Sue’s Musings –

So by now some of you have noticed that some interesting conversations have been happening in committees. Talk of sabbaticals, rest, and new directions. The session takes seriously its call to be faithful leaders, leading our church in ways that help us more and more be that light of the world we lift up at the end of every worship service.

You might remember in the April newsletter I wrote about the long-term trend our church has been on – declining membership, attendance, giving, etc. – and how the session realized that if we want to turn that around, we need to think about church growth, church in new ways, and try some new things. We charged all of our committees to think about how their work might look different as they considered this challenge.

The more we’ve considered this, the more the session realized that we were focused on the wrong thing. We were focused on numbers and survival, when God calls us to focus on relationship and service. Which is hard when you’re focused on numbers and survival! So the session is embracing God’s call to change our focus, and to enter a time of sabbatical.

What is a church sabbatical? In the true sense of the word, it is a time to:

- **Rest** – allowing you, who live busy lives within and outside of church, to step back from what can be overwhelming commitments to our church and take time to rest and focus on your spiritual lives.
- **Re-set** – allowing ourselves to step back from some of the activities and programs of the church, in order to evaluate current ministries and to provide space for something new to be born.
- **Re-focus** – intentionally focusing on nurturing the spiritual growth of members and participants – specifically through relationship building – and focusing on ways to expand and deepen our hospitality toward each other and guests.

A sabbatical is not forever – Session has designated October 2019 – May 2020 as our time of sabbatical. Our hope and dream is that on the other side of this sabbatical, we are ready with energy and a renewed focus to grow as disciples and as a church.

Continued on next page…….
So what will this look like? Well, we’re on this adventure together! Our committees have already been brainstorming, and I’m excited about some of the ideas that are being birthed – ideas to streamline some of the things we do, to reshape some of our educational time to allow for greater connections and new ways of learning, to explore ways of deepening our worship experience and our spiritual growth, and to find ways of inviting each other into ministry that doesn’t involve serving on a committee until you die. Most of those ideas are still in process, so no details to share yet, but stay tuned – they’ll be coming!

Over the next few months we’re going to have multiple opportunities for meeting in small groups to share with you more about this sabbatical, our hopes and dreams, and to hear your hopes, dreams, and yes, even concerns. This is new territory for us all, so an bit of anxiety is to be expected. We’ll get info out to you soon about those opportunities. Meanwhile, if you’ve got any questions please feel free to talk to any member of the Shift Task Force: Jennifer Koolen, Janna Loehr, Vena Alesio, Harry Olthoff, and myself. You email us as a group at Shift@FPCLincoln.org.

Please keep the session, committees, and our whole church in prayer, as we respond to God’s challenge to embark on this journey. No doubt as in any journey there will be surprises, there will be bumps in the road, and there will be things that didn’t go as planned, yet we know beyond a doubt is that God is with us, and will guide our steps.

Thank you for your faith in the leaders of this church as they seek to lead this church with faith and trust.

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

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/worship/sermons.
FPChristian Education
2019-2020 Christian Education Year Kicks off on Sept 8th!
"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth..." Isaiah 43:19a

FPChristian Education
Part of being a church is getting to know your church family. We had a great time last month doing just that with our Knights of the Round Table evening. We had paper hats, noodle horses, popsicle stick catapults and a lot of laughter. Be sure to check out some of the pictures and art work created from that event outside the Welcome Center. But until you do, here is a sampling of what happened.

Adventures with Flat Jesus -
Are you headed somewhere fun this summer? Are you going to some interesting places for a week or just a day? Don’t forget to take Jesus with you! Let’s help stay connected with the church family through the summer with our “Flat Jesus Photo Contest”. Flat Jesus is a colorful cut out of Jesus that can easily be tucked away on your summer travels. When you get somewhere interesting or just want to share what you’re doing, take a picture of where ever you are with Flat Jesus in Flat Jesus in the foreground. This isn’t just for kids but for the young at heart, too! Here is how to join in the fun.

Pick up a laminated flat Jesus in the Welcome Center or Church Office. You can also create your own Flat Jesus by downloading the image at http://fpclincoln.org/adventures-with-flat-jesus/
Take your Flat Jesus everywhere you go and take lots of pictures
Place a reminder on the back about how to post the pictures www.facebook.com/fpclincoln or other social media with the hashtag #FPCflatJesus and post your pictures. You can also email them to Kris Brammer at dce@fpclincoln.org
Summer Sunday Devotionals – This summer you are invited to take FPC with you on your adventures. Each week in the FPC email, will be a devotional that you can use on Sunday morning (or anytime during the week, really). You can also pick up the upcoming weeks devotional in the Welcome Center.

