



July

2023

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From the Heights

Pastor's Message



Dear Church Family,

When I was young, I was always pretty concerned about what people thought about me. I was so concerned, in fact, that I would often go out of my way to be the “weird” kid, in order to preemptively claim it for myself. “You can’t make fun of me for being weird, I’m proud of it!”.

It didn’t stop the teasing, though, and each hurtful word hurled at me found the intended target of my soft feelings. And so, even in my going out of my way to “prove” that I “didn’t care” what people thought about me, I was meticulously trying my hardest to “fit in”.

I hid the things that I liked and I pretended to enjoy things that I simply didn’t. I allowed people to belittle me in their attempts to either build their own selves up or in their attempts to fit me into the mold they wanted me to.

A side effect of this is that I became so good at “fitting in” that even to this day I can be a bit of a chameleon, and can slip from environment to environment fairly easily and comfortably without feeling like I “stand out” too much.

Sometime in my adulthood, something in me shifted. I slowly realized that, in my attempts to be who other people wanted me to be or who society said I should be, I was actually losing my own self.

I realized that if I am wonderfully and fearfully made in the image of God, how could I deny who I am? I started to claim who I am and what I liked. I started to explore my personal style and what I enjoyed doing. I stopped pretending to enjoy things that I don’t, and I embraced both the wonderfully “weird” and exquisitely “normal” things in my life.

And I found that I’m much happier and also much more able to then lean into the person God is calling me and creating me to be. Because God calls us and is forming us in who we are. God is taking all those quirks and skills and interests and personalities and all of that, and uses all of who we are to lead us into both the joy and the labor of God’s kingdom.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from pg. 1)

I'm still a work in progress, figuring out who I am and who I'm meant to be. But I know that I am wonderfully and fearfully made in the image of God, a beloved reflection of God in this world...and so are you.

Embrace your weird, your normal, and your joy. You are beautiful...just as God has made you.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leanne

SHPC (Birthday) Party Animals

We wish those who celebrate

Birthdays in July

a Very Happy Birthday

and

many blessings

throughout the year!



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

July Birthdays

1 Ayviona Sigowa	13 Paul Read	28 Jamie Phillips
5 Sam Phillips	16 Hudson Michaud	31 Sarah Jacobs
7 Linda Laessle	18 Daniel Weyer	31 Jackie Johnson
8 Earl Rademacher	19 Isaiah Nelsen	31 Leanne Masters
9 Evan Watson	23 Elizabeth Gajardo Holman	31 Sheryl Springer
10 Connie Meyer	26 Kaylie Phillips	31 Stephanie Takahashi

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

July 2023

Meet the Summer Musicians

JULY 2 – HANA TAKAHASHI (14 years)

Hana will attend Lincoln Southwest as a freshman this coming school year. At Southern Heights, she has enjoyed participating in VBS and Youth club. Hana loves singing in choruses and is looking to branch out with solo opportunities and show choir. She also enjoys exercising, shopping, spending time with her family & friends and her dog, Luna.

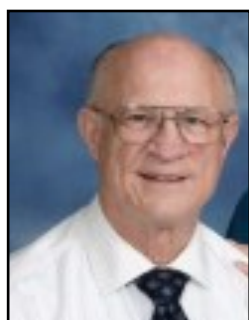


JULY 9 – SOUTHERN HEIGHTS MEN'S BARBERSHOP

QUARTET



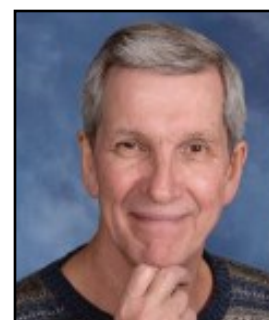
Jim Harder



Larry Caldwell



Fred Weyer



Stan Fortkamp

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Meet the Summer Musicians (cont'd.)**Four for Thee**

Clockwise from top left:
Jon Borton, Kathy Wolf, Jim Dickey, Yvonne Davenport

JULY 16 – FOUR FOR THEE

Singing in church choirs has been a long tradition for the members of Four for Thee. The group was formed in 2007 as an offshoot of several small music ensembles from the larger church choir at St. Mark's UMC. Four for Thee sings at retirement centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and other community events. They truly enjoy singing together and sharing God's word through music.



Julie Haberman

JULY 23**SHPC DUET**

Fred Weyer

JULY 30 – IT'S A GAITHER SUNDAY!

