



August

2023

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From the Heights

Pastor's Message



Dear Church Family,

I'm not sure when it happened, but one day, I looked, and Kenny is just about my height, and Paul is using phrases like, "it's just a hypothesis". I didn't notice these things happening, it feels like one day they weren't true and the next...they always were.

When we think about Change, we tend to think about the sudden changes in status or situation in our communities or our lives: a birth, a death, a marriage, a move, the plant closing down, new hymnals in the pews, or the retirement of a beloved staff member. And because this is how we think about change, this is the type of change that we focus on, that we prepare ourselves for, and that we come up with strategies for how to handle the emotions, feelings, and griefs that result from and accompany the change.

Which is good, really, because it's important to have a plan when we encounter those sudden, often unexpected, changes that alter our lived experience rather drastically in a short period of time.

However, the reality is that most of the changes that we experience in our lives don't happen in an instant like that. Instead, most change happens slowly, with the sure and steady march of time. So slowly, in fact, that we don't even notice it happening.

One day, we look in the mirror, and our hair is gray or significantly thinner than it used to be, or we find that we just can't exert the same level of energy that we used to. One day, we look around, and find that we are confident in our ability to do something that we were always unsure of...and can't quite remember when we stopped being unsure. One day, our children are suddenly old enough to have children, but in our hearts they're still in the second grade, learning the times tables.

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These changes can take us more by surprise than anything sudden, because by the time we recognize that they are reality, they have been our reality for a while. And, because of that, these changes can be accompanied by a grief process that is hard to express as we wrestle with the loss of what once was, but can't quite remember when it changed. Yet, at the same time, these changes don't have to be a cause for mourning, but a chance for celebration of a new reality. Often, we have to do a little bit of both as we settle into the knowledge of what our lives are, in anticipation of what they will become.

Sisters and brothers, whether you have recently experienced a sudden change, or became aware of a change that has been happening slowly around you, I pray that you may have the opportunity to both grieve and celebrate as you live into the new reality of the new you that is emerging each and every day.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leanne

SHPC (Birthday) Party Animals



We wish those who celebrate Birthdays
in August a Very Happy Birthday
and many blessings
throughout the year!

*** If your name is not listed and you celebrate a birthday in August, please notify the church office so that our records can be updated.**

August Birthdays

5 Steve Falkinburg	17 Bob Obst	21 Connie Rucker
7 Carolyn Daniels	17 Max Wing	22 Nancy Sloan
8 Pat Wing	18 Becki Barnes	25 Megan Watson
9 Terry Springer	19 Dave Barnhouse	26 Mike McLearn
12 Jenna Pool	19 Marj Jeambey	30 Lancey Tyree



SHPC **Night with the Saltdogs**

Fri., August 11, 2023 | 7: 05 PM

FUN! • BASEBALL! • FIREWORKS SHOW!

- We have set aside seats so we can all sit together.
 - SHPC tickets are DISCOUNTED to \$14/adult or kid
- **Kids who attend VBS can receive a free ticket to the Aug. 11 game if an adult accompanies them!**

Order Tickets thru the Church Office

pam@southernheights.org

or 402-440-5855



Last Day to

Order:

AUGUST 3



**Pick up your tickets
at church**

SUN. AUGUST 6

Order Tickets thru the Church Office

pam@southernheights.org

or 402-440-5855

First Sundays—Fill the Cart!



The **Gathering Place** has a **Little Free Pantry** on their premises. As you may suspect, it is very popular and they are having difficulty keeping it filled.

SHPC's Mission Committee would like to encourage the congregation to help The Gathering Place stock its Little Free Pantry! We are focusing our efforts toward **the first Sunday of each month** as being a special day in which the congregation can help.

Each first Sunday of the month, the grocery cart will be out to collect your donations of non-perishable food, which the Mission Committee will deliver to The Gathering Place.

Please note that a specific request of The Gathering Place is for small, individual canned goods so that they will easily fit into the pantry.

(These are not for large canned goods used in preparing meals that are served at The Gathering Place, but strictly for smaller items to help individuals who seek out food from the Little Free Pantry).

Will you help us fill the cart?



