



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

Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck Dinner – Sunday February 1
Ash Wednesday is February 18 – please join us for 6:30pm Worship Service

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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February thoughts from Pastor Tom.....

Have you ever wondered what February really stands for? This short month packs a punch with its unique symbols and meanings that go beyond just Valentine's Day. From the chill of winter to the promise of spring, February is a time of transition and reflection. This month symbolizes the shift from winter to early spring, encapsulating themes of hope and renewal with lengthening days and rising temperatures.

February's a month that invites you to embrace change and celebrate love in all its forms. Whether you're enjoying the warmth of relationships or looking forward to the first signs of spring, there's something special about this time of year.

The reason why Valentine's Day is celebrated is quite straightforward: it exists to honor genuine human connection and emotional honesty. In modern life, filled with constant demands and distractions, many relationships receive less attention than they deserve. The day acts as a regular reminder to give proper importance to the people who matter whether partners, family members, close friends, or oneself.

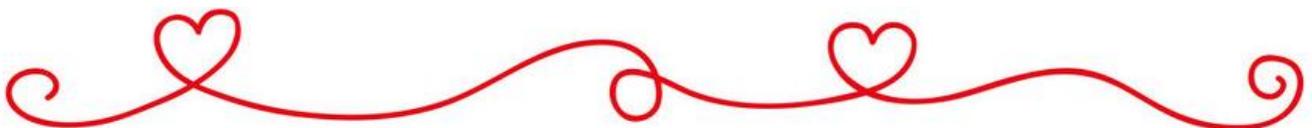
It also demonstrates that small, thoughtful actions like a sincere message, a moment of real listening, or simply spending time together often carry more weight than expensive presents.

As you reflect on the cultural richness and traditions that February brings, remember to appreciate the beauty of transformation happening all around you. From the playful spirit of Groundhog Day to the heartfelt connections celebrated on Valentine's Day, February encourages you to find joy and hope in the little moments.

I encourage you to remember Romans 15:13: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

I encourage you to see each month, including February, as an opportunity to draw closer to God and to live out His teachings in your daily life.

The greatest source of love, joy and hope is found by trusting in the Lord our God!





- 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

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: Kristie Dierking
 Greeters: Helen Lundak & Rose DeKock
 Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Frields
 Sound/Video: Jayne James and Preston Scott
 Prepare Communion: Tony Reese and Carol Hammond
 Potluck Dinner following the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday February 1

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.



Stephanie Shrader just returned home from a volunteer mission trip to Mexico. She joined the crew from First Evangelical Lutheran church to build a home for a very grateful family. The group was treated as family by the local residents and fed some great Hispanic food. This was Stephanie's second trip with the group.



Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School: Youth 9:15am Adults 9:30 10:30 Worship & Holy Communion Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner 11:30 4 th Sunday after Epiphany	2 Food Pantry UMC 3-5pm	3	4 Lunch Bunch Hong Kong 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir practice 7pm	5	6	7
8 Sunday School: Youth 9:15am Adult 9:30am Worship 10:30 5 th Sunday after Epiphany	9	10	11 Lunch Bunch Valentino's 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir practice 7pm	12	13	14
15 Sunday School: Youth 9:15am Adult 9:30am Worship 10:30 Transformation of the Lord Sunday	16 Food Pantry UMC 3-5pm	17	18 Ash Wednesday Worship Service 6:30pm Lunch Bunch Taco Bell 11:30 Quilters 1pm Deacons & Session 7:15	19	20	21
22 Sunday School: Youth 9:15am Adult 9:30am Worship 10:30 Palm Sunday cantata practice in Humboldt 6:30pm 1 st Sunday in Lent	23	24	25 Lunch Bunch Runza 1:30 Quilters 1pm Choir practice 7pm	26	27	28

Nebraska City Food Pantry in February: donations of chili, soup, and/or crackers will warm the soul and body this month! Thanks in advance! 😊

The first Saturday after Epiphany, January 10, found us at the church UN decorating our sanctuary. Thanks to a great group of volunteers, we completed the job in a short time.



Sunday, January 11 - Installation of 2026 Officers, and Ordination of Elder Carol Hammond.



Rev. Mary Beth Tuttle provided pulpit supply on Sunday January 18. Pastor Tom moderated the Annual Congregational Meeting in Pawnee City that morning. Pastor Mary Beth resides in Auburn.

Happy Birthday, Bev Sweeney!

Sunday, January 4, 2026 - a great time of fellowship with friends and family!



Friends and family from Nebraska City and the surrounding area, and from New York to Arizona..... we arrived to celebrate Bev's birthday! What a blessing to have the party at First Presbyterian and be there to take part in the celebration!





Mark Your Calendar for Ash Wednesday....

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 February 18. We will have an Ash Wednesday Service that evening at 6:30pm.



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 – February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and **Palm Sunday on March 29**. **Holy Week continues with Easter Sunday** on April 5.



Palm Sunday Cantata celebrates its 50th year!

The Humboldt Area Community Chorus will begin rehearsals for the 50th annual Palm Sunday Cantata, held each year in Humboldt. If you enjoy singing, we invite you to join us!

Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, February 22, at the Humboldt Methodist Church, at 6:30 pm. The Cantata will be presented on Palm Sunday, March 29, 3:00pm, at the Methodist Church in Humboldt.

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 Humboldt Foundation is providing the funding for the event this year.