

FIRST REPORT

Sue's Musings – 70th Anniversary of the FPC Foundation

Did you know that only 33% of Americans have established estate plans? Most people say “I’ll get around to it,” and then they don’t. I get it - my financial advisor has been bugging me the last several times we talked to update my beneficiaries. My answer – I’ll get around to it ... soon, I promise! And I still haven’t done it. Many people avoid working on estate plans because they either think they have plenty of time, or they simply don’t want to think about the fact that one day they will die. (There are also those who think they don’t have enough to warrant estate plans, but I can tell you from experience that no matter how little you think you have, having a will or other estate plans makes a huge difference to how smoothly things go for your heirs.) We are blessed in our church to have had people who realized that one day they will no longer be here, and who wanted what they left behind to continue to support the ministry of the church.

This past month we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church Foundation – thanks to those who had the foresight and faith to include the church in their wills and estate plans. That Foundation has made it possible for us to do unique ministries, such as the Community Garden, to cover unexpected capital expenses, such as roofs and hvac systems, and to supplement the annual giving so that we could continue to have a ministry that cares for our own members and reaches out into the community and beyond.

If you were in church the Sunday we celebrated the anniversary, you would have heard that we have over 5 million dollars in our foundation. That’s a lot of money! One of the dangers churches with large foundations face is that congregation members think “we have all this money, why should I give?” And then congregational giving goes down, and more and more of the foundation funds are needed just to keep the doors of the church open, and then we don’t have funds to do the more creative ministries and capital expense support that the Foundation was intended for. Yes, we have fallen into that trap!

I want to encourage you to take a prayerful look at what you are going to give to the church in 2024, and consider

increasing that by 10-20%, or more, as you are able. The more we can give to the ongoing work of the church, the more of our foundation funds are available for not only large emergency expenses, but for creative ministries that can bring hope to others. After all, you can’t take it with you!

And if you don’t have a will, or haven’t updated yours in a while, now’s a great time to attend to that!



Arts for the Soul

Sing from the Heart: The Power of Words (& Music!)

Our next Arts for the Soul concert was the annual Sing from the Heart concert on Friday, Oct. 27, 7:00 p.m. This year's event was called, "The Power of Words (& Music!)," and was a unique combination of music and poetry. The First Presbyterian Choir sang several choral pieces based on poetry by such well-known poets as Robert Frost and Langston Hughes. The special guest for the evening was Nebraska State Poet Matt Mason, who talked a bit about some of these poets and texts featured in the choir's music, and then presented some of his own poetry.

As in previous seasons, this year's Sing from the Heart event also featured a local charity and took up a freewill donation for them. This year's featured charity was the ECHO Collective. ECHO Collective connects and empowers refugee and immigrant women by providing opportunities for personal growth and building cross-cultural relationships in a nurturing environment. Founder & Executive Director Kelly Ross talked to people about the work that this organization does right here in Lincoln.



In conjunction with the concert, we also took Matt to Lincoln Northwest High School to do a workshop in one of their English classes



Matt Mason, Brian Pfohlner & Kelly Ross

We raised over \$1,500 for the ECHO Collective through the Sing From the Heart concert! Thank you!

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 19, 3:00 p.m.
The Unitarian Church of Lincoln, 6300 A St, Lincoln

This service of gratitude is open to everyone, and all faiths are welcome and encouraged to attend. In a world that serves up daily reminders of what divides us, this service brings together people of all faiths, and reminds us of what binds us together in our shared expressions of gratitude and thanksgiving.

Clergy from many different faiths will participate, with this year's featured speaker being Erik Servellon, Vice President of Operations and Development at the Tri-Faith Initiative in Omaha. The Tri-Faith Initiative brings together in permanent residency a synagogue, church, mosque, and interfaith center on one 38-acre campus in America's heartland.

Following the service, a reception will be provided, allowing people of all faiths the opportunity to mingle and get to know one another. You are invited to bring a dessert to share if you would like. You may also bring a donation of non-perishable food items for the Food Bank of Lincoln.

For more information on the service, contact Brian Pfohlner, 402-477-6037 or email musicdir@fpclincoln.org

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 22 we hosted our first ever Trunk-or-Treat! It was well attended with approximately 300 participants enjoying the wonderful fall weather. Enjoy a few of the moments that were captured as we enjoyed a wonderful fellowship experience.



SO excited for Trunk-or-Treat!!!



Fishy Fishy!



Arrr! Matey!



Fabulous!



It's the Great Pumpkin



Boo!



Presbyterian Women

at First Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Women in September voted to donate the following and the checks are being sent out:

\$200 to Clinic of the Heart
\$200 to McPhee school
\$200 to the Gathering Place
\$100 to the Birthday Offering
\$100 to the Peace & Global Witness Offering

Homestead Presbyterian Women have put together some suggestions for Mission Opportunities and Social Justice activities. Please consider these suggestions.

