



**October  
2023**

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# From the Heights

## Pastor's Message



Several years ago, I decided that I wanted to teach myself how to play the ukulele. I bought one, a beginner's book, and tried to do so.

But, nothing that I did made sense. I couldn't figure out how to hold the instrument, how to curl and press my fingers on the strings to form the chords, or even how to strum in a way that sounded right.

I wondered if it was something that I was simply unable to do, or if it was something that I just waited too long in my life to learn. After all, don't they say that you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

I put the ukulele in Mike's music room and walked away.

This summer, Paul found the ukulele and has been asking to learn how to play it. So, I looked up a local studio that does lessons for younger kids and signed him up. And then, I decided that it was high time for me to actually learn it, too, and so I registered for an eight week class at SCC.

I was nervous, I was anxious, but I showed up to the class, ukulele in hand, ready to learn.

And, friends, I'm doing it. I've learned how to hold it so that it rests comfortably in my arms, I'm slowly learning chords and figuring out how to switch between them and to strum in rhythm to a song.

I'm not great at it, but I'm enjoying it.

I'm thankful that my son wanting to learn something challenged me to pursue what I've long wanted to do, and I'm thankful that I leant into the discomfort in order to find joy.

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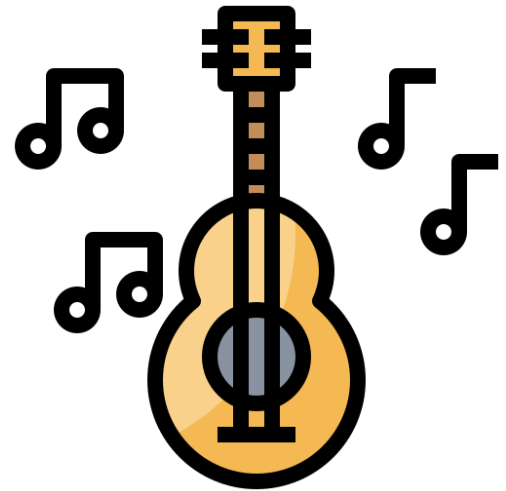
Friends, I want to tell you that it's never too late, and you're never too old to do things that both challenge you and bring you joy.

It's never too late to explore new skills and new hobbies. It's never too late to learn, to expand your horizons, to grow.

May you find the courage to lean into something new, to follow your heart into learning and growing, and may you find joy in unexpected places and new life experiences.

Grace and Peace,

***Pastor Leanne***



## SHPC (Birthday) Party Animals



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

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

### October Birthdays

6 Ellyn Walters  
8 Pam Laws  
8 Theo Schmeckle  
9 Sandie Caldwell

11 Kaylee Elliott  
12 Henry Elam  
12 Shelly Falkinburg  
14 LaRee Onstad  
16 Craig Horn

20 Paige Joseph  
22 Lynna Gene Cook  
25 Bob Bryan  
29 Charlie Elam



## Fellow Members of Southern Heights,

As October is upon us, we want to introduce you to the beginning of our annual fall Stewardship campaign and let you know that our theme for this year is from James 1 verse 17 which says very simply that “Every good and perfect gift is from above.”

What we often don’t take time to realize is that our church is a haven for all of us, whether it be worship, fellowship, participation on committees and making decisions from our involvement that allows our church not only to serve our members, but also our outreaches to the Lincoln community and beyond.

In an article by E.J. Dionne, he reminds us that “Over the past several months, an old truth has become new again: Houses of worship and other religious institutions play an essential role in promoting social correctness, mutual aid and community building.” And this reaffirms our own statement of “Being inward strong and outwardly focused!”

Throughout the next several months we will be bringing information on different church committees, what they are doing to not only offer benefits to our membership, but also throughout the community. And why our giving allows them to accomplish these programs and missions on behalf of all of our congregation, and—with increased giving, from each of us—how they are able to expand their programming and take up new projects and mission on our behalf.

*What we often don't take time to realize is that our church is a haven for all of us . . .*

For example, the **Lifelong Learning committee** offers not only Bible studies, but this year also adult book studies of current selected books for the One Lincoln program and currently, Pastor Leanne’s class on studying the Book of Confessions.



VBS Class

In addition, our children’s programs have evolved from holding a weekly Sunday School class, which has had limited attendance, to a greater focus on continuing the SHYP (Southern Heights Youth Program), which has been drawing both our church families and also out-of-congregation kids to participate. In addition, they are planning a “trick or treat” event for Sunday, October 29th inside the church building and, again, it will be open and welcome to the Lincoln Community.

Earlier this summer, they had a very successful Bible School with many non-church member attendees as well as SHPC kids. All of these programs are possible through our commitment and financial giving.

### *Fall Stewardship Campaign (Cont'd)*

**A**nother great example is through our **Mission Committee's** work. In addition to volunteering and service, we have considered 10% of all of our giving to the Church to go to Mission giving; thus our church tithing in mission giving.

Most of the mission giving is given to nonprofit organizations within our Lincoln community. This helps them in serving those in need of their services and allows us to fund more nonprofits doing this work without our church bearing the whole load for these important missions.

