Arms of Faith

December 2025

Dear Faithfuls,

As we celebrate Advent, a time of waiting for the Christ to come, we will be *Reflecting on the Sacred*. (We are grateful to Worship Design Studio who makes available very helpful worship resources.)

As Marcia McFee, Worship Design Studio owner says, "The Christmas season is a time when the juxtaposition of the sacred and secular feels sometimes blatantly opposed, and sometimes quite blurred. The word "sacred" points to something dedicated as "holy" and "set apart." This year, you are invited to a spiritual journey of seeing ALL things pregnant with the Holy. What could our experience of the Advent and Christmas season be like if we lived it imagining that everything is reflecting the sacred?"

We will be taking some moments of quiet in worship to calm ourselves and reflect on what is sacred. We hope that you will use the oil that you will receive to remind yourself that you are blessed and holy during this season. As we have done in the past, only one nativity character will be put by the stable each Sunday to remind ourselves that it is not Christmas yet. It is still Advent – we are waiting.

May you be blessed during this hopeful, sacred time of waiting.

Peace,
Becky

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Office hours: Monday - Thursday
9am - 5pm

Session Highlights

Your elders took the following actions at the November Session meeting:

- Enthusiastically approved receiving **Sharon McDermott,** and **Don and Sue Caviness** into the membership of this congregation!
- Approved the proposed budget for 2026 – we are grateful for the generosity of Faith members!
- Agreed that **Debbie Kippley** will pursue engaging in ministry with area middle schoolers.
- Approved hiring **Justin Brown** as a part-time organist; we will now again have two organists/pianists.
- This is HUGE: agreed to have the Christmas Eve service at 5:00 pm. (BTW, this service will be on December 24.)
- Using available funds, approved purchasing and installing a new boiler, and also purchasing 55 new stackable chairs for the choir room and the Fellowship Hall.
- Reviewed the Facilities plans for updating and modernizing the building; next up is refreshing our south entryway
- **Al Zimmerman** reported on the November presbytery meeting; our congregation is well represented at the presbytery level. Al serves on the Nominating committee; **Doug Bogenhagen** is on the Committee for Preparation for Ministry; **Lynda Shafer** serves on the Faith Education and Leadership Development committee; and **Bob Meyer** just got elected to the Commission on Ministry. Also, our presbytery is now a virtual presbytery; there is no longer a physical office.

Please pray for your elders as they lead this church **to share Christ's love, spread Christ's Word and care for others.**

Tis the Season!

On **December 5th at 11:30 am**
we will be dining at
Olive Garden
Shadow Lake, Papillion

Sign up at church by December 3rd or contact Sharon Fleming at 402 709-2103 or sfleming43@aol.com for your reservation or if you need a ride.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our generous congregation! Our basket of hats, gloves and scarves was overflowing. We received such an abundance that we were able to give to 3 elementary schools and also to La Vista Middle School. Our kittens will not be without their mittens this year. Thank you!!!

Mission & Evangelism Team

Love Languages Retreat

Saturday, January 24, 2026 – *rescheduled!*
9:30 to 2:00, lunch included

What is one of the most important yet confusing words in the English language? LOVE!

Trudy Meyer will lead us in a day of discovering the power of understanding our own love language. She will be drawing on Gary Chapman's exceptional book "The Five Love Languages." In addition, we will learn how to express love to other important people in our lives in a language they will understand.

Everyone has one or more love languages. Some communicate their love with gifts, some with acts of service, others with physical touch. Still others prefer words of affirmation or quality time. Which ones work best for you? Which works best for your family members?

We will look at scripture that teaches us how to love ourselves and others; share a time of fun and encouragement with other women; and, leave with powerful tools to improve the important relationships in our lives.

Who is Trudy Meyer? Trudy is a longtime friend of our pastor, an elder at Presbyterian Church of the Cross, an excellent realtor and the wife of Richard Meyer. And, she has taught the Love Languages many times.

If you plan to attend, please email bkillion@hotmail.com to register.

Thank You!

The ladies' final Salad Luncheon was another huge success.
A big thank you goes out to all the women and men that helped.
Our final total was $3598.70 an increase of $311 over last year.
We truly appreciate your tremendous help over the years.

