



"He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their hearts, yet so man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end." *Ecclesiastes 3:11*. The theme verse for this year's World Mission Offering to be taken throughout the month of October.

God is growing all around us and is budding in our hearts. In fact, God has set eternity in our hearts and we were built to long for God's kingdom. That is what our Global Servants (Missionaries) around the world are doing now to spread the Good News of the Gospel to those who haven't heard, for those who are longing for God's kingdom. Will you help with your generous gift to the World Mission Offering as we strive

 Your gift to world mission **changes lives.**

together to reach our goal and beyond? Our goal is \$1,400 and we have five Sundays to get it done.

Pastor Rick



Sunset Hills Church
9416 Pacific Street
Omaha, NE 68114

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

Sunset Hills Church

October 2023

Newsletter



*Very superstitious writing on the wall...Stevie Wonder, **Superstition***

As many of you already know, I love autumn. That said, a couple of annual autumn bumps in the road occasionally make me grumpy. As a public service, I make these known to you today.

The first explains my occasional grumpiness when pumpkin spice season arrives. I remember the good old days when the frenzy surrounding pumpkin spice began in mid-October and ended no later than the Monday after Thanksgiving. This year—I kid you not—the campaigns for new pumpkin spice-somethings (for example, Wendy’s Pumpkin Spice Frosty) began in August, and could last until Nebraska plays for the national football championship again. I truly enjoy pumpkin spices in pies and dessert breads and such, but I may never be able to get my head around a parade of Pumpkin Spice Frostys.

The second is the way the culture around us is infatuated with Halloween. I’m not headed into a grumpy old man diatribe about superhero costumes on three-year-olds, or the possible demonic influence of the packaging on candy bars. It’s about this: In some places, Halloween marketing was in full swing by mid -August. As a culture, then, we just gave Halloween an economic top-of-mind position for 10-12 weeks. Where does that end up? We build on the Halloween platform with Hollywood and cable news stories of fear and violence. We inadvertently support sowing fear in an already terror-ridden, angry context.

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We let cultural superstitions override our better judgment, and the writing on the wall is not happy. (Hey, did you know that Stevie Wonder grew up in a church that is part of the American Baptist family?)

That is why Annie and I have long supported events that are alternatives to the traditional celebrations of Halloween. Events like Trunk-or-Treat, or Harvest Festivals complete with costumes, can be developed into more desirable options in the eyes of kids we can reach out to.

So, God bless you for making options available for so many Halloweens. Let's be about the business of providing even more options to produce courage and strength – not fear – in the children, and adults, we love.

Even if they take the dive for Pumpkin Spice Frostys. (Sigh.)

Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

-- Steve Wamberg

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

October 1	TBD	Pastor Jason Workman
October 8	True Colors	<i>Psalm 115, Romans 12:1-2</i>
October 15	Don't Bury That Talent!	<i>Matthew 25:14-30</i>
October 22	For What It's Worth	<i>Matthew 6:25-33; 1 Samuel 17:31-37</i>
October 29	The Jesus Clause	<i>Colossians 1:15-25</i>

Prayers for Health, Healing, and Strength

Carol Lorenzen	Rachel Wesely	Rev. Rick Wheatley	Natalie Vankat
Jayne & Lana	Joan Peterson	Taylor Hedrick	Paige, Matt, Maddox
Diana LaCroix	Dominique & Daughter	Jeremy Flannery	John
Corey	Terry Anson & Family	Dave	Phyllis & George
Antonittie Johnson	Larry Peterson	Deanne Caughey	Rusty Anson
Mike Loeffler	Bob Molby	Nancy Berney	Patty Martin
Jack & Carol Welch	Kim Wille	Barb Ganey	Norma Larsen
Mark & Ruth Steele	Dan & Marge Todd	Nancy Quinnette	Glenn Kilpatrick

NE Regional 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.

Dear Pastor and Congregation of Sunset Hills Church,

Our hearts are so touched by your prayers and by the placing of mother's name on your memorial display at the church.

May God continue to bless you and your church richly.

