



From the Heights

Pastor's Message



Dear Church Family,

Something that has not changed with time is how much our children (and Mike and I, too) love building with Legos.

For Paul, they are a fun creative toy, and he is always taking random pieces and building something new and different with it. For Paul, there is freedom in the imagination, and he runs wild with it.

For Kenny, they work with his ordered way of seeing the world: following the instructions, step by step, he is able to fit the pieces together to build something amazing and wonderful. For Kenny, the freedom is in the knowledge of the process and being able to do the best job within that ordered process.

Each boy has his own way of playing with Legos, of building and creating, of making something out of the bricks in front of him. Each way is completely different, but neither way is wrong, just different methods with different results. But each way is what is best for them, and what brings them joy.

For all of us, in our lives and in our world, we look at the tools and the situations before us and we determine the best course of action, the best way of handling a problem, the best way of working and doing and being...for our own selves.

But we tend to forget that, and then when another comes along, or is dealing with something similar, we look at them and tell them the "right" way to play with the Legos, which, of course, is our own way. We assume that, because it works for us, because it is right for us, it will work and is right for them, as well.

I first encountered this in a deep and powerful way when I was just 22, and deeply grieving the death of a dear friend. I was far from home, far from my real support systems, and was adrift and lost. The night of my friend's funeral, which I wasn't able to attend due to distance, I was joking and laughing about something, and one of my roommates made a comment that I must not have been all that close with my friend, because

(Continued on page 2)

September

2023

In This Issue

Pastor's Message1

September Birthdays.....2

Heart and Soul.....3

Choir Rehearsals Begin.....4

Pet Blessing Service.....4

Congratulations.....5

Fiction Book Club.....5

Book of Confessions

Study.....6

PW Birthday Party!.....6

Gathering Place Servers...7

Dish Soap Project.....7

Thank You's.....8

VBS Photo Gallery.....9

Getting to Know Our

SHPC Family.....10

SHYP Kick-off Carnival

Photo Gallery.....12

Treasurer's Report.....13

Calendar.....14



(Continued from pg. 1)

he, himself, wouldn't be able to laugh about anything if he had lost someone close to him. What my roommate couldn't understand was that my laughter was healing for me, and it was needed as a part of my grief process...he couldn't understand it because it wasn't the way he would approach it. He saw the way that I was building with my Legos, and declared that it was wrong.

But it wasn't wrong, it was just different.

I can't help but wonder what would it look like, for us, if we were not only able to look at situations and determine how we would handle it, but be able to set aside our own perspective to embrace how others might handle it as well? Would it make us more compassionate towards others? Would it make us more empathetic? Would it help us to understand our own reactions and decisions better? Would it draw us closer to each other?

What would it look like to appreciate not only the Lego creations of our own hands, but to see the beauty of the building process of another?

I think it could be the beginning of the building of the Kingdom of God.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leanne

SHPC (Birthday) Party Animals



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

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

September Birthdays

1 Rose Schmeeckle	8 Joyce Schmeeckle	18 Bonnie Verhoeff
3 Ken Murphy	9 Aden Weyer	22 Andrew Phillips
4 Julia Wilken	10 Bentley Elam	27 Larry Caldwell
6 Mitch Elam	10 Anita Elliott	28 Susan Dahm
6 Quin Nelsen	11 Jan Ravenscroft	30 Violet Jacobs
7 Peter Read	13 Christine Read	30 Aubree Phillips

Heart and Soul
to Close out the Summer Music Program

SEPTEMBER 3



Susan Dahm



Iris Wells



Verla Swearingin



Mary Anderson



Donna Swoboda



Margaret Minary

Hheart and Soul was the brainchild of Verla. We began as a trio, but quickly realized that we needed more depth. So each of us chose a partner in our own range and the result was – perfect harmony!

Our name was chosen by vote. The ballot included about a dozen potential names from which we chose – none! The name “Heart and Soul” was a last-minute addition inspired by the Hoagy Carmichael song which we all remembered playing on the piano as children (whether we played the piano or not!)

