



The Builder



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**

Join us for our **Ash Wednesday Worship** – March 5, 6:30pm

Pastor Tom's Lenten series *In the Thick of It*, will begin Sunday March 9

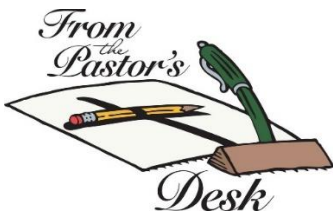
Keep in touch.....

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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Preparing Our Hearts During LENT

When Lent crosses your mind, you might immediately think of fasting. As Easter approaches, you might hear someone saying, “I’m giving up chocolate for Lent” or “I’m fasting from alcohol.” But have you ever wondered why people celebrate Lent and what’s the purpose of fasting during this time? Perhaps I can help you unravel the meaning behind Lent and the significance of fasting. Lent marks a special six-week period in the Church’s calendar, starting with Ash Wednesday and concluding on Holy Saturday.

During the forty days of Lent (excluding Sundays), worshippers remember Jesus’ fasting in the wilderness as mentioned in Matthew chapter 4. Lent is a time for fasting, self-reflection, repentance, and preparation for the joyous celebration of Jesus’ resurrection on Easter.

Fasting during the days leading up to Easter is a long-standing practice, dating back to the early church. Fasting during Lent symbolizes the 40 days of Jesus’s fasting in the wilderness. Participants may choose to fast every day or practice alternate-day fasting. However, before the fasting begins, worshippers often relish in a grand feast the day before —a moment of indulgence before the fasting period of self-discipline. This day is commonly referred to as Mardi Gras or “Fat Tuesday.”

While the Lent tradition involves abstaining from meals or specific food groups, today we see people getting creative with their fasts. Whether it’s refraining from sweet treats, alcohol, social media, cussing, or television, the purpose remains the same. Fasting eliminates distractions and channels one’s heart entirely toward God.

It’s important to remember that Jesus prioritizes the heart. In Matthew 6:16-18, Jesus instructs, *“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”*

The purpose of fasting is not to restrict calories or lose weight. Fasting serves as a way to cleanse our hearts of idolatry and redirect our lives toward a deeper focus on God. We all need to do that during this season of LENT.

Mark Your Calendar!

Often called the Day of Ashes, **Ash Wednesday** starts Lent by focusing the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession. This happens during an Ash Wednesday service. This year Ash Wednesday is on March 5th. We will have an Ash Wednesday Service that day at 6:30pm. Come and join us as we begin our trip through LENT, leading up to Holy Week and the celebration of Easter Day.

The **LENTEN Season** includes Sundays - March 9, 16, 23 and 30, and April 6. **Palm Sunday** is the beginning of **Holy Week** on April 13 and **Easter Sunday** is on April 20.

This year Pastor Osborne will share with us....

LENTEN SERMON SERIES: *IN THE THICK OF IT*

March 9 *In the Thick of Temptation*

March 30 *In the Thick of Humiliation*

March 16 *In the Thick of Obsession*

April 6 *In the Thick of Deceit*

March 23 *In the Thick of Blindness*



Palm Sunday Cantata Preparations Begin

The Humboldt Area Community Chorus will begin rehearsals for the annual Palm Sunday Cantata, held each year in Humboldt. If you enjoy singing, we invite you to join us!

Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, March 2nd, at the Humboldt Methodist Church, at 6:30 pm.

The Cantata will be presented on Palm Sunday, April 13th at 3:00pm at the Methodist Church in Humboldt.

A new feature this year will be the addition of a children's choir. The children come from the elementary school at HTRS public schools. They are directed by Miss Katie Umland. The children will sing with the adult chorus and will also present one song by themselves.

The chorus is directed by Rev. Tom Osborne and the accompanist is Chad Rinnie, Pawnee City.

The Humboldt Ministerial Association has sponsored this event for many years. The Richardson County Visitors Committee provides funding for the event.



Happy Birthday in March!

- 10 Ken Zaroban
- 15 Tarryn Godsey
- 24 Cheryl Hauptman
- 28 Carol Hammond

Happy Anniversary Brent and Bunny Shanholtz March 28

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 Anniversary 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 Acolytes: Youth
Greeter and Scripture: Helen Lundak
Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fields
Sound/Power Point: Jayne James and Alexis Dierking
Prepare Communion: Worship Committee
Coffee Fellowship: Marv & Jane Zimmerman

Please continue prayers for the following church family and friends: Pastor Tom & Janet Osborne, Jan Bolejack, Jan Marion, Teresa Fields, Carissa Curtis, Jen Stoakes, and for those unable to attend worship in person. Please call or email the office if you have someone to add to this list.

Rummage Sale!!!

Where does your mind go when you read the words Rummage Sale??? We haven't held a sale for a few years. **IF** we were to hold one this spring, do you have items to contribute to it?

What project would you like to see the proceeds used for? Would you be interested in helping with a rummage sale? What items should we accept or decline?

Our Session has been getting bids for new blinds for the Sunday school wing and the chapel. Would that be a project to use as a goal for the receipts from this sale?

I'm leaning towards the first weekend in May if we decide to go forward with a rummage sale. Please let me know what you think.

Thanks! Jane Zimmerman



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 Coffee Fellowship Transfiguration of the Lord	3 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	4	5 Lunch Bunch Taco John's 11:30 Quilters 1pm Ash Wednesday Worship 6:30pm followed by Choir practice	6	7	8
9 Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30 Ribble baptism 1 st Sunday in Lent	10	11	12 Lunch Bunch Hong Kong 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	13	14	15
16 Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30 Worship 10:30 2 nd Sunday in Lent	17 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5	18	19 Lunch Bunch Valentino's 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 3 rd Sunday in Lent	24	25	26 Lunch Bunch Taco Bell 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	27	28	29
30 Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30 Hunger Offering 4 th Sunday in Lent	31					



Blessed February Baptism of Ellie Ribble!



Left: Mom Tara, Dad Dylan & Ellie w/Pastor Tom, Center: with Dylan's parents and Right: with Tara's parents



A truly blessed day for Dylan, Tara, Ellie, the Ribble family and the Maddox family.

Below: Last month, the *Pink Ladies* honored us with their voices, their wonderful gift of music.

