



The Builder



2022

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

Sunday School for all ages – 9:15am

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion
is offered on the 1st Sunday of each month*

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



Dear Church Family,

I recently read an article about peoples' faith in these times of the covid pandemic.

According to the most recent of the annual surveys by the funeral industry, the percentage of people ages 40 and older who say that religion is "very important" in the funeral of a loved one has gone up for the first time in a decade.

That figure for that age group had been steadily dropping from 49% in 2012 to 35% in 2019, but after the pandemic hit, the number rose to 45% in 2020 and 47% in 2021.

Christianity Today, commenting on the survey, noted, "The majority of Americans still don't think religion is important at funerals, but a growing number are feeling a new need for it."

In light of this information, I began to think about scripture and what does the Bible say. I found this verse to be appropriate: Isaiah 43:6-7... *bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth -- everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.* (For context, read [Isaiah 43:1-7](#).)

In these verses God says he created people for his "glory" but the underlying Hebrew word is sometimes rendered as "myself" which suggests that God intended a close linkage between himself and humankind. It stands to reason that the God who created us for himself but chooses to remain invisible would have implanted some sort of mechanism within us to enable us to sense our need for him.

Yearning fits that bill and is why some spiritual writers have described it using terms such as holy discontent, an inner seeking, moral intuition, a thirst for God, a natural consciousness of God, a sense of eternity, a craving for the Divine, a spiritual homing instinct and similar terms.

This is a good time to consider whether our unfocused yearnings and vague discontents may actually be God inviting us to draw nearer to him. To me, the best way to get in touch with God to answer such wonderings is to pray, read the Bible, and attend Church on Sunday. If you're like me and sense a need to be closer to God, then I encourage you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings. James, chapter 4 and verse 8 says: "*Come close to God, and God will come close to you.*"

Blessings, Pastor Tom



Birthdays and 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	12
13 Bryan Fields	14 Brent Shanholtz	15 Mary Cole	16	17	18 Tom Hemphill	19
20 Doris Martin Bunny Shanholtz	21	22	23	24	25 Jack Hobbie Jim Frerichs	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



If you have a favorite Bible passage, a special announcement and/or picture to share, please send it to the office: secretary@firstpresnc.org

FEBRUARY

Calendar Of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Lunch Bunch 11:30am <i>Downtowner</i> Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	3	4	5
6 Worship/ Communion 10:30 Coffee Fellowship Sunday School 9:15 5 th Sunday after Epiphany	7 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	8	9 Lunch Bunch 11:30am Little Ted's Quilters 1pm Deacons 5:30pm Session 6:30pm	10	11	12
13 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 6 th Sunday after Epiphany	14	15	16 Lunch Bunch 11:30am Keeping Room Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	17	18	19
20 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 7 th Sunday after Epiphany	21 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	22	23 Lunch Bunch 11:30am Subway Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	24	25 Food Bank of Lincoln 12-1pm	26
27 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 Hunger Offering Transfiguration of the Lord	28					



March 2, 2022



1 Corinthians 13: If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have **love**, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have **love**, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have **love**, I gain nothing. ⁴ **Love** is patient, **love** is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ **Love** does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ **Love** never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³ And now these three remain: **faith, hope and love**. But the greatest of these is **love**.



Please continue prayers for the following church family and friends:

Carla Zaroban's mom, Donna Miller, Ken Zaroban's sister Julie, Jean Dammast's brother-in-law John, Laura Osborne's friend, Suzanne Rutten, Amy Frields, sister-in-law of Teresa & Jeff Frields, & members: Julie Hopp, Jan Bolejack, Kathy Nelson, Eileen Thayer, Keith Dierking, Howard & Dee Antes, Tom & Janet Hemphill, and Loran & Mary Donna Patton



Serving this month: Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Frields

Organist: Abby Reese Scripture: Jan Marion Acolytes: Cassidy James

Greeters: Jim & Susie Frerichs, Jordan & Alexis Dierking, Ken & Carla Zaroban Power Point: Julie Hopp, Jane Zimmerman Camera: Marv Zimmerman

Nursery: Susie Frerichs, Abby James, Kristie Dierking, & Carla Zaroban

Preparing/Serving Communion: Randy Martens, Jeff Maddox, Kurt Curtis, Kristie Dierking

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



Coffee Fellowship after Worship on February 6 - All are welcome!

Kristie Dierking will host this month.