



Join our Team

Join our team and walk with us on
Saturday, August 26 at Werner Park.
Walk Check-in: 9:00 AM
Walk Start: 10:30 AM

To sign up or donate, click the link on the homepage of the Sunset Hills Website
sunsethillschurch.org
or use the link below.

[Walk to Defeat ALS Nebraska: Mark Steele and Neal North - The ALS Association \(convio.net\)](http://www.convio.net)



Sunset Hills Church
9416 Pacific Street
Omaha, NE 68114

Contact us at:
402-391-0820
www.sunsethillschurch.org
sunset@sunsethillschurch.org

Sunset Hills Church August 2023 Newsletter



HERE'S TO SOFT ANSWERS AND
LONG MARRIAGES

You might be familiar with this invaluable
wisdom from Proverbs 15:1:

*A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word
stirs up anger.*

That simple piece of advice has helped resolve the heat of an argument for me in business settings, church committees, editorial crises, but especially – don't miss this – at home. With my immensely talented, lovely bride. And my strapping, brilliant son. And my poetic, always creative daughter.

You see, we all like to talk. So do the kids' spouses. For cryin' out loud, so do our grandchildren. Inevitably, in the course of human communication, one feels misunderstood or misheard or ignored. Then we escalate the volume as well as the tension in the room. At about three such escalations, the room becomes very uncomfortable, indeed.

Here is a secret to our marriage surviving to its 43rd year: Soft answers. Always, if at all appropriate. Especially if you're considering a retort that will eviscerate your counterpart(s) in the discussion. My last discussion when I forgot to apply that wisdom was about a decade ago. Our son Ben and I were debating (over dessert) some fine theological point that mattered to both of us. (Today I have no idea what it was that put us at such odds.) Maggie called us out to manage our discussion with more grace, and to keep the volume civil. Of course, she was right.

Soft answers. I'm still working on it. This comes home to roost this month as I prayerfully send Annie to Liberia to assist a long-term friend's ministry in gathering stories and images of the vocational training centers they run in Christian schools there. We'll miss our anniversary

(Continued on Page 2)

Stewardship 2023 Ministry Team August News - Ron Reed

(Continued from Page 1)

together while she's gone. We're not used to doing much without the other. Our anxiety over both of us not seeing something new at the same time sometimes shows in less-than-kind comments to each other when, clearly, soft answers are called for.

Something else: Each of my children is taking a turn at hosting their Dad (yours truly) while Annie is gone. I will enjoy my time with each of them, in part because they are teaching our grandchildren the delicate art of soft answers.

Soft answers. It's one habit that I can encourage anyone to try at home. So if you haven't already, memorize Proverbs 15:1. Then apply it generously.

-- Steve Wamberg

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

August 6	Mozart and Mercy	<i>Matthew 5:7</i>
August 13	The Passion of Purity	<i>Matthew 5:8</i>
August 20	The Positive Presence of Peace	<i>Matthew 5:9</i>
August 27	Positively Persecuted (?)	<i>Matthew 5:10-12</i>

Prayers for Health, Healing, and Strength

Natalie Vankat	Jayne & Lana	Steven	Diana LaCroix
Taylor Hedrick	Cheryl Arnold	Paige, Matt, Maddox	Paige's Mother
Dominique & Daughter	Phyllis & George	Jeremy Flannery	Ava Dale
Terry Anson & Family	Alexander	John	Antonittie Johnson
Corey	Dave	Tonda Dale	Rusty Anson
Larry Peterson	Deanne Caughey	Mike Loeffler	Bob Molby
Nancy Berney	Jacque McDuffie	Jack & Carol Welch	Kim Wille
Linda Hedrick	Patty Martin	Amber Dale	Barb Ganey
Glenn & Linda Kilpatrick	Mark & Ruth Steele	Dan & Marge Todd	Nancy Quinnette
Norma Larsen			

NE Regional Search Committee

Sunset Hills Pastor Search Committee

On-going prayers of well-being for shut-ins and military personnel.

For regular prayer requests, please text or call and leave a message for Dot North at 402-658-6401, emails may not be seen in a timely manner. She will confirm that your request was received and it will be sent out to the prayer chain. Your prayers are very important.

1. In July, all 47 remaining tree stumps were removed for \$45 each.
2. Proposals have been presented for parking lot and drive work to seal cracks, seal coat the asphalt surface and repaint the parking stall stripes and handicap stalls. With our limited budget, we will likely only be able to have the cracks sealed.
3. Proposals are being finalized to address the serious erosion problem in our northeast lawn for the Ministry Council to decide on. This will likely be an approximate \$6K decision.
4. Upgrading the upstairs women's and men's restroom toilets is still being looked into.
5. Sunset Hills helped a 14-person mission team from Illinois stay overnight on July 22. Thanks to our Safety and Security Team and other volunteers who made their stay a memorable one. As well, for all who prayed with and for them as they left to serve God in South Dakota.

