

Pastor's Message

As I drive down the highway and country roads, I can't help but notice that the harvest season will soon be upon us. The corn fields are turning color, and the ears are beginning to drop over. Yes, harvest is coming and its hard work. In the natural world, a ripe harvest left unattended will rot and decay. Similarly, in the spiritual realm, there are countless souls ripe for the kingdom of God, but without workers to bring them in, they may be lost. Just as a farmer must work hard to bring in the physical harvest, God needs willing workers to bring in the spiritual harvest. This is a call to action for each of us, a call to step out of our comfort zones and into the fields that are ripe for harvest.

Think about the quality of the workers: God is not looking for half-hearted service or reluctant laborers. He is looking for those who are willing to give their all for the cause of His kingdom. Willing workers are those who, out of love for God and a desire to see His kingdom advance, willingly give their time, talents, and resources. They are not driven by obligation or guilt but by a passionate love for God and His people.

When I drive through town, I see many signs at various businesses telling the public: NOW HIRING. The need for willing workers is more urgent than I can ever remember.

We live in a time where there are more opportunities for workers in the Church. We need people who will make themselves available to spread the gospel. The fields are indeed ripe for harvest, but the laborers are few. We need willing workers who are ready to seize these opportunities, to overcome these obstacles, and to bring in the harvest for the kingdom of God. From teaching Sunday school to serving by leading a small group fellowship, from helping to lead worship to visiting the sick, every act of service is a part of the harvest work. No task is too small or insignificant in the kingdom of God. Every willing worker is needed and valued.

I hope that you will consider taking a more active role in serving and working for the overall health of our Church. Pray that God will lead you in the way that He would have you to go! AND, be sure to be in attendance at worship on Sundays. I always look forward to seeing you there!

Pastor Tom



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Happy Birthday John Wehling
- 6 Happy Birthday Misty Burdett & Jeffry Dammast
- 9 Happy Birthday Janet Hemphill
- 13 Happy Birthday Karen Brannon & Larry Brammier
- 15 Happy Birthday Marv Zimmerman
- 16 Happy Birthday Carol Maddox
- 22 Happy Anniversary Tom & Janet Hemphill
- 24 Happy Birthday Jordan Dierking & Wes Finkner
- 27 Happy Birthday Ed Reed

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

Greeters: Nels & Udine Wilton

Scripture: John James & Trent Mangum

Acolytes: Youth

Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Frields

Sound/Power Point: Jeff Maddox/Jane Zimmerman/Marv Zimmerman/Alexis Dierking

Prepare Communion: Jeff Maddox

Please continue prayers for the following church family and friends: Pastor Tom & Janet Osborne, Howard & Dee Antes, John Osborne, Jan Bolejack, Jen Stoakes, Dylan & Tara Ribbles and baby Ellie, and for those unable to attend worship in person. Please call or email the office if you have someone to add to this list.



Food Collection

Food Pantry for September: Donations of boxed meal starters: mac & cheese, Ramon noodles, hamburger helper, pizza mix, etc. would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

SEPTEMBER



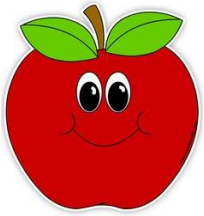
Calendar Of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship/Holy Communion 10:30	2 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	3	4 Lunch Bunch Runza 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	5	6	7
8 Rally Sunday Worship 10:30 followed by potluck lunch	9	10	11 Lunch Bunch Pizza Hut 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	12	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30	16 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	17	18 Lunch Bunch El Portal 11:30 Quilters 1pm Session 6:30pm Deacons 6:30pm	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30	23	24	25 Lunch Bunch Spring Garden 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30 Hunger Offering	30					



Summer is over and its time to sing! Join Abby and the choir for fellowship and singing each Wednesday evening at 7. (no practice on the 3rd Wednesday – Session night)

All voices are welcome! Share your talent with your church family, learn some new songs, and have fun!



It's **Rally Sunday** and it's all about kids and apples! Please join us for a potluck lunch after our Worship Service on Sunday, September 8! Share your favorite apple dish if you wish. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided in addition to tableware and drinks. Mark your calendar today!



It's never too early to purchase those treasured items for our **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes!** Right now, you'll find school supplies at great prices! Shop early and often – let's beat last year's total shoebox count! (Collection date: November 17 – Dedication: November 24)



Our annual **Sunday School Children's Program** is scheduled for Sunday, December 15. (a practice during church school will be held on December 8)



The Elders serving on Session have decided to start making an effort to focus on the future of our congregation. They began last spring visiting with Mr. Craig Schroeder of the Heartland Center for Leadership.

Soon you will receive a survey that the Elders hope you will use to help us develop a plan for our future. When you receive it, please take a few minutes to respond to the questions. Your participation in this process is very valuable and necessary.

The Elders have tried to make this survey easy to respond to, without taking a lot of your time. We cannot emphasize enough how important your response is to the success of our efforts to find our path to the future of First Presbyterian Church in Nebraska City.

If you have questions about this effort, feel free to visit with Pastor Tom since he is the moderator or the Session. Together we can be confident about moving into the next chapters of the life of our congregation.

GOD'S BLESSINGS!



We've watched Lilly Frields grow from a cute-as-a-bug little girl to a beautiful young woman.

Lilly performed in her first play at the Loft Theatre 10 years ago and performed for the last time this past month. Teresa reports that she is happy as always and busier than ever. No surprise. Have a great year, Lilly.



Baby Ellie arrived! Lots of joyous moments followed her arrival for her parents, Dylan & Tara Ribbles and most definitely for the proud new grandparents Carol and Jeff Maddox! There was lots of love and smiles when they were able to hold their precious newborn for the first time!



Fall Bazaar

The Deacons are hosting our annual **Fall Bazaar and Salad Luncheon**. There will be **Coffee and Homemade Cinnamon Rolls** all morning. There will be **Silent Auction** items to bid on, and **Bake/Craft** items for sale.

There will be a **Salad Luncheon** at 11am. We will ask for contributions from you for some of your favorite yummy salads! Thank you in advance!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 26, 8am – 1pm. The quilters are donating **another beautiful quilt** (pictured below) don't miss the opportunity to own this one!

A sign-up sheet for donations of your time and baked goods and/or salads will be on the table in the narthex on September 15 (after Rally Sunday). Start your crafting and baking! 😊

