West Hills Window

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

August 2026

Homebound Communion:
Intergenerational Ministry in Action

By Michaella Dunn, Elder of Family Ministry and Intergenerational Impact

My daughter Evie and I have been on a journey in Intergenerational Ministry since March when my family attended the Communion Workshop put together by the Caregiving Ministry and Youth and Family Ministry teams. We had the opportunity to move through several stations to deepen our ideas and experience of Communion. We learned how Communion is served around the world, read Jesus' words at the Last Supper, and got to try our hand at putting juice in the tiny cups (my daughter's favorite part). We also got to sit down with members of the Homebound Communion team from Caregiving, see the Homebound Communion kit they take with them and watch them demonstrate how to serve Communion. Evie loved seeing inside the Communion kit. (That was her other favorite part.)

When she learned that kids and youth from our congregation were being invited to help the Homebound Communion teams she wanted to participate. So, in June we joined the longtime Homebound Communion team of Terry and Linda Gadwood and made our first visit. I was moved by seeing four generations sitting in a room together sharing news and prayer requests. It was a special experience to get to share Communion together. I kept my eye on Evie knowing she had been a little nervous and unsure when we arrived. But she was participating in the process and noticing things that struck her. She noticed that

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even though they couldn't be physically present in church anymore, they still cared about being a part of it. She talked about being impressed that they still looked for ways to express their faith and be in community even though there were sometimes more obstacles in their way. She also said, "Mom, I'm glad we went. I think they liked seeing a kid." They definitely did.

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We went again in July. This time just the two of us. I was happy to see Evie engage so much in the process. After she had seen it once, she was ready to take a more active part. She really enjoyed being the one to serve the bread and juice to everyone. (Next time, she says, she'll give reading the prayer a shot.) She participated in our chat and got to share a little more about herself. When we left she told me again she was glad we went. I was glad to see her learn what it means to reach out of her comfort zone to connect in community and service.

The journey Evie and I have taken in Homebound Communion is just one of many examples of how our church's commitment to being Intergenerational has impacted my family. I'm grateful to be part of a church community that values building relationships and doing ministry across generations.

Changes

By Jan Drake, Congregational Care

Hi, I'm Jan Drake.

I was installed as one of three Deacons of Congregational Care in January and several months later I'm still learning what all this involves. So far I've attended monthly meetings, reported Sunday joys & concerns to the prayer chain, learned how to prepare for and serve Communion, written notes to send along with grief booklets, delivered May baskets, and I'm only beginning to learn all that our Deacon (and Elder) teams do. I'm expecting big changes in my life as I learn and grow in this new position.

It's now August and summer is winding down. A time of change. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven".

Some of you may be wrapping up vacations. Where did you go? Did you have a wonderful time? Were there family reunions and chances to reconnect—perhaps a broken relationship mended? Were there new family additions—an engagement, wedding, birth? BIG CHANGES! Tell us so we can share in your joy!

Perhaps there have been big changes over the summer—a new job, retirement, a move, or something unexpected, like an accident, illness or passing. Please share your joys or concerns so we can pray with/for you.

Some of you are preparing for back to school—new clothes, shoes, backpacks and all the necessary supplies to purchase. Perhaps those expenses are an issue. God knows your needs and we can pray his provision.

There are BIG changes for our young ones just starting school, or perhaps going to a different school. Whether the graduation is from Elementary to Middle School, Middle School to High School, High School onto college, the work force, or military service, or maybe even onto a Master's program or higher, these changes can be very challenging and/or an exciting growth opportunity. Going away from home for the first time is a big change for anyone. If you are going away, please keep in touch so we can know how best to continue praying for you.

We Deacons, as well as Elders and staff at West Hills, are here to pray for anyone in our congregation. Many times we've heard, "West Hills is a praying church and the prayers work."

Help us keep in touch with your needs and let us know by:

1. Verbalizing your joys and concerns in church on the 2nd & 4th Sunday each month
2. Writing your request(s) on the back side of the connection cards in the pew racks
3. Sending joys or concerns to prayerchain@whcomaha.org
4. Contacting any of us individually
5. Calling the church

Soon it'll be harvest time, the hot weather we're now complaining about will turn cooler, school and football will be starting, and fall will burst forth in it's beautiful array of seasonal colors. Praise God for the four seasons we get to enjoy in this place we call home. Enjoy the CHANGES!