Maverick Rushing and Family



Trunk or Treat Sunday, October 29



Stewardship Ministry 2023 Team October News - Ron Reed

The lighting for the fenced-in area has been restored. Agreements have been signed to have our serious erosion issue in the northeast corner repaired, and to have the cracks in our parking lot and drive sealed. The dead tree in the southwest corner (threatening powerlines) has been removed. Our budget shortfall to cover the expenses is approximately \$8,400, for which contributions are coming in. We are still quite a ways from getting this covered. For the few who have contributed, we thank God for your giving hearts. We pray others will answer God's call to cover these costs.

Men's Study Group October News - Ron Reed

We are studying *God is Powerful... And There Is Something He Has For You To Do*. A book by Retired Rev. Stan Murdoch, which reveals how God has been a powerful part of his life. The book will be provided if you'd like to join us by way of Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30. Please contact Rev. Bob Molby, Don Zak, Rev. Rick Wheatley, Bob Slechta, Rev. Steve Wamberg, or Ron Reed.

Pastor Staff Relations Committee October News - Ron Reed

Paid staff evaluations have been completed and meetings with our staff have begun to share the very positive results and learn how we may serve our Father even better.

We are also preparing to serve our Lord and church with the new pastor who God has called through our Pastor Search Committee. We have been through some difficult years, and God has been with us through it all. Each of us will have a part in making the positive and growing changes come about for Sunset Hills Baptist Church and God's kingdom.

Date	Attendance	Giving
September 3	45	\$11,092.72
September 10	45	\$2,920.00
September 17	NA	\$2,329.82
September 24	54	\$1,944.82

SHBC Financial Scoreboard

August Income	\$ 14,209
YTD Income	\$117,174
August Expenses	\$ 18,890
YTD Expenses	\$108,221

12 LaShawnda Woods
15 Tom Thompson
18 Maddie Hedrick
21 Jasper Gilliland
22 James Gilliland
22 Becki Pike
27 Cindy Anson
28 Jim Hedrick



5 Josh & Jill Gilliland 9 Years
25 Terry & Nalini Anderson 37 Years
25 Darby & Carol Von Forell 55 Years

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Women Mentoring Women

Monday October 9 & 23
6:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Monday, October 2
6:00 p.m.

Bible Study

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



ABC Nebraska 2023 Region Convention and Business Meeting

October 6 - 7, 2023

Sunset Hills Baptist Church



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.

Missions and Outreach Ministry

How Sunset Hills supports missions can range from a close-up hands-on approach to handing off to others. This can be displayed from the Team Steele and North effort in the ALS Nebraska Walk, which raised \$1,740, (87 percent) of our \$2,000 church goal. It also can be shown by giving to the World Mission Offering, which will be collected during October, with a congregation goal of \$1,400. Giving, from local to support around the world, is a long-standing effort by American Baptists.

Other opportunities exist in October. We can bring a smile to a child's face -- and likely, too, to the adult accompanying the child -- with Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 29. The event has brought delight to those connected to Sunset Hills and also to those who have never met any of our members or set foot on our property. It's an ideal chance for church outreach. The trunks can be decorated, or not -- it doesn't matter. Those who don't plan to assemble on the church lawn also can participate by supplementing the treat supply. We'll set up promptly after worship that day and go until 2:00 p.m. Take part in the snacks provided that day or bring a sack lunch.

-- Terry Anderson, ministry leader

We are prayerfully considering placing a time limit (2 weeks?) on how long someone stays on the prayer list before they are taken off. Of course, we can leave people on longer, if they request to remain on the list for an additional 2 weeks or longer. Some people have voiced the concern that they don't remember the people on the lists or what their prayer request originally was.... (God does know and remembers. A prayer journal might be a helpful memory jogger, also.)

An important function of the prayer chain is to encourage you to remember the importance of prayer in your life and in the lives of those requesting the prayers. Prayer means talking to God! Are you talking to Him and letting Him know how much you love Him? Do you praise and thank Him in addition to just asking for favors from Him.

Please share your thoughts and Ideas by placing them in the suggestion box at the church, or by sending an email to obertant@outlook.com, or text to 402-658-6401.

