



# The Builder



## 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

Worship with us on **Palm Sunday Worship** – March 29

Worship with us on **Maundy Thursday** – April 2 – 7pm

Worship with us on **Easter Sunday Worship** – April 5 – 10:30am

Join us for **Easter Breakfast** – April 5 – 8:30 – 9:30am

**Sunday Worship services are posted on our Facebook page:**

**First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City Facebook**

Keep in touch.....

**Pastor Tom:** Email: [presbypastortom@yahoo.com](mailto:presbypastortom@yahoo.com) Phone: 402-274-8199

**Church Office:** Hours: 9-2:30, Monday – Thursday Phone: 402-873-5306, Email: [secretary@firstpresnc.org](mailto:secretary@firstpresnc.org)

**Church Website:** [www.firstpresnc.org](http://www.firstpresnc.org) **Homestead Presbytery website:** [www.homesteadpres.org](http://www.homesteadpres.org)

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March thoughts from Pastor Tom.....

During this season of LENT, I am sharing a series of messages under the theme of THE JOURNEY TO THE CROSS. This is my way of reminding us of all that we need to be preparing for Easter and it's a Journey Towards Renewal. You might say, "Pastor what do you mean by that?"

Lent is not just a journey of preparation for our hearts. It's a transformative journey that equips us to appreciate celebrating EASTER. It shows us that genuine renewal includes intentional reflection, acts of service, and a deeper commitment to faith. As we step into this season, we should continue to open our hearts to transformation through prayer and repentance and reading our Bibles.

At its core, LENT is a time for us to reevaluate our lives, deepen our faith, and reconnect with our personal values. One powerful practice that can enhance our reflections is setting personal intentions.

What are intentions? Intentions are the driving force behind our actions. Our values, aspirations, and deep-seated desires root them. Unlike goals, which are outcome-oriented, intentions focus on the attitudes and mindset we wish to cultivate.

I want to suggest some personal intentions that we ought to focus on as we approach EASTER. I hope you choose to let your attitude guide you to:

- Spend more time in prayer

- Read my Bible more

- Attend church services each week

- Invite family members to come to church

- Invite friends and/or neighbors to come to church

- Look forward to Holy Week meaning more than usual this year

- Anticipate feeling more of the Lord's presence in my life

- Be on the alert for opportunities to let my faith guide me

If we are intentional about preparing for the celebration of EASTER, our relationship with the Lord will grow and flourish. So, let's do it! Engage in those things that will last for eternity!

I hope to see you on Sunday mornings!!!!!!



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

**& Happy Anniversary!**

28 Brent & Bunny  
Shanholtz

Tom Hemphill extends his appreciation for the birthday card last month. He said his 85<sup>th</sup> was his best birthday ever!

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](mailto:secretary@firstpresnc.org).

Serving this month:  
Organist: Abby Reese      Scripture: John James  
Greeters: John & Jayne James  
Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fields  
Sound/Video: Kristie Dierking and Preston Scott  
Prepare Communion: Carol Hammond  
Coffee Fellowship: Carol Hammond

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.



Get ready for some puzzle fun and competition! Join us on Sunday March 15, for an afternoon of fellowship, puzzles and munchies! We plan to meet from 1-3pm that afternoon, but you are welcome to stay later if you want!

Bring a partner for the competition (if you don't, we'll assign a partner to you that afternoon).

Bring a snack to share. It's always fun to eat!

We will have 500-piece, identical puzzles to complete for the competition. If you would rather work on a smaller puzzle, you may choose one from a great selection on hand. Main objective is to enjoy fun and fellowship, and if you wish, a little competition! 😊

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Join us if you can!

**Nebraska City Food Pantry in March: donations of peanut butter and jellies will be appreciated no matter what the weather! Thanks in advance! 😊**



# Calendar of Events

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue | Wed   | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| <p>1 Sunday School:<br/>Youth 9:15am<br/>Adult 9:30am<br/>10:30 Worship,<br/>Holy Communion and<br/>Coffee Fellowship<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</p> | <p>2<br/>Food<br/>Pantry<br/>UMC 3-5pm</p>  | 3   | <p>4<br/>Lunch Bunch<br/>Pizza Hut 11:30<br/>Quilters 1pm</p>   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| <p>8<br/>Sunday School:<br/>Youth 9:15am<br/>Adult 9:30am<br/>Worship 10:30<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</p>   | 9   | 10  | <p>11<br/>Lunch Bunch<br/>El Portal 11:30<br/>Quilters 1pm<br/>Choir practice<br/>7pm</p>                   | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| <p>15<br/>Sunday School:<br/>Youth 9:15am<br/>Adult 9:30am<br/>Worship 10:30<br/>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</p>  | <p>16<br/>Food<br/>Pantry<br/>UMC 3-5pm</p> | 17  | <p>18<br/>Lunch Bunch<br/>Spring Garden<br/>11:30<br/>Quilters 1pm<br/>Deacons &amp;<br/>Session 6:30pm</p> | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| <p>22<br/>Sunday School:<br/>Youth 9:15am<br/>Adult 9:30am<br/>Worship 10:30<br/>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</p>  | 23  | 24  | <p>25<br/>Lunch Bunch<br/>Grams Place<br/>11:30<br/>Quilters 1pm<br/>Choir practice<br/>7pm</p>             | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| <p>29<br/><b>PALM SUNDAY</b><br/>Sunday School:<br/>Youth 9:15<br/>Adult 9:30<br/>Worship 10:30</p>   | 30  | 31  |   |     |     |     |



Join us as we continue our journey 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 **Maundy Thursday** - Worship at 7pm and **Easter Sunday** on April 5.....breakfast – 8:30-9:30am and Worship at 10:30am.



### **Palm Sunday Cantata celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> year!**

The Humboldt Area Community Chorus will present the 50<sup>th</sup> annual Palm Sunday Cantata on Palm Sunday, March 29, at 3pm. It will be held at the Methodist Church in Humboldt, under the direction of Rev. Tom Osborne, accompanied by pianist Chad Rinnie of Pawnee City.

The Humboldt Ministerial Association has sponsored this event for many years. The Humboldt Foundation is providing funding for the event.

Would you like to sing some wonderful music? All are welcome! Abby Reese and Jennifer James from our church are taking part in this performance and there is still time to join them and Pastor Tom!

Please join us on Palm Sunday for this music celebration.



Many thanks to our former Church Treasurer, Carol Maddox. She presented the financial reports at the Annual Congregational meeting and was honored at the potluck dinner following the meeting.



The children listened to Pastor Tom during a impromptu *Children's Time* last month.



Randy and JoAnn Martens are home from a fabulous trip to New Zealand and Australia! 8 weeks of fabulous sights, sounds, travels and food! Can you spot the koala? (circled in red in the tree) Kangaroos were just vegging out in the sun. The photo on the left shows the opera house that they attended, and the next night enjoyed a Valentine's Day cruise, topped off with fireworks. Thanks for sharing your adventures with us!



The Sunday school kids helped with the Hunger offering and presented the *Symbols of Lent* Cross on February 22, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent.