



# The Builder



# February

2024

The newsletter serving the families & friends of:

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

**Ash Wednesday Worship Service – February 14 – 6:30pm**

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

**Sunday school: Youth at 9:15am, Adults at 9:30am**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion: 1st Sunday of each month**

**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)

Greetings,

**LENT and EASTER are early this year.** Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have a short Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m. The emphasis will be on the darkness of the world. That is what Ash Wednesday is about. The darkness of the world with its decay and degradation. The darkness of the world with its regrets and recriminations. The darkness of the world, and most especially, the darkness within our own hearts. The darkness that threatens to take from us all that we hold dear. It is a time of letting go of that which drags us down and makes us unholy.

There is so much in the world today that pulls us down and causes us to lose sight of the fact that God still rules the universe. **We need to remember that You and I were created for a purpose.** We are here because God wants us here. We are not cosmic accidents. We are here by design. One of the hottest issues before schools today is the teaching of a new approach to understanding creation called Intelligent Design. Many people say it is an improvement on Darwin's theory of evolution.

Others say it is pseudo-science with the sole purpose of expelling Darwinism from the corridors of academe. It has become one of those red state/blue state sorts of arguments. Regardless of which side of the issue you are on, I believe you will agree that one of the troubling things about the way evolution is taught by some people is that it implies that everything happened solely by accident. We are who we are and what we are simply and solely because some genes happened to mutate over time and new organisms just happened to emerge as a result. Most of us are not scientists, but that approach to the most basic questions about the origins of life is not very satisfying.

**We were created for a purpose, and we will never know true peace until we have discovered that purpose and made it our own.**

How sad it is not to realize who you are and why you're here. Listen. There's someone who wants to help you find your purpose. His name is Jesus.

That's why he came into the world. That's why he was baptized by John. That's why he spent time in the wilderness of temptation. That's why he taught his disciples. That is why he suffered on the cross and then rose from the dead. It is to say to us, "Life matters. You were created by a loving God whose purpose is that you should live abundantly through a right relationship with God and a right relationship with those around you. You are not an accident of the universe."

To paraphrase the words of the prophet Jeremiah, even when you were in your mother's womb God knew you and loved you. Make your life count for something. Leave the world a better place because you were here.

Blessings, Pastor Tom



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Happy Birthday, Dee Antes
- 6 Happy Birthday Bill Dammast
- 10 Happy Birthday Mike James and Kathy Nelson
- 13 Happy Birthday Bryan Frields
- 14 Happy Birthday Brent Shanholtz
- 15 Happy Birthday Mary Cole
- 18 Happy Birthday Tom Hemphill
- 20 Happy Birthday Doris Martin and Bunny Shanholtz
- 25 Happy Birthday Jack Hobbie and Jim Frerichs
- 26 Happy Birthday Tom Cole

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)

Serving this month:

Organist: Abby Reese      Scripture: Kristie Dierking      Greeter: Carissa Curtis  
Camera: Marv Zimmerman/Alexis Dierking      Acolytes: Youth  
Sound/Power Point: Jayne James      Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fields

**Please continue prayers** for the following church family and friends: Connie Driever, Tom & Janet Hemphill, Rev. Bob and Misty Burdett, the Bassinger family in Dunbar, and for those unable to attend worship in person. Please call or email the church office if you have someone to add to this list.



# Calendar Of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30 Worship/Holy Communion 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	5 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	6	7 Lunch Bunch Hong Kong 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	8	9	10
11 Sunday school 9:15 Adult SS 9:30 Worship 10:30  Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday	12	13	14 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Worship – 6:30pm</b> Lunch Bunch Valentino’s 11:30 Quilters 1pm Deacons 5pm Session after Worship	15	16	17
18 Sunday School 9:15am Adult SS 9:30 Worship 10:30am <b>Pizza and Jigsaw Puzzles! 12-4pm</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent	19 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	20	21 Lunch Bunch Taco Bell 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	22	23	24
25 Sunday School 9:15am Adult SS 9:30 Worship 10:30am Hunger Offering 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	26	27	28 Lunch Bunch Runza 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	29		

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR REGULAR GIVING.**



Left: look close at Pastor Tom and Preston, and you will see the shepherd's crook around Preston's neck. The *Life's Little Lesson* that morning was about saving Christ's 'sheep'. Shepherds use a crook to save their lost sheep. Jesus also saves his 'lost sheep' by pulling us in to his fold. Below: Stephanie and Jane enjoyed an afternoon at the public library in a Jigsaw Puzzle competition. It was so fun that the girls invite you to join them at our church on Sunday, February 18 for a similar afternoon. (details on page 6!)



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Lilly Fields is going to be a Nun! She has joined the cast of *Nunsense 2* for performances at the Tada Theatre, February 8-25. For more details, google Tada Theatre or ask the Fieldts! 😊



# An Invitation to Puzzles, Pizza and Prizes!

Join us after the worship service on Sunday, February 18 for pizza!

Then.....

Bring a friend for an afternoon of fellowship, fun, snacks and jigsaw puzzles! Open to all ages!

Competition: We're going to put jigsaw puzzles together! 6 teams of 2 will take on the opposing teams in a 3-hour challenge. All 6 teams will be putting together identical 500-piece puzzles. Call Jane in the office to reserve your place in the competition! 402-873-5306. There are only 12 spots available!

The competition will begin at exactly 1pm and will end at 4pm. We will have a 20 minute break midway through the competition.

Non-competition: If you're not on a team, there will be jigsaw puzzles available for fellowship and fun.

Price of Admission: one item for the Food Pantry and one white elephant item. The first team to complete their puzzle (or put together the most pieces in the 3 hours, will have first pick of the white elephant prizes. Second place, second pick and so on!



Ash Wednesday is on February 14. Our service will be at 6:30 that evening. This worship service will include a brief meditation and imposition of ashes to begin the season of LENT.