Reliant: Mission Partner Update

By Tom Backer

I recently had the opportunity to connect with Joe, who continues to serve God faithfully with his wife, Sue, who is on maternity leave following the birth of their son in the spring. Joe and Sue serve with PI* in the Balkans, a culturally and historically complex region in Europe where relationships are built slowly and thoughtfully. Their ministry focuses on developing genuine friendships, serving their community, and creating opportunities for meaningful conversations about faith.

PI mobilizes teams to glorify God among unreached peoples and places by initiating church-planting movements in partnership with local churches. PI's core values include a passion for God, unreached people, team-centered ministry, innovation, flexibility, ethos of grace, and participatory servant-leadership.

Joe and Sue operate a non-profit organization that provides English classes and a coffee shop where people of any age can have conversations about the challenges they face in their lives and their questions about Jesus.

Their team recently hosted an English Camp for local children. The camp used stories, games, activities, and conversation practice to help participants improve their English-language skills in a fun and engaging environment. Several short-term volunteers traveled to assist with the program.

Joe shared several updates and prayer requests. Joe recently underwent surgery to correct a severe deviated septum that had significantly restricted his breathing. While the procedure went well, he is still recovering and would appreciate prayers for complete healing. They will be traveling to the US to visit family, friends, and supporters.

Please pray:

- For Joe's continued recovery from surgery
- For safe travels as they return to the United States for a visit to see family, friends, and supporters
- For the children and families who participated in the English camp
- For ongoing opportunities to build relationships and demonstrate Christ's love
- For wisdom, favor, and encouragement as they serve in the Balkans

` We are grateful for Joe and Sue's faithful service and look forward to hearing more about how God continues to work through them and their ministry team.

* *Because of the sensitive nature of their work in a region that does not welcome Christian missionaries, I have limited information about their location and ministry activities.*

Grief Support

By Kathy Padilla, Lay Pastor

Grief is a journey we all take. Whether we are mourning the loss of a dream, a job, a beloved pet or friend or family member, we all grieve at some point in our lives.

Last fall, the Deacons of West Hills spent time reflecting on our various ministries and took up the question of whether we should offer a grief support group as part of our care for the congregation and community. We had received inquiries from some newly bereft members about such a ministry. We even had a neighbor, a recent widower from the West Gate neighborhood, walk in one day and ask staff member Randy Green if we provided a group experience for people in mourning.

"Blessed are those who mourn; for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

As Deacons, we prayed for guidance and then started to do some research. Several of our Deacons have experienced the loss of a spouse and shared their own experiences with us. They made us all aware of a group called "Grief Share," a national organization that trains folks in local congregations to provide a 13-week support group. We discovered that Dundee Presbyterian Church has been providing this program for a number of years. Regina Wilson, a hospice nurse, leads a team who facilitates this experience twice a year. We met with Regina and were delighted at her warm invitation for us to recommend the program to any at West Hills who enquire.

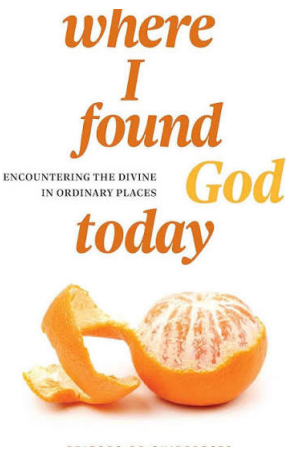
At the same time, we met with Jessica Scheopner from Spiritual Formation and Adam Hu from Worship and Music, to discuss the idea of hosting a "Blue Christmas" service. For a few of us, this was a new concept: a service at Christmas for those who are grieving and for whom the more celebratory aspects of the season can be difficult. Again, we were invited to visit Dundee Presbyterian Church for their Blue Christmas service. They have been putting one on every December for several years. Adam joined them as part of the worship team and several Deacons and other members of West Hills joined together with about 50 folks on a Sunday afternoon. This visit inspired us to keep the Dundee service on our calendar of December events, and to add a special opportunity during our own "Open Sanctuary" to focus on those who are grieving with a quieter, more contemplative service.

