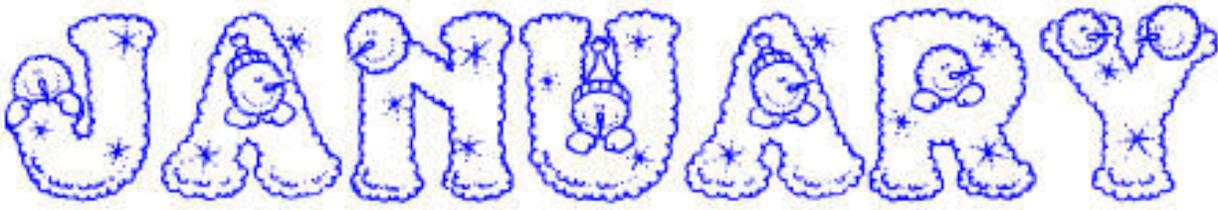




The Builder



2026

The newsletter serving the families & friends of:

First Presbyterian Church – 170 Years – 1855-2025

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

Happy New Year!

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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Happy New Year from Pastor Tom.....

New beginnings often happen at the beginning of a new year. Perhaps as we look to the New Year 2026 you are thinking: What new beginning do I need to make?

Here is a verse from the Bible about moving out of the past and into the future.

“Forget about what’s happened; don’t keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I’m about to do something brand-new. It’s bursting out! Don’t you see it? There it is! I’m making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.” (Isaiah 43:18-19)

The stories in scripture show time and time again that God offers people a *new beginning*, another chance for great things. God frees the oppressed, Jesus heals and restores, and the Holy Spirit imbues new life.

When we’re in a new situation, at the beginning of a new year, or in a new state of mind it’s natural to make resolutions. But in those resolutions are we staying true to ourselves or trying to be someone different? I hope you will think about that.

When Jesus offers someone a new beginning, he’s simply calling them to be themselves, their best selves.

Sometimes new beginnings are chances to take a look at the things we’re holding onto. Saint Ignatius speaks of so-called “disordered attachments”, things we’re attached to that are not helpful to growing closer to God . We need to get rid of those things. I hope you will think about that.

I believe it’s important to consider our relationship with God. We know that the Lord who meets us wherever we are. And God, most importantly, is never left behind. God moves with us from the present moment into the future, into new and hopeful beginnings.

The verse from Isaiah says that God is going to do something “brand-new”. What brand new thing is God doing for you in your life now? I hope you will think about that.

Let us start our new beginning with these thoughts attributed to St Teresa of Avila:

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.



Birthdays

- 1 Liz James
- 4 Bev Sweeney
- 8 Lilli Frields
- 11 John James
- 14 Eunice Fass
- 15 Stephanie Shrader
- 19 Jeff maddox
- 20 Misty Burdett
- 25 Shannon Wehling
- 26 Kate Patton
- 28 Abby Reese
- 30 Jerry Higgins

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 Anniversariy 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: Tony Reese

Greeters: Kim Reese and Doris Martin

Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fields

Sound/Video:

Jane & Marv Zimmerman, Trent Mangum, & Preston Scott

Prepare Communion: Sue LeGrand

Coffee Fellowship: TBA

Please continue prayers for the following church family and friends:

Larry Miller, Cassidy James, Carissa Curtis, Pastor Tom & Janet Osborne, Doris & Linda Martin, Larry & Marilyn Brammier, and for those unable to attend worship in person. Please call or email the office if you have someone to add to this list.



NEBRASKA CITY FOOD PANTRY - January donations of hot beverages would be greatly appreciated: coffee, tea, cocoa, etc.



From Homestead Presbytery:

Please welcome Julie Hopp from First Presbyterian Church - Nebraska City as our 2026 Presbytery moderator.

Congratulations, Julie! May God bless you and your work in this new position!



Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3
4 Sunday School: Youth 9:15am Adults 9:30 10:30 Worship & Holy Communion 2 nd Sunday of Christmas	5 Food Pantry UMC 3-5pm	6	7 Lunch Bunch Keeping Room 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir practice 7pm	8	9	10
11 Sunday School: Youth 9:15am Adult 9:30am Worship 10:30 3 rd Sunday of Christmas	12 Committee reports due for annual report	13	14 Lunch Bunch Subway 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir practice 7pm	15	16	17
18 Sunday School: Youth 9:15am Adult 9:30am Worship 10:30 Annual Reports available 4 th Sunday of Christmas	19 Food Pantry UMC 3-5pm	20	21 Lunch Bunch Arby's 11:30 Quilters 1pm Deacons & Session 6:30	22	23	24
25 Sunday School: Youth 9:15am Adult 9:30am Worship 10:30 Congregational Meeting 5 th Sunday of Christmas	26	27	28 Lunch Bunch Taco John's 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir practice 7pm	29	30	31



We have beautiful decorations throughout the sanctuary this year.

Memorials were given by the Hemphill family in memory of Janet to make the project possible. Vickie Rhoades dba *Wreathplus* handcrafted all the wreaths and swags for us using purple, white and silver décor. We also decorated the tree to match.



The bells rang out to one of our favorite Christmas hymns – *O Little Town of Bethlehem!*



The choir and soloists practiced all month to share their wonderful music with us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2025



It is always such a joy when our children perform for the congregation at Christmas time and this year did not disappoint. The kids sang, played instruments and read scripture – all without a hitch. Thank you so much, Carla and Kristie for providing yet another fun program and to the parents and grandparents for bringing the children to their practices! Thank you also, adult Sunday school class for providing coffee and refreshments after the program. All in all, it was a very yummy morning!

ADVENT AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN – FRIENDS, FAMILY, CANDLES, SCRIPTURE, JOY, HOPE, LOVE, PEACE, SMILES, AND MESSAGES OF THE SEASON:



And waterfalls in Queenstown, New Zealand!

Merry Christmas, Martens family!