We love being a part of the worship experience here at Southern Heights!

Verla, Mary, Donna, Margaret, Iris, Susan and Anita

Choir Rehearsals Begin

Wed., Sep. 6 | 6:30–8 pm
Sanctuary

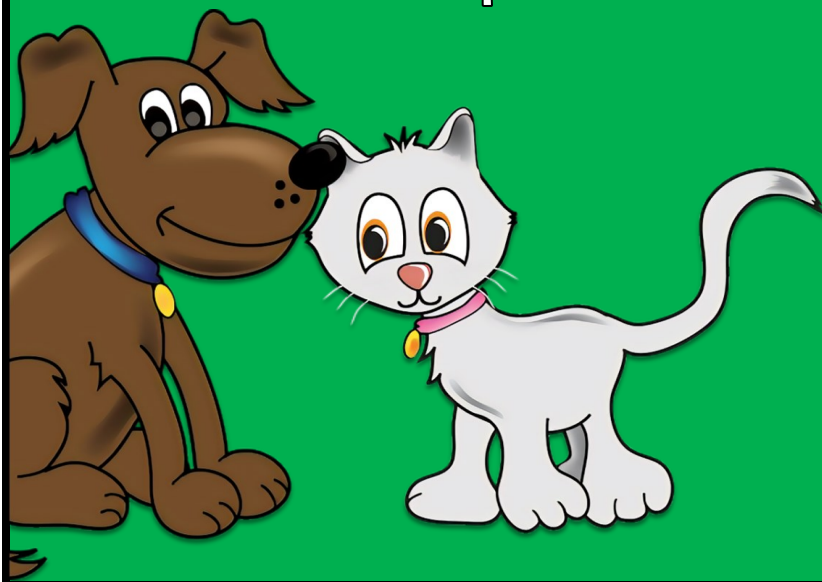
We'll top off our first night's rehearsal
with Root Beer Floats to
celebrate the season!

Come join us—we're a FUN group! (Just ask us.)



Pet Blessing Service

Sun., Sept. 10 | 10:30 am
Fellowship Hall



Your beloved
pets—appropriately
restrained (kennel,
leash, etc.)—are welcome
to the
Pet Blessing Service.
This is a regular service
of worship, where
Pastor Leanne
will include a
pet blessing
ceremony.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Becki Barnes has completed her BA in Multidisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Gerontology from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

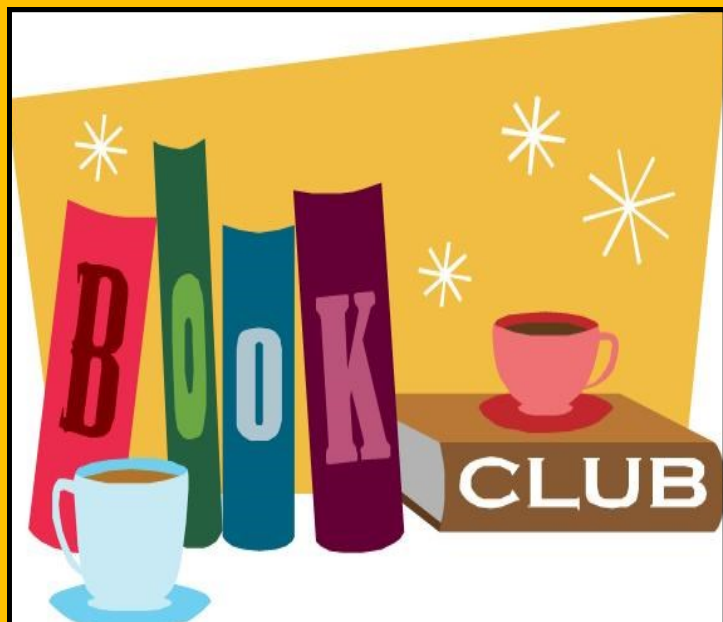


Margaret Minary has been cast in the upcoming play “Over the River and Through the Woods” at Lincoln Community Playhouse. Mark your calendars! The production dates are Oct. 20-22 and 27-29.

