

2018-2019 FPC Christian Education Celebration Sunday, September 9 | 10:00 am Fellowship Hall

The CE Committee would like to invite everyone; whether you are 1 year old or a 101 years old, to a celebration of the FPC Christian Education ministry as we kick-off the new Sunday School year.

Come learn about the many different classes and faith formation opportunities available during Sunday Mornings and throughout the year.

Food and beverages will be provided as we fellowship and learn together.

See you there!



Back to our normal Sunday Worship Schedule

- September 2 (Labor Day weekend): ONE service only at 10:00 am (Sanctuary)
- September 9 and Sundays following: TWO services at 8:30 am (Great Hall) and 11:00 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.

Sue's Musings

We are a congregation of people who don't all think alike, we don't all vote alike, we don't all believe alike. But we do agree on one thing – life is a precious gift. A few days before I am writing this, the State of Nebraska put to death Carey Dean Moore, for his murder of cab drivers Maynard Helgeland and Reuel Van Ness Jr.

There is no excuse for what he did. He took the lives of two fathers, simply because he chose to, and in that moment, he had the power to do so. Should there be consequences for what he did? Absolutely. Life is precious, and it should not be ours for the taking.

I think we can all agree on that. Now is where we'll probably find some disagreement – what should be done with people like Carey Dean Moore? That answer is not so easy, or agreed upon.

For the past 8 or 9 years, our church has been a part of visiting Nebraska's death row inmates. In fact we have commissioned Paul Smith as a lay clergy to take a leadership role in those visits. A few others from our church have joined him, including myself. We don't do this because we condone what they did, or because we think there should be no consequences for their actions.

We visit because they are human beings, children of God, beloved by God, and we are called as followers of Jesus Christ to visit those in prison, to love the most unlovable among us, and to lift up the humanity in those others deny.

Whenever anyone takes a life – for ANY reason, all of us are diminished, for in that moment, we deny the God-given humanity of another, we claim the power of life and death, and in doing so, we deny a part of our own God-given humanity.

It rained on Tuesday as Carey Dean Moore was put to death. I believe God cried just as much then, as when Carey killed Maynard Helgeland and Reuel Van Ness Jr.



Sue's Musings

I've been thinking about what it means to love someone such as Carey Moore. I realized as I reflected on that, that loving someone who has done the kinds of things Carey did, recognizing them as human beings and children of God, affirming their call to live the full and joyful lives God desires for all of us (even in prison), showing mercy and compassion to them, is an investment in the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God is full of grace, mercy, and compassion. When we focus on rehabilitation rather than retribution, forgiveness rather than vengeance, grace rather than justice, we begin to see hints of the kind of world Jesus died to make possible – the kingdom of God that we pray for every week, where the wolf lays down with the lamb, and no one harms or destroys anyone in all God's holy realm.

The work of bringing the kingdom closer to completion is the day to day work of how we treat each other. The way we talk about people. The way we live our lives in relationship with others. Are we living in a way that builds up the kingdom, or tears it down? That honors the God-given humanity in each other, or that denies it?

Before we get too self-righteous about Carey Dean Moore or the death penalty, let us all ask ourselves: what are we doing to bring near the kingdom we pray for, day by day, hour by hour, minute by minute?

The world we all hope for isn't going to come about because someone was executed for his crimes. It will come about because people of faith make a choice to live by those kingdom values especially now, in the messiness of life.

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor Sue*

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

The Presbyterian Church in 1959 affirmed that "we are called to seek the redemption of evil doers, not their death." In 1978 we affirmed that "Capital punishment is an expression of vengeance which contradicts the justice of God on the cross."

Serving the New Food Market at McPhee

Child hunger is a real issue for many of the families in our neighborhood, one that dedicated members from First Church have been helping to address for a number of years through the Backpack program at McPhee Elementary.

