



A WALK IN THE PARK

Piedmont Park's Quarterly Newsletter
Spring 2022 Issue

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



CHRISTIAN BUTTERFLIES

By Pastor Shawna Henry

I look forward to springtime every year. The bitter cold and ice that accompany winter always seem to last way longer than they should. Thankfully, every year, Spring emerges and with it gentle rain showers, budding trees, blooming flowers, and more sunshine.

A favorite springtime phenomenon of mine are the butterflies. The vibrant, colorful, winged insects add joy to my days. I am fascinated by the process of metamorphosis that the crawling caterpillar undergoes to become a stunning butterfly. The butterfly eggs hatch into a caterpillar. The caterpillar feasts on leaves and experiences rapid growth. Then the caterpillar rests in its chrysalis for several days. During the chrysalis phase, the caterpillar undergoes a magnificent transformation and emerges a beautiful butterfly.

Christians are like caterpillars in some ways. The caterpillar feasts on leaves then rests in the chrysalis awaiting transformation. Christians feast on the Word of God and rest in Christ allowing the Holy Spirit to change us to become more like Christ. The Bible in 2 Corinthians 3:18 explains "And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image (NLT)." What a blessing it is to allow the Holy Spirit to bring about our metamorphosis.

Try this family application tip. With your children read or view videos on the transformation of caterpillars to butterflies. You may want to try some of the butterfly crafts found here: <https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/butterfly-crafts-for-kids-4129196>. Discuss how the Holy Spirit changes us to become more like Christ when we study the Bible and learn more about Jesus.

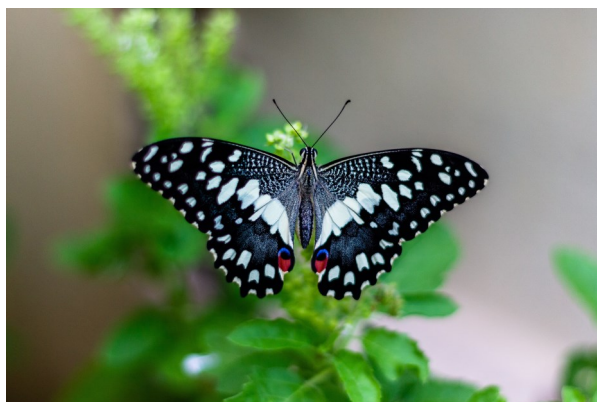


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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS ISSUE!

Pastor Shawna Henry
Pastor Michael Halfhill
Carol Leonhardt
Renee Schaecher
Roy Schaecher

Self-control is strength. Calmness is mastery. You have to get to a point where your mood doesn't shift based on the insignificant actions of someone else. Don't allow others to control the direction of your life. Don't allow your emotions to overpower your intelligence.

Morgan Freeman

Be hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.

Titus 1:8

The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

1 Peter 4:7

“Where flowers bloom, so does hope.” Lady Bird Johnson

I Asked God

*I asked God for
Strength:*

He gave me difficulties
to make me stronger.

*I asked God for
Wisdom:*

He gave me problems
to solve.

*I asked God for
Courage:*

He gave me dangers to
overcome.

I asked God for Love:
He gave me people to
help.

*I asked for Everything
so I could Enjoy life:*
He gave me life so I
could enjoy
everything.

*My Prayers were
Answered!*

Author:
Anonymous

Submitted by :
Roy Schaecher



Photo by [James Lee](#) on [Unsplash](#)

By Pastor Michael Halfhill

Spring is here. I was outside this week enjoying some warm sunshine and I saw it. There wasn't much but it was there. I noticed a few sprigs of green grass coming up in my lawn. I heard a robin singing its song, and I sighed knowing that spring is coming. Winter feels like such a long time that the first signs of spring always bring me joy. I love when the planet starts to turn green and the world seems to come alive again.