Congratulations to both, Becki and Margaret for pursuing their dreams and achieving their goals!

MONTHLY FICTION BOOK CLUB

(EVERY 4TH SATURDAY)



Saturday, Sept. 23

1:30 pm

at SHPC

We'll discuss:

**Remarkably Bright
Creatures**

By Shelby Van Pelt

BOOK OF CONFESSIONS STUDY WILL NOT MEET IN SEPTEMBER

Due to scheduling conflicts on the church calendar,
the monthly brown bag meeting
will not meet in September.

Please note that we will reconvene with our study
on October 15.

Looking forward to seeing you then!



PW Birthday Celebration

A Fan Favorite!

Sept. 24 | Fellowship Hall

Immediately following the
worship service

- 12 Party Tables
- 12 Delectable Desserts

Come and enjoy this fun celebration!

Visit with others at your birthday month table — or table hop & “work the room”!

PW uses this event as a fundraiser and all money raised goes to
support the PW mission projects.

SERVING AT THE GATHERING PLACE

In every month that has a 5th Tuesday you will find faithful SHPC volunteers serving at The Gathering Place. Thank you to our August 29th servers (pictured below).



L to r: Janette Shaver-Malick, Dave Barnes, Max Wing, Pat Wing

Photo courtesy of Felicia Nelsen (which is Felicia's excuse for not being in the photo)



We continue to collect dish soap to distribute as an outreach project. Check out the collection station in the Fellowship Hall to see our progress!

Any brand of liquid dish soap will do (7 oz to 25 oz. sizes). We are grateful for your continued support of this Mission Committee outreach!



*Thank you to our church
family for all of the prayers
and cards during
Jim's recent surgeries.*

~ Margaret Minary



*Thank
you*

A decorative graphic featuring the words 'Thank you' in a cursive font, surrounded by pink and red flowers and green leaves.

A huge thank you to all for your kind prayers, emails, and cards for my recent surgery & recovery. I'm doing well & progressing nicely in my Physical Therapy.

A special thank you to the Deacons for the nice goodie bag & to Fred Weyer for delivering it.

Our church family is so special and we are so thankful for your support!

~ Becki Barnes

VBS Photo Gallery ~ July 30-August 3



Getting to Know our SHPC Family!

Highlighting individuals within our church family

Sponsored by the Membership Committee



Rachael Phillips
Deacon

Name Rachael Phillips

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

My husband, Al, and I have been members since 2019, and I currently serve as a Deacon. We enjoy being Ambassadors and getting to know more of our congregation. Obviously we are new to the congregation, but our joining was memorable. It was a rainy fall day and we were having church services in the parking lot (during covid). Normally Pastor Leanne stood on a platform in the parking lot but, due to the rain and all of the electrical sound system concerns, she was inside the Fellowship Hall broadcasting to our car radios. During the new member reception ceremony, she asked that we stand on the sidewalk so all could see, fair enough, but we could not hear outside of the car. Julie Haberman kindly rolled down her window so that we could hear. We were asked questions that Julie relayed to us and our response had to be thumbs up. Julie kindly increased the volume which helped us, but Julie may have suffered some hearing loss. Some folks honked as the ceremony concluded. Definitely my most memorable Sunday morning, and quite possibly we are the only members to have joined in the parking lot.

Family

We have 4 children and 9 grandchildren. You know Sam and Cassie, Andrew and Jamie both of whom live here in Lincoln along with Kaylie and Aubree. Our oldest son, Brian, lives in Ohio with his wife Brandi and children Taylor, Max and Hunter. Betsy is our youngest and she lives in Hemingford, NE. Her husband is Wes and children are Porter, Lanee, Harper and Kevin.

Hometown (or places you have lived)

We moved here from Axtell, NE. I was confirmed in the First Presbyterian Church of Axtell, and Al was a member there for 42 years.

Personal hobbies and other interests

I very much enjoy my flower garden. During colder seasons I am reading too many books or knitting. Love to cook as well.