This year the Lincoln Food Bank is making major changes in the program as it transitions to a once-a-month Food Market. This will be managed much like the Food Distribution held at First Church on Saturday mornings. Students and their families will be able to walk by tables stocked with food, selecting items based on program allocations and their choice.

While many of the church's current Backpack volunteers will want to continue this important mission, some may not be able to do the lifting needed or they may have schedule conflicts.

Can you serve? Do you hear the call? What better way to spend a Friday afternoon than helping others to find food security for their family with a smile and a bit of grace.

Volunteers will be needed on the first Friday of the month from September to May from 2:15 to approximately 4:30 p.m. They may help unload the food distribution truck, set out food on tables, help serve children and their families, restock tables, tear down boxes, and help clean up.

Many hands (and a few strong backs) can help lighten the work needed to help these children "shop" for groceries.

If you'd like to learn more and sign up to volunteer, please contact Mission Committee members Pam Carrier or Lisa Jasa soon.



Mission & Social Justice

FIELD TRIP I Sunday, September 30 | McPhee Elementary School

Yep, we're taking a church field trip on Sunday, September 30!

The Mission Outreach and Social Justice Committee is planning a host of field trips this year and next, so we can see and hear first-hand about the missions in town our church supports, hear about volunteer opportunities, and learn more about the needs in our community.

Our first field trip will be Sunday September 30, following a light lunch after 2nd Service, we'll walk/drive over to McPhee Elementary School. We have had a strong partnership with McPhee for many years.



Chris Boden, the new principal, will meet us there, give us a tour, and talk about the uniqueness of McPhee and how we can be a part of the work they do.

Put it on your calendar, and join us!

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS HOPE

In PDA, we see the love of Christ at work through the action of volunteer work teams, through the ministry of those offering hospitality and helping their communities to recover, and in the lives of survivors. Those who participate in disaster recovery ministry tell their stories as a witness to God's transformational power.

PDA is responding to the Northwest Fires in California, Montana, Oregon and Washington and has reached out to the affected presbyteries to offer assistance. At this time, the needs are still being assessed and PDA stands ready to assist when needed.

Other National Disaster Responses that PDA is currently an active participant are the California Mudslides, Hurricanes Irma and Maria (Caribbean and the U.S.), Hurricane Harvey (U.S.), Hurricane Matthew (Haiti, Cuba, Dominican Republic, United States), Gulf Flooding 2016 (U.S.).

International Disaster Responses to Flooding and Mudslides in Sierra Leone, Madagascar, Malawi and PDA has a presence in South Sudan helping with the ongoing struggles in that region. There are also a presence in Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is responsible for coordinating the Presbyterian Church (USA) humanitarian response to and advocacy on behalf of refugees, asylum seekers and other forced migrants.

Specialized Responses are Disaster Preparedness, Refugee Ministry, Hospitality, Emotional / Spiritual Care, Human – Caused Disasters such as shootings and other forms of public violence, Foods Resource Bank which is focused on farmers and farming communities who set aside acreage to be used for growing projects; when harvested the crops are sold and the proceeds give to promote programs of hunger relief and sustainable agriculture in countries of need.

Mission & Social Justice

Ways to Give: Share your financial blessings to help disaster survivors throughout the world.

Ways to Act: Like PDA on Facebook and share updates with your congregation.

Ways to Pray: Our best response is prayer. Pray that through the response of the faith community, survivors and those offering assistance will be reminded of the hope that is found in Christ.

1st Thessalonians 5:17 encourages us to pray continually. Following a disaster, our best response is first to seek God's presence on behalf of those in need.

Elders4theEarth Conference

Elders for the Earth is a multi-day gathering for adults 50 years and older which **begins Sunday, October 7 at 5 pm and concludes Tuesday, October 9 at 4:30 pm**. The focus is on how to take positive action in the midst of a changing climate. The Chautauqua like, zero waste event includes speakers, workshops/playshops, local wine tasting, live music, and plenty of time to simply enjoy the beauty of Mahoney State Park. For more details, visit: elders4theearth.com

Crop Walk I Sunday, October 14 I 1:00 PM First Lutheran Church

The Crop Walk will begin at First Lutheran Church at about 70th and A. Participants will be invited to share a light lunch at First Church after the service and then go together to the walk. Additional information and opportunities to sign up will be forthcoming.

