



World Communion Sunday
October 3, 2021

When asked to explain what he does, British Pastor J. John says he “works for a global enterprise, with outlets in nearly every country of the world, we’ve got hospitals and hospices and homeless shelters, we do marriage work, we’ve got orphanages, educational programs, and we do all sorts of justice and reconciliation things. Basically, we look after people from birth to death and we deal in the area of behavioral alteration.” It’s called, he said, “the church.” (It’s funny – watch it yourself here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6TGxKvSqH8>)

That may give us a good laugh – but he’s right! We’re just a part of God’s global work bringing peace, reconciliation and hope all over the world. On October 3, for our in-person worship, we will celebrate the church universal, with special music, speakers in multiple languages, and a reflection on what it means to be part of this “global enterprise.”

We will celebrate communion together, remembering that whether in the body or in spirit, we are joined through that sacrament to Christians in all times and places. As part of our celebration, look for Legos in church (you’ll just have to come to find out what that’s about), and bread to take home.

Sunday, October 3, 10 am in the sanctuary. We will only have one in-person worship that day, as our Sudanese worshipers will be joining us at 10 am. We will still have our online worship at 10 am on Facebook, or you can access the online service anytime on our website. Just click “Listen & Watch”. <https://fpclincoln.org/worship-services/>



Healing Moral Injury Conversations

Healing Moral Injury Support Conversations *1st Thursdays 7-9 pm – Registration required* *Facilitator: Pastor Sue Collier*

“Moral Injury is a relatively recent term used to describe a crisis that soldiers have faced for centuries, the internal suffering that results from breaking your own moral code. It's a wound of the conscience, and it's not just military members who struggle. Anyone can experience Moral Injury.”

Shay Moral Injury Center

“Moral injury refers to the trauma that occurs when one's sense of moral rightness is violated.”

Moral Injury Support Network for Servicewomen, Inc

Very few of us have made it through life without some instance of moral injury, whether it was something we did, or something that happened to us. They are the things that rock our world in a not good way, and have us saying “This is not who I am.” or questioning relationships that are important to us. This could be everything from having to make life-altering decisions as a medical professional, to actions taken in war, to relationships that have broken or betrayals you have experienced. Many of us have had these experiences, but have no place to process them. That's what these support conversations are about. These are not therapy sessions – they are a judgement-free zone, and a confidential safe place to share and know that you're not alone.

Each conversation is a stand-alone event, and we are meeting in person. Because there is a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 people per conversation, we do need you to register. You can register through the website or call Carrie and she can get you registered.

Online registration: <https://fpclincoln.org/groups/moral-injury-support-conversations/>

Or go to fpclincoln.org/ click “Get Connected” and then “Small Groups” and then find the Moral Injury group.

Pastor Sue will be facilitating these groups. She has been trained in peer support facilitation by the Shay Moral Injury Center.



Living the Questions

Living the Questions
Mondays, Nov. 1 – Dec. 13, 7-8:30 PM on Zoom
Leader: Pastor Sue Coller

People know that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic.

Each session includes a video featuring some of the leading voices in progressive Christianity, guided discussion, spiritual exercises and Bible study.

So if you've been stuck on some of the core beliefs of Christianity, if you've struggled to understand what everyone else seems to know, join us! The more who participate, the more different voices and perspectives represented, the richer the discussion!

The first of the three sections of this course will be November/December of this year (7 sessions) and we'll offer the remaining 2 sections (7 sessions each) next winter and spring. You can jump in anytime, even if you missed earlier classes.

Know anyone who would appreciate the chance to wrestle with these core beliefs? Invite them to join us! The beauty of zoom is they don't even have to live in Lincoln. Register online (fpclincn.org – click on the "Events" tab) and you'll get the zoom link about a week before the class starts.

This season's classes:

1. An Invitation to Journey – Nov. 1
2. Taking the Bible Seriously – Nov. 8
3. Thinking Theologically – Nov. 15
4. Stories of Creation – Nov. 22
5. Lives of Jesus – Nov. 29
6. A Passion for Christ: Paul – Dec. 6
7. Out into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christians – Dec. 13



Mission & Online Ministry



Mission Outreach & Social Justice (MOSJ) Round Table Meeting Sunday, October 3, 11 am (ish), Room 106

With the pandemic, our MOSJ committee has kept up the good work of staying connected with our mission partners, especially those in our immediate neighborhood. Now we're ready to do some big picture thinking about mission, our church and serving others. If you'd like to be a part of this round table conversation, including hearing about some exciting things Pastor Jock will be doing in South Sudan later this year, please join us! And joining us for this meeting does not automatically make you a member of the committee – unless you'd like to be. We want to get many voices together as we talk about being a Matthew 25 congregation and that that means for us today.