Southern Heights Summer Music Schedule August 2023

Meet the Summer Musicians

AUG 6 – JIM & SUZIE HARDER, AND LARRY CALDWELL



Jim & Suzie—Vocalists



Larry—French Hornist



AUG 13 – JUBILATION TRIO

Julie Haberman
Julie Dohman
Julie Marshall

Jubilation was formed some twenty years ago as a small music ensemble of the larger church choir at St. Mark's UMC. Affectionately known as "The 3 Julies", Jubilation has enjoyed singing for worship services, retirement centers, birthday parties, and other community events.



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Meet the Summer Musicians (cont'd.)

AUG 20 – HEART AND SOUL (SHPC's very own Sextet)



Susan Dahm



Iris Wells



Verla Swearingin



Mary Anderson



Donna Swoboda



Margaret Minary

AUG 27 – OASIS BLUEGRASS BAND

The Oasis Bluegrass Band is a seven-piece group with strong vocal harmonies accompanied by guitar, bass, banjo, mandolin, fiddle, dobro, harmonica, and various forms of percussion. OASIS enjoys sharing their faith through music in churches and for various community events.



RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with mixed emotions that the Personnel and Administration Committee announces the upcoming retirement of Pam Laws from her position as Church Administrator at Southern Heights Presbyterian Church. Pam's last day in the office will be October 31, 2023.

Pam has devoted many years to Southern Heights, ensuring that the work of the church runs efficiently and professionally. She has assisted pastors, sessions, treasurers, and numerous committees. She oversees maintenance of the church facility and equipment, supports members and friends in times of joy and sorrow, and keeps all of us informed of matters both mundane and monumental. Pam's passion is unique, and she has viewed her work as more than a job; it was her calling. We praise God that it was to serve at SHPC!

While we will miss Pam's big smile, groan-worthy puns, and tireless advocacy for the fair treatment and advancement of flamingos, we are very excited that she will have the time to devote to travel, family and friends, hobbies, or just relaxation with a hot cup of coffee and some decadent chocolates. Rest assured that we will not send her off without food and adulation, so stay tuned for announcements regarding a celebration for Pam as her retirement draws near.

Moving forward, the Church Administrator position will be posted in early August, and our goal is to have someone hired and ready to begin work in early to mid-October. This will provide an opportunity for the new church administrator to learn from the wisdom that Pam has compiled throughout her career. While we can never replace Pam, we are confident that we will find a skilled candidate to build on the foundation that Pam leaves as her legacy.



Twenty-one years ago I felt God calling me to serve on the staff at Southern Heights Presbyterian Church. Well, actually, it was a phone call I received from then Pastor Ron Bump. And . . . he wasn't really calling to recruit me for the position, but to inform me that a vacancy needed to be filled in the church office.

Two years prior to receiving that phone call I had left my full-time employment as Administrative Director of a Christian Counseling Center to go back to school. It didn't take too terribly long to feel the pinch of not receiving an income while I focused full-time on my studies, so I had been pondering finding some type of part-time employment while I worked on earning my Business Administration degree. . . *but what part-time employment would that be?*

The day I received that phone call, I truly did wonder "Is this *Pastor Ron* calling me, or is this *God* calling me?" Turns out it was both.

I offered up myself as a candidate to serve in a part-time capacity until I finished school. I graduated in 2004, but that temporary part-time position evolved into what I have considered to be a personal ministry that God has blessed me with all these years. It became clear to me that God had prepared the path that led me to Southern Heights. The people and the friendships have been *amazing* and, while Southern Heights is not my House of Worship, it is truly my Church Family—and that has been a double blessing in my life!

As I transition toward retirement, I am excited to learn who God has been preparing, next, to join the staff and be welcomed with love and grace into this wonderful congregation. Our God is an Awesome God!

In Christian love,

Pam



**BOOK OF
CONFESSIONS
STUDY**
With Pastor
Leanne

AUGUST 20

**Monthly Meetings
(brown bag)**

Following Worship

12 noon

in the Conference Room



~ Open to Everyone ~

No need to purchase a BOOK OF CONFESSIONS, as Pastor Leanne will have copies of the confessions at the lessons.

Looking forward to seeing you again on August 20!

Now Coordinating

PW Birthday Celebration
Sept. 24

- Table Decorators
- Dessert Chefs



There are a few tables remaining to be decorated. If this is something you would enjoy doing, let me know and I'll let you know which month is open for you.

