

FPC First Report

August 2023
Issue 54
Volume 7

Come join us for our annual back to Sunday school and church celebration on September 10th in Fellowship Hall.

Enjoy a breakfast provided by the Christian Education Committee while you learn about the new and renewed happenings of the church and church life here at First Presbyterian, including children, youth and adult classes and fellowship gatherings.

You don't need to bring anything but yourself and a joyful spirit as we get the 2023-2024 Christian Education and Church year off to a great start.

Regular weekly cases and fellowship gatherings begin Sept. 17th.



First Presbyterian
CHURCH

CE—LEBRATION SUNDAY BREAKFAST

SEPTEMBER 10 @ 9:00 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

JOIN US AS WE KICK—OFF THE
2023—2024 CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION YEAR



Greetings from Pastor Sue!

Friends, you are always on my mind and in my prayers, and I hope I am in your prayers daily. My leave is half through, so I thought I would share what it has been filled with so far. Some of it was expected, and some unexpected. The expected was a cruise down the Amazon – the time with Linda was good and needed, the Amazon was beautiful and the variety of animals rich, and the cruise was a great learning experience about the realities of living on the Amazon. The best was what happened on the last morning of the cruise before we disembarked.

Lindblad Expeditions partners with local non-profits to make a positive impact on the lives of those who live there. We met Eliana Elias, the co-founder and executive director of Minga Peru (mingaperu.org) Lindblad's partner in the Amazon. Minga Peru started 25 years ago as a once-a-week radio broadcast to Amazonian tribes. Often they were the only source of news. They target their broadcast to women, who often have no education, no income, and no power. They now broadcast three times a week, run a leadership institute for women, and help women develop income producing ventures that make their own lives and that of their villages better.

As I listened to Eliana, my passion for mission was stirred in a way it hasn't been in a long time. It also spoke to something that has long been a passion of mine – empowering women and children in ways that make a long-term impact. What is really exciting is their plan to provide opportunities for groups to stay in the villages for a week, to get to know the people, experience something of their life, to learn from them, and to work side by side on hands-on projects. Linda and I hope to participate in one of those trips. (We hope you might be interested too!)

The unexpected part was a trip to Salt Lake City. My mother returned from a trip abroad the same day I returned from the Amazon, only she went straight to the emergency room and had two back-to-back surgeries. So I went to SLC to help my dad and visit my mom. (She came through both surgeries OK, and is now in a rehab center for a while. She'll most likely have a third surgery sometime this fall. Thank you for your prayers!) Thanks to the generosity of some of our church members, we were able to take a couple days on the way back to enjoy the mountains and do some hiking.

I've also been taking a couple of photography courses, which has been a lot of fun and helped me take my photography to the next level. Photography has always been a stress release for me and it connects me with my passion for creation. I also planned to take some pottery classes but those were delayed by my unexpected trip to SLC. Now that I'm back, I'll be diving in and learning a new craft.

Through it all, I've been journaling and looking at how God has been at work during this time. The first part of my renewal leave has focused on caring for myself. COVID and everything following has taken a huge toll, and while before my leave began I said I was on the edge of burnout, I realized now that I had crossed over and was in fact burned out. This has been needed time for me as I return to the core of my calling, which is on every email you ever receive from me: to be rooted in God, open to grace, and filled with joy.

The second half of my leave I'll be spending more intentional time looking at how God is calling me to reclaim that core calling, and to shape my ministry on my return, so that I stay healthy, and so that together we continue to have rich ministry that cares for each other and is a sign of hope to others. You continue in my prayers, as I hope I do in yours, and I am very much looking forward to returning to you in the pulpit on October 8!





Congregational Meeting - September 24th



Sunday, September 24th we will have a congregational meeting to vote on the proposed by-law changes for both the church and the Foundation.

Please go to:
<https://mailchi.mp/4a2c259a828d/fpc-church-by-law-changes>

to review these changes. There will be hard copies available in the East Welcome center on Sundays.

Mission

Mission/ Social Justice continues to collect items for
The Lighthouse & McPhee Elementary School

Please think about picking up an item or two next time you are out shopping!
If you would label your item and place them in the designated box in the Parlor, we will make sure
the items are delivered.

Please label your items as to where they should go!

Let's stock them up for the new school year!