Your Session

Clerk of Session - Joe Seda

Discipleship	Angie Madden
Facilities	Matt Kasprzak
	Jim Willett
	Doug Bogenhagen
Fellowship	Joni Huddleston
Human Res	Bob Meyer
Mission & Ev	Terri O'Brien
Support	Peter Svoboda
Worship	Al Zimmerman

Clothing Give Away Update

There will be no Give Away in December. We will be sorting on December 3rd and possibly the 10th, and January 7th and 14th. The next Give Away will be January 17th.

A great BIG thank you to St. Columbkille's Youth group for donating over 500 pairs of socks.

Another big thanks to everyone who has supported the Give Away by donating, sorting, and helping in any way.

John and Terri and Mission and Evangelism Team

Dec 1 Debbie Eggers
Dec 1 Scott Jamieson
Dec 2 Steve Norman
Dec 6 Robin Gentry
Dec 15 Karen Greni
Dec 16 Richard Kropp
Dec 16 Carol Matschullat
Dec 19 Pam Bottorff
Dec 30 Tom Negley

Farewell to volleyball at Faith church. We played our last games on December 16th. After some of us had played together over 35 years, it's sad to see it go.
Thank you to Steve Harmsen and Ken Andersen for organizing and setting up each Sunday and to all who participated.

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 comfy room. Coffee is always served.

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

Sightings

A wonderful group of people put up the Christmas decorations. Thank you to **Debbie** and **Phil Westerfield, Ruth** and **John Tresemer, Julie Bosserdet, Gordon Lytle, John O'Brien, Norma Selk, Steve** and **Ginger Norman, Peggy** and **Marc Wagoner** and **Cheryl Kirwan** for adorning our building with wreaths, trees and garland!

NeighborGood (the food pantry) had a Turkey Trot in November to raise funds. **Lori Gahm** helped set up for the event. Thank you, Lori, for helping feed the people in our community.

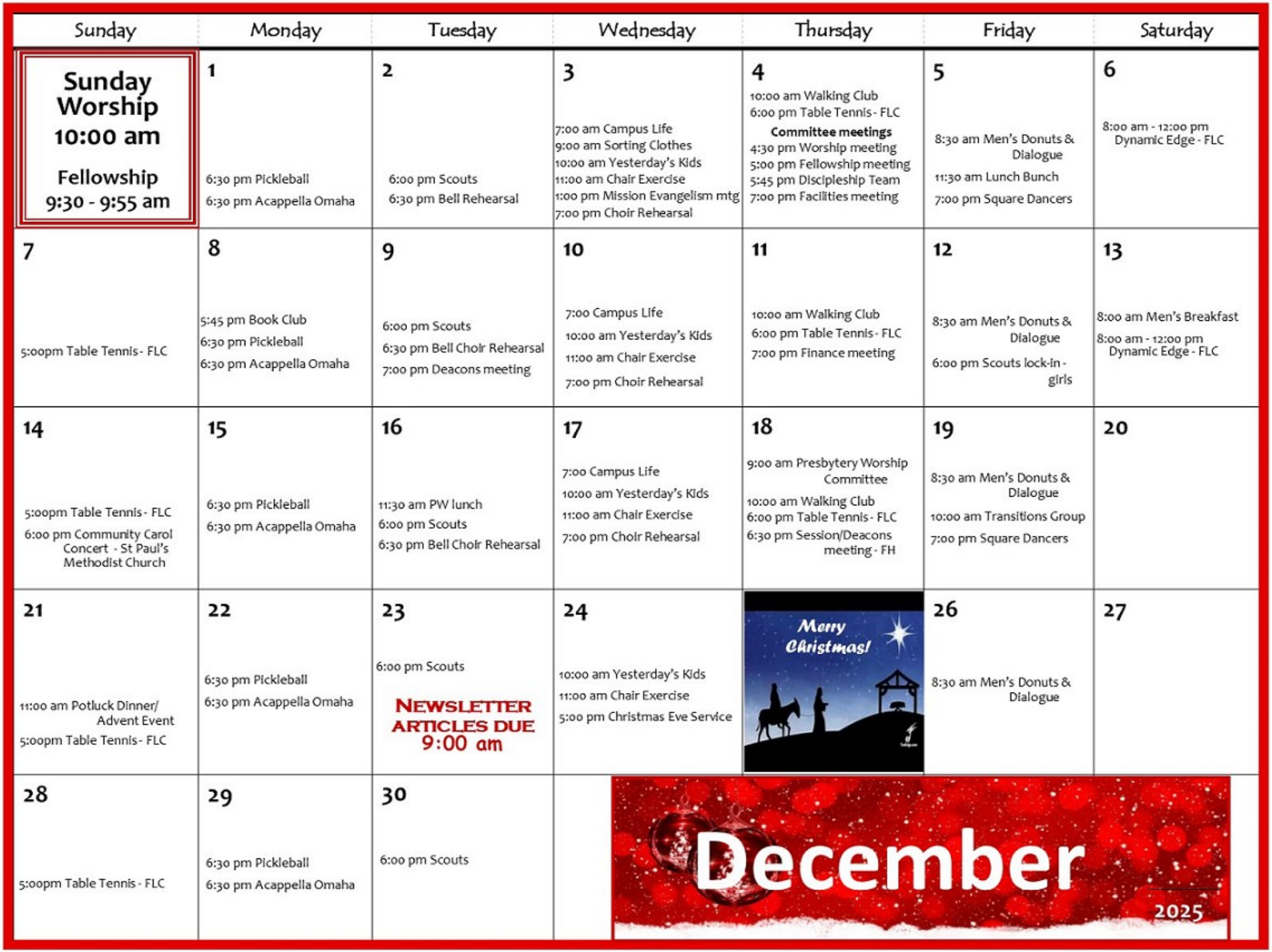
As noted in the Session Highlights, at the November presbytery meeting, **Bob Meyer** was elected to serve on the Commission for Ministry. COM is *the* commission, as it walks with congregations through pastoral changes, and works with ministers in difficult circumstances. Thank you, Bob, for serving the wider church!