Congregational Events & News

Presbyterian Women recently met to plan for the coming year.

Officers will be:

Co-moderators: Christy Abraham and
Joan Berglund

Vice Moderator: Robin Hotchkiss

Secretary and First Report Editor:
Shannon Travis

Treasurer: Carrie Cross

Coordinators for Arts for the Soul: Officers and coordinators

Coordinator for Funeral Receptions: Terri Sherman

Coordinator for Youth Group dinners: Christy Abraham

Coordinator of Table Decorations: Carlene Waldron

Coordinator for Mission: Lisa Jasa

Librarian: Julie Van Meter

PW representative to Nominating Committee:

Resources and Study Guide Rep: Carrie Cross



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Our finances are now being handled by Carrie Cross. In August we took up the Thank Offering and will be taking up the Birthday Offering in February. The other offerings that PW takes are the Least Coin and Hunger.

We will report about the Least Coin offering in one of our reports so that the church members will know more about this. These two offerings are taken up regularly at our bible study meetings.

Homestead Presbyterian Women will meet October 6th in Cedar Bluffs, NE at 10 AM. We will be discussing the book: Warrior of the People, about the first Native American doctor and she lived in Nebraska.

Congregational Events & News

The author, Joe Starita will be chairing the discussion. This will be a great gathering and one you all need to attend. Cost of the gathering is \$10 which includes lunch. Watch for registration on our Wednesday First Online. Transportation will be provided.

Seven women from Homestead Presbytery attended the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, KY on August 2 to 5. Over 1500 women attended. The newly elected Moderator, Jenny Lee has been invited to come to Nebraska in the fall of 2019 to be our keynote speaker.

There will be a report from Terri Sherman, Moderator of Homestead Presbytery in October.

Joan Berglund, Presbyterian Women

Stewardship & Finance

Members of the Stewardship and Finance Committee will be meeting with each committee during the month of September in order to identify 2019 budget requests.

Final budget expense requests will be accepted through October 15.

This process will inform the overall budget process, as well as the stewardship season. Stewardship Sunday will be on November 18th.

Congregational Events & News

Articles for October First Report due: Monday, September 17

You may have noticed changes in our First Report layout and we'd love to know what you think.

Give us your feedback so we can tailor it to YOU! Send any comments or questions to info@fpclincoln.org or feel free to call the church office.

Flyleaf Book Club - Friday, September 21 | 9:00 am - FPC Library

We will be discussing "Warrior of the People" written by Joe Starita.

Supper Club | Sunday, September 23 | 5:00 pm

Community Garden Update

The Community Gardens garden boxes, soil and fence are scheduled to be moved to the new garden location at 17th and F Streets the weekend of October 27-28th. The Community Garden Committee is working on logistics for the move.

We will need volunteers to help with the move on the 27th and 28th as well as the week before to help prepare for the move. We will also need people to provide food and encouragement.

If you can volunteer, please contact Ruth Stephenson at ros@nebrwesleyan.edu or Pam Carrier at pamcarrier@gmail.com or 402-430-5117. The Committee hopes all members of the congregation, especially those who wanted to see the gardens moved for the parking lot, will be willing to volunteer to assist with the move in some way.

**STAY TUNED FOR THE 2018-19 SEASON BROCHURE
COMING SOON!**

Arts
for the *Soul*

*Engaging the Mind
Warming the Heart
Inspiring the Spirit*

**Bridget Kibbey - Harp
with Siwoo Kim, Violin
and João Luiz Rezende, Guitar
Sunday, October 7, 2018 | 3:00 p.m.**

If you have the mistaken belief that a harp concert would be the kind of event you could comfortably skip, you have not heard Bridget Kibbey!

