



The Builder

January

2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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 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**

Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, January 26

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

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THE BUZZARD, THE BAT, THE BEE AND PEOPLE



THE BUZZARD: If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10- to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.



THE BAT: The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.



THE BUMBLEBEE: a bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.



PEOPLE: in many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up! Sorrow looks back, Worry looks around, but Faith looks up!

In this New Year we should live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly and trust in our Creator. And most importantly – use your faith to look up!



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!

Happy Birthday in January!

- 8 Lilly Friedls
- 11 John James
- 14 Eunice Fass
- 14 Mariah Koeneke
- 15 Stephanie Shrader
- 16 Linda Frerichs
- 19 Jeff Maddox
- 20 Misty Burdett
- 25 Shannon Wehling
- 26 Kate Patton
- 28 Abby Reese
- 30 Jerry Higgins

If you have additions or corrections to the Birthday and Anniversariy calendar, please don't hesitate to let Jane know! Please call the office or email your information to: secretary@firstpresnc.org.



Please have you annual reports to Jane in the office by Sunday January 12.....thank you!

*Following church
Sunday, January 26
11:30 a.m.*

Serving this month:

Organist: Abby Reese

Greeters: Randy & JoAnn Martens

Scripture: JoAnn Martens

Acolytes: Youth

Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fieldts

Sound/Power Point: Alexis Dierking

Prepare Communion: Abby Reese

Coffee Fellowship: Deacons

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



Congratulations, Rose!

Let the crafting and sewing begin!



January Calendar Of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4
5 2nd Sunday of Christmas Sunday School 9:15 Adults SS 9:30 10:30 Worship, Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship	6 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	7	8 Lunch Bunch El Portal 11:30 Quilters 1pm	9	10	11
12 3rd Sunday of Christmas Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30	13	14	15 Lunch Bunch Spring Garden 11:30am Quilters 1pm Session 6:30pm Deacons 6:30pm	16	17	18
19 4th Sunday of Christmas Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30 Annual Reports available	20 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	21	22 Lunch Bunch Downtowner 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	23	24	25
26 5th Sunday of Christmas Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30 Hunger Offering Annual Congregational Meeting	27	28	29 Lunch Bunch Little Ted's 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	30	31	

December 2024 held many special moments at First Presbyterian Church. Decorating the sanctuary, Pastor Tom's sermon series "Light of Grace", choir anthems, lighting the Advent candles by our church families, Life's Little Lessons and Hunger Offerings. We are blessed beyond measure.



Julie Hopp provided us with pulpit supply on the last Sunday of the year. She shared with us the lesson on the young boy Jesus, in her message 'A Mother's Treasure'. Pastor Tom and Janet are enjoying a few days of well-deserved vacation at this, the last week of 2024. Thank you to everyone that helped make 2024 a good year at First Presbyterian Church. We wish everyone a safe and happy New Year!.

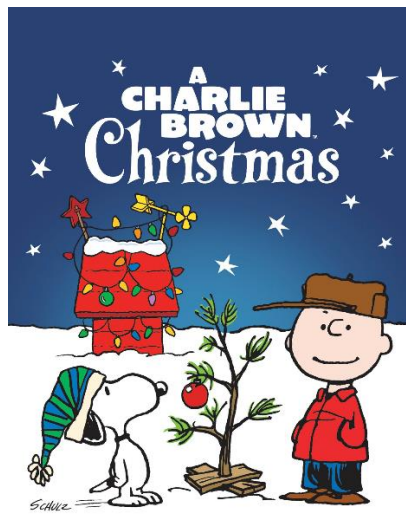


A CHARLIE BROWN INSPIRED CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!



The kids 'skated' their way through the sanctuary and down the aisle to the stage while Abby played, and the congregation sang the familiar

"Christmastime Is Here"



Charlie Brown aka Preston thought there might be something wrong with him. It was Christmas and he wasn't happy. Linus (Landry) suggested that he talk to Lucy (Cassidy) ...get some 'professional' advice. Lucy suggested getting involved with the Christmas program! Hmmm....would that help?!

'Snoopy' walked by with a box of decorations and Charlie followed. Snoopy handed him a piece of paper that read about a contest involving decorating and money. Charlie's dog has gone commercial! Oh no! On to the play....



Everyone is dancing. Stop the music! We need the proper mood...not so commercial! First, we need a Christmas tree! Charlie Brown and Linus head for the tree lot. The little tree doesn't exactly scream 'modern spirit'. They return with the tree and everyone laughs. Charlie Brown just wants to know what Christmas is all about and Linus is about to tell him. Straight from the Bible, Linus reads the story of Christ's birth and then Charlie Brown 'gets' it.



Charlie Brown takes the little tree to Snoopy's doghouse. He knows that he can decorate it and make it better. After a slight problem, the others join him, surround and tree and make it quite presentable!

All is well and everyone joins in with the Krystal Bells and voices, singing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" in celebration of the true meaning of Christmas!

Merry Christmas to All!





Congratulations, Nick!

Nick graduated from Creighton University with a Master's Degree in Physician Assistant Studies, on December 12, 2024. Nick passed his boards and is in the process of obtaining his licensure. He has accepted a job as a surgical physician assistant at Great Plains Health in North Platte, Nebraska. His plans are to move to North Platte in January, with a starting date in February or March depending on licensure and certifications. He is very excited to continue his career as a physician's assistant and looks forward to seeing patients and providing health care to those in need. Nick is the son of Jeff and Carol Maddox. Congratulations to all of you!



Congratulations, Nate, Madison and Sedona Zaroban! A book signing was held recently for Dr. Nathaniel Zaroban's book *A World Awaits Echo*. Nate is the son of Ken and Carla Zaroban. The book, dedicated to his daughter Sedona, is a story that encourages children to dream big and to not let anyone impose limits upon them, including themselves. Sedona and the story, was inspired by Nate and Madison's trip to Sedona Arizona. It is a wonderful, picturesque book. Creative Design of the book is by Nate's uncle Todd Zaroban. If you'd like to look through the book, stop in the office. Jane will share our copy with you.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is always a special evening for Christians around the world. Family and friends gather on this special evening to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. First Presbyterian Church celebrates with Holy Scripture, message, and music...all reminders of God's immense love and sacrifice for all of us.