



# The Builder



# November



2021

The newsletter serving the families & friends of:

**First Presbyterian Church**  
1005 1<sup>st</sup> Corso - Nebraska City NE 68410

*Join us for Worship on Sunday mornings - 10:30*

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month*

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

**We have a jam-packed schedule of events for November and December!  
Check them out on the following pages and put them on your calendar!**

**Keep in touch.....**

**Pastor Tom:** Email: [presbypastortom@yahoo.com](mailto:presbypastortom@yahoo.com) Phone: 402-274-8199  
**Church Office:** Email: [secretary@firstpresnc.org](mailto:secretary@firstpresnc.org) Phone: 402-873-5306  
**Church Website:** [www.firstpresnc.org](http://www.firstpresnc.org)  
**Church Facebook Page:** First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City  
**Homestead Presbytery website:** [www.homesteadpres.org](http://www.homesteadpres.org)



Dear Church Family,

A few years ago, an American and a British journalist were discussing Thanksgiving on a British radio program. The American asked if Thanksgiving was celebrated in the United Kingdom.

“Yes,” the British journalist replied, “but we celebrate it on the 6th of September.”

“Why then?” asked the American.

“That’s when you chaps left,” the Brit answered good-naturedly.

Well, it is true that Thanksgiving is celebrated as a national holiday primarily in the U.S. and Canada, two former British colonies.

Thanksgiving in the U.S. is usually traced to 1621 when a Pilgrim leader, William Bradford, proclaimed a day of feasting to commemorate the first harvest after a long year of suffering. What you may not know is that, as the colonies grew more prosperous, the people forgot all about Thanksgiving and the meaning it held for their ancestors. For generations Thanksgiving was celebrated sporadically, if at all, with no set date.

Then in 1822 Sarah Hale, a young widow from New Hampshire, decided to revive this important celebration. Sarah, a mother of five children and an editor of a women’s magazine, began a 40-year campaign of writing editorials and letters to governors and presidents to get Thanksgiving officially recognized as a national holiday. Three Presidents turned her down. Her obsession became a reality, however. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as an annual celebration of Thanksgiving.

Interestingly enough, Sarah Hale, the widow who championed the cause of Thanksgiving is not remembered for that act. Rather she is much better known as the author of a little poem written in 1830 which begins like this: “Mary had a little lamb, Its fleece was white as snow . . .”

As the late Paul Harvey would say, “Now you know the rest of the story . . .”

**There is something healthy about giving thanks.** Notice that I did not say there is something healthy about Thanksgiving meals. Most of us will overindulge this Thanksgiving, just as we do every Thanksgiving.

I don’t think I’ve ever had a bad Thanksgiving meal. The danger isn’t that the meal won’t be tasty. The danger is that we will consume too much. Thanksgiving meal may not be too healthy for us, but the act of giving thanks is one of the most spiritually beneficial exercises we can perform.

**Giving thanks reminds us how blessed we are.** As some anonymous author has written:

If you woke up this morning and were able to hear the birds sing, use your vocal cords to utter human sounds, walk to the breakfast table on two good legs, and read the newspaper with two good eyes . . . you are more blessed than millions of those who could not do these simple things.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation . . . you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death . . . you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep . . . you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish some place . . . you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you are over thirty and either of your parents is still alive you are very rare. Over a billion people are orphans by then.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful . . . you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

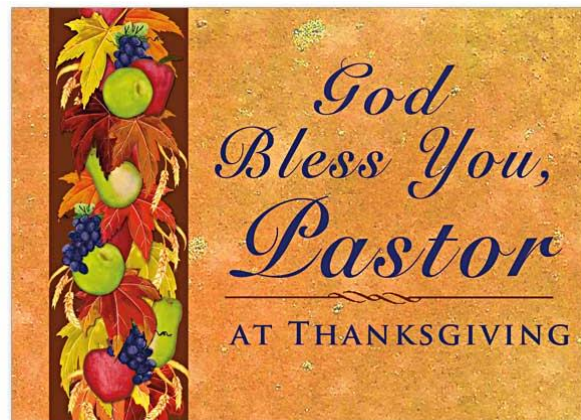
Giving thanks reminds us how blessed we are.

