



The Builder



The newsletter serving the families & friends of:

First Presbyterian Church - 1005 1st Corso - Nebraska City NE 68410

Worship on Sunday mornings - 10:30am

Sunday school: Youth at 9:15am, Adults at 9:30am, through May 19

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**

Taco Bar on Sunday, May 5 after the worship service!

Keep in touch.....

Pastor Tom: Email: presbypastortom@yahoo.com Phone: 402-274-8199

Church Office: Hours: 9-2:30, Monday – Thursday Phone: 402-873-5306, Email: secretary@firstpresnc.org

Church Website: www.firstpresnc.org **Homestead Presbytery website:** www.homesteadpres.org

Pastor's Message

I love the story that Pastor Walter Wangerin tells how his mother helped him find God.

He writes of a childhood crisis of faith. For a long time, he thought he was the only person in his church who couldn't see Jesus. His mother took him to church every week. He noticed the joy and peace that radiated from the church members' faces. He wanted to meet this Jesus they talked about. But he had never seen Jesus in his church. So little Walter set out on a quest to find Jesus.

He searched all over his Sunday School classroom, but found no signs of Jesus. He crawled under the pews, but still didn't spot Jesus. He poked his head in the pastor's study. He even sneaked up to the pulpit and looked into this inner sanctum. No Jesus.

Finally, little Walter thought of one room, holy and mysterious, into which he had never dared venture. The ladies' rest room. That must be the place where Jesus hung out. So that Sunday, Walter worked up his courage and sneaked into the ladies' rest room. He checked all the stalls, but Jesus was nowhere to be found. Walter returned to the sanctuary just in time for the Holy Communion. Ordinarily, he paid little attention to this sacred ritual. But this time, he noticed how peaceful and happy his mother looked after eating the bread and drinking from the cup. He leaned in close to her, sensing that she bore the answer to his quest.

"Mama, what is that?"

She tried to deflect his attention, but he wouldn't give up.

"What is that, Mama? What is that smell?"

She finally replied, "Oh, son, that is Jesus. It is Jesus inside of me."

And little Walter finally understood a tiny piece of the mystery. Jesus wasn't lost. Jesus was living inside of his mama.

Some of us probably wouldn't have found Jesus if he hadn't lived inside our Mama or our Papa or our grandparents or some other loving adult. That's how we normally come to Christ, we come through the influence of someone very close to us whom we love and admire. And so the question for every mother this day--indeed a question for every adult--could a child sense Jesus in your life? I hope you can say with certainty and joy that *It is Jesus inside of me!*

These days the news is full of stories about Muslims and their faith. As tensions keep growing all across our land I thought you would benefit from some information about the Muslim faith compared to our Christian faith. This comes from a man who converted to Christianity and wants this information to be shared. I hope this will be beneficial and help you discern the truth.

Throughout his years of ministry on earth, Jesus warned about false prophets who would come after his departure to lead people astray. After Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, the apostles reminded us of this: “But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them” (2 Peter 2:1). In the decades and centuries that followed, this prediction was fulfilled over and over again. False prophets presented their own “version” of the truth, which was no truth at all. The false prophets were often very persuasive, and as they gained popularity, they led their followers astray. Muhammad founded what is now the second-largest religion in the world, a religion which systematically teaches its followers to reject Jesus as Lord, who bought them with his blood. About six hundred years after Jesus, in a cave outside of Mecca, Muhammad received revelations from a spirit who said its name was Jibril (Gabriel). The spirit told him that Jesus was no greater than Moses, and that Muhammad would be the successor to the both. The religion Muhammad constructed was a distorted form of Judaism, with Isa added as a prophet to announce the coming of Muhammad himself.

From the beginning, Muhammad denied the deity of Christ, the finished work of the cross, the resurrection of Jesus, and that Jesus should be worshiped. The great and powerful God relates to mankind only as master to slave, nothing more. Muhammad placed the yoke of slavery onto people whom God wanted to set free. Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28–30).

Islam teaches that your eternity depends on your good works outweighing your bad works. The truth is, nowhere does the Bible say that sins can be atoned for by good works. On earth, if a person has committed murder, the court cannot let him off if he can point to good things he did. No amount of good works we do can pay for sin. “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). God knew this, and because he is so loving and merciful, God decided to pay the price himself. This was paid by Jesus, God the Son. The Bible says, “For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT). Jesus was the only qualified person who could pay the penalty for our sins because Jesus is God. Since you and I could never be righteous on our own, God himself came to earth in human form to atone for our sins.

Ten days after Jesus ascended to heaven, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came and made his home within the disciples (see the full story in Acts 2). The same promise Jesus gave his disciples in John 14 stands true for us.

May 19th is the Day of Pentecost. Come to worship and give thanks to God for the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives!

Pastor Tom



MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Happy Birthday Gertrude Ettleman
- 6 Happy Birthday Jan Bolejack & Lisa Osborne
- 13 Happy Birthday Dave Patton
- 18 Happy Birthday Nick Maddox
- 23 Happy Birthday Carla Zaroban
- 24 Happy Birthday Preston Scott
- 24 Happy Anniversary Jeff & Teresa Fields
- 26 Happy Birthday Josh Marion

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

Serving this month:

Organist: Abby Reese

Greeter: Eunice Fass

Coffee Fellowship: Sunday school Taco Bar!

Scripture: John James

Acolytes: Youth

Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fields

Sound/Power Point: Jeff Maddox/Jayne James/Marv Zimmerman/Alexis Dierking

Please continue prayers for the following church family and friends: Janet Hemphill, Dee Antes, Jan Bolejack, Jen Stoakes, Edith Simmerman, 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. Please note that Janet Hemphill is receiving care at Lifecare, 20275 Hopper St., Elkhorn, NE 68022. Room 112.