There's another Green that I have been waiting for as well. Recently our Covid dial in Lincoln has finally hit the green section signifying that the infection rates in our area have gone down to a very safe level. It almost feels like the end of winter with covid losing its grip on society.

Our theme and goal this year for Piedmont Park has been - Open. We decided that we wanted to keep our building open and keep our ministries happening as best we could this year. We are excited that with the infection and hospitalization rates dropping that more and more ministries can happen again.

I have also been seeing more and more people returning to worship in the church building. I want you to know that it has felt wonderful to worship together in person again. If you are still worship at home, that is perfectly fine. We will continue to provide our services online for people to connect with us all over the world.

As we continue through 2022, let's continue to be open. Open to God's leading in our lives. Open to God's leading in our church. Let's be open to opportunities to minister to others and open to dream we may have for new ministries. I am excited for the future at Piedmont Park. It won't be easy, just like the past has never been easy. But with open hearts to follow the Lord, I know we can make it through as long as we stay together.

SATISFACTIONS AND SORROWS

By Renee Schaecher

I was working the other night at a client's home. They were watching the Oscar Awards. On the program there is lots of different kinds of people, the same, yet different. One thing they seemed to have in common was the celebration of the human spirit. I didn't hear anyone thanking God; family, producers, cast, costume artists [and rightfully so] were thanked, but not God. It may have happened, but I didn't notice it. Perhaps it just isn't the time or the place. Maybe that is left to the Dove Awards. Who knows what each individual's personal and private beliefs are that attended. All in all, it was a delightful expression of human gifts and talent. Yet there was no expression of gratitude to God for the blessings celebrated.

For Christians, Hebrews 11:6 tells us this. "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who approaches Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Luke 15:10 reminds us that God and His angels celebrate with us when we choose Him and turn away from the harmful things of this life. Jesus says, "And when she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors to say, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents"

God wants us to have the best life that we can on this earth which is crumpled by the effects of sin. John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."

Even with all the abundant blessings God's provides, we all, sometimes experience trouble at times. Sorrow is present at some point in every life. We echo the words of the writer of Galatians 3:4 for ourselves, "Were all your experiences wasted? I hope not!" We can be assured they are not! Psalm 56:8 says of God. "You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book."

God sees all. He rejoices in our victories and pleasures. After all, He provides them for us. He and His angels rejoice when we are converted. He sees and comforts us in all our sorrows. Jeremiah 29:11 assures us! "For I know the plans I have fore you, declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

All of the pleasant and all of the sorrowful experiences of our lives have meaning in God because He brings good out of everything.

Deuteronomy 11:2 "Remember today what you have learned about the

Lord through your experiences with Him." Remember!

Remember! Remember! The best way to remember is to share with others what God has done for and in you through the story of your life.



Photo by Brett Jordan on Unsplash

SUPPORT THE **OLIVE BRANCH MINISTRY** WITH YOUR GIVING:

The **Olive Branch Ministry (Piedmont's Food Cupboard and Lincoln Little Free Pantries)** is one of Piedmont Park's ministries to aid the food insecure in our membership and in our community.

Learn more at:
piedmontparksda.org/ministries/olivebranchministry

Below is a partial list of useful items:

Flour
Baking Powder & Baking Soda
Spices (garlic, onion, cinnamon, pepper, basil, oregano, etc)
White & Brown Sugar
Hot cereal grains
Aseptic Packed Milk (shelf stable)
Canned beans
Pasta
Pizza Crust
Pizza Sauce in cans
Canned or Aseptic packed Olives
Canned or Aseptic packed Tuna, Chicken & Salmon (shelf stable)
Bread or Crackers
Canned Beef Hash
Canned Beef or Cheese Ravioli
Boxed flavored rice
Dried fruit and other snacks
Beef or Turkey Jerky
Toilet Paper
Lotion
Dish Soap
Deodorant
Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
Masks & Hand Sanitizer
Small Food Storage Containers
Socks of all sizes
Small bags of Dry Pet Food
Bottled Corn or Soy Oil
Raisins
Boxed Cereals
Nuts
Canned Fruits & Vegetables
Catsup & Mustard
Peanut Butter
Jelly & Honey
Canned Soups
Fruit Leather
Bags of Brown Lentils
Granola Bars
Clorox Wipes
Shampoo & Conditioner
Feminine Hygiene Products

