



The Builder

February

2021

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 begins on Sunday, February 21, 9:15am!

[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



Happy February, Church Family!

At times such as these I want to urge people back to participation in the life of our church, back to the worship services. Many pastors like to turn to the text of [Hebrews 10:24-25](#), to warn folks of the danger of “neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some...”

We insist that those who are not attending church and are neglecting to participate in the local church will encounter spiritual temptation, spiritual decline, and even spiritual death.

Here is what [Hebrews 10:24-25](#) says: “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Pastor Tim Challises from Toronto, Ontario Canada recently wrote, *This passage does, indeed, warn of the serious consequences of missing church, but its focus is not what we might expect through our Western, individualized eyes. This passage does not warn us that when we skip church we put ourselves at risk. Rather, it warns us that when we skip church we put other people at risk. The first sin of skipping church is the sin of failing to love others.*

You see, gathering with God’s people is not first about being blessed but about being a blessing. It’s not first about getting but about giving. As we prepare to worship on Sunday morning, our first consideration should be “how to stir up one another to love and good works.” We should approach Sunday deliberately, eager to do good to others, to be a blessing to them. In those times when we feel our zeal waning, when we feel the temptation to skip out on a Sunday or withdraw altogether, we should consider our God-given responsibility to encourage “one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

And, of course, our commitment to the local church is far more than a commitment to Sunday morning services. It is a commitment to other people through all of life. It is a commitment to worship with them once or twice a week, then to fellowship with them, to serve them, and to pray for them all throughout the week. It is to bind ourselves together in a covenant in which we promise to do good to them, to make them the special object of our attention and encouragement. It is to promise that we will identify and deploy our spiritual gifts for their benefit so we can serve them, strengthen them, and bless them.

Every Christian has a place within a local church. Every Christian is needed within a local church. Every Christian has responsibilities within a local church. Every Christian is to commit to the members of a local church and to love them, to encourage them, and to stir them up in zeal until the day of Christ’s return.

Blessings, Pastor Tom



February

Birthdays & Anniversaries

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 1 Dee Antes | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Bill Dammast |
| 7 | 8 | 9 Eileen Thayer | 10 Mike James Kathy Nelson | 11 Maisyn Hodges | 12 | 13 Bryan Frields |
| 14 Brent Shanholtz | 15 Mary Cole | 16 | 17 | 18 Tom Hemphill | 19 | 20 Doris Martin Bunny Shanholtz |
| 21 | 22 | 23 Trevor Hodges | 24 | 25 Jim Frerichs Jack Hobbie | 26 Tom Cole | 27 |
| 28 | | | | | | |

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





Calendar of Events

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-----------|---|--|---|-----------|
| | 1 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Worship & Communion 10:30am 5th Sunday after Epiphany | 8 | 9 | 10 Deacons, 5:30 Session, 6:30pm | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Worship 10:30am Transfiguration of the Lord | 15 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm | 16 | 17 Ash Wednesday Virtual Worship on our church Facebook page 7pm | 18 | 19 Food Bank of Lincoln at UMC 12-1pm | 20 |
| 21 Back to Sunday School! 9:15am Worship 10:30am 1st Sunday in Lent | 22 Committee Meetings 6pm & 6:45pm | 23 | 24 | 25 Join us for Bible Study: <i>Sunday Preview</i> - 10am | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am 2nd Sunday in Lent | | | | | | |



Installation of Elders and Deacons



Elders Randy Martens and Jeff Maddox were installed as members on our 2021 Session.

Udine Wilton was installed as a 2021 member on our Board of Deacons.



Please pray for the following church family and friends: the family of Richard Hoch, Kathy Nelson, Eileen Thayer, Loran & Mary Donna Patton, Tom and Janet Hemphill, Rev. Bob Burdett, Norleen Brown, Kevin Driever, Christine Allgood and Howard & Dee Antes.

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



Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, February 21. Join us at 9:15am for Christian fellowship and learning! We will follow CDC social distancing guidelines and wearing masks will be optional.



Sunday Preview will resume on Thursday, February 25 at 10am. This Bible study is an expanded study on Pastor Tom's message for the following Sunday. He shares with us so much history and so many interesting stories direct from the Bible and other Biblical sources! Please join us! All are Welcome!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

The beginning of the Season of Lent is marked by Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday this year is February 17th.

Because of the Covid Pandemic we will not have an in-person service this year. Instead, you are invited to join us for an *Ash Wednesday* service on our church Facebook page:

First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City

Mark your calendars now, and plan to join us as we begin the season of Lent.

You are encouraged to come to Sunday morning services. The season of LENT leads us into EASTER and so it is very helpful to attend regularly... and we all should do it. Sunday worship is open to all. We do practice social distancing and masks are worn by many of us.....so come!!!



Lenten Sermons 2021

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which this year is on February 17th. Here are the sermon titles and scripture readings that Pastor Tom is planning to share with us during the season of Lent:

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| February 21 | Rainbows Follow Storms | Genesis 9:8-17 |
| February 28 | Take Up Your Cross | Mark 8:31-38 |
| March 7 | The Outlandishness of Lent | 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 |
| March 14 | Changing Lightbulbs | John 3:1-17 |
| March 21 | Can You Hear It? | John 12:20-33 |
| March 28 | It's Just the Beginning | Mark 11:1-11 |