

Arms of Faith

November 2023

Dear Faithfuls,

We had our second gathering to Discover our Future on October 8. Again, a big thank you to the Fellowship Team for catering a delicious box lunch meal!

Thank you to everyone who brought a clipping of a factor, force or trend that is impacting our society and the church. What a big variety of trends! Thank you, too, to **Doug Bogenhagen, Lynda Shafer** and **Peggy Wagoner**, our Discovering the Future coordinating team. I appreciate their dedication to this journey, and their enthusiasm.

Many factors, forces and trends were identified. The six that were mentioned at least twice by tables of people were:

- ⇒ Family activities/busy/sports (*this got the most notice*)
- ⇒ Social media (*please note the image of a Facebook post - on the next page*)
- ⇒ Loneliness/depression/anxiety
- ⇒ Judgmental/unwelcoming/hypocritical
- ⇒ Misinformation
- ⇒ Addictions

We also identified the strengths of Faith Church. Seven strengths were identified by at least two tables. Our great facilities were identified by one table – and this is a strength. Later one member emailed me noting that a Faith strength not noted was prayer. Amen to that! The seven strengths are:

- ⇒ Welcoming/caring/loving
- ⇒ Music programs
- ⇒ Serve community and each other
- ⇒ Great caring pastor
- ⇒ Generous with time, talents and mission dollars
- ⇒ Have traditional worship with congregational involvement
- ⇒ Financially stable/strong

Our next step in Discovering our Future is to embrace our future. We will delve deeper into how our strengths can meet the trends of our community. For example, it occurs to me that our welcoming/caring/loving strength can address the pain of loneliness in our community.

Our next gathering will be November 12, again following worship. The Fellowship Team will be serving a catered meal from, drum roll please, Olive Garden!

Peace,
Becky

11:21

Facebook post



The Atlantic

Jul 31 · 🌐



"After a few weeks of either scenario, the thought of going to church on Sunday carries a certain mental burden with it—you might want to go, but you also dread the inevitable questions about where you have been. 'I skipped church to go to brunch with a friend' or 'I was just too tired to come' don't sound like convincing excuses as you rehearse the conversation in your mind. Soon it actually sounds like it'd be harder to attend than to skip, even if some part of you still wants to go. The underlying challenge for many is that their lives are stretched like a rubber band about to snap—and church attendance ends up feeling like an item on a checklist that's already too long."



*Nov 1 Matt Kasprzak
Nov 6 Bob McKulsky
Nov 8 Pat Wollenhaupt
Nov 18 Brad Lechner
Nov 19 Debbie Jamieson*

Parish Nurse Corner

Please stop by the Welcome Booth for a flyer with information about COPD.

Baptism Plaques

We are making some changes at Faith Church! The flower banners in the sanctuary are beautiful, and have been hanging on the walls for years. We are going to be getting different banners for the sanctuary. The flower banners will be moved and hung in Fellowship Hall.

You may have noticed that the cross-stitched baptism plaques are no longer in Fellowship Hall. Thank you to **Doug Bogenhagen** for taking them down. They are now stored in boxes (by decades) in Room 13. If you need to check on a baptism, and want to see the plaque, let a staff person know and we'll get you in that room. (And, if you need information on a baptism, either **Joe Seda** or **Ranae Overton** can look up the information in our records books.)

GriefShare Surviving the Holidays

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? How will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? How will you go forward knowing that everything has changed and happy memories from past years can't be recreated? GriefShare Surviving the Holidays is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. This seminar will be offered on November 4, 2023 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Everyone is welcome! You can register for this seminar at www.griefshare.org.

GriefShare is a 13-week grief support ministry offered by local churches. GriefShare is open to people of all faiths, as well as those who do not practice a faith. A new GriefShare group will start on November 12, 2023 and go through February 18, 2024. We will meet in Room 9 (lower level) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. We will plan to meet every Sunday (except for December 24 and 31) for 13 weeks. There will be a video and small group discussion. You can register for the group at www.griefshare.org. Please RSVP to janine@faith-presbyterian.com or call the church office at (402)331-6944. I hope to see you there!

Sightings

While our great secretary, **Ranae Overton**, is recovering from knee replacement surgery, **Susie Melonis** is filling in with a few of Ranae's responsibilities. Thank you, Susie for taking care of the sanctuary.

Faith Church hosted Crossroads Connection on October 8. A big thank you to **Mary Ann Stevens** for playing the piano during the worship service, and to **Steve Bottorff** for running the sound. **Ginger** and **Steve Norman** and **Bob Meyer** were in worship with the Crossroads people. **Peter Svoboda** coordinated the puppet team and their musical offering. **Chuck Shafer, Doug Bogenhagen, John O'Brien, Al Zimmerman, and Lynda Shafer** hosted a delicious pizza and salad dinner – with ice cream bars. Additionally, John opened the clothing closet to the ex-offenders. One man had only one set of clothes, and was starting a new job the next day – he now has a wardrobe, thanks to the clothes closet!