Mission and Social Justice Projects for the Fall and Winter Season

Do you ever feel overwhelmed about the amount of need in the world? Children are hungry and without winter coats, women are being abused and trafficked, people cannot afford their rent, and families have everything they own destroyed in a natural disaster. PW understands it can feel like it is all too much and we get paralyzed because we don't know where to begin. PW is here to help.

We have put together a list of mission and social justice projects for each season, many of which are taken from the Presbyterian Women Justice and Peace Calendar. Of course, your PW group should always follow our heart on what your group wants to do. These are just suggestions to help you get started.



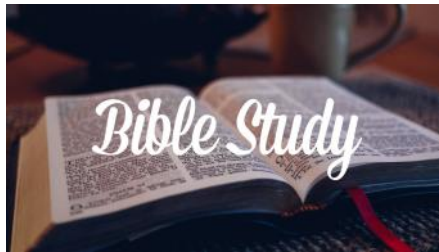
THANK OFFERING: The Thank Offering began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society. In the 135 years since Eliza first asked women to give a "thank offering to her Lord," more than 1,600 different projects in the United States and around the world have benefitted from grants funded by faithful and generous givers.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH: October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. For one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men. These statistics are staggering and heartbreaking. Please consider giving to the domestic violence shelter in your community. Below is the list of domestic violence shelters in Homestead Presbytery. They can always use cash donations, but you may want to call them and see what other specific items they are needing this fall.

Domestic Violence Shelters

1. Center for Survivors (Columbus) 402-564-2155
2. Bright Horizons (Norfolk) 402-379-2026
3. Haven House (W'ayne, South Sioux City) 402-375-5433
4. The Bridge (Fremont, Blair, West Point) 402-721-4340
5. Hope Crisis Center (Fairbury, Crete, Beatrice, Seward, York) 402-729-2570
6. Voices of Hope (Lincoln) 402-475-7273
7. Friendship Home (Lincoln) 402-434-6353
8. Project Response (Auburn, Nebraska City) 402-274-5092

NATIVE AMERICANS: November is Native American Heritage Month. "Stitchers", a creative group of women from Southern Heights Presbyterian Church Lincoln who are passionate about serving others, have been donating winter hats and mittens to the Crow Creek Reservation in South Dakota. This year Stitchers are providing handmade hats and mittens for 64 Head Start students who attend pre-school on the reservation at Fort Thompson, SD. More details on how PW can be part of this mission outreach opportunity will be available at the PW Fall Gathering or call Janice Stege, 402-570-2192.



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

Circle 2, 3rd Thursday of the month 1:30 pm, Rm. 107

Circle 3 - Afterwork Bible Study, 4th Monday of the month. 5:30 pm, Zoom

Men's Bible Study

The men meet every Tuesday morning at 8 am for breakfast and Bible Study in room 107.

Getting to Know our Members

From the Hospitality Ministry Team (HMT)

We are continuing our monthly feature highlighting some of our church members. This month we are going to feature one of our young families. Hopefully after reading this you will know a bit more about them, and may find something you never knew you had in common with them!

Trey, Caitlyn, Anneliese, and Ari Andrews

Trey and Caitlyn grew up in Oklahoma. Caitlyn grew up in a small town called Bristow and Trey grew up in Tulsa. They both went to Oklahoma State University, where they met in 2006. Trey graduated in 2008 with degrees in Spanish and psychology. Caitlyn graduated in 2009 with a degree in agricultural education.

Fun fact:

Caitlyn grew up competing in rodeo and even competed in college. If anyone has any questions or wants to discuss horses, she's full of information. She said, "I can't ride like I used to due to a back injury I'm still battling, but I'm hopeful to make it back in the saddle one day. I also raised show pigs and my dad has always had cattle. Agriculture and rural life are very much part of who I am."



They moved to Arkansas where Trey attended the University of Arkansas for his PhD in clinical psychology. They lived there until 2013, when they moved to Charleston, SC for Trey to complete an internship and post doc at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

Trey is currently a tenured professor at UNL with dual appointments in clinical psychology and ethnic studies.

Caitlyn is currently employed at the Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture as the Dairies and Foods Program Manager. She manages inspectors who inspect and regulate food retailers, manufacturers, and dairy producers in the state.

They have two children: Anneliese, who is 8, and Ari, who is 5. Anneliese was born in Charleston and Ari was born here in Lincoln. Both Caitlyn's and Trey's extended families are all in Oklahoma, with the exception of Caitlyn's brother in Texas.