The Lighthouse Wish List

Quarterly / semester incentive gift cards (food, Walmart, target, visa etc.)
Large variety of sizes of organizational bins for HW room
New trashcan / recycling bin in HW room
Label maker
AA & AAA Batteries
5 new mousepads (for homework room)
BIC Mechanical Pencils
New Pool Sticks
Disinfectant Wipes/Spray
Kleenex

McPhee Wish List – On Going Needs

Kleenex
Backpacks—need for boys or gender neutral (plain colors)
Items for McPhee Hygiene Closet:
Bars of soap
Body Wash
Shampoo / Conditioner
Toothpaste
Deodorant
Feminine hygiene products

Two pocket plastic folders without prongs
24 count crayons
Spiral, single subject notebooks
highlighters
Chisel tip Expo dry erase markers
thick, chisel tip markers (Crayola, Sharpie or Mr. Sketch

The Adventures of Flat Jesus!



NEBRASKALand Days
with Terri

Flat Jesus Adventures



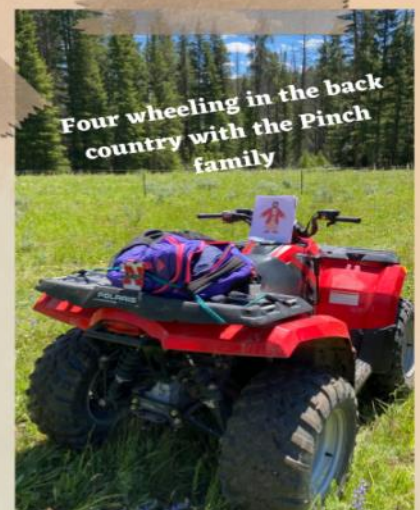
Good times with Pam,
Fran, Jeri, and Betty



Estes Park with Courtney
and Elizabeth



Sewing with Irene



Four wheeling in the back
country with the Pinch
family



Road trippin' with
Carrie

**Wherever you go,
Jesus is with you!**



Church clean up with
Marlene, Pam, and Betty

News From Presbyterian Women

The women of the church have been busy this summer. Once again they have used our church's plot at the community garden site. See pictures below. We are now harvesting tomatoes, cucumbers and green peppers. Most of the produce has gone to the gathering place but sometimes it shows up in the east entrance for our members to enjoy.

A drive for school supplies for the PDA warehouse is now underway. The list of supplies follows:

School Kit

- 1 -pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- 3 -70-count spiral notebooks or tape-bound pads of 8" x 10 1/2" 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.
Items can be placed in the old parlor through this month. Happy shopping!

This is an invitation for all the women of the church to meet Sunday, September 10th, following the church service in Room 107. To discuss the future of Presbyterian women and the finances going into the future. There are funds from Century Guild and the Mary Ellen Keating estate available to Presbyterian Women.

In the past we, we have a budget as follows:

Pledge to Church wide	\$400
Pledge to Synod	\$200
Pledge to Homestead Presbytery	\$200
Global & USA Mission	\$200
Honorary Membership	\$190
Flowers	\$40
Church Women United	\$40
Travel Fund	\$1000
Cost of Liturature	\$100
Guest dinner & Programs	\$100
Mission opportunities	\$200
Total Expense	\$2,670
Income	
Century Guild	\$500
Mary Keating Fund	\$500
Pledges	\$200
Fundraisers	\$200
Total Income	\$1,400

At the moment, our bank balance is about \$4000.00 without receiving any funds from either Century Guild or the Keating Fund.

The income from Century Guild and the Keating fund are pretty much guaranteed for the life of the church. Pledges have dwindled and are practically nonexistent as are fund raisers. We occasionally receive gifts from families where we have served funeral receptions.

We give money to Churchwide, Synod and Presbytery to assist in their mission endeavors which includes the Global and USA Mission trips. I think we can reduce this to \$100 as Churchwide is not making as many mission trips due to the unstable world conditions.

We like to honor women and even men who have been dedicated to the PW purpose and mission work.

I don't believe Church Women United is in existence any more.

The travel fund is used when there is a Churchwide or Synod gathering to help women with the expenses so that they can attend and bring back mission opportunities, book reviews, latest Horizon study material, etc. Churchwide and Synod meet every 3 years with one year without any gatherings. The Presbytery meets twice a year, once by zoom and once in person.

We order a few extra study guides and if someone new joins, we give them a book. This is an estimate as is guest dinners and mission opportunities.

At present Cheryl Rennick and Joan Berglund are in charge of overseeing that the pledges are sent in and other expenses paid. We feel that a precedent should be set and a budget is established and funds disbursed.

Please come so these issues can be discussed.

Blessings, Joan Berglund



Are you looking for a ladies Bible Study?

