2018**

**June 4-8 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm |  
Eastridge Presbyterian Church**

FPC and Eastridge Presbyterian are joining together in ministry to offer a VBS for our children. We need volunteers to help teach, lead and shepherd groups of children, pull together supplies, etc. Contact Kris Brammer if you can help out.

Parents/Guardians can register your child using the registration forms found on the information tables in the Welcome Center and in the hallway outside the church office. You can also download the forms online.



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

A joint ministry between First Presbyterian Church and Eastridge Presbyterian

June 4-8th, 2018 9:00-12:00pm  
Eastridge Presbyterian

3 year olds - 5th grade  
(completed)

Despite the recent weather spring is actually here and this month we are wrapping up the 2017-2018 Christian Education year with lots of happenings and special events. But that doesn't mean faith formation ends! In fact we have some new things going this summer like a **joint VBS ministry with Eastridge Presbyterian Church (June 4-8)**, a **fellowship event at the Lincoln Salt Dogs baseball game (July 22<sup>nd</sup>)** and some summer bible studies with for our high school youth. Be on the lookout for more information and details!

*Pray and Play,  
Kris "Bubba" Brammer*

## Attention All Graduates!

On **May 20<sup>th</sup>** we are recognizing all our members who are graduating, whether it is from high school, college, graduate school, or professional schooling. We would love to include you in our recognition service as well as in the following June First Report, so contact Kris Brammer with this information. There will be a reception in the East Entrance following the 11:00 am service to honor our graduates.

## What's Happening in May!

### Youth Ministry

Sunday night Youth Fellowship is on summer break until September 9, but there are ways to stay involved. Here's what we have going on for the youth over the summer:

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| June 5     | Gathering Place Kitchen - Youth will serve meals from 4:45 - 6:30 pm. We will go get ice cream after serving!   |
| June 4-8   | VBS with Eastridge - We need youth volunteers! See Kris Brammer for more details.                               |
| June 16-17 | Mission Trip to Memphis, TN - There is one spot left (cost \$20) so contact Kris Brammer if you are interested! |
| July 27-29 | High School Youth Camping and Canoe Trip  |



## Children's Ministry

- May 6 No Children's or Youth Sunday School due to Lincoln Marathon
- May 13 Children's Sunday School and Children's Choir singing at the 11:00 am service for Music Sunday
- May 20 Pentecost Sunday and Closing Sunday School party @ 9:45 am in Fellowship Hall
- May 27 Memorial Day Weekend - Children's & Youth Sunday School on summer break until September 9

## 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 Risen Christ.

Rousseau Class  
(Sundays, 9:45 am, Room 107)

Is beginning a new topical study on **"Embracing Emergence Christianity."** This DVD series is based on Phyllis Tickle's idea of the church's next great "rummage sale." You do not need to have read the book in order to participate.

## **FPC at the Lincoln Salt Dogs Game Sunday, July 22 | 1:05 pm | Haymarket Park**

After worship on 7/22, we will head over to Haymarket Park for some tailgating fun followed by the game at 1:05pm. We can get a group rate of **\$10 per ticket** for the game, which includes a voucher for 1 hotdog and 1 soda per ticket. **Deadline to sign up is July 4.** Contact Kris Brammer with any questions. Play ball!

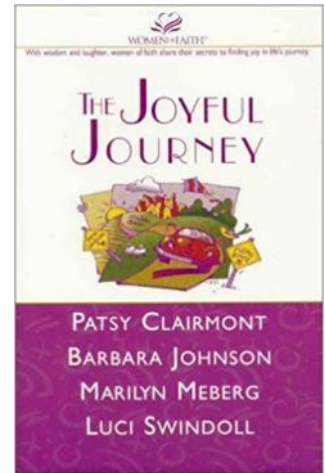


In May, a group of First Presbyterian members will venture across the state on the annual Fellowship Trip. Hard to believe we are preparing for our 11<sup>th</sup> trip! The library will have a selection of books on display inspired by the Fellowship trip. Here is one of the featured books:

**The Joyful Journey**, by Patsy Clairmont et al - This uplifting book is an enjoyable read & provided inspiration for the 2012 Fellowship Trip worship service.