A new leader for this ministry to partner with Ron Reed is being prayed for. Thanks to each of you who serve on the 2023 Stewardship Ministry Team to help care for God's Sunset Hills building and grounds. All of the tasks could not be done without your serving our Father in this way.

Adult Sunday School August News - Ron Reed

Pastor Rick Wheatley is leading the *Joy of Living - Bible Studies of Acts*. It's wonderful to work a little each day in the workbook of God's Word and openly discuss it in class from 9:00 to 10:00 Sunday mornings. Come, and grow in faith with us.

New member, Roberta Williston

Roberta was born in Omaha, and after living in eight other cities, returned to Omaha where her husband, Rev. Norman Williston, served as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in the 80s and 90s until his retirement. They met as teenagers in Green Bay, Wisconsin and married in 1956. Together they raised 4 children and have 6 grandchildren. During their 64 years of marriage, Roberta and Norman loved to travel, and they traveled extensively having visited 48 countries, a few more than once. They also loved family gatherings and vacations, attending symphonies and plays, watching sunsets together, and doing the Lord's work. They were most recently members of Judson Baptist Church.

Pastor Norm died in 2020, and life for Roberta changed significantly after many years of caring for him during his declining health. She intends to remain in the house they made a home for over 38 years, and keeps busy with maintaining her home and garden, baking cookies for shut-ins and special occasions, organizing a monthly social for American Baptist pastors and spouses, and occasionally caring for her 7 year-old granddaughter who keeps her young and provides plenty of entertainment and company.

Please welcome Roberta as a new member of Sunset Hills.

Date	Attendance	Giving
July 2	63	\$2,865.61
July 9	60	\$5,544.82
July 16	51	\$3,080.00
July 23	60	\$2,019.30
July 30	TBD	TBD

Women Mentoring Women

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month.

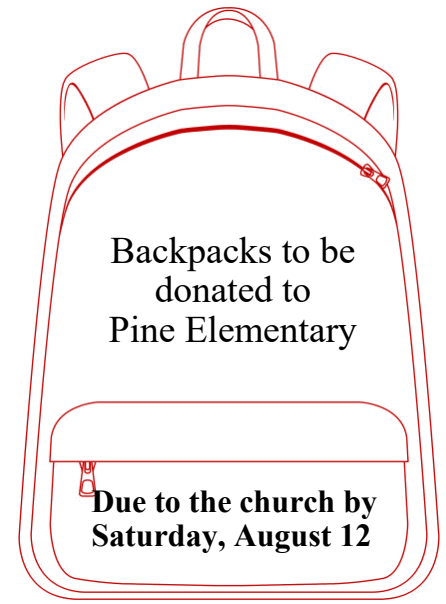
August 14 & 28 - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner served at 6:00 p.m.

Back-to-School Sunday - August 13
Luncheon to follow the worship service that morning.

Students pre-school through college, please bring your backpacks to worship on Sunday for a back-to-school blessing.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1 Small Box of Crayons | 4 Glue Sticks |
| 1 Box of Markers | Safety Scissors |
| 1 Box of Colored Pencils | 1 Plastic Ruler |
| 1 Pencil Box | 2 Highlighters |
| 2 Folders (plain colors no designs) | 1 Box of Tissues |
| 2 White Glue Bottles (ex. Elmer's) | 2 Pink Block Erasers |
| 2 Hand Sanitizers (small to medium size) | |



5 Steve Bottum
7 Carol Welch
8 Mike Minarick
10 Josh Gilliland
13 Terry Anderson
15 Cindy Combs
16 Nathan Swearingen
21 Ron Reed
25 Momoro Ono
25 Jane Ray
27 Roy Loeffler

Bible Study

Join Rev. Steve on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for Bible Study. All are welcome.

Packing Party at the church on Saturday, August 12 at 10:00 a.m.

.....

American Baptist Men of Nebraska

Men's Conference *The Great Commission: Are We Walking Away?*
Camp Moses Merrill *Matthew 28:18-20 & Revelation 2:4*
August 11 - 12, 2023

Guest Speaker - Richard Terrell (Richard's bio on camp registration page)

Friday Night Steak Fry
Target Shooting & Camp Activities
Great Fellowship - Bring a friend, your son or dad

Register at campmerrill.com

Entire retreat \$100
Friday Night Only \$ 40
Saturday Only \$ 60

.....



The Sunset Hills Meal Ministry goal is to provide weekly or periodic meals for anyone in the church family that could benefit from having a home cooked, pre-packaged meal. This could be for a long-term situation or one that may last only few weeks or less. If you or your family are experiencing a time that would be eased by a little support from this ministry, please don't hesitate to contact Terri Rich or Pam Hamlin. Requests will be kept confidential if so wished.

