



# The Builder



2024

The newsletter serving the families & friends of:

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

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

**Sunday June 2 – Coffee fellowship in honor of Mothers and Fathers**

**Sunday June 9 – Celebrating Pastor Tom's 35 years of Ordained Ministry**

**Saturday June 15 – Celebrating Randy Marten's Retirement**

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

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

**Church Copyright License #11616688 CCLI Streaming License #21848345**

# Pastor's Message

I heard on TV this week that we are now in the official summer season. Summer holidays have a tradition all their own: hot dogs and charcoal-grilled burgers, potato salad, baseball games, and fireworks. These times are fun for everybody — well, most everybody. If you happen to work in the emergency room or the recreational industry — a state park or a marina — holiday memories might include drunken boaters, burn injuries, or four-wheeler accident victims.

Things like parades and speeches and flying the flag are traditions, which perhaps get a bit closer to the spirit of the season — the more solemn side of the occasion. In much of the country national holy days like Memorial Day and the Fourth of July have come back in vogue in recent years — a stirring of our patriotic spirit. Such celebrations have long been recognized as essential to good citizenship. By singling out moments in history like the signing of the Declaration of Independence we reflect on the struggle of those who have sacrificed to establish and uphold those community values. In doing so, we hope to shape the attitudes and values of future citizens... our children and grandchildren.

And more than merely remembering, we seek to honor those who still struggle and sacrifice to ensure liberty and justice for all even today — by speaking for it in the public arena on behalf of those who have still been denied, and by fighting for it against those who would yet deny it to others.

It is the American way, or at least it is the hope to which we strive. But before it was ever the American way, it was Biblical mandate. Those in our nation who would speak of liberty and justice while seeking to remove God from the public forum had best remember our history and the Biblical foundations upon which it was laid.

We need to give fair recognition to the good and noble things America has inherited from the faith traditions of our founding ancestors. The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia's Independence Hall bears the inscription: "*To Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land,*" but many civil libertarians who would separate church from state forget those words are straight from the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament.

In New York harbor, the Statue of Liberty stands as an icon of what America aspires to be. Inscribed in her foundation are words by Emma Lazarus that stir our patriotic spirits:

*Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed to me; I lift my  
lamp beside the golden door.*

But, before that can happen, we must honor God. We must bless God through our words and prayers and hymns of praise. We must bless God in the words we speak to one another, and in the deeds of justice and peace that we perform in God's world. We must follow Biblical teachings if we desire to live in a way that is pleasing to the Lord our God!

Pastor Tom

## Confirmation/Membership Classes to Begin!

If you would like to be confirmed in First Presbyterian church or refresh your understanding of our church, you are welcome to join us! Classes will begin on June 4 and commence each Tuesday morning at 10:00. Call the church office if you plan to attend and we will see that a packet of materials is prepared for you.



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Happy Anniversary Patrick & Shannon Wehling
- 3 Happy Birthday Edith Simmerman & Pam Roker
- 9 Happy Anniversary Nels & Udine Wilton
- 10 Happy Birthday Jacob Martens & Landry James
- 15 Happy Birthday Helen Lundak
- 18 Happy Birthday Cassidy James
- 19 Happy Birthday Nick Zaroban
- 21 Happy Birthday Mary Donna Patton
- 21 Happy Anniversary Randy and JoAnn Martens
- 22 Happy Birthday Jan Marion and Marily Brammier
- 22 Happy Anniversary Keith & Kris Dierking
- 23 Happy Birthday Rose DeKock
- 24 Happy Anniversary Ken & Carla Zaroban
- 26 Happy Birthday Josh Osborne
- 27 Happy Anniversary Jim & Mary Callen

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

Greeter: Carol Hammond

Coffee Fellowship: Board of Deacons

Scripture: Tony Reese

Acolytes: Youth

Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fields

Sound/Power Point: Jeff Maddox/Kris Dierking/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.