The Congregation Care Team, a subset of our Deacons, will continue to minister to those who are grieving by sending out a series of helpful booklets throughout the first year of the loss. Additionally, we have a small supply of free materials on a range of topics related to illness and loss located in the bookrack nearest the Chapel. Feel free to browse and take whatever you need.

We hope you know that there is always someone happy to pray with you. If you would like someone from our staff or Congregational Care Team to call you, please drop a note in the box at the back of the sanctuary or into the communion plate. You can always ask for prayer by emailing prayerchain@whcomaha.org.

Book Suggestions

By Debbie Chadwick



The Guidepost book, *Where I Found God Today: Encountering the Divine in Ordinary Places* is a collection of stories written by twenty-seven authors who have found God in their daily lives.

This book offers its readers 102 stories conveyed by the authors with their message, "God is ALWAYS with you." There are action steps to encourage us to find our own "God Moments." This book includes updated entries to encourage the reader to return to the story, and convenient author and title indexes. In addition, throughout the book, there are examples of how God communicates with us through our senses; touch, sight, hearing, even taste! These senses, according to the book, allow us to be even closer with God and His creation. This book was published in 2025 by the editors of Guideposts.

Happy Birthday!

August

1 - Patti Brownlee
2 - Hal Capps
4 - Sandy Jernigan
9 - Theresa Hamer
10 - Ken Blatny
11 - Heidi Cruz
13 - Fred Morgensen
14 - Abby Olson
16 - Stan Parker
17 - Hazel Sauer
Randy Green
18 - John O'Donovan
Al Jansen
26 - Sarah Sedivy
28 - Leann Schaffer
Marti Bloes
29 - Carolyn Bonner
Stacy Neil

September

3 - Ted Tromler
4 - Samuel Nodes
Jan Drake
5 - Jack Culek
Luke Weller
6 - Brian Moore
Karen Garvey
7 - Don Anderson
Marilyn Moore
12 - Myrtle Heise
Silvia Estrada
13 - Rick Mason
14 - Sue Shea

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

Memories

Nacho Average Game Days

North Omaha Good News Bears Food Drive

West Hills is doing a food drive for North Omaha Good News Bears from August 1 through August 30. The food items help feed the children who attend The Good News Bears activities. Check out the display in the Geneva Lounge to see their most-used foods and donate similar items this month!

Each month, North Omaha Good News Bears use:

- 400 individual/personal chip bags such as

- 400 packages of cookies and sweet treats such as

- 500 8-oz bottles of water

- 400 individual fruit and jello cups such as

- 100 granola bars for tutoring such as

Memories

Horseshoes and Ribs Cook-off

Memories

Summer Good News Club and Foam Finale

August 2026 At A Glance

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

						1 West Hills Studio Series July 30 - August 2 North Omaha Good News Bears Food Drive Begins
2 West Hills Studio Series July 30 - August 2 Worship: 10 am West Hills Studio Series Concert 7 pm	3	4 Men's Bible Study (182): 7 - 8 am	5	6	7 Knitting & Crochet Club (207): 6:30 - 8:30 pm	8
9 2026 Bible Reading Project Discussion (Chapel):9 - 9:50 am Worship: 10 am	10	11 Men's Bible Study (182): 7 - 8 am Knitting & Crochet Club (207): 10 am - 12 pm	12	13	14 Knitting & Crochet Club (207): 6:30 - 8:30 pm	15

16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship: 10 am Youth Sharing Sunday Youth Group (307): 11:30 am		Men's Bible Study (182): 7 - 8 am Session Meeting (275): 6 - 8 pm	Heartland Hope Volunteer (Off-site): 9:30 - 11:30 am	Sloppy Joe Drop Off (North Entry): 9 am - 4 pm	Knitting & Crochet Club (207): 6:30 - 8:30 pm	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship: 10 am Westgate Sunday		Men's Bible Study (182): 7 - 8 am Knitting & Crochet Club (207): 10 am - 12 pm			Knitting & Crochet Club (207): 6:30 - 8:30 pm	
30	31	Recurring Weekly Events Recurring Monthly/ Quarterly Events One Time Events				
North Omaha Good News Bears Food Drive Ends						

