



# 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 School begins at 9:15am – Adult SS at 9:30**

**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**

**November 28 – Happy Thanksgiving!**

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

With the political climate such as it is these days, I often hear folks talking about the separation of church and state. There are good reasons why our founding fathers and mothers wanted to keep the church separate from the state. The history of their forbears taught them that the state too often meddled in the affairs of the faith community and all too often persecuted them for their beliefs. They didn't want this to happen in America!

Today it would appear that many people are afraid that the church is unduly influencing the state! As a result, our culture in many ways has become hostile to people of faith. Many people want all references to God removed from the public domain. Obviously, I don't have space here to debate all the particulars of this controversy.

Perhaps this explains the dilemma of a little fourth grader who stood up to give a report concerning the origins of the Thanksgiving holiday. Here's how she began: *The pilgrims came here seeking freedom of you know what. When they landed, they gave thanks to you know whom. Because of them, we can worship each Sunday, you know where.*

Let us be courageous people of faith, and acknowledge to God all the blessings, comforts and freedoms that we enjoy! If nothing else, perhaps you could pray this short prayer: *Generous and loving God, we lift up our voices in praise to you, giving thanks for everything in your name. May we live as thankful people not only today, but every day of our lives.*

I encourage you to attend church services on Sundays. In times like these we need to be closer to God! Pastor Tom





## November BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 01 Happy Birthday Chad Godsey
- 01 Happy Anniversary Brent and Michelle Shanholtz
- 02 Happy Birthday Jean Dammast
- 05 Happy Birthday Steve Mangum
- 09 Happy Birthday Foy Thayer
- 10 Happy Birthday Julie Hopp, Brent Shanholtz & Sue LaGrand
- 11 Happy Birthday Kurt Curtis
- 12 Happy Birthday Trenton Reese
- 23 Happy Anniversary Dave & Kate Patton

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: Rose DeKock

Scripture: Ken Zaroban

Acolytes: Youth

Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fields

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

Prepare Communion: Nels Willton

**Please continue prayers** for the following church family and friends: Pastor Tom & Janet Osborne, Howard & Dee Antes, Jan Bolejack, Jen Stoakes, Edith Simmerman 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 Pantry for November: Donations for the Thanksgiving boxes would be greatly appreciated. Stuffing, boxed or packaged Mashed Potatoes Canned Green beans, Corn, Sweet Potatoes (yams) and/or Cranberries. Thank you for your continued support.

Hunger Offering is always a show of generosity. Thanks to all for sharing your donations to the Food Pantry, through our monthly Hunger Offering and food donations.



# Calendar Of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Sunday School 9:15 Adults SS 9:30 10:30 Worship & Communion <b>Thanksgiving Potluck</b>	4 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	5	6 Lunch Bunch Arby's 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	7	8	9
10 Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30	11	12	13 Lunch Bunch Taco John's 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	14	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30	18 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	19	20 Lunch Bunch Hong Kong 11:30am Quilters 1pm Session 6:30pm Deacons 6:30pm	21	22	23
24 Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30 Hunger Offering	25	26	27 Lunch Bunch Valentino's 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	28 <b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>		

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes is in full swing!  
 Let's beat last year's total shoebox count!  
 Collection date: November 17 – Dedication: November 24



# Fall Bazaar



We sold the center-pieces right off the tables! The gift boxes were wonderful and every one of them left the building with happy recipients!



Cookies, breads, trail mixes, cupcakes and more – all gone! Gertrude and Bev watched over the money at the end of day – time to rest! Receipts totaled almost \$2000. The funds will be used for several mission projects of the Board of Deacons. They offer a huge **thank you** to everyone that served, quilted, baked, crafted, donated, shopped, washed dishes, set up and took down ---all for this great, fun, and successful bazaar.





## LIFE'S LITTLE LESSONS



Pastor Tom's Life Little Lessons continue to inspire all of us – of all ages. In October, he had us REMEMBER Christ (Worldwide Communion) and shared remembrances through smells (several scented stickers were involved) Then he had a lesson on Ambition. Try picking up M&Ms with chop sticks! Ambition and a bit of patience! Then came the lesson on FAITH. Preston donned a mask and was led around a chair by voice command. It was fun watching that action and Preston handled the situation with grace and FAITH!