First Presbyterian has three women's groups that meet monthly with the purpose to nurture women's faith through prayer and Bible study. If you would like to join one of the circles, have questions, or need more details,

Circle 1 - 1st Wednesday of the Month, 9:00 am, Rm 107
SSS Circle, 3rd Thursday of the month 1:30 pm, Rm. 107
Afterwork Bible Study, 4th Monday of the month. 5:30 pm, Zoom

Music Notes



Choir & Handbells are starting up for fall!

Both the choir and handbell choir will be resuming this fall. Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings and sings most Sundays in church. Bells play in church about once a month.

If you are interested in joining please contact Brian Pfofner at:

musicdir@fpclincoln, or call 402-477-6037

Arts for the Soul Music & Fine Arts Series

The new season will be kicking off soon with two important & inspiring events!

Joel Sartore

National Geographic Explorer & Photographer

Friday, September 8, 7:30 p.m. (ticket required)

Presenting photos and stories from his acclaimed National Geographic Photo Ark Project



Portrait of Joel Sartore, 2021, by Ellen Sartore.

Joel Sartore/National Geographic Photo Ark - natgeophotoark.org

A Changing Climate: Challenges & Opportunities

Sunday, September 17, 7:00 p.m. (free)

featuring presentations by

**State Climatologist Dr. Martha Durr &
Norfolk Mayor Josh Moenning**

Join us for this free event as we learn about our changing climate,
and explore solutions and opportunities to deal with it.

Property Committee

PROPERTY COMMITTEE AT WORK

Members and helpers have cleaned the courtyard. There is a church wedding for Olivia Albers and Brant Haupt scheduled for August 25th and the couple would like to take some pictures in the courtyard.

We plan to be sure and add the courtyard to our fall cleanup. It seems to be the forgotten child! Check it out the next time you are in church.



Many Thanks to Gary Hughes and Walt Schacht for power washing the courtyard!



This & That...



Carrie is going on vacation from August 30 - September 15 this year and we could use some help in the office while she is visiting her Mom in Canada.

If you have a few hours to spare, please use the QR code to sign up to help in the office. Shifts are broken into 3 hour shifts from 9 am - 12 pm and 12 pm to 3 pm.



July 17-23 I was able to go to Dallas TX for The Church Network's annual Church Administrator conference. This was a great opportunity to network with other church administrators that deal with the same things I do. It was 4 days of intense lectures and networking.

I started the week out driving into Dallas from Lincoln. That was a interesting journey through Kansas, Oklahoma, and north Texas. I arrived at my hotel and the convention center about 6 pm Monday. Tuesday started bright and early at 8 am with registration and the Facilities fast-track. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday was filled with lectures on technology, theology & Ethics, self-care, empowering leaders, and healthy churches.

I also met with other Presbyterian church administrators and executives to network and gain insight as to how they were doing since Covid. I will be working with the property committee to look at a couple of things that I learned and how we might be able to better utilize our gifts.





First Presbyterian Church Foundation

Our Foundation supports our church in so many ways and has for generations and will for generations to come. Our Foundation supports the church budget, supports our music, caring, mission, and Christian education programs, just to name a few. As we lift up our Foundation, we want to make you aware of the new way to give to the Foundation Birthday Club. During the month of your birthday, you will receive a note from our Foundation asking you to participate in the Foundation Birthday Club. This is a way you can support our Foundation.

If you have any questions regarding this program or any other questions about our Foundation, please contact the church finance office at ~ finance@fpclincoln.org



What Is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

Who's Involved in Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Leaders are church staff, lay leaders, and pastors trained to provide ongoing leadership for their congregation's Stephen Ministry. They are equipped for this key role through the Bridge Leader's Training Course offered by Stephen Ministries St. Louis.



FPC Online Store

Did you know that FPC now has an online store to meet all of your hat, polo and fleece needs? Just hop on over to <https://fpclincoln.qbstores.com/> to see what is available!



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Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit 408
Lincoln, NE

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.

Did you know?

That it is easier than ever to make your Pledge
and Per Capita payments online now?
You can even set up recurring payments!
No Login Required!

Simply go to **www.onrealm.org/fpclincoln/give**

We now have **Venmo** - [@FPCLincolnNE](https://venmo.com/FPCLincolnNE)

You can still give by text as well by **texting MissionPossible to 73256**

Sunday Worship Times

In-Person Worship Services

10 am - English - (Livestreamed at <https://fpclincoln.online.church>)

12 pm - Nuer

Events & Opportunities

fpclincoln.org/events

Worship Online:

[Fpclincoln.online.church](https://fpclincoln.online.church)