So join us Oct. 3 after the 10:00 am worship service in room 106!



Dreaming From our Online Ministry Team

One of the priorities the session adopted a little over a year ago, was to build a robust online ministry, recognizing that we live in a world where online communities are powerful resources for people seeking a community of faith, and we live in a world where people are seeking faith, but running away from the church. How do we connect? A big part of that is by going to where they are. Long gone are the days of "Build it and they will come" or even "Market and they will come." We live in a world where if we don't go to where the people are, they'll never find us. Thus – online.

We had an energizing conversation about this at our last session meeting – in fact it was simply uplifting! We talked about the possibilities for building an online community, ways we can go about that, resources we'll need, and the potential for touching people's lives who may never want to walk through the doors of a physical church. Or maybe they don't even live nearby!

One thing was clear – there's huge potential, and we're still taking baby steps. We've already begin online worship, but what we're doing just scratches the surface of what is possible. What if someone joined online, and we invited them to a virtual coffee hour? Connected them with another worshipper? Even those are just baby steps.

So your session will be learning more about what's possible, what other churches are doing, and how we might make this a more meaningful part of our own ministry to others. What to be a part of it? Let Pastor Sue, or Jessica Mills know!



**Thank you
from Clinic With A Heart!**



Dear members of First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your recent donation to Clinic with a Heart! Together we are able to change lives in our community...something we couldn't do without your support!

With August, comes back to school time! At Clinic with a Heart we have recently completed clinics entirely based on school physicals. Our first school physical clinic was a huge success! Check out the stats!

We saw 48 kids!...36 kids had a dental screening done too!

Students came from:

0 33-Crete, 4-Fairbury, 3-Beatrice, 3-Dorchester, 2-Exeter, 1-Davenport, and from 1-Milligan

57% of the patients we saw do not have a primary care physician.

53% of the patients did not have insurance.

The best estimate is that 90% live below the federal poverty guidelines (well below).

23 people volunteered for the clinic and donated 144 hours of service to the service of others!

We will never stop being thankful for your donation. We are so thankful for your partnership and for the lives that we can touch because of your generous heart.

From all of us at Clinic with a Heart thank you so much!



Risk Behavior Policy Update



Risk Behavior Policy Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in the two discussions about the Risk Behavior Policy the Session adopted.

We know this is an emotional issue for many, and that no matter what the policy said, no one will be completely satisfied. Your Session has struggled with the policy, and honestly, with each other over it. I doubt any of us is completely comfortable with it, but I am proud of the Session for sticking together and not giving up in trying to seek the will of Christ for us in a messy world. We are called to follow Christ's leading and be agents of Christ's reconciliation, and we are called to be in covenant with each other, to trust and respect each other, and to support each other even when it is difficult. We do this knowing that we all seek the best for all, even if we disagree.

We know that some people wanted a separate policy for people on the sex offender registry. The foundation for this policy was specific to people on the registry. As we considered other examples of people with risky behavior (including behaviors we have seen in our building), the team felt that the kinds of research and safeguards we had in place in the original policy would be beneficial in other situations as well. Regardless of the issue, everyone the policy applies to starts at the high risk level, until the work has been done as outlined in the policy.

We learned as we were crafting this policy that most churches don't have anything to guide them when a high-risk person walks through their doors and wants to be a part of their fellowship, whether that person be on the sex offender registry, or high on drugs. In fact, most churches we talked with said they would simply partner someone with a person on the registry without doing any of the extensive background work that our policy requires to make sure we have appropriate safeguards in place. I am glad we have something more robust and comprehensive in place for us.

Based on the comments, questions and suggestions, from our two discussion meetings, the session will be updating the policy in five specific areas:

Continued on next page





Risk Behavior Policy Update ~ Continued

Clarifying that the policy is not designed to document behaviors or pasts of congregants that do not pose a current risk to the congregation.

