



# 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**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion and Coffee Fellowship - 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)

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# Pastor's Message



This month I celebrate the fact that God has brought me to where I am in all my years of ministry. Thirty-five years ago, I was ordained to Christian Ministry and I know that without God's leading, encouragement and strength I would not be where I am today.

I feel like Samuel of the Old Testament. He gave credit to God when the Israelites finally repented and began to follow God again. He set up an Ebenezer Stone to acknowledge that God had brought them to that point in time. I keep a rock on my desk all the time to remind me that God has brought me to this place and this time. Without God who knows where I would be?

So we see that the meaning of *Ebenezer* originates more than a thousand years before Christ, during the ministry of the prophet Samuel. Samuel gathered the people at the town of Mizpah. There the people would fast and confess their collective infidelity to God ("We have sinned against the Lord," [1 Samuel 7:6](#)) and Samuel would pray for them ([1 Samuel 7:5](#)). But when the Philistines heard that Israel had gathered at Mizpah, they took it as an opportunity to march on their enemies — and when Israel heard they were coming, the nation panicked.

The people pled to the prophet, "Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines" ([1 Samuel 7:8](#)). Samuel responded by sacrificing a lamb to God on behalf of the people, and as he did, the Philistines began to attack. But God heard Samuel and answered with a magnificent display of power. "The Lord thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel. And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them" ([1 Samuel 7:10–11](#)). God heard the cries of his people through Samuel and came to their rescue.

Then, to commemorate God's mighty intervention on behalf of his people, Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the Lord has helped us."

In Hebrew, *Ebenezer* means "stone of help" (*eben* = stone; *ezer* = help). Samuel wanted the people to remember, not just for a few days, but for years, for decades, for generations, how God had come to the rescue of his people when they humbled themselves before him. They were vulnerable, with their enemies approaching, and they did not deserve God's rescue, having been chronically unfaithful. And yet in his gracious fidelity to his covenant people, God intervened with thunder to throw Israel's enemies in confusion and turn their enemies into the vulnerable nation.

I encourage you to follow this Biblical example and humble yourself. If you have the expectation that the Lord will help you know that He will. Isaiah 41:10 tells us, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee..."

Raise your Ebenezer and praise God for being with you in all of your life!  
Pastor Tom



## JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Happy Anniversary Bryan & Kaelie Fields
- 7 Happy Birthday Udine Wilton
- 8 Happy Birthday Tom Weddle, Brian James & Bill Roker
- 9 Happy Anniversary John & Jayne James
- 9 Happy Birthday Virginia Reed
- 15 Happy Anniversary Marvin & Jane Zimmerman
- 17 Happy Birthday Mary Finkner
- 19 Happy Birthday Paighton Marion
- 28 Happy Birthday Tara Maddox Ribbles

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      Greeters: Marv & Jane Zimmerman      Coffee Fellowship: Udine Wilton  
Scripture: Janet Osborne      Acolytes: Youth      Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fields  
Sound/Power Point: Jeff Maddox/Kris Dierking/Marv Zimmerman/Alexis Dierking  
Prepare Communion: Tony Reese

**Please continue prayers** for the following church family and friends: John Osborne, Dee Antes, Janet Hemphill, Jan Bolejack, Jen Stoakes, Edith Simmerman, John Lenz, Curtis Kohout, and for those unable to attend worship in person. Please call or email the office if you have someone to add to this list.




The **Nebraska City Apple Corp Barbershop Chorus** started our service on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, with a mini concert. It's always a pleasure to hear them. We thank them for honoring us with their talent, time and presence!

Food Pantry for July: Canned fruits and/or vegetables would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.



# Calendar Of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm Office closed	2 Confirmation/ Membership Class 11am	3 Lunch Bunch Downtown 11:30am Quilters 1pm	4 	5	6
7 Worship/Holy Communion 10:30 Coffee Fellowship Hosted by Udine Wilton	8	9 Confirmation/ Membership Class 11am	10 Lunch Bunch Little Ted's 11:30am Quilters 1pm	11	12	13
14 Worship 10:30 <i>Singing Grannies</i>	15 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	16 Confirmation/ Membership Class 11am	17 Lunch Bunch Keeping Room 11:30 Quilters 1pm	18	19	20
21 Worship 10:30am <i>Winds of the Plains</i>	22	23 Confirmation/ Membership Class 11am	24 Lunch Bunch Subway 11:30am Quilters 1pm	25	26	27
28 Worship 10:30am Hunger Offering	29	30 Confirmation/ Membership Class 11am	31 Lunch Bunch Arby's 11:30am Quilters 1pm			



Our **Annual Fall Bazaar** is scheduled for Saturday October 26! 😊

Our annual **Worship and Picnic in the Park** is scheduled for Sunday, August 4. Wildwood Park – 10:30am. All are welcome!

**Celebration of Life** service will be held for Rev. Bob Burdett at the family home in Van Meter, IA on Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Call the church office for more information.

**Adult choir practice** will begin on Wednesday August 28 😊

# HAPPY RETIREMENT RANDY!



Congratulations, Randy, and best wishes to both you and JoAnn – we know there will be no resting on your laurels in the future! We wish you good health and happiness in whatever you do! 😊



# Celebrating 35 Years

Rev. Tom Osborne was Ordained to Christian Ministry in 1989

Congratulations, Pastor Tom and Janet



Pastor Tom and Janet Osborne



Daughters Laura & Lisa with Pastor Tom and Janet



The celebration continued after the worship service, and everyone headed for the fellowship hall for a lovely luncheon.



It was all smiles as our church family and friends left the sanctuary. We headed for the lovely celebration luncheon provided by the family and served by our Board of Deacons.



Friends and family enjoyed the afternoon of celebration with Pastor Tom. We are so blessed to have him for our pastor and wish him well as his ministry continues with us.





Life's  
Little  
Lessons



Forgiving  
Attentive  
Teacher  
Helpful  
Energetic  
Ready



**Lofte's Summer Musical!**

Click Here to Buy Your Tickets Online




**Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**



PERFORMANCES: July 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, & August 1, 2, 3, 4

The Lofte Community Theatre Manley, NE      Funded in part by Cass County Tourism www.visitcasscounty.com

The Lofte Community Theatre Presents  
Disney's **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**

MUSIC BY Alan Menken      LYRICS BY Howard Ashman & Tim Rice      BOOK BY Linda Wolverton

**Cast List**

Belle .....	*Theresa Gygi
Beast .....	Wade Mumford
Lumiere .....	Brent Welch
Cogsworth .....	*Hunter Sieckmeyer
Gaston .....	Nathan Kreutzer
Lefou .....	Jordan Parker
Maurice .....	James Nygren
Mrs. Potts .....	*Judy Anderson
Chip .....	*Isabella Dankleff
Babette .....	Riley Herring
Madame de la Grande Bouche ...	Catherine Bobst

**Ensemble & Various Roles**

\*Wyatt Baker, \*Jesse Beaudette, \*Kendall Biel, Chloe Bohaty, \*Kristin Callan, \*Hailey Caughron, Samantha Colvetro, Andrew Dankleff, \*Sarah Enriquez, Lilly Fields, \*Con Hrabik, Jeff Johnston, Marcus Manley, Natalie McGovern, Cyrus Monson, Xander Monson, Mary Pennisi, Gus Pope, Becca Schmucker, Elijah Schmucker, \*Devin Smith, & Joshua P. Smith

\* Denotes new Born-in-a-Barn Player

Experience another great performance with Miss Lilly Fields! Tickets available now. 😊