

FPC First Report

September 2023
Issue 54
Volume 8

A Time of Regathering, Sharing and Inspiration

Sunday, October 8, worship at 10 am, Lunch and Presentation at 11:30 ish

Pastor Sue is back from her renewal leave! Join us as we reconnect with each other and share stories of what these last three months have meant to us. Special Guest Eliana Elias, co-founder and executive director of Minga Peru, will join us for worship and a presentation during lunch.

From Pastor Sue:

One of the ways you convinced me to say yes to being your pastor 7 years ago, was by sharing your passion for mission and making a difference beyond our walls. I love what we do with McPhee and other organizations in town that seek to make people's lives better. I also love it when we look way far beyond our walls. When we build relationships with people in other areas, not only do we help them through our resources, we grow through those relationships, and come away the richer for it. Some of the most impactful experiences I have had in my life have involved traveling to other countries and getting to know the people there, what their lives are like, their joys and their sorrows, and partnering with them on things that matter.



Linda and I kicked off my renewal leave with a cruise down the Amazon, where I had the privilege of meeting Eliana Elias, and hearing about Minga Peru and the vital work they are doing in the Amazon region. As I listened to her, I hadn't even realized how tired my heart had become through the day-to-day work of administration and church work, until she spoke. My heart caught fire as I listened to the stories of changing lives she shared. It reminded me why I do what I do.

I hope you are as moved as I was as you listen to the stories of how Minga Peru has impacted lives and communities in the Amazon region of Peru.

Pastor Sue

"My life plan changed when I started my training at Minga. First because I started to be aware of myself, of what I wanted for my future. Now, five years after I started, I want to be a lawyer because I have seen the needs of many women and witnessed how these trained women from my community reported abuse and violence and were not listened to. They had very few opportunities because they were women from the riverside. Now I'm finishing school and I want to continue studying, I'm going to be a lawyer and defend the women from my community".



*- Emira Montes
Trainer and Community Promoter
Puerto Peru Community*

Sue's Musings - Returning

By the time you read this, my renewal leave will be almost over. These three months have gone by a lot faster than I ever expected! And what a gift it has been. It gave me time to focus on some hobbies that feed my soul, to travel, and to spend time with Linda. As many of you know, Linda's work keeps her out in the evenings, so when we are both working, we don't see a lot of each other. So this time was a real gift. It also gave me time read and pray and meditate in a way that wasn't connected to sermon writing. And that in itself was refreshing.

I am very much looking forward to being back in worship with you on October 8. I hope you will join us that day and stay for lunch as we reconnect and enjoy fellowship together, one of the marks of the church.

As I write this, I am preparing to head to the University of the Ozarks for a week as part of their Pastoral Renewal program. This is a week, just by myself, where I can reflect on this renewal leave, what I have learned, how I have grown, and how I want to come back into the life of the church for our continued ministry together. I'll be sharing some of what comes out of that week with you on October 8, and more with the session, as they also have been using this time to consider how they will be leaders in the church going forward. My hope is that we will all come together having had time to rest, to renew, and ready to go where God leads us.

Thank you for your prayers during this time of renewal, and I can't wait to reconnect!



A Time of Regathering, Sharing and Inspiration

**Sunday, October 8, worship at 10 am
Lunch and Presentation at 11:30-ish**

Join us as we welcome Pastor Sue back to FPC with a lunch and Presentation by Eliana Elias of Minga Peru.

We will be providing pulled pork sandwiches and drinks and ask that you bring a shareable side dish



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

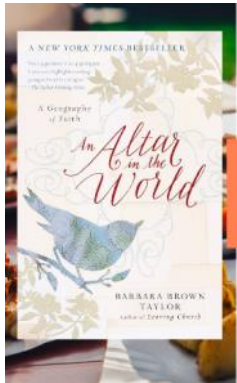
Watch the website homesteadpres.org for details



FPCChristian Education

A great big thank you to the Christian Education Committee and spouses for all that they did at our Celebration Sunday breakfast and helping launch the 2023-2024 Christian Education year here at FPC. It might sound odd to have a designated time frame for faith formation, and your right, it would be as faith formation is always happening. The CE year is just that time when there is a coordinated time of providing intentional faith formation opportunities. And we have such opportunities for all; children (Sunday mornings), youth (Sunday morning and evenings), and adults (Sunday mornings and weekdays). Looking for a place to connect and learn? We've got something for you. Just check out our webpage at www.fpclincoln.org under the Get Connected tab.