We want people to be able to share their current and past challenges with each other without worry that this will result in documentation in the church office. Many times it is our less than stellar past that puts us in a place to be of encouragement to others, and the place where we've experienced God's grace the most profoundly. Part of what makes us a church is this is a safe place to share our stories.

Change language to make it clear that any felony crime or charges will automatically result in an initial placement in the high risk category. Moving away from that would only be considered based on consultation with the outside risk assessment expert on the Risk Assessment Team.

Add/change language that clarifies that the Risk Assessment Team will include, as an ongoing member, an outside-the-church expert(s) in the area of the participant's at-risk behavior.

As a way of protecting victims, we clarify that we will not enter a covenant with an individual if their victim is also a participant in the life of the congregation.

Add language that clarifies that should a congregant have concerns about a specific individual and comes to the Pastor or Risk Assessment Team, we will allow them to disclose whether or not a covenant is in place with that individual, and the basics of what it includes. If the concern is more general in nature (not specific to an individual) then the policy would allow sharing information regarding the number of covenants we have in place and the stipulations that are a part of them, but no names would be shared.

The exact wording will go to the session at their October meeting, and the updated policy will be available for anyone who wishes a copy.

This has been an emotional issue for many – let us show grace toward each other in Christ's name.

Pastor Sue



Music & Fine Arts and Carrie's Corner



Outdoor Hymn Sing

Our scheduled outdoor hymn sing on Sunday, September 12 was canceled due to rain. I think the only 5 minutes that it rained all day was at exactly 10:00!

We are planning to try again on Sunday, Sept. 26 at 10:00 am in the east parking lot right before church. We will just do three hymns and then move inside for the church service. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Special Music in Worship

Sept. 26: Jack Rinke, piano (Jack has played on our *Sing from the Heart* concerts in the past)

Oct. 3 World Communion: There will be many special elements in this service, including Daniel Martinez, guitar; with Oscar Rios, on traditional South American instruments



Carrie's Corner

Carrie will be doing some continuing education classes every Thursday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm through the end of October. So, if you call and she doesn't answer the phone this is why. Her email is churchadmin@fpclincoln.org if you need to get something to her. Carrie will get back to you after her class.



Christian Education

The new Christian Education year is off and running! Did you miss out on the first of these new offerings? That's ok, it's never too late to join in as none of the groups require perfect attendance – life happens and sometimes you miss a Sunday but that's ok. Here is what each group is studying in the coming weeks.

Adult Faith Formation

Faith and Theology is examining clips from the film, “An Inconvenient Truth” that lead us to consider questions beyond those of the scientific and move us toward theological and ethical questions of justice: What responsibilities do Christians have toward those most affected by global climate change? What does the Bible say about how we should treat the poor, the helpless, the refugee? How can we promote justice and peace in the face of apocalyptic climate change? (Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am)

[Bible-Discovery](#) is exploring the various ministries of the Old Testament prophets a diverse group of people God used as spokesperson to Israel and Judah. Prophets have messages meant to evoke social change and can speak to us today just as much they did thousands of years ago. (Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am)

Foundations: Bible 101 is taking a foundational look at the Bible with topics about the Bible came to be, how its constructed, themes within the Bible, etc. (Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am)

[Short Stories by Jesus](#) is a book discussion group using Amy Jill-Levine's book that dives into the many parables that Jesus told, how the early Jewish Christians would have understood them and what they mean for us today. (Wednesdays at 6:00 pm at The Eatery on S 48th Street))

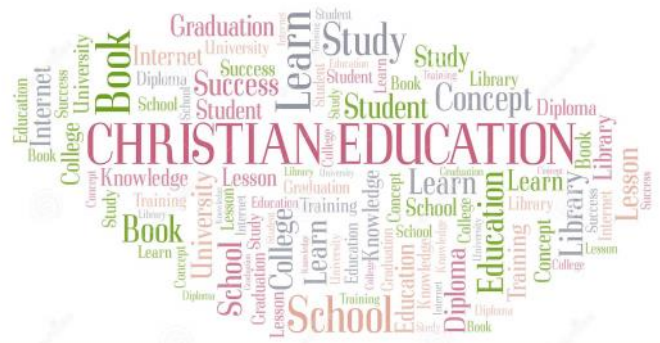
Living the Questions - Invitation to Journey - This is the first of three courses, each of which meets for 7 weeks, diving into core questions of the Christian faith. But this isn't just any class – this is a unique class in which it is safe to ask any question, to doubt, to struggle, and to grow. It's even safe to disagree with what you hear! The class meets on the 1st Monday from 7:00 – 8:30 pm, November 1 – December 13, on Zoom.

