



A WALK IN THE PARK

Piedmont Park's Quarterly Newsletter

Our Vision: To encourage a closer walk with God and greater involvement in His Ministries in the Lincoln Nebraska area through the medium of *A Walk in the Park*.

Our Mission: With God's leading, we will reach out to our church family, sharing stories of hope, encouraging all, and promoting active involvement in the various ministries of Piedmont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church



Photo by Tim Mossholder on Unsplash

YES, WE'RE OPEN!

By Pastor Shawna Henry

I remember in the "good old days" (pre-pandemic) where grocery stores were open 24 hours, 7 days a week and restaurant hours were extended. The emergence of COVID 19 brought with it more stringent cleaning protocols, recommendations for social distancing, and limited hours. Some stores closed completely. Others rebounded with limited hours and service. Even one of Lincoln's favorite family restaurants transitioned most of their stores to carryout, curbside, and delivery only.

Closed (or limited open) seems to be one of the themes of the pandemic. The word closed suggests creating a boundary or barrier. Closed doors create barriers to from one room to another. Closed minds can create barriers to developing new relationships, new opportunities to serve, and new worship experiences. And closed hearts can create barriers to hearing and obeying the Holy Spirit.

In Revelation 3:20, we are cautioned against closed hearts and reminded of the beauty of embracing open hearts. Jesus says, "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and **open** the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends" (Revelation 3:20 NLT). I pray that this new year, we all will espouse an appreciation of openness and open our hearts to Jesus and enjoy the gift of His presence.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS ISSUE!

Pastor Shawna Henry
Renee Schaecher

It doesn't interest me
what you do for a living
I want to know
what you ache for
and if you dare to dream
of meeting your
your heart's longing.
Oriah Mountain Dreamer

"Your story is what you
have, what you will
always have. It is
something to own."
Michelle Obama

"Don't go through life,
Grow through life."
Eric Butterworth

"Every day, it's important
to ask and answer two
questions: 'What's good
in my life?' and 'What
needs to be done?'
Nathaniel Branden

“Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.” Mother Teresa

MAKE IT A DATE NIGHT

By Pastor Shawna Trotman Henry

Regular date nights are essential to a thriving marriage. In addition to providing a source of fun, date nights offer couples a time to engage in meaningful creation and enhance relationships. The meaningful conversations that couples share during periods of intentional communication, help build knowledge of each other, increase fondness and admiration, and promote bonding. In today's busy world, couples may be tempted to overlook regular time alone together, however, making dedicated time for each other is essential to creating a lasting loving relationship that will continue to grow over time says Dr Gottman and colleagues in their book *Eight Dates: Essential Conversations for a Lifetime of Love*.

If you're looking for some fresh ideas for date night, check out the suggestions below for 22 dates in 2022. And if you're looking for a babysitter for Valentine's Day, the Pathfinders will be offering some babysitting services. You can call the church office for all the information.

22 Date Night Ideas to try in 2022:

1. Take a class together such as painting, pottery, drawing, cooking, dancing or other interest you'd like to explore.
2. Have a candlelight dinner at home.
3. Visit a museum or art gallery.
4. Go to a concert or dinner theater.
5. Go on a picnic (indoors if outdoor weather not conducive to picnicking)
6. Stargaze in your backyard, park, or observatory.
7. Recreate your first date.
8. Volunteer together.
9. Take a progressive date: one place for appetizers, another for main meal, and another for dessert.
10. Play your favorite board games or try a new table top game.
11. Go ice skating.
12. Play a sport or workout together.
13. Read a book together and discuss it.
14. Go on a scavenger hunt. Create one for each other. Or take one together of your own city or another city using one of the scavenger hunt apps, or websites.
15. Try geocaching.
16. Do an escape room together.
17. Tackle a DIY project together.
18. Write a story together.
19. Go to a sporting event.
20. Try a new ethnic restaurant.
21. Get a couple's massage.
22. Visit a comedy club.



"The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within" Ellen White. (AA 551)



Photo by Ekaterina Shakharova Unsplash

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO A FOUR-YEAR-OLD

By Renee Schaecher

Daddy: Do you have one more hug for me before I go to work? Or did you give them all away already?

Child: I have another hug for you.

Daddy: Do you always save one hug back?

Child: No, I give them all away.

Daddy: You do?

Child: Yes, I give them all away. If I give my hugs away to one person, they can give a hug to another person, then that person can give that hug to another person.

Daddy: That's really a nice thing to do.

Child: If I give a hug to a child then they can give a hug to their parent. If I need more hugs, I can get one from Nana or Mommy or Daddy.

Matthew 22: 27-40 “Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. **And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Please, let us remember, that to little children, adults are the only image of God they know. From adults come their source of all they need. As they see their caregivers and other “larger than life” adults, follow God and proclaim the goodness of God, the children will begin to realize that it is God from whom all things flow, but for now adults and those in their inner circle are everything. It is the adults’ responsibility to represent God correctly.