Here are some highlights of upcoming opportunities



Dinner
and a
Book

WEDNESDAYS @ 5:30PM
BEGINNING OCTOBER 4TH
BREDA CAFE EXPRESS
33RD & PIONEERS

Dinner and a Book - This fall, the Dinner and a Book group is meeting at Breda Café Express (33rd and Pioneers) on Wednesday nights from October 4 – November 15, 2023. This fall we will be reading *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor. In this book, the author shares how she learned to encounter God far beyond the church walls and how we can learn to do the same. Each Wednesday night we will gather, and talk about that week's chapter as we have dinner and fellowship together. The book can be purchased through all major online retailers in paperback, e-book, and audio formats.

Hebrews/Foundations Class – This adult class likes to “poke and prod” and what we believe and what we think we believe as Christians. Using a wide range of short-term themes and topics, we discuss our beliefs, our unbeliefs, and our faith in order to gain a broader perspective of what it means to be a follower of Christ. Past topics have included; Reading the Bible Through a Love Centered-Lens, One Nation Under God?, Uppity Women of the Bible, and All Theology Has an Adjective.



Trunk-or-Treat – This fall FPC is putting on a Trunk-or-Treat for the kids of the church and neighborhood. What is a Trunk-or-Treat? This where people decorate the trunks of their cars/trucks and pass out candy to children as they visit your trunk. You can have candy, games, to play, whatever your imagination comes up with. We will also be offering hotdogs and

chips, and live music with The String Beans again this year. If you'd like to sign-up to provide a trunk, you can visit the events page on the website or scan this QR Code with your phones camera or visit the events page <https://fpclincoln.org/events/> on the church website.



Youth Dinners – we are once again looking for folks to sign-up to provide a meal for our youth on Sunday nights. This can be home cooked meal or a carry-out meal. The schedule of nights when dinner is needed can be found on the sign-up genius linked to the QR Code. Just scan it with your phones camera and it will take you right to it. You can also visit the youth page [www. https://fpclincoln.org/youth/](https://fpclincoln.org/youth/) and scroll to the bottom for a link.



Presbyterian Women Highlights



Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church

The women of the church met on Sunday September 10 to discuss mission and social justice projects. We have funds available and will continue to have them since the members of Century Guild decided when they ended this organization to contribute \$500 each year to Presbyterian Women. There are also funds available from the Mary Keating fund for use by Presbyterian Women.

Various giving opportunities were discussed. PW has decided to donate \$100 each year to each of the church offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy, Peace & Global Witness and Pentecost), plus the Birthday and Thank Offering for PW. In addition, the Worship & Sacrament Committee would like new white paraments. We think funds for this should come from the Mary Keating fund and when they are completed, have a dedication ceremony and honor Mary Keating. Additional \$100 to Clinic for the Heart, McPhee School, Gathering Place and lastly updating the old parlor. I may have missed something so will keep you updated as the funds are disbursed.

For the present year donations will be made in the amount of \$200 to the church and PW offerings, Clinic for the heart, McPhee School, and Gathering Place.

Property and session will advise us as to what we should do about the old parlor.

It was also decided to meet again in January to see how these projects are going and to determine what else we can do. A PW booklet is being printed. We intend to have an annual meeting every year on the churches' kickoff Sunday in September to review our giving. The minutes of the September 2023 meeting will be included in the booklet.

If any church member has a project that needs funding, please let the church office know. We will be glad to look into projects that we can help with both hands on and financially.

Blessings from the Women of the Church

Getting to Know our Members

Starting this month, the Hospitality Ministry Team (HMT) will be featuring some of our church members in the monthly newsletter. We hope that this will be a chance for you to get to know some members that you may not otherwise get a chance to talk with beyond a quick Sunday morning greeting. Perhaps after reading a feature on someone, you may want to go up to them after church and start up a conversation with, "I had no idea you ... (fill in the blank)."

Frances (Fran) Olson



For our first featured member, we will start with a lifetime member, Frances (Fran) Olson. Fran's family history in First Church goes all the way back to her parents, grandparents, and even her great-grandparents, who came to Lincoln in 1894. All of them were members here. Fran was confirmed here in 1943 or 1944. She moved to Sioux City for two of her high school years, then returned to Lincoln and did her junior and senior years at Lincoln High School. She married Bob Olson in 1950, and they had two children, Bob and Nancy. Her husband Bob passed away in 2016. They had been married for 66 years.

Fran remembers singing in the Cecilia Choir here at church, which was a junior high girls choir. She said they took up the entire north side balcony! She has also sung in the adult choir, served as a deacon, and taught Bible School.