If creating a yummy dessert is more your thing,
we could use your help in this area also.

If you'd like to be part of this fun celebration, call **Marty (Marcia) Bryan** at
402-540-7184 by August 11.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for every time you have touched my life — and this time that I was in the hospital — every call, card, the prayers and dinners.

I am so blessed to have your support and friendship.

~ Mary Bell



Dear Church Family,

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, your love and support, your texts, your emails, your phone calls and cards!



Flowers from fellow Deacons!

I felt well covered in prayer for the procedure, which was very successful, and for the recovery, which is also very successful!

Love in Christ to all,
Nancy Sloan

Popular Duos



Our Southern Heights Stitchers have played an important role in the outreach of SHPC's mission. They are always busy creating items that our community members can use in their everyday lives.

One of the most popular and requested items are our dishcloths/ liquid dish soap combos (pictured at left). We have distributed hundreds of these duos to our neighbors through the Gathering Pace, American Veterans, the Eastridge Food Pantry and have other outlets we'd like to offer them to.

The dishcloths are made and ready to go, but we *would like your help in supplying the dish soap* so that we can continue with this ministry. **We would like to collect liquid dish soap (7oz. to 25 oz. sizes) over the next couple of months.**

We will have a collection station in the Fellowship Hall and would be so grateful if you could pick up a bottle or 2 (or 3?) to help us meet our goal.

Any brand of soap will do—watch those sales for the best deals and watch our totals rise each week!



***Thank you for your support of
this outreach project as an
extension of your Mission
Committee!***

Backpack Dedication

Sunday, Aug. 13

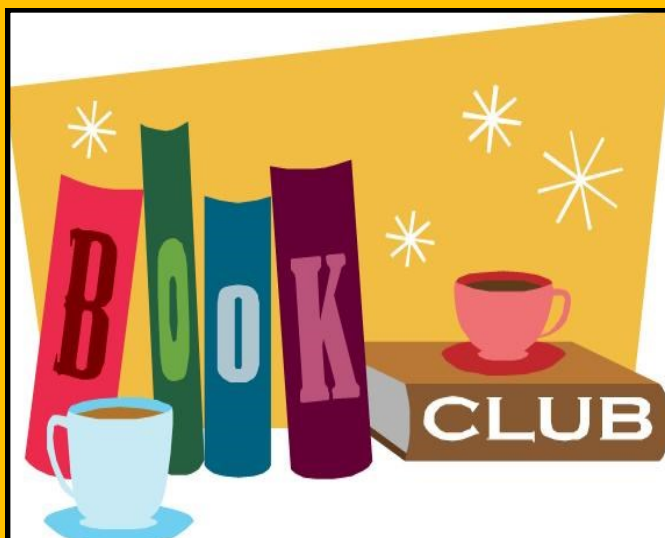
Students are encouraged to bring their backpacks to church on August 13th.

During the Children's Message, Pastor Leanne will offer a blessing as they head back to school.



MONTHLY FICTION BOOK CLUB

(EVERY 4TH SATURDAY)



Saturday, Aug. 26

1:30 pm

at SHPC

We'll discuss:

Demon Copperhead

By Barbara Kingslover

Getting to Know our SHPC Family!

A NEW section highlighting individuals within our church family.

Sponsored by the Membership Committee



Amber Weyer
Elder

Name Amber Weyer

Church involvement and interests (or how long you have been a member, why you love the church, etc.)

I have been going to Southern Heights for 14 years (started when I was about 8 months pregnant with Taygen). I have been involved with the Sunday school/ youth group pretty much since the beginning, serving as a Sunday school preschool teacher, and then started working one-on-one with Kenny Masters for Sunday school and have been working with him for about 7 years now. I serve on session, the West Wing AdHoc committee and chair the Life Long Learning Committee.

Family

My family consists of husband Dan Weyer, daughter Keira Weyer (16), son Aden Weyer (14) and daughter Taygen Weyer (13). I have been married for 21 years.

Hometown (or places you have lived)

My hometown is York, Ne.

Personal hobbies and other interests

I enjoy playing billiards and volleyball competitively.

Favorite things (i.e., food, movies, places you have been, etc.)