Winner of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant among many other honors, world-renowned harpist Bridget Kibbey pushes the very boundaries of what the harp can do.

She has toured and recorded with the likes of Dawn Upshaw and Placido Domingo, and plays annually with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Knights Chamber Orchestra, and Camerata Pacifica.

This concert will feature a wide range of music, and includes two incredible guest artists in Siwoo Kim, violin, and João Luiz Rezende Lopes, guitar. It will forever change how you think about the harp!

“...like a Yo-Yo Ma of the harp...”

“...Within a few seconds Kibbey has given the harp an outsized personality and ethereal purity, like a piano set free of its hammers and heavy case.” **The Atlanta Journal-Constitution**



FPChristian Education

It's September and you know what that means?! No, not the start of Husker football (although that is true). Much more importantly (I hope) is the start of the new Christian Education year here at First Presbyterian.

On September, 9th during the Sunday School hour of 9:45 – 10:45 we will have a Christian Education Celebration in Fellowship Hall with a breakfast, activities for kids and a trivia game for all as we learn about the Christian education and faith formation options for the 2018-2019 year.

So come learn about what's happening in Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult education. Oh yeah, and have some bacon! Bacon makes everything better.

P.S. I have a theory. The "fruit" on the tree of knowledge of good and evil, wasn't actually fruit, it was bacon. That's why they couldn't resist.

Pray and Play,
Kris "Bubba" Brammer

On September 9th we will recognize and award our current third graders (Tyson Beach, Jaide Loehr, Linglang Paleak, Nyabuhn Puoch, Julia Schultz, and Lydia Van Meter), with Bibles.

Do you know a name that is missing from this list? If so, please contact Kris Brammer at the church office.



FPChristian Education

What's Happening in September!

Children's Ministry:

- Sept. 2nd – Labor Day weekend and last Sunday of summer schedule. No children's Sunday School
- Sept. 9th @ 9:45 a.m. – Christian Education Celebration in Fellowship Hall for all ages
- Sept. 16th – Activity Time (9:30am) and Sunday School (9:50am)
- Sept. 23rd – Activity Time (9:30am) and Sunday School (9:50am)
- Sept. 30th – Activity Time (9:30am) and Sunday School (9:50am)
- Oct. 7th – FORUM in Great Hall

Youth Ministry:

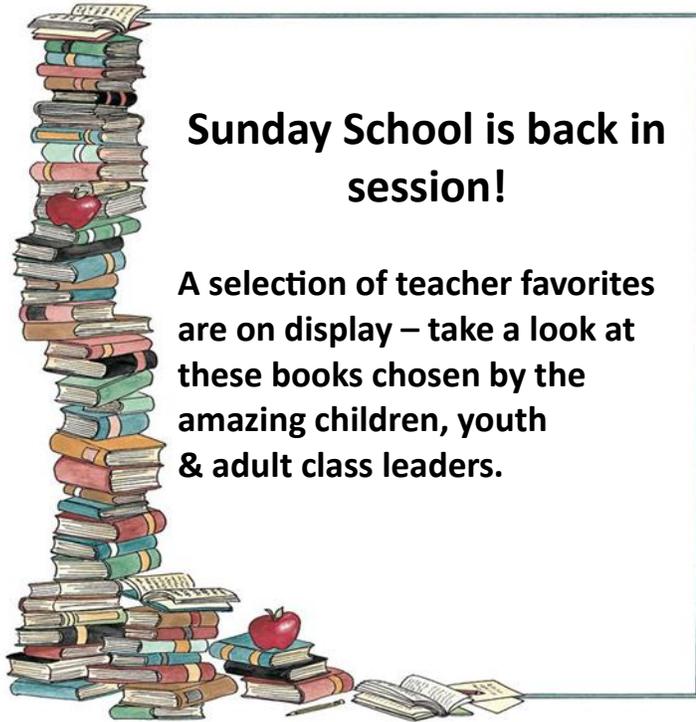
- Sept. 2nd – Labor Day Weekend and last Sunday of our Summer schedule. No Youth fellowship
- Sept. 9th @ 9:45 a.m. – Christian Education Celebration in Fellowship Hall for all ages
- Sept. 9th @ 5:30 p.m. – Youth Fellowship Kickoff with Youth vs. Parents Olympics. Dinner provided. Please RSVP to Kris Brammer
- Sept. 16th @ 5:30 p.m. – Group Building Games and Fun
- Sept. 23rd @ 5:30p.m. – Youth Fellowship at FPC
- Sept. 30th @ 5:30 p.m. – Christians and Romans

