



Prayers

Tara Obner, on the recent death of her father, *Robert Oberembt*; *Rev. Ellis Arnold*, Associate Conference Minister, recently hospitalized; *Susan Dolezal* and *Sandy Lee* and their families, whose mother *Maryhelen Graul*, died recently; *Helen Sawtell*, now at Hillcrest Millard; *Tina Grossenstein*, who broke her leg; *Dorothy Rydberg*, now at Rolling Hills; *Miriam Eckblade*, whose mother died last week; the *Zaiss, Wiseman, and Gustafson families*, on the death of *Melissa Wiseman Smith*; *Vickie Jones*, recovering from surgery.

Joys:

Dr. Phil Smith, awarded the *J.G. Elliott Award* by the University of Nebraska Medical Center for making UNMC a leader in biopreparedness. *Matt & Elizabeth Lee*, celebrating the birth of *Jonathon Allan Lee* – proud grandparents are *Mike & Sandy Lee*, proud great aunt and uncle *Steve & Susan Dolezal*. *The Blazek and Rath families*, celebrating the marriage of *Sam Rath & Meghan Meyer*. Congratulations to *Pete Fey & Katie Foster*, celebrating their marriage last week! *Vic & Jan Kensler*, celebrating their 50th anniversary!

Summer Choir

Come and sing! Any vaccinated singers welcome – we will meet at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings through June, and sing the Introit during worship.

Parking

A reminder: the parking lot is now a pay lot, but you DO NOT have to pay on Sunday mornings.

Back to Normal: Here's What to Expect

If you were in church on Sunday, you may have noticed that the traffic flow was more like it used to be and you were free to sit where you like. Pew cards and informational brochures were back in their usual places. With the city mandated mask ordinance expiring this week, masks will no longer be required for those who are vaccinated. See details in Scott's column for those who have yet received their shots.

We do still ask that you respect others before approaching them for hugs and handshakes. You'll find little, round stickers on the shelf by the name tags; red, yellow and green. We ask that you each place one of the stickers on your name tag or collar: **Red** if you prefer no close contact, **Yellow** if you are comfortable with elbow bumps and a wave from close by, **Green** if you ready and waiting for hugs or handshakes from your First Central Family.

Ushers will return to having two sizes of bulletins on Sunday. Although you may have gotten used to the larger print version, that include printouts of the hymns, please remember that the hymnals are back in the pew racks for you to use, and that the larger bulletins are significantly more expensive to print.

Coffee Hour will continue on the patio for the time being - as the weather allows - until all the repairs to the Parlor are finished later in the season.

Welcome back! We can't wait to see your smiling faces!

Changing Protocols

Welcome to the new normal. In the last few weeks the CDC has altered its Covid guidance, Covid cases are in sharp decline, leading some to suggest we finally have the infection under control in the US, and today, May 25, is the last day of the mask mandate here in Omaha.

Over the last five months as most of us adults have been vaccinated, we've experienced the joy (and sometimes the anxiety) of hugs, family gatherings, eating out again, and otherwise emerging from the restrictions of the last year. And with the summer months, changing protocols, and declines in cases, we seem to be heading into a new period.

This coming Sunday at church, masks will become optional, but we ask that if you are unvaccinated that you continue to wear one. First off, I ask you to go get vaccinated. It's free and easy and as you can see from all your friends and the hundreds of millions of people globally who have been inoculated, this is a miracle of scientific achievement, one of the greatest achievements of our species in human history. Don't miss out on the fun.

Plus, if you aren't vaccinated, you remain a possible vector of transmission, meaning you are putting other people at risk, not just yourself. And I can't imagine most of you want that on your moral conscience.

But, if you do remain unvaccinated and want to keep coming to church in person, then I ask that you wear your mask, and I'm asking as a parent. At the moment, our children under twelve cannot yet receive the vaccine. As long as the adults around them are vaccinated, then the children are well protected. But unvaccinated adults around them pose a health risk to the children. Continuing to wear a mask if you are unvaccinated helps to protect our kids.

In the coming Sundays, I look forward to seeing your smiling, vaccinated faces for the first time in a long time. What great days ahead.

Peace,
Scott

Super Sale!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked so hard to make our annual Super Sale a success. Special thanks to **Cherie Ferber**, **Barb Switzer**, our gardening wizards, and **Gary McConnell**, the book man. Proceeds totaled almost \$3000.