*“Over the past several months, an old truth has become new again: Houses of worship and other religious institutions play an essential role in promoting social correctness, mutual aid and community building.” ~ E.J. Dionne*

The Mission Committee spends a great amount of time each year developing a theme for the year and determining organizations that meet that theme, are well run and usually exist in the Lincoln serving area.

As we continue these programs, the only way they can continue to exist is through our giving, whether through our anticipated giving amounts made through our annual campaign or general giving. We urge you to use the anticipated giving option to help the financial stewardship committee plan our budget for the coming year as accurately as possible.



**Serving at the Gathering Place**

**T**hrough the month of October, we will be providing more examples of how the work of our congregation and church is able to provide for these programs through our giving and our outreach to the community.

Please join us as we remind ourselves of all the good our congregation is doing, not only internally but also externally. Please remember that “Every good and perfect gift is from above” and recognize that God walks with us in our important mission.

The Financial Stewardship Committee

Dick Campbell, Jim Harder, Sam Phillips, Gene Knoche, Carolyn Murphy and Stan Fortkamp

# BOOK OF CONFESSIONS STUDY

*with Pastor Leanne*

## OCTOBER 15TH

### Monthly Brown Bag Meeting

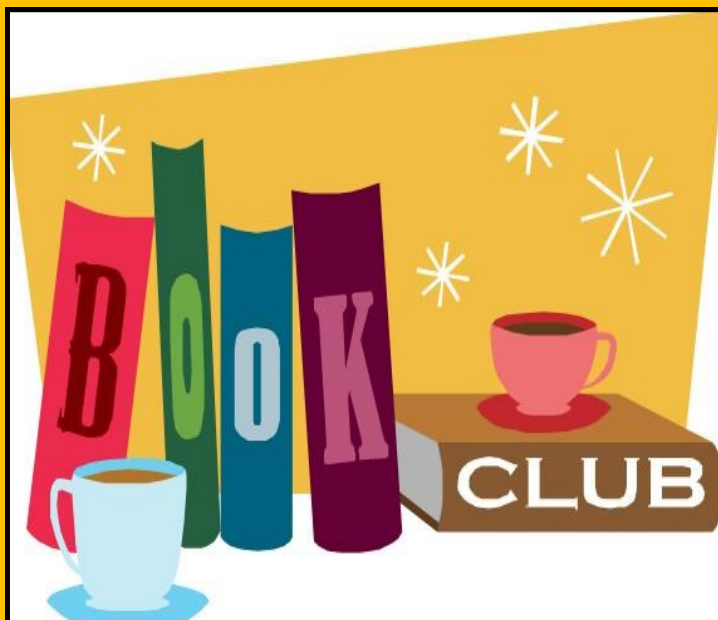
Following Worship | 12 noon  
*in the Conference Room*

*Looking forward to seeing you then!*



## MONTHLY FICTION BOOK CLUB

*(EVERY 4TH SATURDAY)*



**Saturday, Oct. 28**

**1:30 pm**

**at SHPC**

**We'll discuss:**

**Four Treasures of  
the Sky**

**By Jenny Tinghui Zhang**



**Welcome New Members!**

**Gayle Beran**

**Dan & Terry Jackson**

**SHYP Indoor  
Trick or Treat  
Event**

**Sun., Oct 29**

**3:00—5:00 pm**



## Getting to Know our SHPC Family!

Highlighting individuals within our church family

*Sponsored by the Membership Committee*



**Sam Phillips**  
**Elder**

**Name** Sam Phillips

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

I have been a member since 2013 (or around there) and currently serve on Session as well as the Financial Stewardship Committee.

### **Family**

My parents and brother Andrew's family are SHPC members. I also have a sister in western NE as well as a brother in Cincinnati, OH.

### **Hometown (or places you have lived)**

Born and raised in Axtell, NE. Lived in Lincoln since college except for 4 years living in Harrisburg, PA for work.

### **Personal hobbies and other interests**

Enjoy all things sports, working out and my dog Molly!

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

A few of my favorite things are pizza, craft beer and Ireland!

### **Best piece of advice**

Yogi Berra: "When you come a fork in the road... take it."

# CELEBRITY SIGHTING!

On Sept. 13, the SHPC Choir and friends were chauffeured to a surprise gospel concert featuring none other than Elvis Presley himself (AKA Joseph E. Hall)!



Chauffeurs gather their passengers for Caravan ride



Hunk-a-Hunk o' Burnin' Love!



Look at those Attractive Folks from Southern Heights!



*Celebrity Sighting (cont'd)*



Couldn't resist a  
Selfie  
at the  
Concert!