2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium

This past July, I was blessed to attend the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. This national youth event hosted by the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church on the campus of Purdue University welcomed 5,000 youth and their adult leaders from all across the country, from Alaska to Puerto Rico, including our own Homestead Presbytery and its youth and adults.

Each day at the conference, young people gathered by the 1,000’s for worship, small groups, and recreation and through it all explored the theme “Here’s My Heart”, which is a line from the classic hymn – “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” Together we explored this overall theme through three different daily scriptures - Zacchaeus (Jesus Sought Me), The Prodigal Son (Prone to Wander) and Peter stepping out of the Boat (Here’s My Heart) to better understand how and where God is calling us. But beyond the theme exploration, fellowship, and fun that was had by so many, there was also a glimpse of what the church can be. Despite oppressive heat and humidity, young people lined up daily to show their exuberance and joy for God’s word and love.

I’ve witnessed these types of conferences many times before, and I’m still touched and moved by the glimpse of the Kingdom they provide. Where else do you see people lining up an hour before the doors open in order to rush into worship for energizers, songs, and the proclaimed Word of God? Where else do you see people standing in ovation at the conclusion of a sermon, exclaim “preach it” and “amen”? Where else do you see people greet a stranger, welcome them and become friends in a matter of minutes while sitting out on the lawn during a rec event. You can see it at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, that’s where. May we all follow our young people’s example to offer our hearts to the Lord and go crazy for God’s word!
Interested in joining the Adult Choir or Handbell Choir?
Rehearsals will be starting in late August. Open to ages high school and up. Bell choir spots are limited.

Please contact Brian Pfoltner as soon as possible if you are interested. Call 402-477-6037 or Email at musicdir@fpclincoln.org.

Stay tuned for the announcement of the Arts for the Soul 2019-2020 season - we’re very excited to welcome some fantastic acts!
FABULOUS, FANTASTIC, GREAT WORSHIP & MUSIC, TIMELY WORKSHOPS

These were only a few of the great comments about the Synod of Lakes & Prairies PW Gathering in Ames, IA in June. The Gathering Committee started with Sue Medsker-Nedderman and Joan Berglund, then included Terri Sherman, Linda Hora, and with administrative advice from our Synod Moderator, Sue Kimball. As we progressed, Maggie Horak, Sharon Falck, Suzie Harder joined us to help with all those many details.

Those attending from Homestead Presbytery were: Terri Sherman, Joan Berglund, Maggie Horak, Suzie Harder, Charlene Cochell, Glenna Haller, Christy Abraham, Linda Burchard, Carolyn Harp, Pastor Teresa Bartlett, Pastor Sue Babovec, Kris Peterson, Mary Bell and Ginni Metcalf.

Our keynote speaker was Kathy Reeves recently retired from the Churchwide staff in Louisville, KY. Other plenary speakers were Elona Street Stewart, Synod Executive, Mary Newbern Williams, Exective Presbytr from Missouri River Valley and Kathleen Keefer also from MRV.

Our Worship Leader was Rev. Suzanne Gorhau who was exceptional. She also presented a workshop on the work of the Marion Medical Mission which was one of our offering recipients. Kris Peterson and Mary Bell led us in music at the beginning of each plenary.

Half of our offering went to the Marion Medical Mission and the other half to the Sudanese Tutoring Program. The Rev. Ekram Kachu of the First Arabic Church is Des Moines spoke briefly about this program and also presented a workshop on her experience as a refugee. The total offering was $3867.

Our Tech person, Kim Coulter, (from the Des Moines Presbytery) did a workshop on taking pictures with our phones and it was a big hit.

Native American stories facilitated by Sharon Falch, member of the Native American Concerns Committee, introduced Fern Cloud and Danelle McKinney Crawford who told their stories. Danelle was the first Native American women to be ordained as a pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Fern Cloud Fern Cloud is currently the CRE at Pejuhutazizi since 2004.

Continued on next page
Marilyn Stone, Synod Rep to the CCT presented two workshops on Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the film, *Flint*.

To complete our list of workshops, Marcia McAdoo presented *Toxic Charity*, Sue Ingels on her global exchange to Indonesia, Sue Kimball – *In her Shoes*, a simulation on domestic violence against women; Fern Cloud – *The Circle of Life*; Nancy Siewert, book review of Waking Up White; and Meghan Davis Christian Chair Yoga.

Linda Hora was in charge of finding a Hands-On project and she chose a great one in Days for Girls. 166 packets were completed for them. Wings of Refuge, who had received a Birthday Offering recently grant and Butterfly Freedom House both from the Ames area were the recipients of the gift cards. $3030 was received in gift cards to be split between these two worthy organizations.