**George & Lynna
Gene Cook**

George and Lynna Gene Cook have a history of pastoral ministry. George served as bivocational minister of Fellowship Community Church in Lincoln from 1974 until 1993, then as full-time minister until 2020. Lynna Gene was a teacher in Lincoln Public Schools and an adjunct at UNL during that time. George continues to serve in state ministry. Lynna Gene works as a Professional Registered Parliamentarian. They are both involved in volunteer work and enjoy traveling, having visited all seven continents.

**BOOK OF
CONFESSIONS
STUDY**
With Pastor
Leanne

JULY 9

**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 July 9!



SHPC STITCHERS UPDATE

This is our donation of fidgets to the Easter Seals, to be used at their summer camps.

The Stitchers are keeping their hands busy making items for Sewing for Babies, WIC, and starting our hats and scarves for the many places we donate to.

Coming soon to a fellowship hall near you the Stitchers will be giving away some of our handmade dishcloths!!!

Vacation Bible School

Ages 4 yrs.—6th Grade

July 30 – August 3, 2023

Sun. thru Thur. Evenings | 5:30 – 8:30 pm

(No meal option prior to the program)

Cost to attend: FREE



Register Online Beginning July 1

[Southernheights.org/vbs](https://southernheights.org/vbs)

Parents' Info: Parents are encouraged to attend each evening's closing & snacktime from 8:00-8:30 to see what your child (grandchild, niece, nephew) has learned throughout the evening.

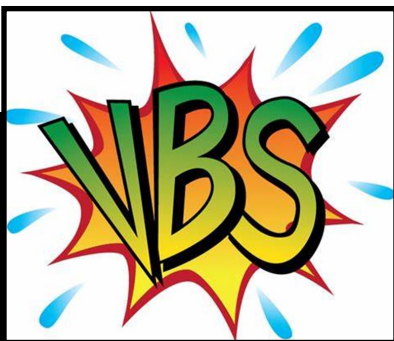


Please Note

Because we honor your child/ren's safety, the following security procedures must be followed:



Parents (grandparents, guardians, etc.) will be required to escort their child/ren to the check-in table each night.



NEEDED

Volunteer Leaders & Helpers 7th grade thru adult

July 30—Aug. 3 | 5:30—8:30 pm

Will You consider being a bright spot in the week
for the kids at VBS?

Contact: Amber Weyer
arweyer@gmail.com
402-310-6861



Did you know we raised \$8,200 on Give to Lincoln Day?
Thank you SOO MUCH!

Did you know that your gifts are *crucial* to the food forest being able to function? Most grants out there are project based grants, meaning we can find grant funding to cover the material costs of building a water area, for example, but it's *very hard* to find the money to cover the staff to complete the design, get the materials, and organize the volunteers to get it built.

Every dollar raised from our community is more than doubled—we cannot even apply for the project grants without this basic backstop in place.

Your support, on Give to Lincoln Day and throughout the year, means the world to our ability to create this magical place. Give anytime through this portal:

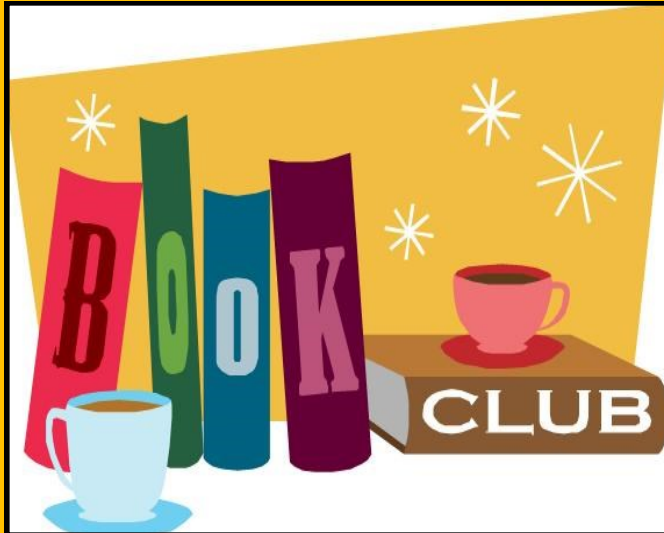
<https://southernheightsff.org/donate/>



Molly Phemister
Food Forest Coordinator

MONTHLY FICTION BOOK CLUB

(EVERY 4TH SATURDAY)



Saturday, July 22

1:30 pm

at SHPC

We'll discuss:

Miss Benson's Beetle

By Rachel Joyce

**Thank
You**

A special thank you to those
who helped out with
the Gathering Place meal in May:

Reads

Falkinburgs

Dave Barnes

Our next serving opportunity is

August 29th at 4:30 p.m.

