



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 classes – Youth 9:15, Adults 9:30am

The Sacrament of Holy Communion and Coffee Fellowship - 1st Sunday of each month

Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner – Sunday November 9

Congregational Meeting – Sunday November 23

Decorate the Sanctuary – Sunday November 29

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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A NOTE FROM PASTOR TOM.....

The month for Thanksgiving is here. Let me give you some suggestions about what to give thanks for. I don't know about you, but for me giving thanks for new things or for things that have recently changed takes up most of my gratitude time. The new things jump out at us. They vie for our attention. The things that have always been there remain in the background, quietly making our lives comfortable or joyful or meaningful. Because the things that have always been don't call attention to themselves, we fail to give thanks to God for them as often as we should. continued.....

I encourage you to think of something that you can't remember doing without: it can be as basic as every breath you take, or your child's earnest affection. It can be the simple fact that you've always had clean clothes in your drawers, or a hot meal on the table. Think of something you've never given thanks for because it has silently endured throughout your life, never calling attention to itself and never failing to make your life better. Give thanks to God for this something-that-has-always-been.

Now let's think about the opposite – thanking God for things that have never been. This type of gratitude is possibly even more difficult than the previous kind because it involves stepping into other people's shoes in order to appreciate your gifts and blessings.

Perhaps you'll give thanks because diseases that have affected people all over the world for hundreds of years won't affect you because you were inoculated as a baby. Perhaps you'll give thanks because you've never known a time when your stomach was so empty for so long that you forgot how to be hungry. Perhaps you'll give thanks because every time you slept outside in your life, you did so because you chose to – and you always had s'mores as the campfire died down.

Sometimes, blessings are hidden within moments of our past that sure didn't seem like blessings at the time. When we were living through those times, we never expected to give thanks for them one day. But what we forget is that God doesn't comprehend our lives in the limited linear fashion that we do. God, I think, comprehends our lives as a whole – not as a series of events. We view our lives as though flipping through the pages of a magazine, one to the next. God sees our lives as collages, in which all the pages are pasted together.

So, why not give thanks for something in your past that didn't seem like a cause for gratitude at the time. Reflect on how this event fits into the overarching narrative of your life. What did you learn from it? How did God support you as you went through it? What do you know now that God knew then?

Finally, I urge you to attend church. Your attendance at church services is a ready-made way to give thanks to God.

When we think about the turmoil that living in this world today brings, we should be thankful that God loves us and has provided a Savior for us.

As you experience the presence of Christ in worship, offer your thanksgivings back to God. And in the exchange, know that God is always and forever giving thanks for you.



One Sunday in October we sang Happy Birthday, and celebrated milestone birthdays with Tony Reese, Howard Antes and Bill Sweeney!



Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Chad Godsey**
- 1 Brent & Michelle Shanholtz**
- 2 Jean Dammast**
- 5 Steve Mangum**
- 9 Foy Thayer**
- 10 Brent Shanholtz**
- 10 Julie Hopp**
- 10 Sue LeGrand**
- 11 Kurt Curtis**
- 12 Trenton Reese**
- 23 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 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 Reese Scripture: Ken Zaroban

Greeters: Kurt and Carissa Curtis

Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fields

Sound/Video:

Kristie Dierking, Trent Mangum, Preston Scott, & Marv Zimmerman

Prepare Communion: Tony Reese

Please continue prayers for the following church family and friends: Carissa Curtis, Justyn Curtis, Pastor Tom & Janet Osborne, Tom Hemphill, Bill Peterson, Teresa Fields, Doris Martin, Linda Martin, and for those unable to attend worship in person. Please call or email the office if you have someone to add to this list.



Advent Recital 2025

Sunday – December 7 – 6pm

The Choir will be participating in the annual Advent Recital this year. We are looking for additional help to make our song selection this year really stand out. If you would be able and willing to share about 10 minutes each Wednesday night the Choir practices from now until 12/03, we would love to have you join us. If we get additional help, we will plan to practice our Christmas selection during the first 10 or 15 minutes of each practice, starting at 7 p.m. This is a great chance for anyone who was ever thinking about joining the choir to come and see what we do at practice, or even if you would just like to share your talent for the advent recital, we hope you consider joining us. The advent recital is on December 7th at 6 pm. Please reach out to Abby if you have any questions about this.



Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Daylight Saving Time ends! Sunday School: Youth 9:15am Adults 9:30 10:30 Worship & Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship 21 st Sunday after Pentecost	3 Food Pantry UMC 3-5pm	4	5 Lunch Bunch Pizza Hut 11:30 Quilters 1pm No Choir practice	6	7	1 8
9 Sunday School: Youth 9:15am Adult 9:30am Worship 10:30am Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner 22 nd Sunday after Pentecost	10	11	12 Lunch Bunch El Portal 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir practice 7pm	13	14	15
16 Sunday School: Youth 9:15am Adult 9:30am Worship 10:30 23 rd Sunday after Pentecost	17 Food Pantry UMC 3-5pm Thanksgiving Boxes will be distributed	18	19Lunch Bunch Spring Garden 11:30 Quilters 1pm Deacons & Session 6:30	20	21	22
23/30 Sunday School: Youth 9:15am Adult 9:30am Worship 10:30 Congregational Meeting Christ the King Sunday	24	25	26 Lunch Bunch Gram’s 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir practice 7pm	27 Happy Thanksgiving!	28	29 Decorate for Christmas! 10am

Fall Bazaar and Salad Luncheon - 2025

What a great day it was! Perfect weather, plenty of help, so many wonderful Silent Auction items, baked goods and gift items.....and a great group of 'customers' to make the day a success!

Coffee Fellowship with homemade cinnamon rolls started the morning off deliciously. Then we had a nice turnout for the luncheon with a wonderful selection of salads!

The Deacons appreciate everyone that helped with this event – beyond measure! We raised \$1931 that day. That will support our ministry projects for another year.



THANK YOU AGAIN EVERYONE!

Bev Sweeney and Janet Osborne collected money all morning and afternoon. Teresa Fields took some great pictures! Thank you, Ladies!

Our themed tables were a hit and such a fun twist to the bazaar.

Udine Wilton, Kim Reese, Kristie Dierking, Trent Mangum and Jane Zimmerman manned the kitchen, prepared and priced cookie trays, set out salads, baked cinnamon rolls, did dishes and cleaned up the kitchen. All in a day's work and we really had a joyous day working together.







NEBRASKA CITY FOOD PANTRY

HOLIDAY SHOPPING LIST

Holiday Gift Boxes will be available for a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal to Food Pantry patrons. Donations of the following will be greatly appreciated:

2 cans of corn - 2 cans of green beans - 1 can of sweet potatoes - 1 can of cranberry sauce

1 box/package of cornbread mix - 1 box of stuffing - 1 envelope of gravy mix

1-2 envelopes of mashed potatoes

Meat, pie, whipped topping, rolls, butter, and eggs will be added by the Food Pantry.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

They say a smile is worth a thousand words. OCC shoeboxes produce a lot of smiles! Please share a few today. Pick up your preprinted boxes from church today, fill, return and the joy begins. We ask that they be filled and returned by November 16. Thank you so much for supporting this project!



Please join us for a **Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner** Sunday December 9 – after our Worship service Turkey, ham and tableware will be provided. If you are able, bring a side dish or dessert to share! A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 23. The purpose of the meeting will be to vote on the slate of officers for next year. Please attend if you are able.