Advent Potluck

The Fellowship Committee is hosting a true potluck on Sunday, **December 21**, immediately following the worship service. The committee will have beverages available, and they are asking that our members bring a main dish, or a side dish, or a salad, or a dessert – you know what a potluck is!

The Discipleship Committee will have two Advent/Christmas crafts for youth (and adults) – so stay and be creative!

Our lifework is sharing Christ's love, spreading Christ's Word, caring for others.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Worship 10:00 am **Fellowship 9:30 - 9:55 am**	**1** 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm Acappella Omaha	**2** 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal	**3** 7:00 am Campus Life 9:00 am Sorting Clothes 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercise 1:00 pm Mission Evangelism mtg 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	**4** 10:00 am Walking Club 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC **Committee meetings** 4:30 pm Worship meeting 5:00 pm Fellowship meeting 5:45 pm Discipleship Team 7:00 pm Facilities meeting	**5** 8:30 am Men's Donuts & Dialogue 11:30 am Lunch Bunch 7:00 pm Square Dancers	**6** 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Dynamic Edge - FLC
7 5:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	**8** 5:45 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm Acappella Omaha	**9** 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Deacons meeting	**10** 7:00 Campus Life 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercise 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	**11** 10:00 am Walking Club 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC 7:00 pm Finance meeting	**12** 8:30 am Men's Donuts & Dialogue 6:00 pm Scouts lock-in - girls	**13** 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Dynamic Edge - FLC
14 5:00pm Table Tennis - FLC 6:00 pm Community Carol Concert - St Paul's Methodist Church	**15** 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm Acappella Omaha	**16** 11:30 am PW lunch 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	**17** 7:00 Campus Life 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercise 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	**18** 9:00 am Presbytery Worship Committee 10:00 am Walking Club 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC 6:30 pm Session/Deacons meeting - FH	**19** 8:30 am Men's Donuts & Dialogue 10:00 am Transitions Group 7:00 pm Square Dancers	**20**
21 11:00 am Potluck Dinner/ Advent Event 5:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	**22** 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm Acappella Omaha	**23** 6:00 pm Scouts **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 9:00 am**	**24** 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercise 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service		**26** 8:30 am Men's Donuts & Dialogue	**27**
28 5:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	**29** 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm Acappella Omaha	**30** 6:00 pm Scouts				