****Do Not donate Glass, Outdated Items or Fresh Perishable Foods****

WALKING STICKS BRING A BLESSING

By Renee Schaecher



Photo by [James Lee](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Sometime ago, there was a sale on gallons of milk. It was such a good sale! We could buy one at a reduced price and get one gallon free! I called everyone I thought might be interested and gave them all away for free. That was fun to do!

This brings up a light-bulb idea:

What if everyone started looking for bargains like this with giving in mind?

Let's say the grocery store has boxes of cereal for a good sale price and with purchase another one free, (I saw this during Valentine's Day sales this year.)

Whenever we see a big sale, why not buy one on sale and pick up the free one? This is one way to buy for a lower price and donate items to a food bank, a soup kitchen, to The Olive Branch Ministry at Piedmont Park SDA Church, or just someone you think might appreciate it.

We are the light of the world and our purpose here is to push back the darkness. Let your light shine in the name of Jesus Christ.

By: Anonymous Author

Some months ago, when I continued in physical therapy for my knee, and I was still using both of my trekking poles (walking sticks) everywhere I went, I experienced a very kind action by a youngish man at the local discount store. He was taking his break and was about half-way down the block sitting on the ledge of a store window when he saw me walking up to the store's door with a walking stick in each hand and my purse slung over my shoulder and a limp. Without hesitation he jumped up and nearly ran to the door of the store and opened the manual door for me.

That was a nice enough memory but several weeks later I was again making some purchases at the same discount store, where I purchased a lot of the food items we donate to Lincoln's Little Free Pantries, some at quite a discount. It was a big order this time.

The clerk was cashiering when a man came in and was visiting with customers and the clerk in a cheerful, familiar way. I deduced he worked at this store. He was saying he was getting a new hairdo, a new look. As I listened and observed I realized it was the same person who had so kindly opened the store door for me weeks ago. He was saying to the others that people judge you by your hair, your clothes, and your teeth. He said he is doing his hair first but then he is going to have his teeth done.

I finished checking out and took the full cart of goods out to my car. Suddenly I heard a man's voice saying, "I can get that for you." I looked up and it was the nice youngish man from the store offering to help me manage the

purchases into my car. I remarked to him, "Aren't you the nice person who hopped up to open the door for me some weeks ago when I was here with my walking sticks?" He said he was. I thanked him and let him know how nice I thought that was.

I offered that all these groceries I had just purchased, including a number for a very fine sale price, were going to Lincoln's Little Free Pantries. He said, "I just marked all those items down yesterday. I said, 'Well! how lucky for me!' He then told me, 'Yes, I know Little Free Pantries! I use them to help me out.'" I knew from the conversation in the store that getting his teeth fixed was one of the things he was working to improve. I let him know I was happy to know that we are helping him and wished him well. I do not know his name. This kind of sharing really doesn't require a name exchange. It was a shared appreciation of the gift of helping one another that drew our conversation together.

I was blessed to know that he was using the gifts Piedmont Park church was giving through Little Free Pantries to better his life. He was blessed because every dime he can save from his job at the local discount store by utilizing Little Free Pantries gives him a little more money to visit the dentist, get a haircut and maybe someday a better job and better life. One thing I hope and pray never changes is his kind spirit. Maybe we have helped him have hope for the future because of our part in his story.

Thank you, Piedmont Park church for your donations and for being a part of his journey. I hope you have experienced a blessing vicariously through my story!



Photo by [Tamanna Rume](#) on [Unsplash](#)

WHAT DO PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS NEED MOST BESIDES SHELTER?

