



# FIRST REPORT

April 2023  
Issue 54  
Volume 4

**The Refugee & Immigrant Experience in Lincoln  
(free & open to the public)  
Saturday, April 29, 3:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church  
Great Hall**

Featuring presentations by The ECHO Collective and Catholic Social Services. ECHO Collective helps refugee and immigrant women overcome the barriers that they face in rebuilding their lives in the United States. Their programs focus on creating connections that surpass language, and their desire is to see every refugee and immigrant confidently call Lincoln “home”. Catholic Social Services is one of the main resettlement agencies in Lincoln.



**Fifth Sunday Breakfast in Fellowship Hall ~ Sunday, April 30, 9:00 a.m.**  
Potluck Breakfast sponsored by Christian Education

Featured speaker: Oscar Rios Pohirieth, Cultural Specialist and Coordinator for the Bilingual Liaison Program at Lincoln Public Schools.

Oscar has worked with immigrant and refugee students and their families for 24 years in Lincoln. He will focus his presentation on the complexities of understanding the other person's cultural perspective as it relates to our new Americans living among us. (You may also remember Oscar as having played in church here before with Daniel Martinez, and in a concert with Jarana).



# Mission & Justice

## Exciting Things Happening with Mission and Justice!

As part of our work in connecting with our neighborhood and building partnerships for ministry, we are focusing our work in these primary areas:

1. **Justice in Action:** Thursday, May 4 on your calendar – even if you haven't been involved before, please show up then! We'll meet at the Lancaster County Event Center, and we hope to have at least 1,200 people present as we meet with city and county leaders to talk about making a difference.
2. **The Lighthouse:** Bill Michener is the executive director, and we are working with him to find more ways for us to volunteer there and make a difference. We'll also be sponsoring a table at their Fall Fundraiser.
3. **The Gathering Place:** We continue to support and volunteer at The Gathering Place. We provide volunteers to serve on the first Tuesdays of the month. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Sherry Knapp or Carrie in the office.
4. **McPhee Elementary School:** This is one of our longest partnerships, and we continue to provide volunteers to help kids read, pack food for families at the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Food Market, and host a summer event to send the kids off with books and fun things for the summer, as well as helping out with emergency needs and supporting the staff.
5. **OutNebraska:** This is another new partnership, as we reach out to those who have often been ostracized or discriminated against. Once again we will be sponsoring a booth at the Star City Pride Festival in June. (Hopefully it won't be nearly as hot as last year!)

We continue to support Clinic with a Heart and Lincoln Literacy, and doing some mission work in South Sudan.

We always welcome anyone who wants to share in this ministry. Contact co-chairs Jeri Brandt and Shereen Mills if you'd like to be a part of the ministry team, or contact Carrie in the office.



# Christian Education

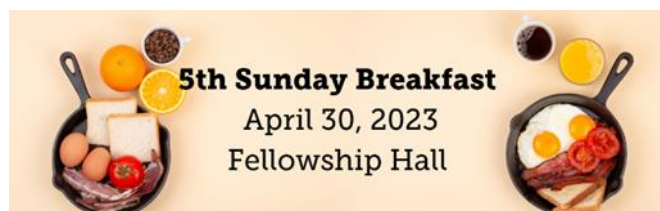
Thanks to everyone who helped out with the Easter Egg Hunt this past month. Because of your help and support of this event we had a great time not only for our own children but children of the community.



The Faith and Current Events and Hebrews classes will continue to meet jointly in Room 211 for the remainder of the Sunday School year (through May 21st). We have started a new series called “Common Theological Questions” with topics such as: “Is there Life After Death”, “What Happens When We Sin”, “Who is the Antichrist”, and “Why Pray”. All are welcome to join and each class topic is an independent topic.

Are you graduating from high school or college, this Spring? Or do you know of a church member who is? We’d love to make sure we know so that we can honor our graduates. Please contact Kris Brammer if you or a family member is graduating this spring.

The end of May also marks the end of the 2022-2023 Sunday School year and Sunday morning classes. We are currently working on a couple of summer offerings online and possibly in person, so be on the lookout for details about summer faith formation opportunities including the return of Flat Jesus!



**5th Sunday Breakfast** returns on Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. This last potluck breakfast of the year we welcome Oscar Pohirieth, Cultural Specialist with Lincoln Public Schools and Bilingual Coordinator.

Oscar will be speaking on the cultural perspectives and others, including information about immigrant and refugee’s families and students in our community, the immigrant perspective, and some demographic information. During Oscar’s presentation, children will have a special time together learning about what the Bible says about welcoming others.

# Arts for the Soul & Music Notes

On Friday, April 14, the *Arts for the Soul* Music & Fine Arts Series at First Presbyterian hosted all of McPhee Elementary School for a *Sultans of String* concert here at the church. Around 300 students in grades K-5 and their teachers got a shortened version of the upcoming Saturday night concert. Luckily the rain held off until later that day, so everyone made it over safe and dry!



# Arts for the Soul & Music Notes

On Saturday, April 15, 7:30 pm, the Sultans of String concert for the general public was held. The group consisted of 3 regular group members along with two people who are refugees/immigrants to Canada. They played violin, guitar, bass, clarinet, and the unusual nyckelharpa --the national musical instrument of Sweden. They also incorporated several other musicians and poets who could not be at the show, but who they interacted with via video.



# FPC Foundation

The First Presbyterian Board of Directors met in February. Their first order of business was to elect officers for the upcoming year. Jim Wagner was elected President, Cheryl Rennick, Vice President, Julie Van Meter, Secretary and Janna Loehr, Treasurer. The Board also welcomed Pam Carrier and Carol Schacht as new members. Last year the Board reviewed the By-Laws and approved some minor changes. These will be brought to the members for approval at the next opportunity.

Their goal for this year is to update the Financial Policy Manual of the Foundation. Once completed, it will be available to anyone who would like to know more about the various funds that have been created over the years and what they can be used for.

Please feel free to contact anyone of us with questions you may have relative to the organization and operation of the Foundation.



## 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 Cheryl Rennick in the church office. [finance@fpclincoln.org](mailto:finance@fpclincoln.org)

## Would You Like to Help with Worship?

We are always looking for help with the many opportunities for serving the congregation through leading and supporting worship services. If you'd like to help with reading scripture, prayers, providing flowers, after-worship coffee and treats, please scan the QR code with your phone's camera to sign-up!



# Mission

Mission/ Social Justice continues to collect items or The Lighthouse!

Please think about picking up an item or two next time you are out shopping!  
If you would label your item and get it to Carrie in the church office, we will make sure the items are delivered to The Lighthouse!

Let's stock them up over the summer!!!!

## 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



### 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.



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

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### ***First Presbyterian Church***

*Where faith is nurtured, curiosity is encouraged, diversity is welcomed, and all are loved.*

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#### **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/fpclincn/give](http://www.onrealm.org/fpclincn/give)

We now have **Venmo** - [@FPCLincolnNE](https://www.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://fpclincn.online.church>)

12 pm - Nuer

#### **Events & Opportunities**

[fpclincn.org/events](http://fpclincn.org/events)

#### **Online Sermons:**

[Fpclincn.org/sermon](http://Fpclincn.org/sermon)