

Arms of Faith

February 2024

Dear Faithfuls,

After three energizing congregational lunches to celebrate our past, assess the present and embrace the future, we have a new Lifework Statement for Faith Church.

Yes, a Lifework statement. When Doug Bogenhagen, Peggy Wagoner, Lynda Shafer and I met to review all that we had learned from the congregational lunches, we talked about “mission statements.” We were in agreement that it is a corporate term, that we walk into businesses and see a long mission statement posted by the entrance, a statement that no one can memorize.

One person did a quick google search while we were talking and said, “What about Lifework Statement?” Instantly, it resonated with all of us – this statement is the life and work of our congregation.

You all received a card with our lifework statement. Here it is again: *Faith Church’s life work is sharing Christ’s love; spreading Christ’s Word; caring for others.*

This statement will guide all that we do here at Faith Church. When Session elders make a motion, I will be asking, “How is this in line with our Lifework?” When teams propose an activity, program, event, I will ask, “How is this in line with our Lifework?”

And, my hope is that you will memorize this statement. When you are talking with friends, co-workers, family members about Faith Church, you might drop into the conversation, “Our Lifework is sharing Christ’s Love, spreading Christ’s Word, caring for others.” It just might prompt an interesting conversation.

May God guide us in this new year, as we follow his call.

Peace,
Becky

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 access code 716966#.

Faith Presbyterian Church

Becky Balestri, Pastor

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Web page: www.faith-presbyterian.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithpresby

Session Highlights

One thing the pandemic taught us was how to use Zoom. As the temperature was bitter cold, the Session met by Zoom. We're grateful for technology that allows us to continue to meet in spite of Old Man Winter being brutal.

The elders made the following decisions:

- Agreed to donate \$1,000 to Youth For Christ for their fundraiser, by 'buying' a table
- If the building is closed due to snow (we follow the Papillion La Vista school closings), then the building is closed for all activities. Doug Bogenhagen agreed to update the policy on closings
- Agreed with Marc Wagoner's idea to put a monitor in the Centrum for announcements
- Approved the proposed Lifework Statement

The end of the year financial statements showed that our members have given 103% of what they pledged – they gave more than they pledged! Woohoo!! We rejoice that our members are indeed *Faithfuls!!*

In this year, we will be living into our Lifework of ***sharing Christ's love; spreading Christ's Word; caring for others.***

Transitions Group

When a family member's memory starts to change and decline, it is a challenge for the people around them. If you are in this situation, Faith Church is here for you. A small group of members and friends meets monthly, all of whom have a family member with some form of dementia. We share our experiences. We listen. We comfort and console, and we even give a little advice.

If there is a member of your family that is transitioning to the next stage of life, a time when their memory isn't good, you are invited to be part of this group on the third Friday of every month, at 10:00 am in Room 1 – the room with comfy chairs. Coffee is always served.

Questions? Please call Becky Balestri at 402-709-0568.



Happy Birthday!

Feb 2 Jim Day
Feb 4 Susie Melonis
Feb 4 Ruth Tresemer
Feb 7 Cindy Andersen
Feb 7 Marcia Jones
Feb 8 Marcia Jewett
Feb 8 Janice Miner
Feb 10 Marc Wagoner
Feb 11 Tim Stephenson
Feb 15 Deb Ziegler
Feb 19 Mary Ridge
Feb 25 Rod Bosserdet



Chair Exercise Class

Wednesdays 11:00 am



Join us in the Choir Room for our chair-exercise class 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. It is a great workout!



The next Fun & Lunch will be February 2nd
at 12:00 pm at
Spaghetti Works
8416 Park Drive, Ralston

Anyone of any age is invited.

Sign up at church by January 31 or contact
Sharon Fleming at 402-709-2103 or
sfleming43@aol.com for your reservation or
if you need a ride.

Presbyterian Women

We invite all women of Faith to join Presbyterian Women on the 3rd Tuesday of each month January through May at 1:30 pm. We started a new Bible Study on January 16. We will be using Shannon Bream's book *The Love Stories of the Bible Speak*. The book includes Biblical lessons on romance, friendship, and faith. If you would like to attend, please contact the church office or Debbie Kippley at drdbk@aol.com.

