



The Builder



2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – NEBRASKA CITY



165 YEARS

Silent Night Oh Holy Night.

1855 – 2020

The newsletter serving the families & friends of:

First Presbyterian Church

1005 1st Corso - Nebraska City NE 68410

*Join us for Worship on Sunday mornings - 10:30
(Social Distancing is practiced)*

Sunday School for all Ages – 9:15 am

**Our Sunday Worship services are posted on our Facebook page:
First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City**

Keep in touch.....

Pastor Tom: Email: presbypastortom@yahoo.com Phone: 402-274-8199

Church Office: Email: secretary@firstpresnc.org Phone: 402-873-5306

Church Website: www.firstpresnc.org

Church Facebook Page: First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City

Homestead Presbytery website: www.homesteadpres.org



A Note from Pastor Tom.....

The classic Christmas film, *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947, remade in 1994) contains this exchange:

District Attorney: What is your name?

Kris Kringle: Kris Kringle

District Attorney: Where do you live?

Kris Kringle: That's what this hearing will decide.

Judge Henry X. Harper: A very sound answer, Mr. Kringle.

District Attorney: Do you really believe that you're Santa Claus?

Kris Kringle: Of course.

District Attorney: [long pause] The state rests, your honor.

Is this kindly old gentleman, Kris Kringle, really Santa Claus? That's the ongoing mystery at the heart of this whimsical film. It's all about his name. Kris Kringle is, of course one of the many names for that "right jolly old elf" celebrated in Clement More's beloved poem, "'Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Now here is something to think about: By what names do we know Jesus? Perhaps you can begin a list and see how many you can come up with. To jog your memory, you might start with: Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father, Mighty Counselor, and Savior just to mention a few. During the seasons of Advent and Christmas we read and hear of several names given to Jesus. I hope you have been listening for them. The one that is my favorite this time of year is Immanuel, because it reminds us that God Is With Us. As we proceed through this wonderful time of the year let's be remembering that Jesus' birth was to remind us that God Is With Us. That will help us to experience the joy and spiritual peace that comes to us at Christmas. I encourage you to attend worship each Sunday as we celebrate the coming of the Lord to us again at Christmas.

Blessings to you all, Pastor Tom

December

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Adam Wilton	2	3	4 Pat Wehling Josh Martens	5
6	7	8 Dave LeGrand	9	10 Bill Peterson	11	12
13 JoAnn Martens	14 Randy Martens	15	16	17	18	19 Lori Koeneke
20	21	22	23 Bev McGinnis	24 Nels Wilton	25	26
27 Ruth Ann Weddle	28 Keith Dierking	29	30 Bill & Jean Dammast	31 Gene Mercer		

If you have additions or corrections to the Birthday and Anniversaries calendar, please don't hesitate to let Jane know!
Please call the office or email your information to secretary@firstpresnc.org

1855

First Presbyterian Church - Nebraska City

2020


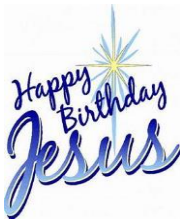
ABOUNDING IN GRACE,
FAITH AND LOVE



165 Years

DECEMBER

Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
First	Presbyterian	Church	Nebraska City	165 years	1855 - 2020	
		1	2	3 Sunday Preview 10am & 7pm	4	5
6 Worship & Communion 10:30am 2 nd Sunday of Advent	7 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	8	9 Deacons, 5:30 Session, 6:30pm	10 Sunday Preview 10am & 7pm	11	12
13 Worship 10:30am 3 rd Sunday of Advent Brad Ramp on Facebook 7pm	14	15	16	17 Sunday Preview 10am & 7pm	18 Food Bank of Lincoln at First United Methodist Church 12-1pm	19
20 Worship 10:30am 4 th Sunday of Advent	21 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 7pm Advent Offering 	25 	26
27 Worship 10:30am 1 st Sunday of Christmas	28 Committee Meetings	29	30	31		

Presbyterians Today Advent Devotionals are being published in an exclusively online format this year. They are available free at: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/advent2020/>



In a special worship series for Advent, we contemplate the many ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas, taking cues from the psalms of old and from those whom God chose to play a part in the story of our Lord’s birth. As we draw near to the manger bed of our Savior from sin and death, our hearts prepare him room for his everlasting love.

Week 1: Ponder (*Psalm 48:9* “ We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of our temple.”): We consider ways in which we can ponder the meaning of the birth of our Savior through the reading of Scripture and through reflection. Mary serves as a model for us in pondering the Season of Advent.