Eves

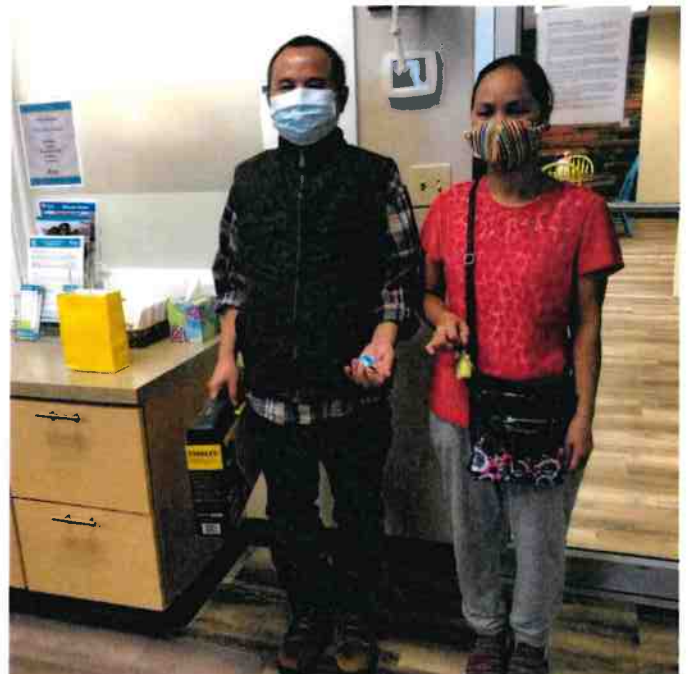
It's the planning meeting! Bring your ideas, snacks and/or a beverage to share to **Barb Switzer's** on Monday, **June 14th** at 7 p.m.

Flowers

Flowers and decorations add much to our worship experience. Now that we are worshipping more in person, the Chancel Team will be meeting to plan for the summer. If you would like to sponsor part of the cost for flowers and/or decorations, please contact sara@firstcentral.org, or call 402-345-1533. The suggested donation is \$40 for a month.

Refugee Team

Thanks to all the volunteers to come out on Saturday, May 15th to help move our refugee family into their new Habitat house!



During Summer 2021, Pastor Katie will be on Sabbatical!

In the meantime, there will still be plenty of goings on in the education ministries of First Central. For more info or to suggest/request an event, please contact the church office!



Twice-A-Month

FIRSTKids IN PERSON

Assuming virus rates remain low/steady, we will return to in person (social distanced and masked!) Sunday school twice a month!

From now through the summer, we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month during worship: children will be dismissed to class right after the Children's Conversation. All ages will meet in Memorial Hall, with designated areas for the children to remain in, individual craft supplies, and other safety measures. Following the service, children will meet their adults on the patio.

Masks will be required for all children and adults involved at all times!

SUMMER 2021 VBS

COMPASSION CAMP:

LOVINGKINDNESS

July 19-23 >>> 9:30-11:30 AM

Memorial Hall/Patio

Masks required.

For more information or to register your child, contact Sandy Lee, srlee99@cox.net, or Susan Dolezal sdolezal1119@gmail.com

HIKING WITH THE PASTOR(S) DAY!

June 9th

Meet in the back parking lot before 9 a.m. We'll hike at Hitchcock, eat a sack lunch (please bring your own), and return to church afterwards.
Questions? scott@firstcentral.org



JUNE

Pool Party/Movie Night at Obner State Park
7607 Corby Circle, Omaha, 68134

Sunday, **June 13**, 3 pm - whenever the movie is done ;)

JULY

Swimming/Pizza Party at Rudd/Becker's Cabin
Contact Lamar Jones for Directions
Sunday, **July 11**, 2 pm - 7 pm

AUGUST

Okoboji Retreat ... MAYBE! TENTATIVELY!
As this will be a multi-night function, vaccinations will be required for all participants

Tentative dates:

July 29 - August 2

Contact Lamar Jones for any more information:
ljones7660@gmail.com



Contact the office for info on upcoming Adult Ed opportunities or to suggest a session! We are hoping to resume First Forum in the Fall!!!

Week of May 30

Sunday, May 30

Online or in-person worship, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, May 31

Memorial Day. Office closed.

Wednesday, June 2

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thursday, June 3

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Mind Matters, 7 p.m., Zoom

Friday, June 4

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 5

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Week of June 6

Sunday, June 6

Summer Choir, 10 a.m. Sanctuary

Online or in-person worship, 10:30 a.m.

FirstKids, Memorial Hall following the Conversation with the Children. Masks required.

Pie Day. After worship. With cookies 😊

Monday, Jun 7

Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study

Worship Ministry, 7 p.m. Zoom or in person.

Tuesday, June 8

Council, 7 p.m., Zoom

Wednesday, June 9

Hiking with Scott, 9 a.m.

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thursday, June 10

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday, June 11

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 12

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Week of June 13

Sunday, June 13

Summer Choir, 10 a.m. Sanctuary

Online or in-person worship, 10:30 a.m.

FirstYouth, 3 p.m., Obner State Park

Monday, Jun 14

Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study

Worship Ministry, 7 p.m. Zoom or in person.

Eves, 7 p.m., at Barb Switzer's, 1333 S. 36th St.

Wednesday, June 16

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thursday, June 17

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Chancel Team, 7 p.m., Susan Fortina's, 3504 Woolworth

Congregational Care, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 18

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 19

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

World Refugee Day, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Joslyn Art Museum

Week of June 20

Sunday, June 20

Summer Choir, 10 a.m. Sanctuary

Online or in-person worship, 10:30 a.m.

FirstKids, Memorial Hall following the Conversation with the Children. Masks required.

Monday, Jun 21

Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study

Wednesday, June 23

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thursday, June 24

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday, June 25

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 26

Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, June 27

Summer Choir, 10 a.m. Sanctuary

Online or in-person worship, 10:30 a.m.

Please send address changes to:
First Central Congregational Church
421 S. 36th St
Omaha, NE 68131.