Diana’s book, *Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks*, challenges us to embrace all of life with an attitude of gratitude. This is not just a flip saying, this is a challenge to all of us when life is most challenging, to be transformed by the practice of gratitude, and to be a transforming agent in the world. Join us for conversations with Diana about gratitude, and its transforming power in our lives and in our communities.

**Friday Dinner & Conversation Nov. 8 @ 6:30 – 8:30 pm**  
@Southern Heights Presbyterian Church (5750 S. 40th St, Lincoln)  
Due to space limitations, Friday Dinner & Conversation is reserved for members and friends of First Presbyterian and Southern Heights Presbyterian Churches.  
Dinner is $5, reservations are required.

**Saturday Lecture Sessions Nov. 9 @ 9:30 am – 3:30 pm**  
@First Presbyterian Church (840 S. 17th St, Lincoln)  
Open to Everyone! Join us for morning and afternoon presentations and lunch.  
Lunch is $5. Reservations are required only if you would like lunch.

**Sunday Worship Nov. 10 @ 11:00 am**  
@First Presbyterian Church (840 S. 17th St, Lincoln)  

*No reservations required!* 🙌

You may RSVP and pay for tickets by going here:  
FPCLincoln.org/grateful/ and click on “PURCHASE TICKETS”  
If you wish to just RSVP and pay at the door, you may do that through the PURCHASE TICKETS link and choose “Pay Later” or email Southern Heights (pam@southernheights.org) or First Presbyterian (info@fpclincoln.org).

Continued on next page…….
Sue’s Musings: The BIG Questions

Our sabbatical is about:

- **Rest** – giving some of our hard-working volunteers and members an opportunity to step back from some responsibilities, and to take time to breathe.
- **Refocus** - intentionally focusing on nurturing our spiritual growth, specifically through relationship building – and focusing on ways to expend and deepen our hospitality toward each other and guests
- **Reset** – allowing ourselves to step back from some of our church activities and programs, so that there is space for something new to be born – what is God doing among us? What is God calling us to do and be?

The outcome of our sabbatical depends on the quality of the questions we ask, and our willingness to dive into discovering the answers. That dive will be sometimes exciting, sometimes filled with anxiety, but always accompanied by God’s Spirit.

So in your small groups, committees, and ministries, ask these questions when you gather:

- Who are we?
- What is God calling us to do? Is it different than what we’ve been doing?
- How is God calling us to use our resources, today?
- Is what we’re doing today, still meeting the need it was created for?
- What are those things that need to be gratefully thanked for the blessings they have given us and others, and then gently let go of?
- Are there new ways God is calling us to be in ministry today – to each other and to our community?

Our sabbatical time isn’t about “doing” – it’s about “being” – being present with the questions, and listening to God’s voice speak in the “being.” My prayer is that on the other side, we will have heard answers, and be ready to go wherever God may lead us into this new day.

Pastor Sue

~ Rooted in God ~ Open to Grace ~ Filled with Joy ~
FPChristian Education – Living our Faith Together

So you might have noticed a slight addition in language when it comes to describing our educational ministries, language that uses the words “faith formation.” On the surface it might sound like we latching to the newest buzz word in theological education, but in reality we are trying to be more comprehensive in what we do.

The terms “Sunday School” and “Christian Education” naturally brings up images of classrooms with a teacher and students. The first Sunday schools developed in the mid-1800’s out of the need to teach children (and some adults) to read, write, and learn basic math as children were not required to attend school and most worked. Then as laws were passed to mandate public education for children, these Sunday schools shifted their focus to Christian/Religious Education and thus the model we have today.

But what is the purpose of Christian Education? Is it just to teach the Bible? That’s part of it, but it’s also about growing in our faith, thus the term “faith formation.” Our faith starts with God and God’s word, but it grows not just from learning Bible stories but from learning how those stories can help us and that comes from learning from others inside and outside of a classroom – youth fellowship, Lenten small groups, worship, book club, fellowship groups, and yes, even committees. Whenever we are together in Christ’s name we are engaging in faith formations, which is why during this year we are placing a heavy emphasis on intergenerational gatherings. These gatherings not only allow us to deepen our relationships with one another and across all ages, but they allow time for us to Live Our Faith Together – which just happens to be the acronym for our intergenerational gatherings on Sunday because we are Living Our Faith Together as a community of faith. I hope you will make plans on being part of this gathering, because you are needed, your experience, your faith, can and will help us all in our faith formation. See you on Sunday mornings!