After high school Fran worked for an insurance company until she had her two children. After they were grown, she worked as an accountant at her husband's place of business, Burden's Sale Co. They both retired in 1987 and began to travel the world—literally. Fran has been around the world three times and has visited Canada, Alaska, and all 50 U.S. states. She is still traveling, and planning to take a cruise to Hawaii this December.

George Wheeler



Our next featured member is George Wheeler. George grew up in central Pennsylvania and did his undergraduate studies in Minnesota at Carleton College. He then worked in several different field technician positions before coming to UNL as a PhD student in the Ecology, Evolution and Behavior program. Generally, he spends the academic year here in Lincoln, teaching introductory bio labs and working on writing and analysis. During the summer, he travels to Cedar Point Biological Station (near Ogallala) for his research, which focuses on grassland plant communities. Specifically, he looks at how plant species' traits vary from year to year and manages a site for a global collaboration called NutNet (Nutrient Network).

George's parents met at a Presbyterian church in Kentucky, where his mother was a law clerk and his father was a visiting physics professor. They're now retired, and still live in Pennsylvania. He has two younger brothers, one of whom is also in Pennsylvania, teaching math, while the other is a graduate student in Arizona.

George began attending First Presbyterian shortly after arriving in Lincoln in 2017 and joined the choir that fall. He joined the church in 2018. In addition to singing in the choir, he has also recently been a member of the Worship and Sacrament Committee. In addition to working outdoors for his research, George enjoys nature photography and landscape painting. He's also a fan of tabletop strategy and roleplaying games.

Arts for the Soul

Friday, September 8, 7:30 p.m. marked the start of the *Arts for the Soul* Music & Fine Arts Series season with Joel Sartore. Joel is a National Geographic Explorer, Photographer, and Lincoln native. He was on our series once before in April of 2016. He again showed photos and stories from his National Geographic Photo Ark project, and once again the house was packed, with about 400 in attendance. Opening up the evening was John Chapo, President Emeritus of the Lincoln Children's Zoo, who introduced everyone to a tortoise and an armadillo named Fiz. Everyone in attendance seemed to have a wonderful time!



In conjunction with the Joel Sartore event, on Sunday, September 17, 7:00 p.m., the *Arts for the Soul* Music & Fine Arts Series hosted another environmentally-themed event titled, "A Changing Climate: Challenges and Opportunities." The speakers were Dr. Martha Durr, Nebraska State Climatologist; Josh Moenning, Mayor of Norfolk; and Ken Winston, Executive Director of Nebraska Power & Light. It was a very informative and interesting evening, and audience members had many questions for the presenters.



Helping to plan and promote this event were Ken Winston, as well as members of the First Plymouth Climate Action Team, and the Westminster Presbyterian Church Green at Heart Team.

Upcoming Events



Friday, Oct. 27, 7:00 p. m.
Sing From the Heart

Dessert Concert &
Charity Fundraiser for the
ECHO Collective

**FPC Choir with
Nebraska State Poet Matt Mason**

**This Event is \$5 per ticket for Every-
one!**

**For more info call (402) 477-6037
Or go to www.fpclincoln.org**



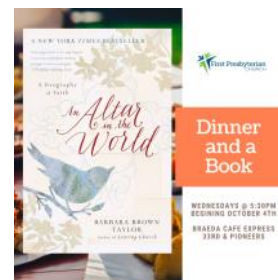
Nebraska State Poet Matt Mason



October 22
4:30 - 6:30 pm

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This & That...



Sending a heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone that assisted in the church while I was away on Vacation! Without you, the volunteers I wouldn't have been able to enjoy my vacation fully knowing that I left the church in your capable hands! Thank you!

This trip was not only restful, but I was able to relax and revel in the splendor that God created.



Maligne Lake, Jasper Park



Carrie, Tucker, & Mom at overlook in Jasper Park



And of course, Flat Jesus went along!

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.



Coffee Hosts

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

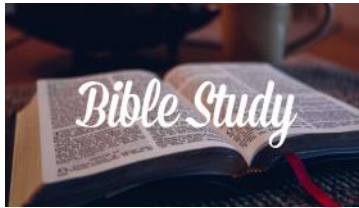
You can call Carrie in the office and she'll put you on the list. Or scan the QR code to the left and sign up!





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!



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

Men's Bible Study

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



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

October Book - "Countdown to 1945" by Chris Wallace

November Book - "The Seed Keeper" by Diane Wilson

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



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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)