Trey and Caitlyn joined First Pres in 2019. They started attending when the church they had been attending began to show some conflicts with their personal beliefs and values. Trey had previously worked with Pastor Sue on using the space for clinical work, and had a good experience. They have enjoyed getting to know everyone here and feel like they can be themselves. They especially enjoy our Sunday school classes where they can talk honestly about hard theological questions and the history of the Bible.

Trey and the kids participate in Brazilian jiu-jitsu. Lincoln Brazilian jiu-jitsu has offered a great community of friends and coaches. They are at the gym there probably 4 or 5 times a week.

Being active is a huge part of their lives and Trey and Caitlyn both exercise daily. They both enjoy traveling, hiking, and anything that they can do with their kids. Caitlyn likes to crochet to unwind on occasion, but is self-taught and says she is "not the best."

They have one dog named Dickens, but they're planning to add a puppy in late December.

Upcoming Events

Advocacy: Action that Leads to Hope
Sat, Nov 4, 9:30 to 11:00 AM
First-Plymouth Congregational Church

Do today's issues, including hunger and climate change, seem overwhelming? Learn how you can make a difference at a free advocacy workshop! You'll learn the basics of advocacy, hear a brief overview of the hunger and environmental aspects of the Farm Bill, and practice active hope by telling policy makers what you think on whatever issues matter to you.

Use the west entrance to the building, go up the stairs or use the elevator, and then to the right to Pilgrim Hall. Coffee and a snack will be provided. No registration required.

Homestead Presbytery Fall Meeting

November 16 at Eastridge Presbyterian Church, Lincoln
9:30 orientation and welcome
10:00 worship and meeting

Please register if you want lunch

Registration will be open soon
Watch the website homesteadpres.org for details



Fall Cleanup Day Postponed to a later date

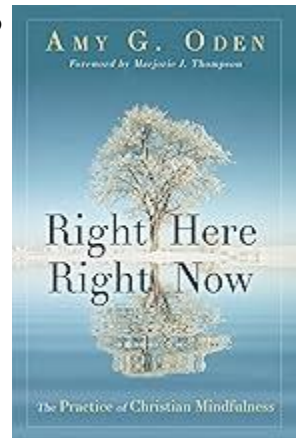
The Fall Clean-Up day has postponed to a later date. Watch your emails for updates!

Christian Education

Just what is “Christian Mindfulness?” During the season of Advent, you will have the chance to learn about and explore the practice of Christian mindfulness through the book “Right Here Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness” by Amy G. Oden. The book is in conjunction with this year’s Advent worship series, “The Gift of Being Present.”

There are three options to participate in this study; 1) Online with Pastor Sue on Monday nights at 7:00pm, 2) Wednesday nights with Kris Brammer at 5:30 pm at Braeda Café, and 3) a self-lead, at home options with journaling and self-reflection prompts.

Books can be purchased through major online retailers like Amazon and Barnes and Noble and are also available in e-book formats. For questions contact Kris Brammer.



Join us as we kick-off the Advent Season with a night of Advent crafts, activities, service opportunities, and fellowship. On December 3, 3:00-5:00 pm, FPC and Eastridge Presbyterian are jointly hosting an Advent Workshop together here at FPC in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars and join us for this coming together of Presbyterian siblings as we prepare for Christmas. More details to come so in true Advent fashion, “Be on the Lookout!”

Dinner & a Book
Wednesdays @ 5:30 pm
Braeda Fresh Express

Get ready for a Wednesday night feast for your tummy and soul! At 5:30 pm, join us for a scrumptious dinner, heartwarming camaraderie, and a deep dive into Barbara Brown Taylor's book, "An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith." Taylor's book is a roadmap to discovering the divine in the every day by embracing the sacredness of life beyond the church doors.

The book is available in all formats (e-book, paperback, and audio) from all major online booksellers. So, come along, and let's embark on this spiritual adventure together!

This & That...



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!



Book Club meets the third Friday of the month in the Parlor next to the Sanctuary at 9 am. All are welcome!

November Book - “The Seed Keeper” by Diane Wilson

December Book - “The Twelve Topsy-Turvy Very Messy Days of Christmas” by James Patterson

January Book - “The Mystery of Huntings End” by Mignon Eberhart



Coffee Hosts

Coffee Hosts - We need folks to help our hospitality committee make coffee and provide treats after worship.

You can call Carrie in the office and she'll put you on the list. Or scan the QR code to the left and sign up!



This & That



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.



Is your contact information current in the church office? If you have moved, changed phone numbers, or email addresses, please let Carrie in the office know at churchadmin@fpclincoln.org. You might be missing out on some really fun stuff!

Christmas Village

Our Christmas Village is getting a permanent home in Room 105! If you would like to join in the fun of setting up buildings, people, snow, and a train, please contact Vena Alesio at venabeth4nu@gmail.com.

All are welcome to bring Christmas to the church as we prepare the Village for the Advent season.





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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)