We can find the practical expression of love in **Exodus 20, Isaiah 58 and 1 Corinthians 13**. Let us pray and encourage one another, as adults, to follow God with willing hearts, so that we can represent a positive version of God to our children. God is love. Let that be our prayer, that we will learn to love as God does to the best of our human ability through His grace and the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

1 Timothy 2:2-6 “First of all, I ask that you pray for all people. Ask God to bless them and give them what they need. And give thanks. You should pray for rulers and for all who have authority. Pray for these leaders so that we can live quiet and peaceful lives—lives full of devotion to God and respect for Him. This is good and pleases God our Savior. God wants everyone to be saved and to fully understand the truth. There is only one God, and there is only one way that people can reach God. That way is through Christ Jesus, who as a man gave himself to pay for everyone to be free.

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

Romans 12:9

I WANT TO BE SO FULL OF CHRIST THAT IF A MOSQUITO BITES ME IT FLIES AWAY SINGING THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD!

LISTEN TO OUR HEARTS

by Geoff Moore and Steven Curtis Chapman

How do you explain
How do you describe
A love that goes
from east to west
And runs and deep
as it is wide?

You know all our hopes
Lord, you know all our fears
And words cannot express
the love we feel
But we long for You to hear

So listen to our hearts
Hear our spirits sing
A song of praise that flows
From those You have
redeemed
We will use the words
we know
To tell You what an
awesome God You are
But words are not enough
To tell You of our love
So listen to our hearts

If words could fall like rain
From these lips of mine
And if I had a thousand years
I would still run out of time

So if You listen to my heart
Every beat would say
Thank You for the Life
Thank You for the Truth
Thank You for the Way

So listen to our hearts
Hear our spirits sing
A song of praise that flows
From those You have
redeemed
We will use the words
we know
To tell You what an
awesome God You are

OLIVE BRANCH MINISTRY

By Renee Schaecher

The Olive Branch Ministry helps provide items people can pick up that will help them through another day with no questions asked.

Our reach has expanded recently in some exciting ways including:

Walking Food Kits (small backpacks containing one meal, numerous snacks, water, and a sharing book) have been provided to the People's City Mission/Homeless Ministry to take on the #21 Bus to people living under bridges and other unhoused individuals in Lincoln.

Donated canned goods that cannot currently be included in Little Free Pantries due to freezing weather are being donated to the People's City Mission Help Center while dry goods that are donated continue to be placed in Little Free Pantries.

Total items donated to date is 3,000!

Thank you so much for your generosity in helping with your donations through The Olive Branch Ministry (Piedmont's Food Cupboard and Lincoln's Little Free Pantries).

You can continue to help by giving your donation in a tithe envelope, (memo line PFC or LFP), or through Online Giving at www.piedmontpark.org. May God bless you with a heart of peace as you volunteer to help our Lincoln neighbors and our Piedmont Park members.

Questions?
Renee Schaecher or Eula Key
(Team: Themes of Hope Sabbath School)



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

What did Jonah's family say when he told them about what happened before reaching Nineveh?

"Hmm, sounds fishy."

Why did Adam and Eve do math every day?

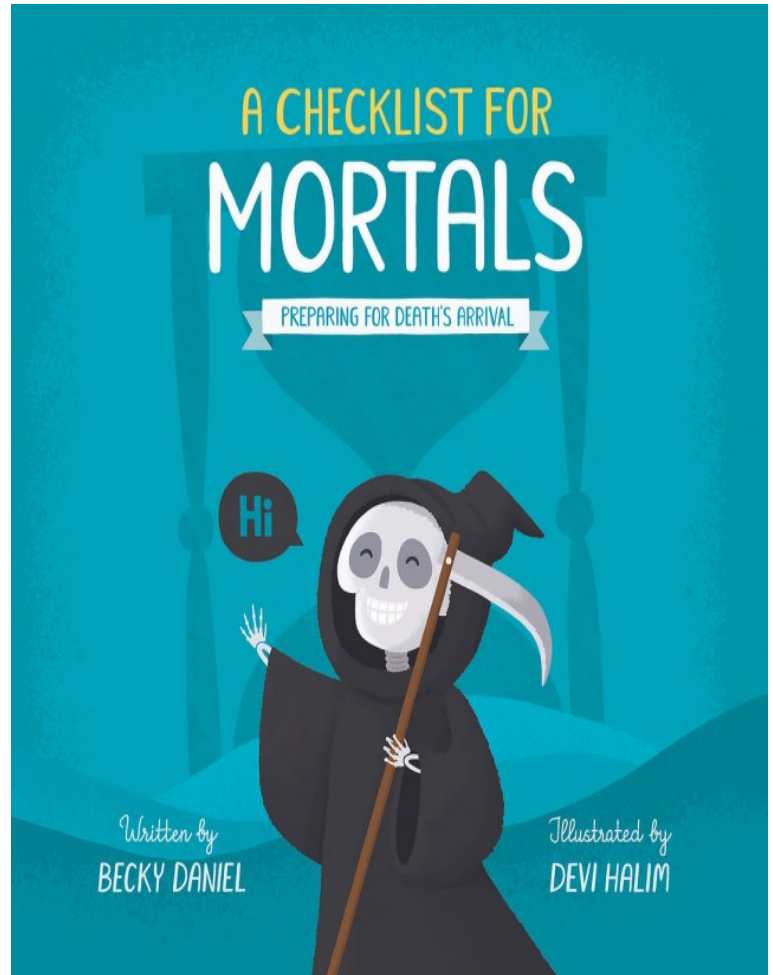
They were told to be fruitful and multiply.