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

We also enjoy traveling. Our favorite trips are: #1 visiting family that is not near us. #2 visiting Nebraska sites we haven't seen yet. #3 the longer trips to new places, spots warmer in winter and our Bucket List.

Best piece of advice

I try to smile 30 times everyday. It makes my day brighter and hopefully those around me. Life is too short to do anything else.

Getting to Know our SHPC Family!

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Name Suzie (Suzanne) Harder



**Suzie Harder
Elder**

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

My husband, Jim, and I have been members of Southern Heights since we moved to Lincoln from Beaver City, NE in 1999. The reason we chose Southern Heights was primarily due to the welcoming and friendly atmosphere, as well as the emphasis on how we, as Christians, are responsible to share God's love with all in our world in whatever way we can and however we are gifted. We have both been members of the choir almost from the day we first came to the church. I have been involved in "teaching" aspects of SHPC almost from the start. I have helped out with VBS and have been facilitating the Adult Sunday school, or more accurately, Bible Study class, on Sunday for several years. I have also been a member of Presbyterian Women and led that Bible study as well, and a women's Bible study at my home for a few years.

Family Prior to moving to Lincoln we met, married and lived in Crawford, NE, moved to O'Neill, NE, and Beaver City. Before my parents moved to Crawford, back in 1968, I had always lived in large cities. I was born in Rochester, MN, lived in Pasadena, CA, La Canada, CA, Detroit, MI, Santa Maria, CA. I went to nursing school at Cornell Univ. NY Hosp. School of Nursing in New York, NY, and taught nursing at John's Hopkins in Baltimore, MD. My father asked me to come home (to Crawford) to take care of my very kind and loving step-mother as she was dying of cancer. After her death, I was going to head back to New York (Cornell) to attend medical school. However, I met a young man named Jim Harder and got my Mrs. instead of my MD. We have been happily married now for 50 and half years. My father lived in a small home next door to our house in Crawford, and he passed away not too long after my mother.

Both of our jobs (Jim worked for the Soil Conservation Service, and I worked for the State Department of Health & Human Services) brought us to Lincoln – that was after all three of our children had graduated from Beaver City High School and were in College.

Our children have all married and each have 3 children. Our grandkids range in age from 1 ½ to 20 – all but three are teenagers. Our daughter Janelle and family live in Flower Mound, TX, Ruth and family live in Oro Valley, AZ and Steve and family live in Urbandale, IA. We try to drive to see everybody at least twice a year.

Personal hobbies and other interests Since the kids are not near us I try to keep myself busy with a lot of knitting and a lot of reading – my favorite extra-curricular activities!!

Best piece of advice My best piece of advice to all would be to be sure that you use the gifts that God has given you to serve him and share His love.

Photo Gallery

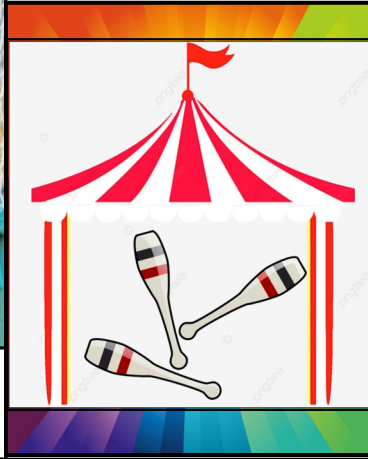
SHYP Kick-Off Carnival! ~ Aug. 27th



Abigail Manley Fearfully Anticipates Being Dunked in the Tank!



Jace Manley & Charlie Elam in a Water Balloon Fight



Ayviona Sigowa Shields Herself in a Lifesize Bubble

This Bullseye Shot Means Kenny Masters is About to Get Wet!