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**Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering**

**Homestead Presbytery**

**Registration form for non - Homestead use**

**September 13-14, 2019**

Calvin Crest, Fremont Nebraska

Print Name ____________________________

(Please print – this will be on your nametag)

Church Name ____________________________

Presbytery ____________________________

Home Town ____________________________

Home Phone ____________________________

**Fees: (choose one)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fees</th>
<th>Registration fees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday evening only – meal (provided by PW officers) and conversation</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday only – breakfast (PW provided) and lunch included</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Both Days – Includes your sleeping room (2 / room) and all meals</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
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(Let us know of any special needs or accessibility accommodations that you may have)

Total Enclosed __________________

To ensure accurate Meal Counts and sleeping room reservations please return by September 1st.

Make checks payable to PWPH.

Mail to:
Joan Berglund
545 S 28th St
Lincoln NE 68510

For more information:
Terri Sherman
402-466-0063
Presbyterian Women are once again collecting school kits! Please donate items if you can in the front office and the ladies will take care of the rest!

School Kits

Now is the time of year to purchase items for the PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance / CWS (Church World Services) school kits when there are great sales. We can get the bags made and everything assembled during the year and have them ready to go next summer.

The following items are needed and can be brought to the church where we will store and assemble them. (Value $15)

1 pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)

3 - 70-count spiral notebooks or tape-bound pads of 8" x 10½" ruled paper or pads with 200-210 sheets of ruled paper. (Do not include filler paper.)

1 - 30-centimeter ruler (12”)

1 - hand-held pencil sharpener

6 - new pencils with erasers

1 - large eraser

1 - box of 24 crayons

1 - cloth bag, 12" x 14" to 14”x 17” finished size cotton cloth bag with cloth handles (pattern available). Please, do not use reusable shopping bags or backpacks.

Pack all items in the cloth bag.

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

— Presbyterian Women
The Property Committee wants to thank everyone who has helped with the Yard Beautification Project. Things are going well.

NOTE: We want to alert you to a change in schedule. We will be working on Aug. 24 and 31 and Sept. 21 and 28 starting at 8 AM. Meet at the East Entrance to determine project for the day.

If you can only spend an hour or so, it all helps. Your support of this project is greatly appreciated.

BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED FOR PARKING LOT
The Building Permit Application and supporting documents has been submitted to the City for review and approval. Stephens and Smith is serving as the General Contractor and will be obtaining bids in the near future with construction to begin later this summer. Lynn Bonge has been instrumental in preparing the necessary documents and Brett Richert of Stephens and Smith is helping to shepherd the project. The Parking Lot Task Force thanks the congregation for their patience.
Your Gifts at Work
Thank you to all who gave to the Pentecost Offering in May. We collected $1,187.72, 40% ($475.09) of which is to be kept locally to support a youth program. This year’s gift will be used to help fund scholarships for at least five students to attend the Community Learning Center summer program at McPhee. This enrichment program includes field trips, recreation and leisure skill building, nutrition information, summer activities, meals, and more.

Thank You for Volunteering for the McPhee Food Market
The first day of school is just around the corner, and not long after that, the first McPhee Food Market, an important way we help support McPhee families. Last year was a successful year of transition from the backpack program to the once-a-month Food Market. Many thanks to all those who committed their time to this service, gathering once a month to set up and staff the food market.
Volunteers and subs included: Sharon Peterson, Alex Currie, Janna Loehr, Betty Tenhulzen, Irene Colburn, Jan Enstrom, Scott Svoboda, Pam Carrier, Phil and Carlene Waldron, Sherry Knapp, Barbara Nieveen, Lynne Hughes, Joan Berglund, Carlene Miller, Sandy and Lynn Bonge, Bill and Nancy Janike, LisaJasa, and Marlene Wagner.

If you would like to volunteer again in 2019-2020 or if you're interested in learning more about how you can become a volunteer, please contact the church office or Lisa Jasa(lbjsa4@gmail.com; 402-328-9301).
The Flyleaf Book Club ...
Will meet on August 16 to select books for 2019-2020. Members should bring suggestions of books to read for next year. New members are always welcome!

Don’t Forget!
While your on vacation you can still make your contributions by text. It’s easy, text MissionPossible to 73256. 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 September!

Septembers’ First Report Deadline is August 19th. 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!
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.*

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**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.

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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 Coller
  - x 103 scoller@fpclincoln.org

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

- **Parish Associate of Caring Ministries:**
  - Rev. Jane Holtzclaw
caring@fpclincoln.org

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

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

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

- **Church Administrator:** Carrie Cross
  - x 101 churchadmin@fpclincoln.org

- **Financial Coordinator:** Cheryl Rennick
  - X 102 Finance@fpclincoln.org