

THE WINDOW

On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others, and the world.

August 2023

Help, I'm Growing Old . . .

by Marti Bloes,
Elder of Intergenerational Impact



Let's get together to share about Aging in the Grace of God. We will meet, have a light lunch, do some learning, and a lot of laughing. There is a saying that "aging is no laughing matter". When we talk as a group about what God has planned for us in this chapter of our lives, we may disagree with that statement. Laughter is important.

This will not be your typical Bible study, but will be more like a short-term small group. We will be encouraged to attack aging head on and, as Christians, we will explore this stage of our spiritual journey as God continues to fit us for His kingdom.

The initial plan is to meet four times for an hour and a half each. An informal survey showed that Friday would be a good day to meet. The dates will be September 8 & 22 and October 6 & 20 and the time will be 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the church.

Look for more details in the next weeks. In the meantime, be sure to mark your calendar to join us for lunch, learning and laughter.



Trust Me by Barb Wooley, Deacon of Homebound

In 1983 my dad went home to be with the Lord. I asked God, "what am I going to do without him?" He has always been there for us. God gave me the scripture from Psalm 91. I sat and read these verses. I envision God walking backwards with arms outstretched saying, "Trust me. I will never fail you. Come and follow me."

This year has been such a challenging time for me. I stepped out of my comfort zone to be a deacon for the homebound. To share with homebound has been a blessing; the visits, the phone calls, and communion. I believe it has not only helped them, but it makes me realize how much they need to be loved and cared for. I believe that prayers go up and blessings come down. Remember to pray for family, friends, people close by and far away. All of us need to be loved. God bless, your sister in Christ.



West Hills Playground Update

We are so excited about the work being done on Phase One of the playground area. So far, the foundation for the playset was laid and the equipment, border, and safe surface have been installed. Next, the plan is to extend the fence line to the north and replace the chainlink fence all around the playground area. Once the fence is completed, an ADA sidewalk connecting the north parking lot to the playground area and west parking lot will be poured. Lastly, the grounds will be excavated, sprinkler heads reworked, and sod laid down. The hope is that Phase One will be completed in October. Thanks to the Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation for this grant making this space more fun and accessible to everyone.



August At A Glance

At West Hills our mission statement . . . On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others, and the world, provides us with the framework for how we live our lives. Here are notable activities this month in the life of our church, seeking to connect us to God, others, and the world.

Sundays:

- Crosswalk Kids and Youth break for the summer months and will begin again September 10.
- Worship at 10 a.m. is livestreamed and in-person. Following worship, join us for fellowship in Geneva Lounge. For those not attending in-person, we welcome you to watch the service by livestream at: whcomaha.org/live.
- August 20 is HymnSing at 9:45 a.m. and also Westgate Sunday with leaders from Westgate Elementary School joining us.

Tuesday Mornings - Men's Bible study meets at 7:00 a.m. in the large conference room #182 in-person. The group studies the scripture passage for the upcoming Sunday sermon.

Wednesday Evenings:

- Interactive Worship Space from 6-8 p.m. in the Youth Chapel.
- Men's Bible study at 7 p.m. in the large conference room #182.

August 9 - Women's Ministry Walk & Talk from 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. at Walnut Grove Park.

August 17 - Sloppy Joe Ministry drop-off at the church. Come between 9-4 to the north circle drive and drop your cooked sloppy joe meat and hamburger buns in the bins. Make as much as you'd like and store in 1-gallon freezer bags. The food will be taken to the Stephen Center to be enjoyed by many.

August 19 - Camp Calvin Crest Fun Day - An all ages fun day with games, swimming, food, crafts, hiking and more from 10-5. West Hills group photo at 11:20 a.m. Register for this free day [here](#)!

August 19/20 - Youth Sunday Funday - Overnight Retreat at Camp Calvin Crest begins at 5 pm with other youth groups and then rolls into a pool party the following day. Register [here](#)!

August 26 - Women's Ministry Walk & Talk from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. at Walnut Grove Park.

August 27 - Crossroads Connections meets at 6:00 p.m. for worship and then a fellowship meal.

Introducing: The Story Table



The intention of the Story Table is to create a space for unheard stories. Unlike a classroom or conference room, the Story Table sets the mood similar to the intimate setting of the dinner table. While a meal is served, stories are told, heard, and carried away with the power to leave us changed.

At the Story Table, a small group of “Storytellers”—comprised of West Hills friends—share stories on a particular theme, with a room full of silent but invested Witnesses. The audience has the opportunity to hear, interpret the stories, and just like the disciples, share them with others.