- Socks. Living on the street, many unsheltered people rarely take their shoes off.
- Personal hygiene items
- Food
- Pet food
- Gift cards and transportation passes
- Rain Gear
- Compassion

What food is best for the homeless?

Granola bars, canned fruit or vegetables, peanut butter, maybe a candy bar. Pretty much anything you can open and eat (that can't get smushed, like potato chips) is a good item to provide. Make sure that any food items you donate are in shelf-stable packaging as refrigeration can be an issue. It's also a good idea to get pop top cans when donating canned items because can openers can be hard to come by.

Although cities provide some indoor shelter for their homeless populations, many people take to the streets each day. Homeless people walk an average of **10 miles per day**, putting more wear on their socks in a week than the average American does in a year.

Further, each day many homeless people are busy with a host of activities, including locating work opportunities, going to government agencies, arriving at health appointments, attending food services, discovering shower facilities and finding restrooms.

Don't forget pet food. It's estimated that around 10% of homeless people have pets to keep them company.

shimmering brightly through veins of twine
hues of grey and blue and wine
come, dear Jesus, enter this heart of mine
make me wholly, truly, lovingly thine

By: Renee Schaecher, March 20, 2022



"I looked, and the Ten Commandments don't say *anything* about running with scissors!"

CHURCH LIBRARY

By Carol Leonhardt

Women's Ministries oversees the church library which is located on bookshelves in the coat room. The library operates on the honor system. There is no checkout procedure, just the expectation that materials be returned when the borrower is finished. The shelves are filled with books that have been organized into thirty different categories. There are books on Adventist history and beliefs, mission stories, stories of faith, prayer, marriage and family, parenting and much more. The children's books are color-coded into age-appropriate groupings. There are many good books waiting to be read.

Donations are accepted of books focusing on faith, family, and character. Donated materials should be placed in the box marked "donations" to be categorized and labeled. Delores Jerke is our church librarian who works together with Carol Leonhardt, Women's Ministries leader, to maintain the library. Your librarians would like to hear from readers about some of the interesting books in the library with recommendations of why others would enjoy reading them.

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 down into green the COVID dial. All services and activities will be held in person unless otherwise noted.

ONLINE WORSHIP 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



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OOOOH, YOU WERE CUTE!

By Renee Schaecher

I was watching a video with a 4 year old and this conversation popped up.

Her: Look, there is a little girl

Me: Yes, she looks about 4 years old

Her: That's like me!

Me: Yes it is!...I was four years old once.

Her: You were? Were you cute?

Me: Yes, I was cute. But not as cute as you.

Her: Ohhhh! you were cute...You still are cute.

Me: Well, thank you! You are very thoughtful!

Her; Satisfied smile: Thank you!

Wow! out of the mouth of babies! This conversation reminds me of the Bible verse in 1 Corinthians 10:24 "No one should seek his own good, but the good of others."

This little child's kindness made me feel happy even though I had to chuckle inside. At almost 68 years old, I hardly feel like cute is the word, yet she loves me, and love covers a multitude of things. To those who love us we are cute no matter the reality of life.

God loves us like that. He sees our value as His creation no matter what age, gender, race, culture or situation. He loves us, so we are the Apple of His Eye...the one He values, treasures and seeks good for above Himself.

Furthering the metaphor of the Apple of His Eye: Yes, we probably have a "worm" inside or a carry a scar made by a "worm," so to speak. Yet He forgives the damaged parts and shines us up. He makes us lovely in His sight through Jesus Christ. Ecclesiastes 3:11a "He has made everything beautiful in its time."

Deuteronomy 32:10 says "In a desert land He found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; He guarded him as the apple of his eye."

Let us pray as King David did in Psalm 17:8 "Keep me as an apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings"



Photo by [Isabella and Zsa Fischer](#) on [Unsplash](#)