My favorite food is any type of comfort food; chicken noodle soup, homemade Mac n cheese and spaghetti.

Best piece of advice

Always follow your gut! Your body will tell you when something is wrong.

Getting to Know our SHPC Family!

A NEW section highlighting individuals within our church family.

Sponsored by the Membership Committee

Name Carolyn Murphy



**Carolyn Murphy
Deacon**

Church involvement and interests (or how long you have been a member, why you love the church, etc.)

Ken and I visited SHPC shortly after moving to Lincoln in 2006, and then visited several other churches. We were drawn back to SHPC where we felt welcomed and the church felt much like the small churches we had each attended throughout our lives. We have made so many friends at SHPC and are pleased to be a part of the church family. I currently serve as a Deacon and a part of the Deacons' visitation team. I am on the Financial Stewardship committee and part of the team that prepares the weekly offering deposits. I enjoy being involved periodically with the music program. I also serve as a worship leader and Ken and I participate as greeters.

Family My husband Ken and I met at Wayne State College and recently celebrated 25 years of marriage. We have a blended family that includes twins John (Angela) and Jim (Kellie), both with families in Omaha, and Bret (Noelle) who lives here in Lincoln with his family. Another son, Brandon, died in 2005 and we miss him every day. We have 10 grandchildren, ranging in age from 12 to 23. I have two brothers (yes, I'm the middle child!) who both live near my dad in Laurel, NE.

Hometown (or places you have lived) I grew up in Laurel, Nebraska and then attended Wayne State College. I have also lived in Akron, CO and Dakota City, NE earlier in my adult life. After a couple of positions in city administration, I spent most of my career with the Nebraska State College System in administration and finance, first at Wayne State College and then at the State College System Office here in Lincoln. I retired about two years ago.

Personal hobbies and other interests We enjoy attending many events that our grandkids are involved in. We attend a lot of softball, basketball, football, archery, drama, and band concerts. We also provide transportation services to and from school and/or practices for the "grands", when requested. Other hobbies include playing the organ and piano. We have a small music room in our basement. I also really enjoy jigsaw puzzles and often have one going in the living room. Ken and I enjoy taking bike rides and we enjoy traveling by car (both short trips and longer trips).

Favorite Things Favorite things include holidays when the family is home or we gather at a nearby lake; breakfast any time of the day, mexican food, comedy and/or light-hearted movies, and cool weather. My favorite places to visit are those with a beach and ocean. We've taken a couple of vacations where we meet our family at a rented beachfront house and we've made great memories there.

Best piece of advice One day at a time.



SHPC DIRECTORY UPDATES

~ New Email Addresses ~

GARY & CONNIE RUCKER

DAVE & BECKI BARNES

Walker Available

Free to a good home—if you are interested in a walker and would like to come see this one, please contact Pam in the church office at

pam@southernheights.org

or 402-440-5855.



Next Gathering Place Opportunity

Aug. 29th



The next date SHPC gets to serve and help with the meal at the Gathering Place is Tuesday, **August 29th at 4:30 pm.**

Watch for the sign-up board in the Narthex for more details about how you can help!

Questions? Contact Joyce Schmeckle:

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Jan - Jun 23</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Budgeted Income	133,079.06	147,300.00	(14,220.94)
Budgeted Expenses			
Program Expense			
Mission	13,495.14	13,320.00	175.14
Life Long Learning	542.49	1,220.00	(677.51)
Worship & Music	1,213.28	1,440.00	(226.72)
Membership	327.07	705.00	(377.93)
Total Program Expense	<u>15,577.98</u>	<u>16,685.00</u>	<u>(1,107.02)</u>
Staff Expense			
Salaries	55,674.58	57,378.75	(1,704.17)
Benefits & Allowances	28,166.32	28,940.88	(774.56)
Expenses & Substitutes	2,473.96	3,929.76	(1,455.80)
Total Staff Expenses	<u>86,314.86</u>	<u>90,249.39</u>	<u>(3,934.53)</u>
Occupancy Expense			
Custodial & Maintenance	14,554.84	16,240.00	(1,685.16)
Utilities	10,474.68	10,220.00	254.68
Insurance	5,416.76	4,800.00	616.76
Total Occupancy Expenses	<u>30,446.28</u>	<u>31,260.00</u>	<u>(813.72)</u>
Office & Other Operating Expenses			
Office Expense	3,113.14	2,925.00	188.14
Other Operating Expenses	1,088.68	900.00	188.68
Total Office/Operating Expenses	<u>4,201.82</u>	<u>3,825.00</u>	<u>376.82</u>
Total Expenses	<u>140,186.37</u>	<u>146,488.39</u>	<u>(6,302.02)</u>
Budgeted Net Income or (Loss)	<u>(7,107.31)</u>	<u>811.61</u>	<u>(7,918.92)</u>