January 20, 2024, Clothing Giveaway

The temperature was below zero this morning, and still over 105 people came to the clothing giveaway. One woman told us that she is a nurse at the Douglas County Hospital. Many of the patients that come to Douglas County, have very little. She was at the clothing giveaway to get a few things for herself, but mostly to find clothes for her patients. She was very grateful for our closet. And, she gave John O'Brien a \$20 donation to the Giveaway.



Hanger wranglers retrieved all these hangers from the racks.

Your Session

Clerk of Session - Joe Seda	
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

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, yardwork, 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.

Sightings

Ron Stiverson called the church office effusive about **Doug Bogenhagen**. Ron told us that Doug cleaned the Stiversons' driveway of the snow, filled a flat tire on the car, and jump started the car, which hadn't been running. Sandy gave Doug \$20, which he promptly took to the gas station and put gas in their car. Thank you, Doug, for fulfilling our Lifework statement of caring for others!

Debbie Eggers stepped in, with only two days' notice, and provided music for the January 21st worship service. We are praying for Mary Ann Stevens as she recovers from hip surgery, and so grateful for Debbie's musical skills!

Coloring is Becoming a Tradition!

On a cold January morning, grandparents and children gathered to color winter pictures to adorn our long hallway. Thank you to Big Brother **John O'Brien**, who brought his Little Brother **Immanuel** and his twin sister, **Abigail**; **Ranae Overton**, who brought **Layla** and **Daisy**; **Lynda** and **Chuck Shafer**, with their grandkids, **Gideon** and **Vivienne**; **Debbie Eggers**, who likes to color; and, **Zeke Robinson**, who brought his grandma, **Becky Balestri**. Thank you all for making our hallway festive!



Extraordinary Mission Giving!

Our treasurer, **Marc Wagoner**, shared the total mission giving for 2023, and it is amazing! Our members, and others (including a large gift from Mark Miller's estate) have given \$48,263 to these mission opportunities: One Great Hour of Sharing, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings, Christmas Joy, Clothing Giveaway, Mission and Evangelism in general, Malawi, NeighborGood, per capita (yes, it is a form of mission) and memorial gifts. Additionally, we received a \$10,000 grant from the Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation for the Clothing Giveaway. This congregation is indeed *faithful!*



Faithfuls Are GENEROUS!

Our Mission Team offered multiple ways to be in mission to the community during December. Faith Members showed up! You all gave \$5,685 to the Christmas Joy offering, which supports retired clergy, widows of clergy and racial/ethnic Presbytery colleges. You all also gave \$5,620 to the Christmas offering, which this year is going to NeighborGood. Because of your generosity, people in our community and around the country are blessed. Thank you!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

According to the PCUSA website, "The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope."

Last year, our members generously gave \$1,691 to OGHS! Thank you! We are again participating in OGHS this Lenten season. You will receive brochures with more information.

Clothing Give Away Update

Just in case you didn't hear, last Saturday, even with the sub zero wind chill, we had 105 people at the Give Away!!!

Next Give Away is February 17. We will be sorting January 31, February 14 and 28, and March 13.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered and donated. A special thanks to Christine Daley for getting a whole bunch of small hangers.

John and Terri O'Brien
and the Mission and Evangelism Team



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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> <div>SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM</div> <div>February 2024</div> </div>				1 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC Team Meetings 4:00 pm Worship Meeting 5:00pm Fellowship mtg 5:30 pm Discipleship mtg 7:00 pm Facilities mtg	2 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch Spaghetti Works	3 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group
4 11:00 Mission/Evang mtg 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm GriefShare 5:00pm Table Tennis- FLC	5 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Capella Group	6 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	7 7:00 am Campus Life- FLC 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercise 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	8 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis- FLC 7:00pm Support	9 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue	10 8:00am Men's Breakfast- FH 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group
11 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm GriefShare 5:00pm Table Tennis- FLC	12 5:45 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Capella Group	13 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 am Campus Life- FLC 9:00 am Clothing Sorting 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercise 6:00 pm Soup Dinner/Ash Wednesday Service	15 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis- FLC 7:00pm Session meeting	16 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue 10:00 am Transitions Group	17 9:00 am Clothing Give-away 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group
18 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm GriefShare 5:00pm Table Tennis- FLC	19 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Capella Group	20 1:00 pm PW meeting 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	21 7:00 am Campus Life- FLC 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercise 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 9:00am	22 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis- FLC	23 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue	24 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group
25 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00pm Table Tennis- FLC	26 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Capella Group	27 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	28	29 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis- FLC		