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Capital Campaign Progress

Projects completed:

2024

- Replaced West parking lot
- Replaced Geneva Lounge and hallway carpets
- Replaced South Chapel windows
- Playground outreach (Phase 1) — partially grant funded
- Funded Capital Maintenance Reserves

2025

- Partially repaired East parking lot
- Replaced kitchen stove
- Replaced kitchen freezer
- Replaced drinking fountains
- Replaced HVAC heating and cooling units
- Upgraded exterior parking lot signs
- Upgraded church website
- Upgraded church broadcast channel
- Planted donated trees near West entrance
- Funded Capital Maintenance Reserves

2026

- Replaced IT server and switches
- Replaced broadcast infrastructure
- Replaced fire systems monitoring modules
- Playground outreach (Phase 2) — partially grant funded
- Replaced gym lighting
- Replaced classroom & daycare lighting
- Replaced kitchen & fellowship hall lighting
- Replaced exterior door security system
- Funded Capital Maintenance Reserves

Final wish list:

- Upgrade Sanctuary & Geneva Lounge audio/visual equipment
- Upgrade Wi-Fi
- Repair East parking lot
- Repair North parking lot
- Replace West entrance stairs and retaining wall

Maintaining and upgrading our facilities will always be a priority for us. Please continue to support, help, and pray for the Capital Campaign as we close out the last six months of this three year campaign.

Celebrations

Cathy Voshell shares joy about her daughter Rachel's accomplishments. All five continuing education classes at the Ollie Webb Center worked together to create a mural under the instruction of WhyArts, Inc artist, Peggy Jones. Peggy visited each class, and the class participants each worked on different panels of the mural. After a dedication ceremony at Hot Shops on July 26th, the mural has found a permanent home at the Food Pantry inside the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center on the UNO campus.

Watch a video about the project here:

https://youtu.be/h4OugGEbp2A?si=COXcjIIBoxhri8j9

Please join us in rejoicing over the birth of the West Hills Finance Coordinator Heidi Cruz's first grandchild. Granddaughter Clover-Raye Hunter Heidi Cruz was born on July 13, 2026 to her proud parents, Nick Cruz and Jaymie Green. Clover weighed in at 7 lbs 5 oz.

Bible Quiz

By Gloria Zinn

1. After Paul was blinded by an intense light, who met him in Damascus? (Acts 22:12)
A) Peter
B) Mark
C) Luke
D) Ananias

2. The Sadducees did not believe in which of the following: (Acts 23:8)
A) Resurrection of the dead
B) Angels
C) Spirits
D) Higher power

3. Who in Paul's family saved him from being killed? (Acts 23: 15-16)
A) his sister
B) his nephew
C) his cousin
D) his father

4. Who was voted by the disciples to take Judas' place? (Acts 1:26)
A) Matthias
B) Barsabbas
C) Alphaeus
D) Josephus

5. What event was taking place when the Holy Spirit arrived? (Acts 2:1-4)
A) Feast of Weeks
B) Feast of Tabernacles
C) Hanukkah
D) Pentecost

6. Who was Paul's first companion when he began his mission trips? (Acts 15:34-40)
A) Silas
B) Barnabus
C) Timothy
D) Luke

7. Where was Jesus when he ascended into heaven? (Acts 1:12)
A) Jerusalem
B) Mount of Olives
C) Mount Bethel
D) Judea

8. Who is quoted as saying: "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9)
A) Abel
B) Reuben
C) Cain
D) Judah

9. Where was an altar erected to the unknown God? (Acts 17:22-23)
A) Jericho
B) Athens
C) Capernaum
D) Thessalonica

10. Who said to God "Who am I?" (Exodus 3:11)
A) Joshua
B) Aaron
C) Moses
D) Jethro

11. Who persuaded the Sanhedrin not to kill Peter and the other apostles? (Acts 5:34-40)
A) An angel
B) Gamaliel
C) Caiaphas
D) Annas

12. Who is God talking to when He says: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:10-12)
A) Sarah
B) Lot
C) Abraham
D) Joseph

****Bible Quiz Answers are on back page****

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. D
2. A, B, C
3. B
4. A
5. A & D
6. B
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. C
11. B
12. C