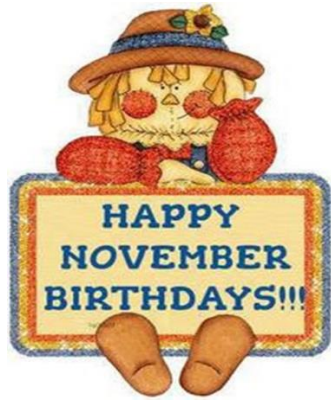
If you are truly thankful for the blessings God has bestowed upon you, then share that story with others. Of course, the best way to share the story is to share the blessings.

Our Sunday morning worship service on November 21<sup>st</sup> will focus on Thanksgiving. Then in the evening of that same day we will host this years community Thanksgiving Service sponsored and led by the Nebraska City Ministerial Association. It will begin at 7 pm. I encourage you to plan now to attend both of these services! It's a healthy thing to do!

Blessings,

Pastor Tom

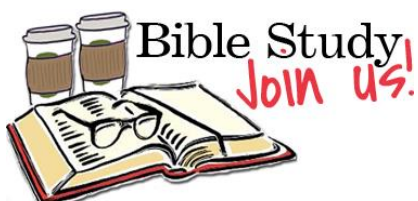




## & ANNIVERSARIES

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Chad Godsey Brent/Michelle Shanholtz	2 Jean Dammast	3	4	5 Steve Mangum	6
7	8	9 Foy Thayer	10 Brent Shanholtz Julie Hopp Sue LeGrand	11 Kurt Curtis	12 Trenton Reese	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Dave/Kate Patton	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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](mailto:secretary@firstpresnc.org)



Join us for **Sunday Preview** each Thursday morning, 10am. This Bible study is an expanded study on Pastor Tom's message for the following Sunday. He shares history and interesting stories direct from the Bible and other Biblical sources! Please join us! All are Welcome!



## Calendar Of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>All Saints Day</b> Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	2	3 Lunch Bunch 11:30am Downtowners Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	4	5	6
7 Worship/ Communion 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:30 Sunday School 9:15 <b>Craft Workshop 2-4</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	8	9	10 Lunch Bunch 11:30am Little Ted's Quilters 1pm Deacons 5:30pm Session 6:30pm	11 Join us for Bible Study: <i>Sunday Preview</i> - 10am	12	13
14 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 <b>Craft Workshop 2-4</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	15 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	16	17 Lunch Bunch 11:30am Keeping Room Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	18 Join us for Bible Study: <i>Sunday Preview</i> - 10am	19 Food Bank of Lincoln 12-1pm	20
21 Worship 10:30 <b>Congregational Meeting</b> Sunday School 9:15 <b>Craft Workshop 2-4</b> Reign of Christ Sunday	22	23	24 no Lunch Bunch today Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	25 Join us for Bible Study: <i>Sunday Preview</i> - 10am	26	27 <b>Decorate the Church for Christmas 10am</b>
28 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 Hunger Offering <b>Craft Workshop 2-4</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent <b>Community Thanksgiving Worship 7pm @ First Presbyterian Church</b>	29	30		<b>Winter Wonderland Bazaar Saturday December 4!</b>		

Congregation meeting for election of officers – Sunday, November 21 – 11:30am



## Winter Wonderland Bazaar

**Saturday, December 4, 2021 - 8am – 2pm**

**Cinnamon Rolls, Scones and Beef/Vegetable Soup**

**Coffee, Tea and Hot Cider**

**Homemade Baked Goods**

**Handmade Craft Items**

**Holiday Items**

**Craft Baskets & Silent Auction**

## Celebrating the Nativity

In conjunction with the Winter Wonderland Bazaar, we would like to have your participation! Please bring one of your favorite Nativity Sets to share in a display of the many varieties available world-wide. 2" to life-size, plastic to wood to metal, realistic or child-like, these wonderful images of Christmas are such a joy to share this time of year.