~ The Mission Committee

Mark Your Calendars!



SHPC **Night at the Ballpark**

Saltdogs Game

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

- Come join us for a night of fun, a baseball game and fireworks!
- We have set aside seats so we can all sit together.
 - After the ball game there will be a spectacular fireworks show!
- 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!**

Ticket reservations, through the church office, will "open" sometime in July.

WATCH THE HOTLINES FOR DETAILS!

THANK YOU



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Ministry Engagement and Support

100 Witherspoon St. | Louisville, KY 40202

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for God has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers Psalm 24:1-2

June 16, 2023

Southern Heights Presbyterian Church
Attn: Mission Committee
5750 S. 40th St.
Lincoln, NE 68516

Dear Partners in God's Ministry,

Grace and peace to you and yours through our Lord Jesus Christ, who makes us one.

We give thanks for this Pentecost season as we all celebrate and recognize the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for your ministry. We also thank you for your faithful support. Your gifts combined with those of so many congregations contribute to building up and strengthening the whole body and the mission that is our calling through Jesus Christ.

On behalf of Presbyterian Mission, please convey our appreciation to your mission committee, pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support. Please see the attached sheet listing all gifts we received during the month of May.

Thank you for your witness to the Great Commission and your partnership in mission.

Blessings on your mission and ministry,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rene'".

Rene Myers
Ministry Engagement Advisor
Office of Ministry Engagement and Support
(502) 541-9758
rene.myers@pcusa.org

Date: 5-15-2023
Amount: \$ 1,500.00
In support of Missionary
Co-workers:
Revs. Kurt Esslinger &
Hyeyoung Lee

THANK YOU



June 22, 2023

Felicia Nelsen
Southern Heights Presbyterian Church
5750 S. 40th St.
Lincoln, NE 68516-2802

Dear Felicia,

Thank you for Southern Heights Presbyterian Church's gift of \$1,000.00 to Lutheran Family Services in support of Refugee Services. The financial support of churches like yours ensures the safety, hope, and well-being of those we serve regardless of their ability to pay.

We are so fortunate to have you share in our mission to demonstrate God's love and to serve our neighbors in need. We cannot do what we do without your help. Together we will positively impact lives to make the world a better place now and in the future!

Again, **thank you for the good that you do** with your support of our mission!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Tonniges", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Chris Tonniges
President & CEO

Gift Amount: 1,000.00
Gift Date: 6/13/23

It Takes a Village . . .

It takes a village (of volunteers offering free labor) to renovate the West Wing at Southern Heights! A special thanks to all who helped with this special project: **Jim Harder, Leland Stege, Erik Anderson, Joyce Schmeeckle, Bill Schmeeckle, Felicia Nelsen, Gene Knoche, Candy McLearn, Amber Weyer, Julie Haberman, Pastor Leanne, Paul Masters & Pam Laws.**



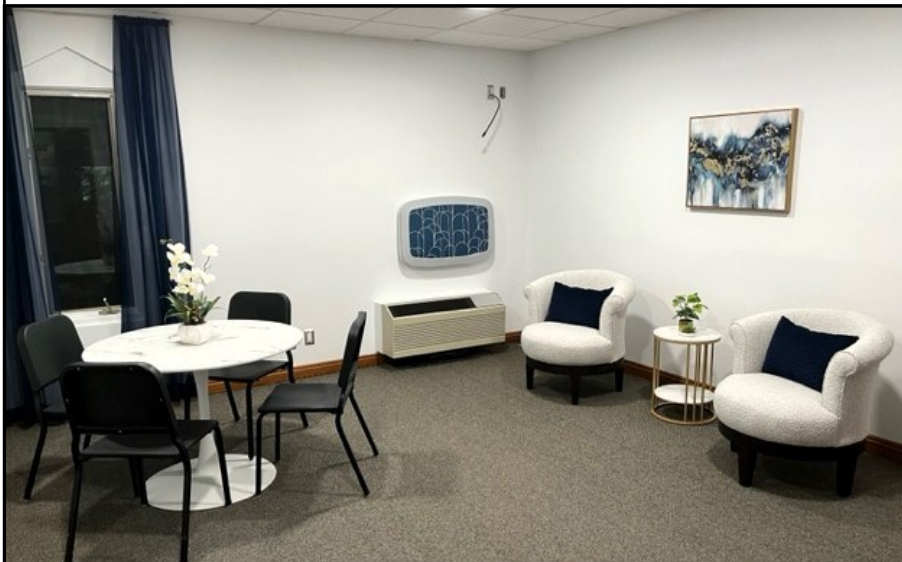
**Getting in on the Painting Action
“Like Pastor ... like Paul”**