“The disciples came up and asked, ‘Why do you tell stories?’ He replied, ‘You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn’t been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understandings flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That’s why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight.’”

—MATTHEW 13:10–13, THE MESSAGE

We know Jesus was the best storyteller of all using them to teach Biblical truths on how we should live our lives and care for one another. At West Hills we are on this journey together, being transformed through relationships. We invite you to attend **The Story Table: Traveling Together** on Tuesday, September 5, at 6 p.m. in Geneva Lounge.

How does it work? The Story Table is comprised of 6-8 Story Tellers—members of the community with relevant, personal stories to share. Outside the story tellers are many Witnesses—members of the community who participate by listening. Everyone shares in a simple meal during the 90 minute event.

Pre-registration is necessary for planning and set-up purposes. To register for the Story Table [click here](#). Registration closes at the end of day on Friday, September 1.

Will you be part of the first Story Table: Traveling Together?



BSF Welcomes Men & Women on Monday Nights!



On **Monday, September 11**, Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) will begin another year of in-depth Bible study here at West Hills. Women have been faithfully meeting in our facility for over 25 years with detailed study of one book of the Bible. This year is no different, BSF will be studying the book of John's Gospel. This is a great study and one you might encourage someone new to attend.

What is different this year is the BSF Men's group will also be

meeting at West Hills. Wowza, 200+ men, women, and children meeting in-person in God's Word each Monday night. With a combined presence of adults, a larger children's program is expected. We are very excited to open our doors and welcome those wanting to go deeper in God's Word. BSF is open to all, with their mission of advancing God's Kingdom through His Word, in our world. [Check out information about the study here.](#)

Dear West Hills family,

Thank you so much for your kind and generous gift! It has already helped immensely as we wait for Melody to arrive. We are so thankful to be surrounded by so much love and to have this wonderful community in our lives. West Hills is such a blessing.

Love, Brian, Katy + Melody Eichhorn

Brian and Katy Eichhorn sent this note of appreciation to West Hills from the baby gift received for daughter Melody. Thank you!

Take That, Weeds!



On Saturday, August 5 many volunteers came to the All Church work day and spruced up our outdoor space just in time for Fall. **Thank you** to everyone who volunteered! You came and conquered unruly bushes, weeds, and trees!



Fresh Air & Fun For All!

CALVIN CREST'S FUN DAY!

Saturday, August 19

**Come and Go Activities
between 10 am - 5 pm!**

All are invited to this free all-church get-together at Calvin Crest's Fun Day on **Saturday, August 19**. The fun for all ages begins at 10:00, with come and go activities throughout the day. It will be a great day to relax in beautiful surroundings, build bonds with our own church family and enjoy fellowship with people from other Presbyterian churches.

Activities will include **crafts, hiking, games, swimming, all-ages worship, a hammock village, a silent auction, and a chance to enjoy the beauty of God's creation in nature and in one another.**

We will take a West Hills group picture at 11:20, and lunch will be served from 11:30-1.

Please [sign up here](#) to let us know you're coming.

OVERNIGHT YOUTH RETREAT & POOL PARTY!

August 19-20

Middle schoolers and high schoolers... join us with other youth from area churches for an overnight retreat at Calvin Crest in Fremont. A fun night is planned with speakers, music, games, food and lots of fellowship. West Hills youth will depart from Calvin Crest at 11 am and head to the Stoffel's home for a pool party!!

Cost of the event is \$25*.

*Scholarships available

Register for the retreat and pool party [here!](#)

A Note of Thanks from Aladaima



Synod of the Nile
Presbytery of upper Egypt
Evangelical Church in Aladaima

سندوس النيل الإنجليزي
مجمع الأقايم العليا
الكنيسة الإنجيلية بالعضاية

Dear beloved West Hills Church, one body partners and service partners with us.

Peace and grace be upon you in the name
of our Redeemer and Savior Jesus Christ.

We thank the Lord for all our company together in the church that is the body of Jesus Christ and the declaration of his kingdom on earth.

I apologize for the delay in communicating with you in the past period.

And I want to express to you the thanks of the Church of Al-Adaimeh for your continuous concern for us, for your prayers and support for the Church. Last March, we received your support for us (through the Pastoral Council).

And I want to tell you that we had stopped completing the finishing work in the church building because of the lack of funds and the high prices. But after your support reached us, we started to complete the work again. These things are joyful and encouraging for us.