It's a Spring Shower!



Friends and Family! You are invited!

Dylan and Tara (Maddox) Ribble will be honored at a **Spring Shower on Sunday May 19**. Please join us for this wedding and baby shower and luncheon from 12-2pm at the church.

Please RSVP by Sunday May 12, to either JoAnn Martens, Janet Osborne or Carla Zaroban.

Dylan and Tara are registered on Amazon.



Save the date for Randy Marten's retirement party!
June 15th 5 pm - 9 pm at Pin High

There will be more information in the June newsletter! 😊



Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Lunch Bunch Keeping Room 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm Comm. Chorus 8pm	2 National Day of Prayer 7am NCHS 12pm Courthouse 3:30pm City Hall 7pm Calgary Church Program, chorus and dessert	3	4
5 Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30 Worship/Holy Communion 10:30 TACO FIESTA! Hosted by our Sunday school!	6	7	8 Lunch Bunch Hong Kong 11:30am Quilters 1pm Deacons 5pm Session 6:30pm	9	10	11
12 Sunday school 9:15 Adult SS 9:30 Worship 10:30 Mother's Day	13 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	14	15 Lunch Bunch Valentino's 11:30 Quilters 1pm Final Choir & party 7pm	16 Homestead Presbytery in Fairbury	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:15am Adult SS 9:30 Worship 10:30am Shower for Tara & Dylan Riddles	20	21	22 Lunch Bunch Taco Bell 11:30am Quilters 1pm	23	24	25
26 Worship 10:30am Hunger Offering	27	28	29 Lunch Bunch Runza 11:30am Quilters 1pm	30	31	

Thank
you 

Thank you so much for honoring Grandpa Patton's life and letting us celebrate him. The ladies did an amazing job with lunch, and we are so thankful for their service to our family! Thank you again for all you did to serve our family. In Christ, Aaron & Amand Patton.



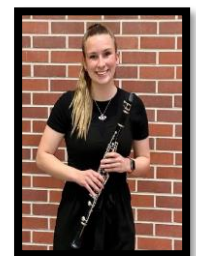
In the Spotlight on Kaycee Driever!

Kaycee will be graduating from Bellevue University on June 1, 2024. Kaycee has a double major in Psychology and Health and Human Performance and a Minor in Coaching theory.

Kaycee played soccer for 5 years for Bellevue University. Kaycee enjoyed traveling with the team and was part of the winning team for the 2022 Continental Athletic Conference Women's Soccer Championship. As part of Kaycee's internship, she enjoyed being back in Nebraska City to assist in coaching the Nebraska City High School Girls Soccer team.

Congratulations, Kaycee!

In the Spotlight on Lilly Fields!



Lilly represented Nebraska Wesleyan University along with two other students as part of the National Concert Chorus, that performed at Carnegie Hall, in New York City on April 6th. Under the Direction of Tom Trenney, the Assistant Professor of Music at NWU and Dr. Marques Garrett, Assistant Professor of Choral Activities at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, the concert, "Walk in the Light" featured Representatives from 10 states. The choir performed 5 selections. It was an incredible honor for Lilly. Lilly is going into her senior year at Wesleyan. She is an honor student, sings in the Wesleyan University Choir, plays Clarinet in Symphonic Band, plays the Saxophone in the Jazz Ensemble, and works for the Music Department. She is Majoring in Psychology with Minors in Music and Biology. She's also in an honorary Music Fraternity, and president of the Chess Club. Currently, she is touring with the Wesleyan Choir to Tennessee and has plans to Audition for a part in the Musical, Beauty and the Beast, the Loft Theatre's summer musical production. Lilly has played the Clarinet since 5th grade. She's played the Saxophone since 9th grade. She also sings with the Jazz band at some concerts.



Thank you, **Jeff Maddox**,

for the HOURS you spent on our new sound/video equipment! From diagnostics, to ordering, to installing, testing it and getting ready for its live streaming debut!! Our team is in place, and you can follow us on Facebook with the new and improved system. Thank you, Marv Zimmerman and Alexis Dierking for providing the video for the past several years. Thank you, Jayne James, Kris Dierking, Kurt Curtis and Jane Zimmerman for the past and present power point presentations. Our team continues to serve our church family and those watching us on Facebook each week.



Tom Weddle recruited Preston to help him plant the begonias in the flower beds last week. Tom said “even though we ran out of begonias, give this young man a hand for a job well done!” Thank you, Tom and Preston!



THANK YOU, Adult Choir members! Before you go on summer break, please know that your dedication and wonderful music that you share with us throughout the year is greatly appreciated! Abby, thank you for directing this wonderful group of singers and for the hours spent on music selection, practicing and performances. Enjoy a well-deserved summer. We look forward to hearing all of you again this fall!

Sunday School will be dismissed for the summer on May 19.

Have a great summer - teachers and students!



Carla and Preston took it seriously when someone told them to go and fly a kite! They definitely had plenty of windy days to accomplish this fete last month!

Thank you, Carla Zaroban and Kristie Dierking, for taking such great care of our children in Sunday school this year. Thank you for volunteering countless hours of preparation and dedication in the past several years and for the next fall session!



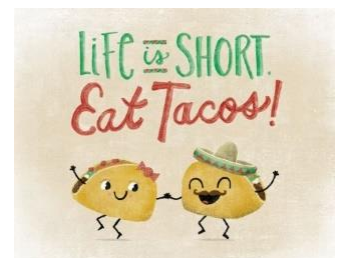
Sunday School Taco Fiesta – Sunday, May 5 – 11:30am



*Wanna taco
bout it?*

Everyone is invited to the party!

Serving TACOS with all the fixings!



Thank you to everyone that donated food items for our fiesta!