



# *The Builder*



## 2020

The newsletter serving the families & friends of:

### **First Presbyterian Church**

1005 1<sup>st</sup> Corso - Nebraska City NE 68410

Daily Devotions and our Sunday Worship are posted on our Facebook page

Facebook page:

**First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City**

### **Keep in touch.....**

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**Church Facebook Page:** **First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City**

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



## A Note from Pastor Tom.....

Dear Friends,

I know we are supposed to be staying home and practicing social distancing. We all know that, but there does come a time when we need to buy groceries and other necessities. I was at the store the other day and of course the store manager was trying to help everyone practice proper social distancing. There were even large Xs on the floor at the check-out register to keep us from getting too close too soon. When you were ready to check out, you stood on one of the markers.

This all seems so foreign to us, and we don't like it, even though we understand what is going on ... and why.

We actually had to wait in-between checkouts so that the cashier could do a quick sanitizing wipe-down of the counter. Only when the cashier was ready could we advance closer to the register. I found myself thinking 'this is overkill... can't we just get on with it?'

How many times have we said the same thing to God!

God says, "Umm. You'll have to wait until I call your name."

And we're like, "Hey, God, call my name! You're killing me here."

And God's like, "Uh, yeah, well, I'll call your name when I'm good and ready."

"O Lord, call my name now! I've got to talk to you about this!"

Here's a promise from Jeremiah 33:3: "Call unto me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you cannot imagine." That should be good enough for all of us. In these days we all tend to want God to act like a genie in a bottle. We would appreciate it if God would perform a miracle and eliminate this virus that seems to plague us. We want God to grant our every wish whenever we call.

Let us exercise a little faith and trust in God and wait to see what great and mighty things God is going to do in answer to our call.

Yes, it is important to call... do not forget that. We must be placing our call to God if we expect God to answer. Have you called lately? Remember that if we approach God in prayer, God will respond! When your answer comes, be grateful that the Lord has responded.

Blessings – stay healthy – stay safe,  
Pastor Tom



# Birthdays & Anniversaries!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Gertrude Ettleman	2
3	4	5	6 Lisa Osborne Jan Bolejack	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Dave Patton	14	15	16
17	18 Nick Maddox	19	20	21	22	23 Carla Zaroban
24 Preston Scott	25	26 Josh Marion	27	28 Mark Hopp	29	30
31 <u>Loran and Mary Donna Patton</u>						

If you have additions or corrections to the Birthday and Anniversaries 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).



We miss you in *Sunday Preview* classes! These study sessions assist us in getting more out of the approaching Sunday morning worship service each week. When the Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted, classes will resume each Thursday at both 10am and 7pm giving you a choice of a time that best fits your schedule. These classes are not only Biblical, but historical, informative and enjoyable! We hope to see you in class very soon!



## Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 AA 8am
3 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Sunday School 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:30am	4 AA 12pm Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	5 AA 12pm	6 Lunch Bunch @ Taco Bell 12pm Quilters 1pm AA 8pm	7 Men's Study Gp at <i>Scooters</i> 6:30am AA 12pm Sunday Preview 10am	8	9 AA 8am
10 <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Happy Mother's Day!</b> Worship 10:30am	11 AA 12pm	12 AA 12pm	13 Lunch Bunch @ Runza 12pm Quilters 1pm AA 8pm	14 Men's Study Gp at <i>Scooters</i> 6:30am AA 12pm Sunday Preview 10am & 7pm	15	16 AA 8am
17 <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Worship 10:30am	18 AA 12pm Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	19 AA 12pm	20 Lunch Bunch @ El Portal 12pm Quilters 1pm AA 8pm	21 Men's Study Gp at <i>Scooters</i> 6:30am AA 12pm Sunday Preview 10am & 7pm	22 Food Bank of Lincoln at First United Methodist Church 12-1pm	23 AA 8am
24 <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> <u>Worship 10:30am</u> 31 Pentecost Worship 10:30am Hunger Offering	25 AA 12pm	26 AA 12pm	27 Lunch Bunch @ Central Apple 12pm Quilters 1pm AA 8pm	28 Men's Study Gp at <i>Scooters</i> 6:30am AA 12pm Sunday Preview 10am & 7pm	29	30 AA 8am

**THIS CALENDAR OF EVENTS IS OF COURSE, A 'SHOULD BE' RATHER THAN CURRENT! Please know that we are thinking of our church family and friends every day and praying for your health and safety. Let us pray that we are worshiping and enjoying fellowship together in the very near future! Please call the church office if you need help or just need someone to talk too! Pastor Tom is in the office Tue – Thu. Jane is in Mon-Thu.**



A huge thanks to our parents and grandparents that shared the above photos! It is so good to see the smiles on the children's faces as they wave the palm branches on Palm Sunday, while staying home and staying safe!



## UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY WEST POINT®

This is not really a what we are doing to survive the Covis 19 threat... but in a way it is.

This is a picture of our Grandson, Trey, who is scheduled to graduate from Nebraska City High School this year.

He has been accepted to attend West Point Military Academy and will leave for there, sometime the middle to later part of June.

Although they live just down the street from us, 3 houses away, we are not able to spend time with him that we would like to be spending before he starts a new phase in his life. Although Grandpa is extremely proud of his accomplishments and his opportunities, there is a bit of sadness in seeing him leave home.