We give thanks to all of you, and we pray that your giving for us will be an acceptable sacrifice before the Lord.

We also thank our dear sister Peggy for her continuous communication with us with encouraging messages.

The grace of Christ be with you all
and may the Lord bless all your services.

Rev. Shenouda Girgis

July Session Notes

Session approved:

- the motion to proceed with the Capital Campaign over the next three years.
- the motion to continue with consultation and support for the capital campaign from Church Development.
- the motion to continue alongside the Capital Campaign, to develop strategic priorities.
- the motion to call a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, July 30th, for the purposes of: electing a Deacon of Stephen Ministry, a member of the Nominating Team, and provide information about the Capital Campaign.
- Session accepted Greg Schuchmann's request to resign as Clerk of Session.

- Book Suggestion -

New York Times best selling author, Max Lucado's, new book entitled, *He Gets Us* looks at how Jesus faced the same "hardships and personal issues we encounter on a daily basis."

The 144 page book, published in 2023, describes the "bitter differences in religious beliefs, political positions, income inequality, legal status, and ethnic differences" that we battle today. Where was Jesus in all of this?

"He went from town to town, offering hope, new life, and modeling a different way to live and to change the world." You might ask, "how can we understand the Jesus of the Bible today?"

This book addresses 14 frequently asked questions about Jesus, including:

- How did Jesus deal with injustice?
- Was Jesus fed up with politics?
- Did Jesus ever have fun?

"Each chapter includes an FAQ (frequently asked questions), detailed responses from contributors of "He Gets Us," a QR code that takes you to a profound video that you can watch and share with others, and timeless Scripture verses."

Max Lucado is the recipient of the 2021 ECPA Pinnacle Award for outstanding contribution to the publishing industry and society at large. He is America's bestselling inspirational author with more than 145 million products in print.



- Bible Quiz -

compiled by Gloria Zinn

1. Which one of these Israelite kings committed suicide? A. Ahab B. Amon C. Saul D. Jeroboam
2. Who is Orpah in the Bible? A. one of Lot's daughters B. Naomi's daughter-in-law C. Moses' first wife D. David's 3rd wife
3. Which judge was dedicated to God "from the womb" to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines? A. Samson B. Eli C. Samuel D. Gideon
4. How many years did David serve as king? A. 35 years B. 25 years C. 40 years D. 45 years
5. Why did Israel divide into 2 kingdoms after Solomon's death? A. unhappy with the new king B. taxes were too high C. no strong leadership D. no one had a voice in the new leadership
6. To which one of the 12 tribes did Moses belong? A. Judah B. Benjamin C. Levi D. Reuben
7. Who was Obed in the Bible? A. Ruth's son B. David's grandfather C. Jesse's father D. a son of Boaz
8. Which of these kings married a daughter of a Pharaoh? A. Solomon B. Rehoboam C. David D. Jeroboam
9. Which action did Moses perform which allowed the Israelites to win the battle with the Amalekites? A. praying on his knees during the whole battle B. holding up his hands during the whole battle C. standing on a hill above the battle waving a sword D. shouting encouragement to Joshua throughout the battle
10. How many times did Jesus pray in the Garden of Gethsemane before He was arrested? A. three times B. 4 times C. 2 times D. 5 times
11. Which one of these Greek islands did John live on when he was given Revelation? A. Paros B. Andros C. Icaria D. Patmos
12. Who in the Bible was Mephibosheth? A. one of David's sons B. Saul's grandson C. a prophet in the Old Testament D. one of the Canaanite rulers

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



AUGUST

1-Patti Brownlee
Brayden Gill
2-Hal Capps
4-Sandy Jernigan
9-Theresa Hamer
10-Ken Blatny
Megan Boyd
16-Stan Parker
17-Hazel Sauer
Liz Woodworth

18-Al Jansen
John O'Donovan
19-Kristina Schaffer
Lloyd Woodworth
22-Hal Waller
26-Sarah Sedivy
27-Connie Schobert
28-Marti Bloes
Leann Schaffer
29-Carolyn Bonner
Stacy Neil

30-Ethan Neil

SEPTEMBER

1-Pat King
Peggy Wheeler
3-Ted Tromler
4-Jan Drake
5-Jack Culek
Luke Weller
6-Karen Garvey
Brian Moore
7-Don Anderson

Marilyn Moore
8-Walt Kunold
Karen Lofgren-Anderson
9-Martha Hall
Bill Tate

The complete list of September birthdays will be in the September newsletter.