What’s Happening in October!

**Faith Formation Hour (Sunday School)** – Activity Time begins at 9:30 am and Children’s Choir at 9:45 am every Sunday morning.

- October 6th @ 10:00 am – Forum for Adults (Great Hall) and Sunday School for kids and youth. Confirmation for middle schoolers (classrooms)
- October 13th – L.O.F.T. Sunday with potluck breakfast in Fellowship Hall – Please bring a breakfast item to share
- October 20th @ 10:00 am – Children, Youth, and Adult Sunday School Classes
- October 27th @ 10:00 am – Intergenerational Sunday in Fellowship Hall

**Youth Ministry (6th-12th Grades):**

- October 13th @ 5:30 pm – Youth Fellowship at FPC
- October 20th @ 5:30 pm – Pizza and Bible Study at TBA
- October 27th @ 5:30 pm – Adventure Golf Center and Ice Cream (weather permitting)
October Forum Series – On October 6th @ 10:00 am in Great Hall, we will be joined once again by Mollie George of the Alzheimer’s Association. This is a different program than any previous presentations from the Alzheimer’s Association. The CE Committee is always looking for interesting topics and speaker for our Forum.

Forgotten where to go during our Faith Formation (Sunday School) hour? Forgotten whether this is a Forum/Sunday School Sunday or a LOFT Sunday? There are lots of ways to be reminded.

As you enter either the East or West Entrance of the church, you are greeted by a large sign that will tell you where to go during the Faith Formation Hour.

Just look for the green check mark, and that’s where you go!

Sermons Online!

Did you know we post the Sunday sermons on our website? If you miss Sunday, or really want to hear the sermon again, or, better yet, share it with a friend, you can find our sermons at FPCLincoln.org/worshipsermons.
Why We Do What We Do

Why We Do What We Do: The Children’s Sermon

Have you ever sat there in the pew on a Sunday morning and wondered why we do what we do? Or why here at First Pres we do something this way, but you’ve always grown up doing that same thing in a different way? Beginning this month, we hope to maybe answer some of those questions and curiosities about why we do what we do. First up is the “Children’s Time”.

The joke about children’s time is that congregants get more out of it than the than the sermon. I doubt that people actually get more out of it, rather they remember more easily it’s bite sized and often simpler message. But children’s time isn’t for adults – it’s for the children. We’re glad you might “get something” out of it, but our purpose for having a children’s time is for the children. And here’s why.

In 1888 Henry Clay Trumbull, an advocate for the Sunday School movement, gave a lecture at Yale Divinity School where he says, “pulpit preaching is not addressed to children as children; nor are children included in the number of those to whom it is supposed, or designed to be intelligible.” This is not a knock on worship or preaching as we know it, just noting that children and adults, developmentally, are far apart. What makes for a good, engaging and thoughtful sermon is well beyond the ability for a five-year-old to comprehend. Children (from ages 2-7) are, according to Jean Piaget’s Cognitive Development Theory, unable to think abstractly. They can use symbols and internal images, but their thinking is unsystematic and illogical. It’s not until they reach the age of 11 in which they can begin to think on an abstract and hypothetical level, similar to adults.

Here is an example. I once gave a children’s sermon comparing the resurrection of Jesus to a caterpillar emerging from a cocoon into a butterfly. A few weeks later a mother came to me laughing about how every time her son saw a butterfly, he would say enthusiastically “look, its Jesus!” We as adults get the analogy of metamorphic change, of death into life, young children do not. Our worship is full of abstract thought. Hymns are full of analogical imagery, sermons often deal with complex and emotional issues – thus it is difficult if not impossible for young children to connect. While they do indeed learn hymns by hearing them and the prayers by repeating them, they don’t understand them.