Thank you!

Faithful friends you all should be very proud that secrets can be keep at Faith PC. I can provide you with recommendations to the Secret Service, FBI or CIA should you need. Kidding aside, it was a complete surprise and I am grateful to each of you for attending! Thank you for the lovely birthday cards and your messages. With YOU, 80 is GOOD! Sharon Fleming

More than One Way to Measure Church Vitality

Too often, churches measure their vitality by only two metrics: "butts in the pew" (please forgive the crudeness), and giving.

Yet, much more happens in the life of the church! Here are other metrics showing how vital this congregation is:

- 24 people enjoyed Lunch Bunch last month
- 6 people were at the first Chair Exercise class
- About 50 people were at the Crossroads Connection worship service – ex-offenders from the Work Release Center, the puppet team kids, and Faith members
- 10 to 12 men meet each week for Donuts and Dialogue
- 6 to 8 men enjoy breakfast together each month
- 8 to 12 people enjoy playing cards every Saturday afternoon
- And, how many come to pickle ball? To knitting? To the Book Group? To Presbyterian Women?

Plus: Youth for Christ meets every Wednesday morning at 7:00 am; a men's group sings together every Wednesday morning; the table tennis group plays twice a week in our Family Life Center; volleyball players are here on Sunday afternoons; and, a women's a cappella group sings on Monday night.

All these metrics demonstrate: Faith is a very vital congregation!

Chair Exercise Class

Wednesdays 11:00 am
In the Fellowship Hall

A new form of exercise - chair-exercise - is being hosted by Janine Yates using exercise videos. If you are recovering from an injury or surgery, if you have balance challenges, or if you want to strengthen your joints and muscles, **this is for you!**

Chair exercises allow you to build strength in your upper body, lower body, and core. If you have limited mobility, you can build muscle without putting additional stress on the joints using only a chair.

Please come and try this out at least once. You may be surprised at what a great workout it can be!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">November</h1> <p style="font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">2023</p>						
<p>1</p> <p>7:00 am Campus Life 9:00 am Set up for Salad Luncheon 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>2</p> <p>SALAD LUNCHEON 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch Mama's Pizza</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group 2:00 pm GriefShare Surviving the Holidays</p>			
<p>5</p> <p>9:00 am Forgiveness Class 9:15 am Stuffing bags for teachers 11:00 am Mission/Evang 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00pm Table Tennis - FLC</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Capella Group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 am Campus Life 9:00 am Sorting clothes 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC 4:00 pm Worship mtg 5:00 pm Fellowship mtg 5:30 pm Discipleship mtg 6:30pm Stephen Ministry 7:00pm Support meeting 7:00pm Facilities - FH</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00 am Men's Breakfast 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group</p>
<p>12</p> <p>11:00 am Meeting/Dinner 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm GriefShare 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00pm Table Tennis - FLC</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:45pm Book Club - library 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Capella Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm Deacons' meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 am Campus Life 9:00 am Sorting clothes 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC 7:00pm Session mtg - FH</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 am Clothing Giveaway 10:00 am OMITTc tournament 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group</p>
<p>19</p> <p>1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm GriefShare 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00pm Table Tennis - FLC</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Capella Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1:00 pm PW 4:00 pm Thanksgiving Project 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>23 OFFICE CLOSED</p>  <p>6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC</p>	<p>24</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group</p>
<p>26</p> <p>1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm GriefShare 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00pm Table Tennis - FLC</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Capella Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00 am Campus Life 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC</p>		

<h2 style="font-size: 36px; margin: 0;">Sunday</h2> <h3 style="font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">Worship</h3> <p style="font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">10:00 am</p>	
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Youth for Christ News

Last month, **Darrin Kimpson** and **Jake Chantry**, the Youth for Christ leaders, met with our session. We asked them how we might do more to partner with them in their ministry to middle school youth. No surprise that they shared with us that funding is always needed. It costs \$72 each Wednesday morning to provide donuts for the kids. Our Mission Team is donating \$720 to Youth for Christ to fund 10 Wednesdays of donuts.

People are also needed by Youth for Christ. Darrin and Jake would welcome adults to volunteer on Wednesday mornings from 7:00 to 8:00 am when they meet in our FLC. If early mornings aren't your thing, Darrin and Jake would also welcome adults who are willing to lead a small group of youth at a different time than early morning. They would provide the training for those small groups.