Lynn Pursel



Left: This is a Prairie Fire crabapple tree that was a wedding gift to Joel and me in 2004. It usually blooms near Arbor Day. The James Gang gave it to us. Helen Lundak  
Far left: Kristie Dierking took this darling picture of the Frerichs' children at home in Dunbar. Story time couldn't be better, or sweeter, for Isaac, Katie and Alexander!

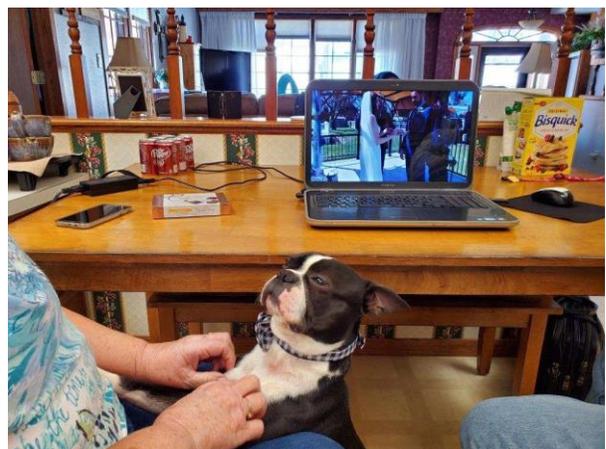
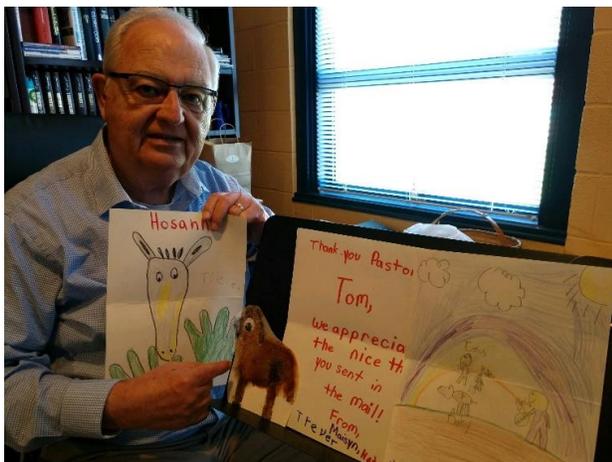


Tom and Janet are packing to move, with help from the kids! A family get together with face masks. Oh yeah! Make the most of your time together and the packing will get done, box by box! Tom, I think you should take a break and bake some brownies!

The James Gang.... just hanging out at home...and having a good time by the looks of these pictures!



Pastor Tom smiled as he opened an envelope containing Easter-themed posters from Maisyn, Nathan & Trever Hodges. They brightened a covid-19 day and still look great on his office door! Pastor Tom and Janet, and Lucky, their Boston Terrier 'attended' the wedding of their niece Elizabeth and now nephew Tyler via Zoom. The newlyweds live in Elkhorn. A weekly Zoom time keeps the extended family connected via the computer!



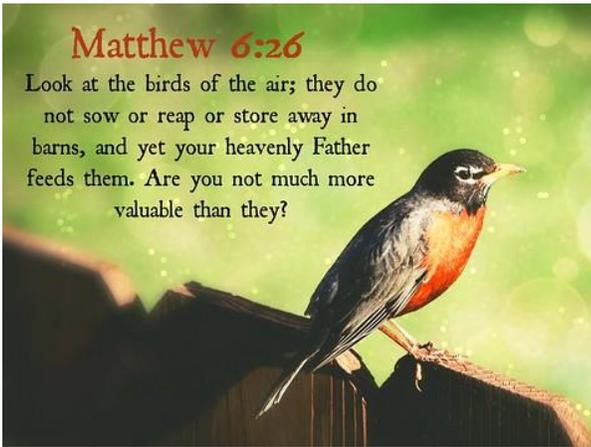


Far left: Daycare for this birthday girl started with a birthday cake, balloon and new 'ride' from great aunt Janet and great uncle Tom. Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Emma!  
 Left: Edith needed more books to read! Thanks, Jane – I can keep reading for another 'stay home, stay safe' week!



First Presbyterian Deacons got busy sewing face masks for our church family and friends. A little bit of fabric, a little bit of elastic and a lot of love and sense of security went into every mask. Thank you, Deacons! With a little extra help from Jayne, Helen, Jane and Kristie, everyone that needs a mask will have a mask!  
  
 Below: Our models....Pastor Tom, Mark and Dee are keeping a distance and keeping it safe!





# Stewardship Sampler for May

Matthew 6:26-33 *Jesus talks about the birds and the lilies and God's provision.* Oftentimes a lack of generosity is based on fear or worry, that there will not be 'enough'. This verse reminds us that God provides generously to us, that we don't need to worry and instead we are called to 'strive first for the kingdom of God'. God provides, as Jesus promises in this verse, and then we are invited to share generously out of that provision.



These days, we should be praying for everyone on earth! Pray for an end to this pandemic! Pray a prayer of thanks for our leaders worldwide, our national leaders and those making day to day decisions regarding our economy and health! Pray daily for our first responders and for those affected by the virus and their families. Pray for patience when it doesn't seem to affect us personally; but our actions may affect those near us in the community! *Lord, please give us peace, patience and understanding as we live together through this pandemic. Amen.*