Treasurer's Report

	<u>Jan - Jul 23</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Budgeted Income	160,253.12	171,850.00	(11,596.88)
Budgeted Expenses			
Program Expense			
Mission	13,759.38	13,320.00	439.38
Life Long Learning	1,567.78	3,420.00	(1,852.22)
Worship & Music	1,667.29	1,670.00	(2.71)
Membership	327.07	785.00	(457.93)
Total Program Expense	<u>17,321.52</u>	<u>19,195.00</u>	<u>(1,873.48)</u>
Staff Expense			
Salaries	64,953.74	67,226.25	(2,272.51)
Benefits & Allowances	32,799.52	33,764.36	(964.84)
Expenses & Substitutes	3,136.23	4,334.72	(1,198.49)
Total Staff Expenses	<u>100,889.49</u>	<u>105,325.33</u>	<u>(4,435.84)</u>
Occupancy Expense			
Custodial & Maintenance	17,848.79	18,510.00	(661.21)
Utilities	11,317.94	11,850.00	(532.06)
Insurance	6,293.68	5,550.00	743.68
Total Occupancy Expenses	<u>35,460.41</u>	<u>35,910.00</u>	<u>(449.59)</u>
Office & Other Operating Expenses			
Office Expense	3,223.23	3,425.00	(201.77)
Other Operating Expenses	1,142.61	1,050.00	92.61
Total Office/Operating Expenses	<u>4,365.84</u>	<u>4,475.00</u>	<u>(109.16)</u>
Total Expenses	<u>161,783.89</u>	<u>169,531.33</u>	<u>(7,747.44)</u>
Budgeted Net Income or (Loss)	<u>(1,530.77)</u>	<u>2,318.67</u>	<u>(3,849.44)</u>

September Calendar

Room Key: FH: Fellowship Hall

CR: Conference Room

FF (or SHFF): Food Forest

PS: Pastor's Study

WW: West Wing

LL-K: Lower Level-Kitchenette

S: Sanctuary

LL: Lower Level

Saturday, Sept 2

1 PM Drama Ministry / S

Sunday, Sept 3—FIRST SUNDAY FILL THE CART

10:30 AM Worship & Communion / S

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH

Monday, Sept 4—Labor Day Holiday

Church Office Closed

NO Scouts

Mission Cte. Postponed to Sept. 10

Tuesday, Sept 5

2-6 PM Choir Open House to pick up music / S

5:30 PM Crocheters / FH

Wednesday, Sept 6

2-6 PM Choir Open House to pick up music / S

6:30 PM First Choir Practice / S

Thursday, Sept 7

6:30 PM Membership Cte. / CR

Sunday, Sept 10

10:30 AM Worship & Pet Blessing / FH

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH

11:30 AM Mission Cte. / WW

5:30 PM SHYP Youth Club / FH

Monday, Sept 11

6:00 PM Scouts PLC / CR

7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

Tuesday, Sept 12

5:30 PM Crocheters / FH

7:00 PM Financial Stdshp. Cte. / CR

7:00 PM Scout Parents / FH

Wednesday, Sept 13—Session Reports Due

1:30 PM Esther Circle / FH

Thursday, Sept 14

7 PM Deacons / CR

Sunday, Sept 17

10:30 AM Worship & Sept Birthday Ofrg. / S

11:30 AM Fellowship Hour / FH

NO Book of Confessions Study in Sept.

Monday, Sept 18

7:00 PM Scouts BSA / FH

7:00 PM Session Meeting / CR

Tuesday, Sept 19—Newsletter Deadline

5:30 PM Crocheters / FH

Wednesday, Sept 20

6:30 PM Choir Practice / S

Thursday, Sept 21

8:30 AM—4 PM WIC Clinic / LL-K

3:00 PM Poli Olli / S

6:30 PM Life Long Learning Cte. / CR

Saturday, Sept 23

1:30 PM Fiction Book Club / CR

Sunday, Sept 24

10:30 AM Worship / S

11:30 AM PW Birthday Dessert Party! / FH

Monday, Sept 25

7 PM Scouts BSA / FH

Tuesday, Sept 26

5:30 PM Crocheters / FH

Wednesday, Sept 27

6:30 PM Choir practice / S

Thursday, Sept 28

6:30 PM Worship & Music Cte. / CR

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

Return Service Requested



September 2023

Email Addresses:

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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. 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.