# Calendar of Events

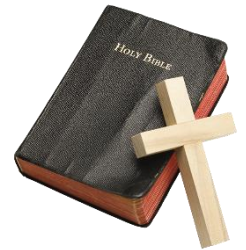
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship/Holy Communion 10:30 Coffee Fellowship Hosted by the Deacons	3	4 <b>Confirmation/ Membership Class 10am</b>	5 Lunch Bunch Pizza Hut 11:30am Quilters 1pm	6	7	8
9 Worship 10:30 <b>35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pastor Tom's 35 years in Ordained ministry celebration &amp; lunch</b>	10 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	11 Confirmation/ Membership Class 10am	12 Lunch Bunch El Portal 11:30 Quilters 1pm	13	14	15
16 Worship 10:30am	17	18 Confirmation/ Membership Class 10am	19 Lunch Bunch Spring Garden 11:30am Quilters 1pm	20	21	22 <b>Randy Marten's Retirement party at Pin High at Table Creek 5-9pm</b>
23/30 Worship 10:30am Hunger Offering	24	25 Confirmation/ Membership Class 10am	26 Lunch Bunch Downtown 11:30am Quilters 1pm	27	28	29

Thanks to insurance and Pyramid Roofing, we have a new roof! It was definitely needed after the hail damage last year, but never a desired expenditure! All part of the maintenance of the church building.



Greetings to our Friends in Christ,

First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City, will be honoring Rev. Tom Osborne, our pastor, our friend, and our shepherd, for his 35 years in ordained ministry. Please join us in congratulating Pastor Tom. **We invite you to our worship service at 10:30 on June 9, 2024, followed by a lunch in his honor.**



**CELEBRATING  
REV. TOM OSBORNE  
35 YEARS IN ORDAINED MINISTRY  
ORDAINED JUNE 4 – 1989**

Pastor Tom's first call was to Brownville Christian Church – Brownville, NE. In the following 35 years, he has served the following churches and communities:

Peru Community Church – Peru NE  
Hastings Christian Church – Hastings NE  
Southview Christian Church – Lincoln NE  
First Presbyterian Church – Auburn NE  
Hickman Presbyterian Church – Hickman NE  
Tarkio Presbyterian Church – Tarkio MO  
1<sup>st</sup> United Presbyterian Church – Fairbury NE  
Steele City Presbyterian Church – Steele City NE  
Charter Oak Christian Church – Talmage NE  
First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City NE (July 2018 – present)

Pastor Tom would enjoy seeing you again and we welcome you to join us on June 9. If you are unable to attend, please drop him a line or two with a special memory of your time spent in his pastoral care. Your memories will be included in a memory book designed for Pastor Tom. Thank you, and we hope to hear from you soon! Your church family at:

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

***15 Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding. Jeremiah 3:15***

# CONGRATULATIONS RANDY – HAPPY RETIREMENT!

and on to your next adventure!



Join Randy & JoAnn at Pin High at Table Creek - 5633 I Road – Nebraska City NE  
Saturday, June 15 – 5pm – 9pm  
The greatest gift is your presence – no other gifts necessary.



Sunday, May 19 – Day of Pentecost. Pastor Tom had ‘tongues of fire’ hats for those participating in the *Life’s Little Lesson*. It was endearing to watch the older sister helping her little sisters with their ‘flames’, while mom and grandmother Gertrude watched. Nels and John – always the troopers. I’m not sure who enjoyed it most! 😊

## We Showered Tara Maddox Ribble with Love, Lunch and Gifts!

JoAnn Martens and Carla Zaroban planned, organized and executed a wonderful shower for Tara and her guests, with help from Janet Osborne and Jane Zimmerman. They served a lovely lunch of sliders, chips, fresh fruit, punch and cookies. Tara's mother, mother-in-law, sister-in-law and grandmothers were in attendance for the happy occasion, along with several of our church members and friends.

Tara received a wonderful selection of both baby and household items. As she opened each gift, she was asked a question about her and/or hubby Dylan. She answered each question with humor and graciousness. It was fun to get to know her and Dylan. 😊



### Congratulations Dana Pursey!

Dana Shaw Pursey was honored recently for 15 years of service to Auburn Public Schools.