If you would like to share one of your Nativity sets with our church family and friends, please bring it to the church before Thursday, December 2. We will carefully display your set during the Winter Wonderland Bazaar and throughout the month of December.







*<sup>29</sup> Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, <sup>30</sup> but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. Genesis 41:29-30*

The Sunday school class heard the story of Joseph, his brothers and the famine, on Sunday, October 24. Following the lesson, the children baked dinner rolls and served them at our potluck. Great lesson, great fun. Carla Zaroban and Kristie Dierking served up a great time with Preston, Cassidy, Landry and Baylor!



Next up for the kids – Preparing for the Annual Christmas Program! Details will follow in the next few weeks.  
The date of the program is Sunday, December 12



A photo op that couldn't be missed! Grandpa Tony took his granddaughter by the hand to visit the nursery.

Thank you, Julie Hopp for providing us with pulpit supply on October 24. You are always a joy to listen to and always provide a great message.



Jane is having a lot of ups and downs in the office these days! THANK YOU, JULIE HOPP, for the lift desk!





The above ornaments are a preview of some great **items to be crafted for the Winter Wonderland Bazaar!** Please join us each Sunday afternoon, 2-4pm for fun and fellowship as we assemble some great ornaments and Holiday decorations for sale on December 4!

And speaking of decorations.....join us on Saturday, November 27 – 10am for **decorating the church**, inside and out! There's lots to do and your help is needed. Thanks in advance – it's fun and great fellowship!

### Community Thanksgiving Service



First Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Community Thanksgiving Worship Service on Sunday, November 21. The Worship Service will be held at 7pm followed by coffee fellowship. Our congregation will also celebrate the Thanksgiving season on the morning of November 21 at First Presbyterian Church during our regular 10:30am worship service.

If you have a special announcement and/or picture to share, please send it to the office: [secretary@firstpresnc.org](mailto:secretary@firstpresnc.org) and Jane will put it in the next newsletter.



Please pray for the following church family and friends: Keith Dierking, Kathy Nelson, Amy Fields, Eileen Thayer, Rev. Bob Burdett, Misty Burdett, Kevin Driever, Loran & Mary Donna Patton, Tom and Janet Hemphill, and Howard & Dee Antes. Please email your prayer requests to Jayne James at: [thejamesgang777@gmail.com](mailto:thejamesgang777@gmail.com) or call: 402-873-5092



#### Serving this month:

Organists: Abby Reese	Scripture: Mark & Julie Hopp
Greeters: Tony & Kim Reese	Acolytes: Jan Marion, Gracelyn & Paighton
Power Point: Kurt Curtis	Camera: Marv Zimmerman
Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fields	
Nursery: Carol Maddox, Jan Marion, Jayne James	

#### COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



**Coffee Fellowship after Worship on November 7 - All are welcome!**





If you like to bake and/or eat cookies – this picture should’ve drawn your attention! If you are so inclined, please bake a batch of your favorite cookies and share a dozen or two for plates of assorted cookies to be sold at the Winter Wonderland Bazaar. For more information, contact Kristie Dierking, Kim Reese or Doris Martin, our co-chairs of this year’s bazaar.



*Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child!*

**Lists of Suggestions for gift items are also available.**

November is here, and in just 2 weeks, shoeboxes must be picked up, filled, and returned to church.....no later than Sunday, November 14. That time will go in a hurry. Please pick up a box or two as soon as possible so we can have them ready to deliver on time.

We will dedicate the boxes on Sunday, November 21, then deliver them to the destination station on Monday. For more information, contact Carla Zaroban, Chairman @ 402-873-0102

Every gift-filled shoebox is a tool for evangelism and discipleship for our local church. Thank you so much for your participation in this wonderful project!

“Every shoe box gift is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It’s about telling children around the world and their families that God loves them. He hasn’t forgotten them. We’re taking the Good News to the ends of the earth and doing it through a shoebox.”

Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan’s Purse



**Veteran’s Day Concert**  
 Sunday, November 7 – 2pm  
 The Lofte Community Theatre  
 in Manley  
 Free and open to the public