



The Builder

February

2025

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**

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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LOVING LIKE JESUS

“Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn’t love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.”
Ephesians 5:2 (MSG)

You and I should want to love like Jesus.

Why? Because it’s the best way to live. When we love like Jesus, we’re lifted outside ourselves. We shed self-interest — with our spouse, our kids, friends, everyone. His brand of love sees beyond the normal range of human vision — over walls of resentment and barriers of betrayal. When we love like Jesus, we rise above petty demands and snobbish entitlement. We loosen our tightfisted anxiety and relax in a surplus of benevolence.

Most of all, the Jesus model of love inspires us in following the best way to live, *“the most excellent way”* (1 Corinthians 12:31b, NIV). I want to love like that.

But can anyone *really* love like Jesus? After all, He raised the bar of love to extraordinary heights. *Love your enemies? Walk the extra mile? Turn the other cheek? Seriously?* This is love beyond reason, isn’t it?

Of course. And that’s the point.

To love like Jesus, we need to think and feel. We need reason and emotion. Both head and heart, working together. It’s the only way to bring perfect love into our imperfect lives.

Here’s the truth: When you open your heart, love changes your mind. Let that sentence soak in. Your mind can do an about-face and be transformed when it receives a divine impulse from your heart. You’ll experience a revolution in your thinking when you allow your heart to enter the conversation. It’s what Paul was getting at when he said, *“You’ll be changed from the inside out”* (Romans 12:1b, MSG).

Loving like Jesus is more obtainable than you might imagine. His teaching and example reveal at least five distinct and practical qualities of His love:

If you want to love like Jesus, you've got to ...

1. become more *mindful* — less detached;
2. become more *approachable* — less exclusive;
3. become more *graceful* — less judgmental;
4. become more *bold* — less fearful;
5. become more *self-giving* — less self-absorbed.

Is this an exhaustive list of how Jesus loved? Of course not. But it's a way to get an earthly handle on this heavenly ideal of love. Time and again, Jesus demonstrated these five qualities and spoke about them, not as unreachable ideals. These are doable.

The key verse that I began with, reminds us: *“Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that”* (Ephesians 5:2).



<p>Happy Birthday in February!</p> <p>6 Bill Dammast 10 Mike James 10 Kathy Nelson 13 Bryan Frields 14 Brent Shanholtz 18 Tom Hemphill 20 Doris Martin 20 Bunny Shanholtz 25 Jack Hobbie 26 Tom Cole</p>	<p>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!</p> <p>If you have additions or corrections to the Birthday and Anniversary calendar, please don't hesitate to let Jane know! Please call the office or email your information to: secretary@firstpresnc.org.</p>
	<p>Serving this month: Organist: Abby Greeter: Stephanie Scripture: Preston and Abby Acolytes: Youth Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Sound/Power Point: Kris, & Alexis Prepare Communion: Abby Coffee Fellowship: Kris</p>



February Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sunday School 9:15 Adults SS 9:30 10:30 Worship & Holy Communion Installation of Officers and Coffee Fellowship 4 th Sunday after Epiphany	3 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	4	5 Lunch Bunch Little Ted's 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	6	7	8
9 Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30 Ribbles baptism 5 th Sunday after Epiphany	10	11	12 Lunch Bunch Keeping Room 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	13	14	15
16 Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30 Worship 10:30 6 th Sunday after Epiphany	17 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	18	19 Lunch Bunch Subway 11:30 Quilters 1pm Session 6:30pm Deacons 6:30pm	20	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30 Hunger Offering 7 th Sunday after Epiphany	24	25	26 Lunch Bunch Arby's 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	27	28	

Please continue prayers for the following church family and friends: Pastor Tom & Janet Osborne, Jan Bolejack, Kathy Nelson, Edith Simmerman, Teresa Frields, Carl Urwin, and for those unable to attend worship in person. Please call or email the office if you have someone to add to this list.



You make a difference, Tom Weddle!

Congratulations, Tom on your recognition and award for many years of dedicated service to the Nebraska City School Foundation. Ruth reports that they are still trying to figure out how long he's been there, but he definitely cares about kids and Nebraska City!



Photo Credit: Cal Fire

GIVE NOW
Support the PC(USA)'s response to the California wildfires



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**



The aftermath of both Hurricane Helene and the California wildfires are beyond belief.

These pictures were obtained from [Facebook.com/PDAcares](https://www.facebook.com/PDAcares)



Congratulations, Tarryn Godsey!

The KMAland Senior Spotlight is into Southeast Nebraska for a conversation with Pioneers senior Tarryn Godsey. Godsey, a basketball standout during the course of her prep career, is seeing some payoff of their recent rebuilding seasons.

“I feel like we’ve been pretty good this year,” Godsey told KMA Sports. “We’ve had ups and downs as most teams do, but we’re excited to have the record that we already do.”

Godsey, who also starred for the Nebraska City softball team this past fall and was a state qualifier in the discus throw last season, earned All-KMAland Nebraska Second Team honors last year in basketball. This season, she was a bit slowed early due to an injury.

“I ended up spraining my ankle,” Godsey said. “I’ve kind of been working on getting back into full health, but I’ve been focusing on assisting my teammates rather than just focusing on myself. That way, we all can succeed, and so far it’s been working.”

In previous seasons, Godsey has been the main focus of the Pioneers offense, averaging 10.3 points while also posting 9.3 rebounds and 4.5 blocks per game as a junior. This year, she’s had some help around her, including the emergence of sophomore Kensie Briley.

“It’s definitely been different from what I’ve had to do in the past,” Godsey said. “Whereas having to be one of the only scorers, now having everybody able to score and want to score has been an amazing upgrade.”

As for the team, the Pioneers are 6-9 after just five wins in total all of last season.

“Coming from where we were two years ago, we had eight girls on our team and were 3-20,” Godsey said. “It’s been a pretty good feeling (to win more). There have been many ones where we’ve been short, but I think a lot of them we’ll see later on in the year and think we’ll definitely be able to get them.”

Even while the team has struggled over the years, Godsey has caught the eye of college coaches. Recently, she committed to play at the next level with Bellevue University. “I have an older sister that goes there,” Godsey said. She reached out to (the coach) to get his contact. And from there, we were already going to basketball games because she has friends on the team. So, talking to him after the game, and I played on the assistant coach’s summer team, I was able to grow a bond with them.

Along with joining the basketball team, Godsey found a solid fit with the school. “I really love the location of it, coming from a small town,” Godsey said. “I think it’d be nice for me to be able to get a feel of a bigger city for a little bit and not be around as many people that I already know. I really love the campus and the dorms and the coaches.” Borrowed from KMAland.com....2025 Senior Spotlight: Tarryn Godsey, Nebraska City