Children and Youth Faith Formation

Children's Sunday School is learning the stories of the Bible and is currently learning about Moses and the Hebrew People as they were lead out of Egypt. (Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am)

Youth Sunday School is learning about the great ancestors of faith in the Bible such as Abraham and Sarah, Moses, Elijah, Mary, the Disciples, etc., and how their faith can be an example for all of us. (Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am)

Youth Group is a time of fellowship and faith-building among our youth (6th-12th grades) and provides opportunities to explore topics and questions that young people are experiencing while also having some fun and serving the community. (Sundays at 5:30 pm)





Finance & Property Updates

Financial Update January - August 2021

	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Percentage
Contributions (pledges)*:	\$320,259	\$402,623	79.54%
Transfers from Church & Foundation Funds:	\$275,569	\$296,877	92.28%
 Total Income (all sources):	 \$613,274	 \$729,500	 84.07%
Total Expenses:	\$273,009	\$729,499	59.01%

*Contributions (pledges) don't flow evenly throughout the year. Some give their entire pledge at the beginning of the year, some give their entire pledge at the end of the year, and summers are traditionally low months for giving. Typically we'd compare how we're doing this year compared to last year, to get a sense of whether contributions are on track or not, however last year was not a normal year, nor is this year. At the moment we think we're doing OK with contributions, but as in everything else this year – time will tell!

Property Update

Water leakage into the east walls of the chancel and the stairway in the southeastern corner of the church was a challenge for a number of years. Water in the walls caused the plaster to swell and peel from the walls – it was unsightly. With repairs to the roof and the gutters, leakage problems have been corrected.

Recently, the Property Committee contracted Paul L Kess, Inc., to remove plaster from the damaged areas of the walls and re-plaster these extensive areas. The process required over a week because of the extent of the damage and included covering the organ consoles and pipes with sheets of plastic. And following the plastering, the areas were painted and look great! Now, the damaged plaster on the walls of the stairways between the narthex and west balcony is being assessed for future repair.

Many thanks to Bill Janike for leading this project.



From This....

To This!



Presbyterian Women & The Century Guild

PW Honorary Lifetime Membership Awarded!

On Sunday, September 12, 2021 during our 10:00 am worship service; Christy Abraham was awarded her lifetime honorary membership.

Congratulations Christy!



The Century Guild

One of the several funds contained within First Presbyterian Church's Foundation is the Century Guild Presbyterian Women fund.

The fund was created by Margaret Cleland. Ms. Cleland was an active member of Century Guild and loved the work of the Presbyterian Women, specifically mission work. Upon her death, stock was bequeathed to Century Guild in her will. Century Guild was to use only the dividend from the stock or the income from the proceeds of the stock for the women's work of First Presbyterian Church.

When she died in 1946, Ms. Cleland left 13 shares of Texaco Stock and those shares, through stock splits, has grown over the years to 708 shares. This small bequest grew into a large benefit for the church! Century Guild decided on an annual basis who would receive the dividend. When Century Guild disbanded in 2015, the Foundation was asked to do this distribution. The fund is used to honor Ms. Cleland's passion: mission work. Each year, \$500 of the income is given to the Presbyterian Women of the church. The rest of the dividend is divided in six ways: First Presbyterian Church neighborhood mission, local health services, local child advocacy services, local hunger services, and global mission.

More articles about other funds that are part of First Presbyterian Church's Foundation will appear here. If you are interested in donating to the Foundation, please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the Foundation Board or Cheryl in the office.

Like Margaret Cleland, your small request could be doing amazing work in future years!



First Presbyterian Church
840 South 17th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
www.fpclincn.org
[Info\[at\]fpclincn.org](mailto:Info[at]fpclincn.org)
402.477.6037

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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.

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[Info\[at\]fpclincn.org](mailto:Info[at]fpclincn.org)
402.477.6037