Thanks to our talented volunteers for their complimentary labor, we are able to fund this renovation with designated memorial funds and designated building funds.

Stop in and see what's been going on! Work is still in progress, but we have made great strides.

We are excited about the ways in which the West Wing project will help make our space more functional—not only for SHPC, but to also be more welcoming to the various groups we host.

Pictured below are some of the improvements of the West Wing project.



(Continued, next page)

It Takes a Village . . . (cont'd.)



**Leland Stege & Jim Harder
assembling Furniture**



**Felicia Nelsen and Gene Knoche
Trying Not to Spill Paint**



MIXOLOGY DIPLOMA

This Award Certifies Recognition of Achievement

JOYCE SCHMEECKLE

*Has successfully Completed the Required Study in Paint Theory and Practice for Certifications as a Professional Mixologist and Painter For Southern Heights Presbyterian Church
This Date: June 21, 2023*



Official
Flamixology
Seal of Approval

Gene Knoche, Lianne Masters, Paul Masters, Pam Lewis & Felicia Nelsen
Painting Professionals



**SOUTHERN HEIGHTS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Principally Doing, Obediently Fearing



**Joyce Schmeckle
Mixologist Extraordinaire**

Congratulations to Joyce Schmeckle on receiving the coveted Mixology Diploma!

Joyce was tasked with helping us achieve the right mix of paint color. Thanks to her tireless efforts, she came up with the right formula and saved the day!

To date, no other individual has received this high honor.

WHO ARE THE ST. PETER'S STAMPERS?



This group of friendly women are currently meeting weekly at SHPC to work on one of their favorite mission projects: decorating lunch sacks used by the Meals on Wheels program. Each sack includes a bible verse or inspirational message tucked inside to brighten the day of a meal recipient.

Most of these women are affiliated with our neighboring church, St. Peter's Catholic, however, their stamping project is currently displaced while St. Peter's is undergoing some building renovations. **Here's where Southern Heights' Hospitality comes to the rescue!**

The group meets each Tuesday from 1:00-2:30 pm in Fellowship Hall, and they invite and welcome anyone from SHPC who would like to join them!

They are grateful to Southern Heights for providing them the space to continue with this mission project for which they are so passionate. If you have any questions or would like to join the group, please contact Pam in the church office.



Using stamps, colored pencils and markers, lunch sacks are decorated in a variety of ways.

Getting to Know our SHPC Family!

A NEW section highlighting individuals within our church family.

Sponsored by the Membership Committee



Leland Stege
Elder

Name Leland Stege

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

Currently, I'm a Session Member and work on the Mission Committee. I'm involved with the leadership of SHYP which has included mission trips and a variety of events. My wife Janice and I have been members of SHPC for about 14 years. I came to SHPC in need of spiritual renewal and am thankful for the love and support of the congregation.

Family

I've been married to Janice for 48 years. We have three children: Jason, Jennifer, and Aaron. We also have three grandchildren: Jack, Laura, and Kelly.

Hometown (or places you have lived)

I grew up in Hickman and attended Norris High School. The Presbyterian Church was the only church in Hickman so that's where I attended Sunday School.

Personal hobbies and other interests

My hobbies include volunteering at Camp Calvin Crest, collecting Roy Rogers memorabilia, woodworking, walking, and attending auctions and estate sales.

Best piece of advice

My best piece of advice is "there's no such thing as a bad cookie".

Other

Personally, I consider Mark 9:36-37 to be the most meaningful scripture to me. That's why I've been involved in Sunday School or Youth Group since 1982.

Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Mark 9: 36-37

Getting to Know our SHPC Family!

A NEW section highlighting individuals within our church family.

Sponsored by the Membership Committee

Name Carolyn Daniels

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

Currently, I serve on the Deacons and am a member of the choir. I joined Southern Heights in 1975 and have found it to be a friendly and welcoming church.