The Children’s time is the one place in our normal worship where we explicitly welcome children to engage in worship in a way that is developmentally appropriate for them, in a way that uses language that they can understand. God is not the just the God of our ancestors; Abraham, Sara, and Jacob, but of our children, Ethan, Annelise, and Cole as well. Jesus said to welcome the little children, and while there are many ways this is done, the children’s time is one way in which we welcome them in our worship.
NEW THIS SEASON!
This year we are offering members of First Presbyterian $5 off all individual concert tickets or a season ticket (except for Sing from the Heart, as that concert has already been discounted). To take advantage of this offer just mention it when you purchase your tickets.
The FPC Library will have a selection of books to compliment our October Forum presentation on Alzheimer’s Disease.

**God Never Forgets: Faith, Hope & Alzheimer’s Disease**, by Donald K McKim (editor)

**Jan’s Story**, by Barry Peterson

**Caring for Aging Parents**, by Richard P. Johnson, Ph.D.

**The Art of Growing Older**, by

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**Not Your White Jesus**
By Sheri Faye Rosendahl

Overview: Jesus is not white. Jesus is not American. Jesus does not want to make America great. While many of us grew up looking at gleaming portraits of Jesus with blond, flowing hair and hearing sermons reaffirming that we have the answers to save a fallen world, the real Jesus – a Middle Eastern Jew preaching radical, humble, self-emptying love – calls us to a different life.

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**Called to the Fire: A Witness for God in Mississippi; The Story of Dr. Charles Johnson**
By Chet Bush

Overview: The last place on earth young Charles Johnson wasted to go was Mississippi during the heat of the civil rights movement. As the key African American witness to take the stand in the trial famously dubbed the “Mississippi Burning” case by the F.B.I, Dr. Charles Johnson, a young preacher fresh out of Bible College, became a voice for justice and equality in the segregated south. Unwittingly thrust into the heart of a national tragedy – the murder of three civil rights activists – Dr. Johnson overcame fear and adversity to become a leader in the civil rights movement. … A story of love, conviction, adversity, and redemption, Called to Fire is a riveting account of a life in pursuit of the call of God and the fight for justice and equality.

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Thanks to two church members, the FPC Library received over 50 books for preschoolers and elementary age readers. These are now available in the white book baskets.

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**Are you looking for some “spooky” reading in October? Try one of these books:**

- **The Sins of Herod**, by Frank G. Slaughter
- **Demon**, by Tosca Lee
- **The Gospel According to Harry Potter**, by Connie Neal

A special selection of fall and Halloween books are also on display for kids.

- **Very Scary**
  - Mrs. McNosh & her Great Big Squash
  - The Hallo-wiener
  - It came From the Black Lagoon
  - Pumpkins!
  - Skeleton Hiccups
  - And many more!
Fellowship 2.0
This is a new opportunity for fellowship that is inter-generational, mixed, fun and family centered. If you are interested in a fellowship group that has a cookout, shares pizza, eats smores around a campfire, builds snowman and eats donuts and hot cocoa and is filled with friendship, laughter and different opportunities at varying times, please sign up. Call Dianne and Paul Smith at 402.525.7239 or email dfrydendallsmith@mail.com We will plan something about once a month. Come when you can.

Your hosts.
Paul & Dianne Smith
Linda Brodzick and Sue Coller

You are invited to join the Worship and Sacraments Committee …

…at our monthly meetings -- 2nd Mondays at 5:30 pm at the church -- as we:
**review the PC(USA) Book of Order, Directory for Worship,
**and read the book, Gathered before God: Worship-Centered Church Renewal by Jane Rogers Vann

…during the sabbatical.

We will be looking for ways First Church can experience renewal through our worship service. As Jane Rogers Vann puts it, Gathered before God is an earnest call for us all to reclaim worship as a central act of our life together as Christians that expresses clearly what the church believes about God, itself, and the world.

The discussion on the readings will be at the beginning of the meetings with an abbreviated business meeting at the end, so congregational members can come for the discussion only.