Respectfully submitted for your loving consideration, **Dot North, Prayer Ministry**

Adult Sunday School October News - Ron Reed

Beginning on October 1, we will continue with the **Joy of Living - Bible Studies Acts Part 2** with Pastor Rick Wheatley leading the class. This study is very popular and we have room for more to grow in the Word of God with us. Please contact Pastor Rick or Ron Reed to learn more.

**Sunset Hills Baptist Church
Ministry Council Minutes
September 18, 2023**

Attendees: Worship and Safety/Security Ministry, Rev. Jason Workman; Moderator, Diane Workman; Pastor/Staff Relations and Interim Stewardship Ministry, Ron Reed; Missions Ministry, Terry Anderson; Prayer Ministry, Dot North; Treasurer, Doug Larsen; Visitor, Bob Molby

Devotion: Rev. Jason Workman – What are we responsible for? *Luke 16:10*
We are entrusted with the lives of everyone who enters the church.

Monthly Treasurer Report: Doug Larsen

- Each ministry leader must turn in their budget for 2024. This needs to be given to Telly to enter into the new financial software. Will have monthly and quarterly reports next year for each ministry.
- Pledge cards went out this morning. Pledge card Sunday will be October 1. Budget preparations will be ready and voted on at the next Ministry Council meeting on October 16, in preparation for November's business meeting and vote for 2024.

Business:

Safety/Security: Rev. Jason Workman

- We had a car broken into during a recent worship service. One item and a church directory were stolen. A message was sent out to the congregation to be aware and keep vehicles locked. Alarms set during services. Extra security measures will take place and they will be monitoring the entire parking lot more frequently.
- A proposal was made to have a Ring camera installed on the front of the church to monitor the drive, as it is obscured by the hedges.
- Would like to look for additional security members.

Music and Worship: Rev. Jason Workman

- Plan for outside service is in the works for September 24, with a potluck to follow.
- Pastoral Search Committee – New pastoral candidate was announced to the Ministry Council.

Pastor/Staff Relations: Ron Reed

- Ron presented the new pastoral package to the ministry council. A motion to approve the new pastor package was unanimously approved and passed. In addition, a discussion was held regarding a sabbatical line item not being a part of the package but allowing a sabbatical/Green Lake conference attendance every other year for Pastor/Wife and two other people to attend the conference. Motions were made and unanimously approved.
- Yearly evaluations completed.

Shepherding: Amber Dale

- No updates

Missions/Outreach: Terry Anderson

- Need involvement and ideas for missions. Terry is working on building a Mission team.
- Need a leader for Trunk or Treat on October 29. Start after worship that Sunday. Need to put up a signup sheet so we know the number of cars participating. Also taking donations for candy to hand out.
- Need to obtain business cards. Do we have them printed to hand out?
- Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes – Carol McCormick and Cheryl Arnold are heading this.
- Angel Tree for Maple Crest in mid-November. Terry is confirming leadership for this project.
- Winter Gear - gloves and mittens for Pine elementary before Thanksgiving or December 1.
- March Read to Children. Pine Elementary will be looking for volunteers. Terry will get more information as to what needs to be done for security reasons prior to volunteering for this.
- June/July ALS walk next year will be looking for volunteers to help with the walk. More to come next year.
- Mission offerings - World Mission Offering in October.

Prayer: Dot North

- How to get involved and pray with others. She reported on how she is building relationships just by going and sitting with new people each Sunday. She challenged everyone to meet someone new and pray for them.

Discipleship: Vacant

- We will need to look for a new Vacation Bible School coordinator.

Stewardship: Vacant (Ron Reed interim)

- Light fixture in the playground has been fixed. The front light is still working at this point so no change.
- Cracks to be filled in parking lot.
- Erosion work to be scheduled.
- Fall Cleanup – Cut down peonies, day lilies and a little yard work for winter.
- The tree was removed. Letter to be sent to homeowner on southeast corner of property. Good Faith letter will be sent.

Ministry Council:

- Leadership Training - September 25, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., October 21, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. and October 30, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- October 6-7, 2023, Region Convention – Need a designated contact.
- By-laws revision discussion and amendment vote on hold.
- Plan November 12, Thanksgiving/New Members Dinner/Budget for 2024.

Rev. Jason Closed in prayer.

Next Meeting – Monday, October 16, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
(Have agenda items emailed to Diane by October 9.)