Why didn't anyone want to fight Goliath?

It seemed like a *giant* ordeal.

A CHECKLIST FOR MORTALS

Author and Piedmont church member, Becky Daniel, has written a book, *A Checklist for Mortals*, to help people prepare for death in a way that cares for their loved ones after the event. She shares: When my father passed away in 2016, I was appalled at the lack of easy-to-navigate resources to help my brother and I close the estate. I called my mother to vent (of course). And she interrupted to ask me for a favor. "Take notes," my mother said. "I want to know how to make the process easier for you and your brother when I die." This sparked 30+ interviews to see if there were common steps every person (regardless of their individual situation) could take to be ready for Death. I spoke with will executors, funeral directors, probate lawyers, accountants, hospice workers, those working with veterans, and countless friends and relatives to learn from their experiences. I was able to identify a death checklist with 10 steps that adults can habitually do (just like paying bills or washing socks) that will make death (already a complicated emotional process) a lot less stressful for the family. Implementing this death checklist is the best gift you can give your spouse, child, parent, sibling, or friend. I encourage you to start today. Let the last memories of you be of your warmth and laughter, not the months of trying to hack into your phone to pay your final bills. To purchase this friendly guide to death prep, visit checklistformortals.com



Blessings can be big; blessings can be small.
My blessing may not sound like a blessing to you at all.
Blessings come to everyone;
even though to some, that may seem odd.
One thing is sure, all blessings are pure, and come to us
from our living, invisible God

Poem by: Renee Schaecher 12-20-2021

Piedmont Park Community Seventh-day Adventist Church has been a presence in Lincoln, Nebraska, since 1885. We pray that your encounter with God and His family will renew your experience of joy and peace in your journey.

As of the writing of this newsletter, Lincoln has moved into high red on the COVID dial. We are following the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department guidelines and asking for masks to be worn in the building. Please join us for our online worship service if you are not feeling well or have been exposed to Covid-19. For more information and our current statement and plan regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit www.piedmontparksda.org/covid-19

ONLINE SERVICES will continue each Sabbath our YouTube and Facebook pages.

Livestream Adult Sabbath School on YouTube at 9:30am CST

Livestream Church Service YouTube and Facebook at 11:00am CST



Piedmont Park Community Seventh-day Adventist Church
4801 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

Phone:
402-489-1344

E-mail:
piedmontparkSDA@gmail.com

Website:
www.piedmontparksda.org

YouTube:
www.youtube.com/piedmontparkchurch

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/piedmontparksda

Instagram:
[piedmontparksda](https://www.instagram.com/piedmontparksda)

THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE GATE

By Renee Schaecher

I have never seen it my self but have read about it in the Bible and on the Internet. In Jerusalem there is something called “The Eye of the Needle Gate”. As you can see in the photo, there is a larger door and a smaller door in the city wall.

Why would the ancient cities have two doors in the wall, one inside of the other? According to Google the “Eye of the Needle” Gate was used after the large gate was shut at nightfall. The large gate needed to be shut for safety reasons. The little gate was to allow legitimate night travelers into the city. It was so small, however, that the camel drivers would have to remove all the packs from the camels in order for the camel to kneel and squeeze through the short, small gate. You can imagine it would be difficult but not impossible for the camel to get through the gate. After the camel was through, the camel drivers could take the packs into the city.

In Matthew 19:16-26 we find the story of the Rich Young Ruler and the Kingdom of God. While Jesus is teaching, a wealthy young man spoke, asking Jesus how he could obtain eternal life? Jesus said that the young man should keep the commandments. The rich young ruler assured Jesus that he had faithfully kept all the commandments always, but wondered what he still lacked. Jesus informed the young man that in order to be perfect he must sell his possessions and give to the poor and then invited the young man to come and follow Him. He said it would be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Let us get to the kernel of the story. God is not against us having possessions or having plenty. He promises to provide our needs and often allows us to have extra. Jesus was pleased that the young man had kept the ten commandments. Perhaps the spirit of the question the one man asked is what prompted the added requirement. Was the rich young ruler asking out of love for God and care for Others? It seems that what the young man asked was for himself saying, “Lord, what shall I do to so that I may obtain eternal life?” It is ok for us to desire eternal life, yet it is even better to ask what we can do to serve God and ask Him how we can help any or all of His children as we journey through life now. As we serve God cheerfully, out of worship and desire to be in His service, eternal life will follow automatically because we love God and are in unity with God and His plans. (1 John 5:12) “Whoever has Jesus, has Eternal Life”



Photo credit BiblePictureGallery.com