It is go good to have the choir singing in church again! Thank you, Abby and the choir members, for sharing your time, talents and love of music with us. ❤️

**Lilly Fields** was honored at Wesleyan University last month with the *Platinum Prairie Wolf* award, which is given to ten seniors at Nebraska Wesleyan University, who are recognized for going above and beyond for the campus and community. It was such a proud day for her, her family and her friends. Congratulations, Lil! She was featured on the Saxophone 🎷 for Jazz band, played Clarinet in the symphonic band and sang in the choir. Lilly will be heading off to grad school to pursue a PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience. Researching how music affects Dementia, Alzheimer's and Autism.



**We would like to re-introduce you to our Church Library!** It is located down the hall in the conference room – 3<sup>rd</sup> door on the left (south) side of the hallway.

**New Additions to the Church Library:**

- |   |   |                    |
|---|---|--------------------|
| <b>God Never Blinks</b>                                       | 50 Lessons for Life's Little Detours  | Regina Brett       |
| <b>When Strivings Cease</b>                                   | Replacing the Gospel of Self-Improvement with the Gospel of Life-Transforming Grace | Ruth Chou Simons   |
| <b>Walking the Bible</b>                                      | A Journey by Land Through the Five Books of Moses                                   | Bruce Feiler       |
| <b>Hearts of Fire - The Voice of the Martyrs</b>              | Eight Women in the Underground Church and Their Stories of Costly Faith             |                    |
| <b>Becoming More Than a Good Bible Study Girl</b>             |   | Lysa Terkeurst     |
| <b>Beyond Our Selves</b>                                      |   | Catherine Marshall |
| <b>The Student Bible Dictionary</b>                           |   | Karen Dockrey      |
| <b>Jesus – The God Who Knows Your Name</b>                    |   | Max Lucado         |
| <b>A Vocabulary of Faith Amazing Grace</b>                    |   | Kathleen Norris    |
| <b>All Cracked Up – Experiencing God In the Broken Places</b> |   | Patsy Clairmont    |

**You Don't Have to Take It Anymore, Because You are DRESSED TO KILL**

Rick Renner

A Biblical Approach to Spiritual Warfare and Armor

**The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak**

Shannon Bream

**I'll Start Again Monday**

Lysa Terkeurst

**The Young Messiah** (originally published as Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt)

Anne Rice

**Speaking the Truth in Love - How to Be An Assertive Christian**

Ruth N. Koch

**Living the Lord's Prayer**

David Timms

**Jonah and the Worm** (Children's Book)

Jill Briscoe

**Bibles:** Couples' Devotional Bible, King James Version – Giant Print, King James Version – Large Print

Gertrude Ettleman donated the following series of books. These volumes from Guideposts, are based on the books of the Bible and embellished by the author's rich imagination and faithful attention to biblical fact:

**Abigail** - the free-spirited and beautiful wife of King David

**Zipporah** - hesitant wife of Moses and **Huldah**, her faith and loyalty resulted in the reign of one of Israel's greatest kings – Josiah

**Hannah** – her faith is tested against the backdrop of Israel, a nation mired in profanation.

**Naomi** – her pride had led her far from God. Could she find him again?

**Deborah** – Israel's first prophetess and judge – a woman whose calling shattered cultural norms and whose leadership exalted her nation.

**Martha and Mary of Bethany** – changed by Christ. A rare glimpse into the lives of two of the women best known by Bible readers.

**The Samaritan Woman** – The vivid story of Susanna, the beautiful Samaritan woman who met Jesus at Jacob's well – a startling encounter that changed her life.

**Women of the Ark** - In the last days before the flood, the women of Noah's family come to know themselves and their God as never before.

**Phoebe** – Paul's messenger to the church at Rome

**Hagar** – a moving biblical narrative based on the Genesis account of Abraham the patriarch, transformed into a story that brings to life the lives and world of some of the Bible's most fascinating personalities.

**Ruth** – We see Ruth leaving her native land, without reluctance or regret, yet with a struggle of faith as she abandons her old religion to accept the God of the Israelites, Jehovah.

**Priscilla & Aguilá** – This touching story recounts the enduring love of Priscilla's marriage to Aguilá, their conversion to Christianity and encounter with the Apostle Paul.

**Lydia** – a successful business woman and the seller of purple in Acts 16:14

**Miriam** – retells the profoundly moving story of Moses' older sister.