Meal Ministry Mission: To provide comfort and care to Sunset Hills Church family by providing meals during crisis, abnormal or special circumstances.

Happy Anniversary!

7 Mark & Deanne Caughey	47 years
10 Steve & Jess Mikkelsen	11 years
11 Joe & Donna Colligan	44 years
13 Dan & Marge Todd	24 years
14 Mike & Sarah Minarick	47 years
15 Mark & Ruth Steele	36 years
23 Rev. Steve & Annie Wamberg	43 years
27 Taylor & Maddie Hedrick	2 years
29 Doug & Jean Larsen	37 years

Vision Statement
Communicate the love of God so all may experience the joy of a relationship with Christ.

Mission Statement
Build disciples by empowering each church participant to practice personal and congregational mission to reach people in our everyday lives.

Men's Study Group August News - Ron Reed

We now have seven who are attending the Tuesday evening 6:30 to 7:30 Zoom discussions. We are praying other men will choose to step up in faith and grow in ministry with us. Please contact Don Zak, Bob Molby, Marvin Vanosdall, Bob Slechta, Rick Wheatley, Steve Wamberg, or Ron Reed so we can send you the link to meet with us.

**Sunset Hills Baptist Church
Ministry Council Minutes
July 17, 2023**

Attendees: Rev. Steve Wamberg; Moderator, Diane Workman; Treasurer, Doug Larsen; Church Clerk, Becki Pike; Worship & Safety/Security, Rev. Jason Workman; Prayer, Dot North; Shepherding, Amber Dale; Bob Molby

Devotion and Prayer: Rev. Steve Wamberg - From Psalms 120 and 121

Monthly Treasurer Report: Doug Larsen - No updates because of computer issues. Doug is going to call Morgan Stanley regarding a fee we were charged.

Business:

Pastor Search Committee: They are in communication with the candidates.

Safety/Security: Rev. Jason Workman – A youth mission group will be staying the night at the church on Saturday, July 22 and will be gone before church starts on Sunday morning. Security team is low on members but not concerned at this time. Still holding monthly meetings.

Music and Worship: Rev. Jason Workman - Had a meeting with team members. Stressed that there needs to be better communication when members will be absent. There seems to be issues with power outages in parts of the sanctuary. If any breakers need to be reset, please let Pastor Jason Workman know.

Pastor/Staff Relations: Ron Reed - Evaluation forms have been reviewed. Reviews will be done in September so they can be ready for the council to review during that month's meeting.

Prayer: Dot North - No updates.

Shepherding: Amber Dale – Discussed the shut-in list and need for volunteers to make visits.

Ministry Council

- Review of the by-laws. Pastor/Staff Relations had some changes that are being reviewed. Reminder that each ministry needs to look at their section of by-laws and make suggestions for changes.
- Plan for church business meeting and potluck - July 30, 2023 - This has been in the bulletin and mentioned in Sunday's church service. This will be a business meeting like the annual meeting and end-of-year meeting.

Discipleship: Vacant

- VBS follow up and year's planning.
- Backpack Sunday/Lunch - Lunch after backpack Sunday.
- Suggestion to hand out bibles to 6th graders.

Missions/Outreach: Vacant – Pending

- July/August - Backpack Sunday and ALS Walk at Werner Park on August 26
- Review plans for promotion of Sunday School and seeking new visitors. Send mailing to VBS kids to say hi and stay in touch.
- September/October - Collect coats and hats
- October - Trunk or Treat - October 29
- October/November – Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection
- November/December - Angel Tree

Stewardship: Vacant

- Yearly Plans for Parking Lot Maintenance - Bids are still being compiled for work to be done on the parking lot and drainage issue.
- Tree Stump Update - Work has been completed.

August-September Council Meeting Preparations - Needs to be finalized by August 21. Start working on pledge cards and stewardship letters. Cabin 9 work will not be completed until money has been collected. Promote that the congregation can make donations on the Tithe.ly app.

Prayer – Rev. Jason Workman

Next Meeting - Monday, August 21, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

(Have agenda items meeting to Diane by August 14th)

.....
Colossians 3 Communities Bible Study

We are excited to be starting up Bible Studies that are short in nature. It's called *Colossians 3 Communities*. It is based upon the idea of intentionally living together as believers and doing life together as a family. The focus will be on mental health in the church today and what Scripture shows us. Come join this group on Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. This first study will be 8 weeks long. Please see Pastor Jason for more information.

.....
Pastor/Staff Relations Committee Ministry August News - Ron Reed

Your PSRC met in July. A good part of this meeting was to update staff evaluation forms. Again we want to encourage our church family to share with us what's on your hearts about our pastor or any staff member (office administrative assistant, worship team leader, pianist, or our custodian).