Adult Ministry:

(Sunday Morning Education Classes unless otherwise noted)

- Bible Discovery Class meets in Room 105. This class works through the Bible and explores different themes throughout the year.
- Faith and Theology Class meets in Room 107 discusses theological and contemporary issues. Past topics have included Science and Faith and Emergence Christianity.
- Third Sunday in Hebrews meets in Hebrews 211 (2nd floor) on the third Sundays of each month for a discussion on various topics. This year's theme is "Christian Doctrines: How they have changed". We will look at theological questions from the early church and how they shaped and continue to shape our modern theology and understanding of essential Christian Doctrines. This class will begin meeting in October.

Library Notes



Sunday School is back in session!

A selection of teacher favorites are on display – take a look at these books chosen by the amazing children, youth & adult class leaders.

September is National Literacy Month.

Celebrate by reading books from the FPC Library!

At the end of September we celebrate Banned Book week.

Read a frequently banned book – the Bible

By the Numbers...

232 – Jesus Christ & His family

Books that investigate Jesus, including who he was and his teachings.

Look for these on the west wall, near the clock.



Library Notes

The FPC Library gets a lot of use, & many books have been checked out.

Great – we love seeing the books leave the shelves!

But we also like to see them come back....

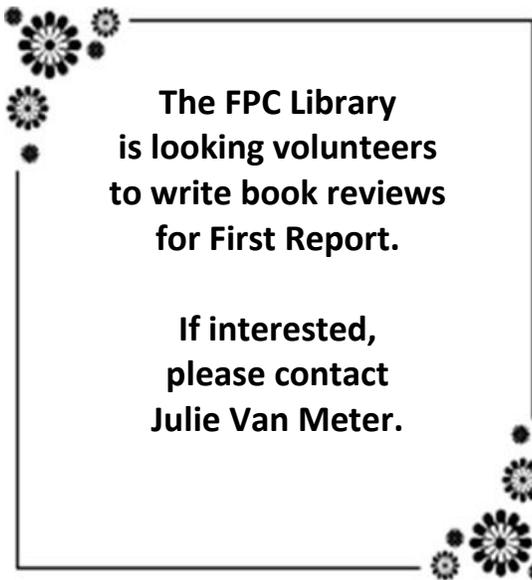
If you have library books that have been checked out for a while, please return them, & get more!

Sabbath as Resistance

Saying No to the Culture of Now
By Walter Brueggemann

... the Sabbath is not simply about keeping rules but rather about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society.

Brueggemann calls out our 24/7 society of consumption, a society in which we live to achieve, accomplish, perform, and possess. Brueggemann shows readers how keeping the Sabbath allows us to break this restless cycle and focus on what is truly important: God, other people, all life.



The FPC Library is looking volunteers to write book reviews for First Report.

If interested, please contact Julie Van Meter.

LIBRARY BOOKS – CHECK THEM OUT!!!



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

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 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:

Men's AA - Mondays

Women's AA - Tuesdays

Big Book Bunch AA - Tuesdays and Thursdays

Lincoln Literacy - Monday through Thursday

SCC ESL - Monday through Thursday

Flyleaf Book Club - 3rd Friday of the month

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