



# The Builder

# January

**2023**

The newsletter serving the families & friends of:

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

**Sunday School for all Ages – 9:15am**

**Worship on Sunday mornings - 10:30**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion - the 1st Sunday of each month**  
(in January, Communion will be on the 8<sup>th</sup>)

**Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 22**

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

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

**Pastor Tom:** Email: [presbypastortom@yahoo.com](mailto:presbypastortom@yahoo.com) Phone: 402-274-8199

**Church Office:** Hours: 9-2:30, Monday – Thursday

Email: [secretary@firstpresnc.org](mailto:secretary@firstpresnc.org) Phone: 402-873-5306

**Church Website:** [www.firstpresnc.org](http://www.firstpresnc.org)

**Homestead Presbytery website:** [www.homesteadpres.org](http://www.homesteadpres.org)

## WELCOME BACK PASTOR TOM!!!

Glory to God in the Highest! God is With Us! Immanuel is here!

I am happy to tell you that I am well on my way to recovering from the disseminated histoplasmosis that laid me in the hospital in Lincoln for so long. I am beginning back to work as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. I will be doing that in a slow and progressive way. The Elders on Session have insisted that I not overdo things. But I want to tell you just a tiny piece of my experience while in the hospital. There was a time when I felt like I was in a black hole falling deeper and deeper away from life. There were lots of weird things going on in my mind. I can't tell about them here for lack of space. But I can tell you that in that terrifying and confusing time God was there! It was just like the Psalmist experience described in Psalm 40 verse 2: *"He brought me up out of the pit..."*

As we begin this New Year, I want you to know that God is near to you too! No matter how bad your situation may be God is there for you! So let your faith take hold of His hand of helpfulness. One of my favorite Bible passage is Psalm 73:25-26. *"Whom have I in heaven but You? Beside You, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart are weak and may fail, but God is the strength of my heart. He's my portion forever. "*

We live in a world filled with hated, anger and fear. Nations war with one another and the threat of nuclear attacks is spewed around by politicians and government leaders. We wonder where all the chaos will lead us. Even within communities and families there is strife. We need to take hold of the hand of helpfulness that God offers us. Christ came to earth to show us how much God loves us. As we celebrate His birth, we also should remember that the love and peace that we sing about is always there for us.

So this New Year, I hope, no... let me use a stronger word... I admonish you - get closer to God! One way to start, is to join me in worship each and every week. Come to church and sing God's praises. Pray prayers of confession and need. Listen to God's Holy Word. Share in Holy Communion. Be a part of good Christian fellowship. It only requires a little over an hour a week. I invite you to make that your New Year's resolution!

Pastor Tom



## Celebrating in

....

- 8 Happy Birthday, Lilly Fields
- 11 Happy Birthday, John James
- 14 Happy Birthday, Eunice Fass & Mariah Koeneke
- 15 Happy Birthday, Stephanie Shrader
- 16 Happy Birthday, Linda Frerichs
- 19 Happy Birthday, Jeff Maddox
- 26 Happy Birthday, Alexander Frerichs & Kate Patton
- 28 Happy Birthday, Abby Reese

***Many happy returns to the day of thy birth, may sunshine and gladness be given, and may our dear Father prepare us on earth for the beautiful birthday in heaven!***

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)



Above left: Nels Wilton spent several days scrubbing, waxing and buffing the floors in the hallways, narthex and fellowship hall. A huge thanks for making them shine! Above right: With a few loose whip stitches Betsy found that her pew pad fits this ledge perfectly- both of my kids were happy to serendipitously get their pew pads. Submitted by Tom Weddle



# Calendar Of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30  <b>New Year's Day</b>	2 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	3	4 Lunch Bunch at Spring Garden 11:30 Quilters 1pm	5	6	7 <b>Undecorate            the church            1pm</b>
8 Sunday School 9:15am <b>Worship/Holy            Communion 10:30            Followed by Special            Congregational            Meeting</b> Baptism of the Lord	9	10	11 Lunch Bunch at Downtowner 11:30 Quilters 1pm Deacons 5:15 Choir Practice 7pm	12 Session 6:30	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am  2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	16 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	17	18 Lunch Bunch at Little Ted's 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir Practice 7pm	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30am <b>Annual            Congregational            Meeting            Potluck</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	23	24	25 Lunch Bunch at The Keeping Room 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir Practice 7pm	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30am Hunger Offering 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	30	31				



The kids presented a darling Christmas program entitled "There's a Lion in My Nativity!", from the book written by Lizzie Laferton and illustrated by Kim Barnes. In this story of a school nativity play, Mary thinks she is the star of the show. However, as the play goes on, she finds that every scene has been stolen by an unlikely character or object. With the help of the narrator, Mary realizes that each one actually teaches us about the true meaning of Christmas. Along with Mary, readers will see that Jesus is the star of the show. Cute, cute, cute. Thank you, Carla and Kristie, our parents, and the kids for a fun rendition of the nativity story.

## Important Dates in January!

Sunday, January 1 – regular worship service – Happy New Year!

Saturday, January 7 – Undecorate the church – 1pm – please help if you can

Sunday, January 8 – Worship and Communion and a brief Special Congregational Meeting required to elect new officers for Session and Deacons

Monday, January 9 – Annual Committee Reports due to Jane in office

Thursday, January 12 – Session Meeting at 6:30 – all current & new members need to attend.

Sunday, January 15 – Annual Reports will be available.

Sunday, January 22 – Annual Meeting after our worship service, followed by a potluck dinner.

## Attention Choir Members!

### The following is our schedule for January:

January 1, 4 & 8 – No choir practice or singing in church

Wednesday, January 11 – practice at 7pm

Sunday, January 15 – sing in church

Wednesday, January 18 – practice at 7pm

Sunday, January 22 – sing in church

Wednesday, January 25 – practice at 7pm

Sunday, January 29 – no choir, Abby possibly taking that day off

### Serving this month:

Organist: Abby Reese

Scripture: John James

Greeter: Jan Marion

Acolytes: Youth

Camera: Marv Zimmerman

Power Point: Jane Zimmerman

Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fields

Nursery: Kristie Dierking, Rose DeKock, Kim Reese, RuthAnn Weddle, Udine Wilton

**Please continue prayers** for the following church family and friends: the family of Richard Dovey, Julie Hopp, Teresa Fields, Pastor Tom, Ed Reed, Marta Calhoun, Larry & Marilyn Brammier, Jan Bolejack, Edith Simmerman, Howard & Dee Antes, Rosanna McSwane, Tom & Janet Hemphill, RuthAnn Weddle's friend Laurette, Laura Osborne's friend, Suzanne, JoAnn Marten's sister Diann Starr, and for those in the Ambassador: Adelene Vock, Kathy Nelson, Foy Thayer, Connie Driever, & Loran & Mary Donna Patton.