Some of the other featured books inspired by the Fellowship Trip are:

- Black Elk Speaks**, by John
- Buffalo for the Broken Hearted**, by Dan O'Brien
- The Last Prairie**, by Stephen R. Jones
- Holding Up the Earth**, by Dianne Gray
- The Lay of the Land: A View from the Prairie**
- Winter Thunder**, by Mari Sandoz
- Trails**, by Musetta Gilman
- Incident at Hawk's Hill**, by Allan Eckert

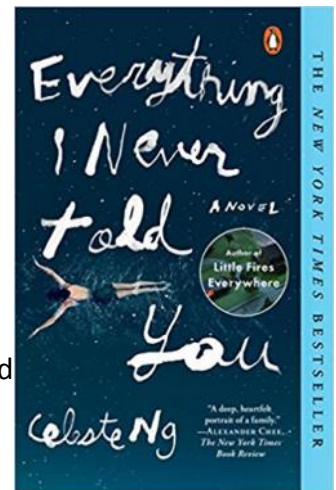


The FPC Presbyterian Women made a gracious donation to the library, to purchase books from the PW Reading lists. One of those books include:

**Everything I Never Told You**, by Celeste Ng - A moving story of family, history and the meaning of home.

Some of the other featured PW books are:

- All the Light we Cannot See**, by Anthony Doerr
- Angel Song**, by Sheila Walsh & Kathryn
- Caring for Mother: A Daughter's Long Goodbye**, by Virginia Stem Owens
- Girls Like Us: Fighting For a World Where Girls are Not for Sale**, by Rachel Lloyd
- Iscaiot**, by Tosca Lee
- John 3:16**, by Nancy Moser
- Prayers for Sale**
- The Girl Next Door**,
- The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry: A Novel**, by Rachel Joyce



There is a book for everyone, so stop by the library and check them out!

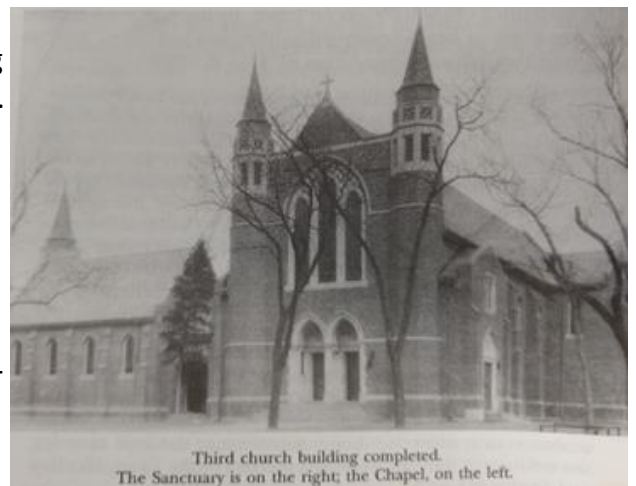
# First Presbyterian Church History

As the new 3<sup>rd</sup> Church was being built, the following was printed in the September 26, 1926 church bulletin: “Our members are urged to drive by the new church several times a week in order to that they may experience the thrill of seeing the walls rise in this Temple we are erecting to the Glory, Worship and Service of God.”



The church building was dedicated on March 25, 1928. The church was filled to capacity with many finding room lacking when they arrived for the morning services. The pastor, Rev. Paul Calhoun, preached on the subject “The God to Whom We Have Dedicated This Church”.

Dr. Swearington, who delivered the formal address dedicating the church spoke that “the church was built for practical use, but far more, it typifies something spiritual and aesthetic. Work and Worship, purpose and sentiment – these are the messages it speaks to the community by the solid walls and pointed spires.



It is not the building, therefore, as beautiful and serviceable as it is, about which we are thinking, but the Christian body which will live in it.”



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

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## ***First Presbyterian Church***

*Where faith is nurtured, curiosity is encouraged, diversity is welcomed, and all are loved.*

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***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 Collier**  
x 103 scoller@fpclincoln.org

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

**Music Director: Dr. Brian Pfofner**  
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 officeassist@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.