**Additional books will be purchased and placed in the church library for congregation members to use.

For more information: contact members of the Worship and Sacraments Committee or the church office.
--Nancy Field, Moderator
-- Jeri Brandt, Lynne Hughes, Duane Sattler, Arta Smith
The Peace & Global Witness Offering…

…will be received on **World Communion Sunday, October 6th**
--25% of the Offering stays with our congregation for use in peacemaking efforts here at First Church and in our community.
--25% of the Offering goes to mid-Councils (Homestead Presbytery and Synod of Lakes and Prairies) to unite congregations to support peacemaking in our regions.
--50% of this Offering supports to work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.
Please consider giving to this special offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It encourages the church to cast off the anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling God’s mission to those around the corner and around the world. It is boundless peace God offers. It bursts through the shackles of time and expectation. It quiets the anxiety of each believer by joining us together, as we offer our prayer,

*Now, May the Lord grant us peace in all times in all ways.* (from 2 Thessalonians 3:16)

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**Don’t Forget!**
While your on vacation you can still make your contributions by text. Or on-line
It’s easy, text MissionPossible to 73256 or to give on-line go to [www.onrealm.org/fpclincoln/give](http://www.onrealm.org/fpclincoln/give)

This helps your church as well as you!

If you want to set up regular monthly auto payments, contact Carrie in the front office to get a Realm invite and she will e-mail that over to you and then walk you through the process.
First Report Deadline for November!

September's First Report Deadline is **October 20th**. Anything turned in after that date may not get included in the newsletter. This is to allow for time for editing, printing and mailing the newsletter to our members. Thank you for getting your information to us from the various committee’s, groups and activities within the church!

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Flowers, Greeters & Coffee Hosts

With the fall session of Church beginning, we are again looking for greeters and coffee hosts. A sign-up sheet is on the banquet table beside the east entrance of the Sanctuary. Please sign up to Greet and/or be a Coffee Host. There is also a sign-up sheet to donate flowers for Great Hall and the Sanctuary. Questions about Greeters and Flowers can be addressed to Nancy Janike at 402-489-6779. LeAnn Hammar will answer questions regarding Coffee Hosts at 402-421-3136.

Thank you for serving your church.

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Want to help in the office?

Carrie normally needs a couple hours of help once a month folding and sticking labels on our newsletters. Please contact the office if you can help towards the end of the month for an hour or so! We know she’d love a break and some help with this monthly task!

She may also have a couple of other times that she needs some help as well…
Things they are still changing!

There have been quite a few changes around the church the last few weeks! We have had tuckpointing done and our exterior bricks are in better shape. We have our phone system installed and it is running smoother. Now we are upgrading things within the building to make it easier for us to access our camera’s and security system.

With these upgrades we will be getting new key cards, so if you have one, please stop in the office and see me to get it replaced!

Thank you all for your patience!
Carrie

Have you met Craig?

If you haven’t already met Craig, please make sure you stop into the Church sometime to say “Hi!” Craig is our new custodian and maintenance man and is doing a bang up job so far! He is here Saturday through Wednesday and if you have any projects please send them through the office.

Here is a little about Craig:
Hello! My name is Craig Walin. I am 49 years old and I was born and raised right here in Lincoln Nebraska. I attended Lincoln High School and also went to SCC Milford for Machine Tool. In my free time I enjoy being with my finance and 2 year old daughter. We have another daughter due in the middle of October as well. I also enjoy classic cars and love working on my mustang with any free time I have.
First Presbyterian Church
Where faith is nurtured, curiosity is encouraged, diversity is welcomed, and all are loved.

Outside Classes and Programs @ FPC:

Men’s AA - Mondays
Women’s AA - Tuesdays
Big Book Bunch AA - Tuesdays and Thursdays
El Centro Zumba Class - Tuesday and Friday
Lincoln Literacy - Tuesday and Wednesday
SCC ESL - Monday through Thursday
Flyleaf Book Club - 3rd Friday of the month

At FPC, we warmly welcome all groups and organizations that provide needed services for members of our community.