Week 2: Pray (*Psalm 69:13* “But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me”.): We think about ways in which we can take more time during this season to communicate to our God through prayer as we wait for Christ. Zechariah, who went to the temple to pray, serves as an example for us of how hard that waiting in prayer can be.

Week 3: Praise (*Psalm 30:4* “Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones and give thanks to his holy name.”): We celebrate the upcoming arrival of our Savior through songs and shouts of praise as we prepare for him. Elizabeth, in her greeting of Mary, provides a benchmark for rejoicing with others over the good news of salvation in Jesus, even as we wait.

Week 4: Proclaim (*Psalm 145:6* The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.”): We contemplate how we can prepare ourselves and others for the arrival of Jesus through our proclaiming. John the Baptist stands as the forerunner of all future proclaimers of Christ and gives us the courage to use our own voices to proclaim our devotion to the One

In this Season of Advent, we appreciate your support of the Deacon Ministry!

Dear Friends,

Christmas is quickly approaching. The Advent offering provides the funding for the work of the Deacons. This year covid has challenged everything! Your Advent offering can be mailed to, or dropped off, at the church anytime during Advent (or whenever!). Advent folders are available to be picked up at the church, if wanted. Please earmark your donation for the Deacon Ministry.

The mission of the Deacons is to show love and concern for our church family, community and world.

Our biggest ministry is our ER bags for kids in the hospital-to date we have given almost 2,350 since we began in 2013. We also reach out to our shut ins, students and those in need with visits, cards, meals, and gift cards. We supported operation Christmas child by filling boxes and giving money for postage.

Thanks to your generous donations the Deacons will be able to continue showing our love to all.

Thank you and God Bless you, The Board of Deacons



PLEASE join us for our special "Night of Christmas Worship with Brad Ramp & Friends" Live Stream! Facebook Live! <https://www.facebook.com/bradrampmusic/> Sunday, December 13 at 7:00pm



Rev. Jeff Mildren, a chaplain at Bryan Health, is working on a community project for the employees of their Health system. He is asking community faith leaders to record a one-minute word of encouragement and hope that will be shared on their intranet system within their facilities. If you are interested in contributing to this project contact Chaplain Mildren on his office number at 402-481-3065 or his email at jeff.mildren@bryanhealth.org

Chaplain Mildren also said people could send cards for those working in their facilities, particularly those on the COVID units. If they send them to the Pastoral Care office the chaplains will share them. He suggested this might be a good project for a Sunday School class or other groups in the church.

Mail to: Pastoral Care Dept.
Bryan Health
1600 S. 48th St.
Lincoln, NE 68506-1299



Holiday Giving Shopping List: stuffing mix, rice, crackers, boxed potatoes, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, cake mix, chicken noodle soup, mac 'n cheese, box of pudding or jello, canned corn, applesauce, tomato soup, canned sweet potatoes, canned green beans, canned mixed vegetables, cranberry sauce, canned tomatoes

Many families in our community depend on the Food Pantry to make their Holiday meals special. Above is a list of food items requested by our local Food Pantry for those needs.

Tony Reese and Jane Zimmerman will pick up donations if you are unable to bring them to the church. If you call the church by December 17, we will pick up your items on the 18th. All donations are needed by Monday morning, December 21, for the Christmas distribution. Thank you for supporting the Food Pantry!



Dear Church Family

Please pray for the following church family and friends: Kathy Nelson, Jim & Connie Jesson, Loran & Mary Donna Patton, Carol Swenson, Tom and Janet Hemphill, Kevin Driever, Howard & Dee Antes, Rev. Bob Burdett, Christine Allgood, Eileen Thayer.

Please email your prayer requests to Jayne James at: thejamesgang777@gmail.com or call: 402-873-5092



Dear Church Family,

As we enter the season of Advent, it has been the Church's custom to encourage you to participate in 2 special offerings: The Christmas Joy offering and the Deacon's Advent offering. Traditionally you might recognize the Deacon's special offering as the 'quarter folders' that are collected on Christmas Eve. This is where you are encouraged to donate a quarter for each day of Advent. These funds are the Deacon's primary source of funds to carry out their mission for the church locally.

The other is the Christmas Joy offering where donated funds are sent to Presbytery and go to activities outside our local church.

With the special circumstances facing all of us this year and the great need within our community and church, if you must make a choice between one or the other we are encouraging the congregation to give serious consideration to give your financial support to the Deacon's work. If you wish to give to the Joy offering please do so.

We welcome your grateful giving to either or both causes.

Donations can be sent or dropped off at the church Monday – Thursday 9-2:30 or at Sunday services.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this new path.

Nurture & Mission Committee