August Calendar

Room Key: FH: Fellowship Hall

PS: Pastor's Study

S: Sanctuary

CR: Conference Room

WW: West Wing

LL: Lower Level

FF (or SHFF): Food Forest

LL-K: Lower Level-Kitchenette

Tuesday, Aug 1

5:30-8:30 PM VBS

Wednesday, Aug 2

5:30-8:30 PM VBS

Thursday, Aug 3

9:00 AM Heart and Soul rehearsal

5:30-8:30 PM VBS

Friday, Aug 4

10:00 AM Study Group / FH

Sunday, Aug 6

10:30 AM Worship & Communion / S

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH

Monday, Aug 7

6:00 PM Scouts PLC / CR

6:00 PM Mission Cte. / WW

7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

Tuesday, Aug 8

1:00 PM St. Peter's Stampers / FH

5:30 PM Crocheters / FH

7:00 PM Financial Stdshp. Cte. / CR

7:00 PM Scout Parents / FH

Wednesday, Aug 9

5:00 PM Life Long Learning set up in Sanctuary

Thursday, Aug 10

7:00 PM Deacons / CR

Friday, Aug 11

7:05 PM SHPC Night with the Saltdogs!

Sunday, Aug 13

10:30 AM Worship / S

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH

Monday, Aug 14—1st Day of LPS

6:30 PM Personnel Committee / CR

7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

Tuesday, Aug 15

1:00 PM St. Peter's Stampers / FH

5:30 PM Crocheters / FH

Wednesday, Aug 16—Session Reports Due

9:30-11:30 AM Church Network Mtg. / CR

Thursday, Aug 17

8:30 AM—4 PM WIC Clinic / LL-K

3:00 PM Poli Olli / FH

6:30 PM Life Long Learning Cte. / CR

Sunday, Aug 20

10:30 AM Worship / S

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH

12 Noon Book of Confessions Study (brown bag) / CR

Monday, Aug 21

7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

7:00 PM Session Meeting / CR

Tuesday, Aug 22—Newsletter Deadline

1:00 PM St. Peter's Stampers / FH

5:30 PM Crocheters / FH

Thursday, Aug 24

6:30 PM Worship & Music / CR

Saturday, Aug 26

1:30 PM Fiction Book Club / CR

Sunday, Aug 27

10:30 AM Worship & August Bday Ofrg. / S

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH

Monday, Aug 28

6:30 PM Scouts Court of Honor / S & FH

Tuesday, Aug 29

1:00 PM St. Peter's Stampers / FH

4:30 PM SHPC serves at Gathering Place

5:30 PM Crocheters / FH

Southern Heights Presbyterian Church
5750 S. 40th
Lincoln, NE 68516
402-421-3704

Return Service Requested



August 2023

Email Addresses:

Leanne Masters, Pastor: pastor@southernheights.org

Pam Laws, Administrator: pam@southernheights.org



From the Heights

A Monthly Publication of Southern Heights Presbyterian Church

We're on the Web at www.SouthernHeights.org

We welcome your suggestions and contributions to the newsletter. Deadline for each issue is the third Tuesday of each month. It is greatly appreciated if contributions are emailed to the Newsletter Editor: pam@southernheights.org.

Please don't try to structure anything . . . we will format your contribution to fit the newsletter. You may also contact us through the Church office at (402) 421-3704.

Our worship services are on Sundays at 10:30 AM. Children and Adult Sunday school classes are at 9:30 AM from September through May.

Staff: Rev. Leanne Masters, Pastor. Pam Laws, Administrator / Significant Life Event Coordinator. Anita Elliott, Music Director. Dr. Ronald L. Bump, Pastor Emeritus.