Interested? Please contact Becky Balestri, bkillion@hotmail.com, for more information and to get the contact information for Jake and Darrin.

Your Session

Clerk of Session - Joe Seda

Discipleship	Shayla Hall
Facilities	Matt Kasprzak
	Jim Willett
	Doug Bogenhagen
Fellowship	Tracy Kristensen
Human Res	Bob Meyer
Mission & Ev	Terri O'Brien
Support	Peter Svoboda
Worship	Al Zimmerman

Great Exercise & Great Fellowship

Join us for



Mondays 6:30 pm
Thursdays 1:00 pm



Join us for



Sundays 1:30 pm



If you are interested and want more info,
call the church office.

Come help the Mission Team support the Teachers

Come early to Fellowship Time on November 5th and help the Mission and Evangelism Team stuff goodie bags for the teachers and staff at La Vista Middle School. We have 100 bags to stuff and will have everything set up. We can use all the help we can get.

Thanks in advance.

Mission and Evangelism

Streaming Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

We continue to broadcast the worship service on Facebook. If you do not have computer access, you may listen to the service by calling 1-844-855-4444 and entering

Clothing Giveaway Update

The next Give Away is November 18. We will be sorting on November 8 and 15 from 9:00 - 11:00am.

There will be no Give Away in December.

Thanks again for all your support.

John and Terri &
the Mission and Evangelism Team





Last week a group of choir members went with Mary Ann to Hillcrest to sing at a hymn sing. It was a joy to sing along with former members Marlin and Dottie DeBoer, their daughter, Linda Hayek and granddaughter, Erin Malm.



Linda Hayak, Marlin DeBoer, Lynda Shafer, Dottie DeBoer.

HALLOWEEN PARTY!

The Discipleship Committee is hosting an intergenerational Halloween Party on Sunday, October 29, after worship. **Everyone** is invited!

Grandparents are invited to bring their grandchildren; parents and anyone who is a kid at heart can come, too. We will enjoy games and crafts, and of course, lunch will be served!

Everyone is invited to wear a costume – grandparents included.

Please call the church office if you will be attending – we want to have plenty of food, and need to know that you are coming for fun!

Celebrate Advent

Sunday, December 3 is the First Sunday of Advent, and we are celebrating with food, crafts and puppets! Please stay after the worship service for a soup potluck lunch (the Fellowship Team asks that you bring your favorite soup, or cheese, crackers, or bread), followed by Advent related crafts for young and older, and the Puppet Team sharing with us "In the Light." Please join us!

Helping Hands to the Rescue

Congregation members – Do you have jobs at home that you cannot do on your own (cutting up limbs, small electrical or plumbing jobs, yard-work, etc)? For help, contact the church office, and we will check with our Helping Hands Team.

The Faith Church Helping Hands Team is in need of a coordinator. Anyone interested in filling this need please contact the church office.

If you would like to join the Helping Hands Team, please let us know and we will add you to our list of helpers.



The next Fun & Lunch will be November 3rd
at 12:00 pm at
Mama's Pizza, 8146 S 96th Street
(1 block north of 96th and Giles Road)
Anyone of any age is invited.
Sign up at church by November 1st or con-
tact Sharon Fleming at 402-709-2103 or
sfleming43@aol.com for your reservation or
if you need a ride.

Lunch Bunch
at J's Smokehouse on October 6



Faith Presbyterian Church
Becky Balestri, Pastor
8100 Giles Road, La Vista, NE 68128
402-331-6944
Web page: www.faith-presbyterian.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithpresby



THANKSGIVING PROJECT

Non-perishable food items and cash donations for our Thanksgiving Basket Project will be collected until Sunday, November 19. Donated items can be placed at the front entrance in or near the wicker basket. Monetary donations will go toward buying turkeys and fresh produce, as well as assisting these families with a utility payment. Make checks payable to Faith Church with **Thanksgiving Project** clearly identified on the check or envelope.

We will be filling baskets and helping carry out or deliver items on Tuesday, November 21, from 4:00-6:30 p.m. If you are interested in helping, please contact Janice Miner @ 339-8304.

Thank you in advance for your kind generosity!
Mission/Evangelism Purpose Team





Harvest

Annual Salad Luncheon

Thursday, November 2nd

Craft Boutique and Bake Sale
10:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Lunch
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Adults \$10.00
Children 5 and under free
(To Go available)

Please let us know how you can help.
Sign-up sheets are in the Centrum.

Setup Wednesday, November 1st
9:30 a.m. - noon and 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Please bring your
salads and home baked goods Wednesday during these
times
or before 10:00 a.m. Thursday.

Thank you in advance from the
Faith Presbyterian Women