## Treasurer's Report

	<u>Jan - Aug 23</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
<b>Budgeted Income</b>	181,759.80	196,400.00	(14,640.20)
<b>Budgeted Expenses</b>			
<b>Program Expense</b>			
Mission	13,875.06	13,320.00	555.06
Life Long Learning	2,501.47	5,120.00	(2,618.53)
Worship & Music	1,905.29	1,900.00	5.29
Membership	327.07	865.00	(537.93)
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<u>18,608.89</u>	<u>21,205.00</u>	<u>(2,596.11)</u>
<b>Staff Expense</b>			
Salaries	74,232.90	77,073.75	(2,840.85)
Benefits & Allowances	37,645.97	38,587.84	(941.87)
Expenses & Substitutes	3,630.72	4,739.68	(1,108.96)
<b>Total Staff Expenses</b>	<u>115,509.59</u>	<u>120,401.27</u>	<u>(4,891.68)</u>
<b>Occupancy Expense</b>			
Custodial & Maintenance	20,315.28	20,780.00	(464.72)
Utilities	13,100.28	13,750.00	(649.72)
Insurance	7,320.60	6,450.00	870.60
<b>Total Occupancy Expenses</b>	<u>40,736.16</u>	<u>40,980.00</u>	<u>(243.84)</u>
<b>Office &amp; Other Operating Expenses</b>			
Office Expense	3,430.47	3,925.00	(494.53)
Other Operating Expenses	5,218.59	5,980.00	(761.41)
<b>Total Office/Operating Expenses</b>	<u>8,649.06</u>	<u>9,905.00</u>	<u>(1,255.94)</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>183,503.70</u>	<u>192,491.27</u>	<u>(8,987.57)</u>
<b>Budgeted Net Income or (Loss)</b>	<u>(1,743.90)</u>	<u>3,908.73</u>	<u>(5,652.63)</u>

# October Calendar

**Room Key:** FH: Fellowship Hall  
WW: West Wing

CR: Conference Room  
S: Sanctuary

FF (or SHFF): Food Forest  
LL-K: Lower Level-Kitchenette

## Sunday, Oct 1—World Communion Sunday

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

## Monday, Oct 2

6:00 PM Mission Committee / WW  
6:00 PM Scouts PLC / CR  
7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

## Tuesday, Oct 3

5:30 PM Crocheters / FH

## Wednesday, Oct 4

6:30 PM Choir Practice / S  
7:00 PM Scouts / FH

## Thursday, Oct 5

6:30 PM Membership Cte. / CR

## Friday, Oct 6

7:00 PM Adoptive Moms Support Group / WW

## Sunday, Oct 8

10:30 AM Worship / S  
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH  
5:30-6:30 PM SHYP Youth Club (K-2nd)  
5:30-7:30 PM SHYP Youth Club (3rd-12th)

## Monday, Oct 9

5:00 PM Jubilation Rehearsal / S  
6:30 PM Personnel Committee / CR  
7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

## Tuesday, Oct 10

5:30 PM Crocheters / WW  
6:30 PM PEO Dinner & Auction / FH  
7:00 PM Financial Stdshp. Cte. / CR  
7:00 PM Scout Parents / LL-K

## Wednesday, Oct 11—Session Reports Due

1:30 PM Esther Circle / FH  
6:30 PM Choir / S

## Thursday, Oct 12

7 PM Deacons / CR

## Sunday, Oct 15

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

## Monday, Oct 16

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

## Tuesday, Oct 17—Newsletter Deadline

5:30 PM Crocheters / FH

## Wednesday, Oct 18

6:30 PM Choir Practice / S

## Thursday, Oct 19

8:30 AM—4 PM WIC Clinic / LL-K  
3:00 PM Poli Olli / FH  
5:00 PM Jubilation Rehearsal / S  
6:30 PM Life Long Learning Cte. / CR

## Friday, Oct 20

7:00 PM Adoptive Moms Support Group / WW

## Saturday, Oct 21

1:00 PM Audra Poliska Wedding

## Sunday, Oct 22

10:30 AM Worship & Oct. Birthday Ofrg. / S  
11:30 AM Retirement Reception for Pam Laws / FH  
5:30-7:30 PM SHYP Youth Club (3rd-12th)

## Monday, Oct 23

5:00 PM Jubilation Rehearsal / S  
7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

## Tuesday, Oct 24

5:30 PM Crocheters / FH

## Wednesday, Oct 25

6:30 PM Choir / S

## Thursday, Oct 26

6:30 PM Worship & Music Cte. / CR

## Friday, Oct 27

9:00 AM-12 noon International Club / FH

## Saturday, Oct 28

9:00 AM-1:00 PM PW Fall Mtg. via Zoom / FH  
1:30 PM Fiction Book Club / CR

## Sunday, Oct 29—All Saints Sunday

10:30 AM Worship & Remembrance Ceremony / S  
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH  
3:00-5:00 PM SHYP Trick or Treat, Indoor Event

## Monday, Oct 30

5:00 PM Jubilation Rehearsal / S  
7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

## Tuesday, Oct 31—Pam Laws' last day

4:30 PM SHPC serves at Gathering Place  
5:30 PM Crocheters

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

**Return Service Requested**



**October 2023**

**Email Addresses:**

Leanne Masters, Pastor: [pastor@southernheights.org](mailto:pastor@southernheights.org)

Pam Laws, Administrator: [pam@southernheights.org](mailto:pam@southernheights.org)



*From the Heights*

*A Monthly Publication of Southern Heights Presbyterian Church*

**We're on the Web at [www.SouthernHeights.org](http://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](mailto: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. 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.