Family I have three adult children, Lisa Daniels, Lori Hoagland, Brian Daniels, and six grandchildren.

Hometown (or places you have lived)

My hometown is Lincoln, Ne.

Personal hobbies and other interests

My hobbies include singing, working out at the Y, movies and plays.

Favorite Things

My favorite things would be the movies West Side Story, The Sound of Music, and The Ten Commandments.

Best piece of advice

Best piece of advice: Try to be nice to everyone.



Carolyn Daniels
Deacon

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Jan - May 23</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Budgeted Income	100,022.19	122,750.00	(22,727.81)
Budgeted Expenses			
Program Expense			
Mission	10,642.30	6,660.00	3,982.30
Life Long Learning	497.49	1,005.00	(507.51)
Worship & Music	1,213.28	1,175.00	38.28
Membership	327.07	512.50	(185.43)
Total Program Expense	<u>12,680.14</u>	<u>9,352.50</u>	<u>3,327.64</u>
Staff Expense			
Salaries	46,395.42	47,531.25	(1,135.83)
Benefits & Allowances	22,847.84	24,117.40	(1,269.56)
Expenses & Substitutes	2,056.46	2,774.80	(718.34)
Total Staff Expenses	<u>71,299.72</u>	<u>74,423.45</u>	<u>(3,123.73)</u>
Occupancy Expense			
Custodial & Maintenance	12,350.84	14,090.00	(1,739.16)
Utilities	9,180.40	8,320.00	860.40
Insurance	4,539.84	4,050.00	489.84
Total Occupancy Expenses	<u>26,071.08</u>	<u>26,460.00</u>	<u>(388.92)</u>
Office & Other Operating Expenses			
Office Expense	2,658.01	2,465.00	193.01
Other Operating Expenses	-	-	-
Total Office/Operating Expenses	<u>2,658.01</u>	<u>2,465.00</u>	<u>193.01</u>
Total Expenses	<u>115,260.14</u>	<u>116,182.95</u>	<u>(922.81)</u>
Budgeted Net Income or (Loss)	<u>(15,237.95)</u>	<u>6,567.05</u>	<u>(21,805.00)</u>

July Calendar

Sunday, July 2

10:30 AM Worship & Communion / S
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH

Monday, July 3

(Mission Committee postponed to July 10)
No Scouts

Tuesday, July 4 — Independence Day Holiday *Church office closed*

Wednesday, July 5

6:30 PM VBS Planning Team / CR

Thursday, July 6

(No Membership Meeting in July)

Friday, July 7

10:00 AM Study Group / FH
1:30 PM Quartet Rehearsal / S

Sunday, July 9

10:30 AM Worship / S
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH
12 Noon Book of Confessions Study (brown bag) / CR

Monday, July 10

6:00 PM Scouts PLC / CR
6:00 PM Mission Cte. / LL-K
6:30 PM Personnel Committee / WW
7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

Tuesday, July 11

1:00 PM St. Peter's Stampers / FH
5:30 PM Crochet Class / FH
7:00 PM Financial Stdshp. Cte. / CR
7:00 PM Scout Parents / FH

Wednesday, July 12—Session Reports Due

Thursday, July 13

No Deacons Meeting in July

Saturday, July 15

10:00 AM SHFF Brunch (FH rain backup)

Sunday, July 16

10:30 AM Worship / S
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH

Monday, July 17

7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH
7:00 PM Session Meeting / CR

Tuesday, July 18—Newsletter Deadline

1:00 PM St. Peter's Stampers / FH
5:30 PM Crocheters / FH

Thursday, July 20

8:30 AM—4 PM WIC Clinic / LL-K
3:00 PM Poli Olli / FH
6:30 PM Life Long Learning Cte. / CR

Saturday, July 22

9:00-11:00 AM Agroforestry Wkshop. / SHFF
1:30 PM Fiction Book Club / CR

Sunday, July 23

10:30 AM Worship / S
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH

Monday, July 24

7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

Tuesday, July 25

1:00 PM St. Peter's Stampers / FH
5:30 PM Crocheters / FH

Thursday, July 27

6:30 PM Worship & Music / CR

Sunday, July 30

10:30 AM Worship & July Bday Ofrg. / S
5:30-8:30 PM VBS Begins!

Monday, July 31

5:30-8:30 PM VBS Invasion Week!

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

Return Service Requested



July 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.