



The Builder

July

2020

The newsletter serving the families & friends of:

First Presbyterian Church
1005 1st Corso - Nebraska City NE 68410

Join us for Worship on Sunday mornings - 10:30

Wednesday Devotions and our Sunday Worship are posted on our Facebook page:
First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City

Keep in touch.....

Pastor Tom: Email: presbypastortom@yahoo.com Phone: 402-274-8199

Church Office: Email: secretary@firstpresnc.org Phone: 402-873-5306

Church Website: www.firstpresnc.org

Church Facebook Page: First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City

Homestead Presbytery website: www.homesteadpres.org



A Note from Pastor Tom.....

Dear Friends,

We used to say a little tongue-twister that I bet you know too: “How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck would chuck wood?”

I started wondering: why are woodchucks called woodchucks?

In the dictionary we discover that a woodchuck is the same thing as a groundhog. They are simply called different names in different parts of the country. The encyclopedia tells us that a woodchuck is about 2 feet long, including its bushy tail, and that it builds very complex burrows in the ground where it spends most of its time when it is not out looking for food. That explains why it is called a groundhog. Woodchucks eat plants like alfalfa and clover and sometimes can be destructive to gardens. Woodchucks also hibernate in the winter.

None of that explains why they are called woodchucks, which leaves me very confused about the tongue-twister, “How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck would chuck wood?” I believe somebody somewhere sometime just gave woodchucks a wrong name.

Now then, you and I are called “Christians”. Is that a good name for us? I hope it is. A Christian is simply a follower of Jesus--somebody who seeks to love God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength, and tries to love other people as much as he loves himself. Does that description fit you? I hope it does. I hope none of us are like the woodchuck, with a name that just doesn't fit.

Let's let people know that we are Christians by our love!

Blessings – stay healthy – stay safe, Pastor Tom



(too busy to chuck wood!)



Birthdays & Anniversaries!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Udine Wilton	8 Tom Weddle Bill Roker Brian James	9 Virginia Reed John & Jayne James	10	11
12	13	14	15 Marvin & Jane Zimmerman	16	17 Mary Finkner	18
19 Paighton Marion	20	21 Owen Kuszak	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Tara Maddox	29 Isaac Crumley	30	31	

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



Calendar of Events

Please note: all events in **green** will take place as scheduled.
 All entries in black are on hold....watch your mail or email for updates.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Men's Study Group 6:30am/Scooters AA 12pm Sunday Preview 10am & 7pm	3	4 Happy 4th of July
5 5 th Sunday after Pentecost Worship and Communion 10:30am	6 AA 12pm Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	7 AA 12pm	8 Session 6:30pm Lunch Bunch Quilters 1pm AA 8pm	9 Men's Study Group 6:30am/Scooters AA 12pm Sunday Preview 10am & 7pm	10	11 AA 8am
12 6 th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	13 AA 12pm	14 AA 12pm	15 Lunch Bunch Quilters 1pm AA 8pm	16 Men's Study Group 6:30am/Scooters AA 12pm Sunday Preview 10am & 7pm	17 Food Bank of Lincoln at First United Methodist Church 12-1pm	18 AA 8am
19 7 th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	20 AA 12pm Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	21 AA 12pm	22 Lunch Bunch Quilters 1pm AA 8pm	23 Men's Study Group 6:30am/Scooters AA 12pm Sunday Preview 10am & 7pm	24	25 AA 8am
26 8 th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30am	27 AA 12pm	28 AA 12pm	30 Lunch Bunch Quilters 1pm AA 8pm	31 Men's Study Group 6:30am/Scooters AA 12pm Sunday Preview 10am & 7pm	July 31 is PW Gives Day	



Board of Deacons – ER Bags Mission Project Continues

In 2014 the Board of Deacons started the ER bag ministry. Bags are taken to the emergency room at the hospital, to be given out to children who are in the ER. Each bag contains about 5 items: books, cars, activities, a stuffed animal, treats and a prayer! We have a bag for children under the age of 3 and one for those children older than 3. Jean Dammast has been in charge of this ministry and just a few weeks ago delivered the 2300th bag!! This has been, and continues to be, a wonderful ministry from our church to our community!

Stewardship Sampler for July:



Luke 13:18-21 *Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast*

Big and small gifts are appreciated and can be used by God. There is hardly a more beautiful way to speak about the hidden promise of even the smallest gift than the image of the mustard seed, so tiny yet holding so much possibility. Or for those who are bakers, the yeast provides a similar illustration. We are given so many gifts from God, and we are called to give back. Perhaps we feel small, or we feel like our gifts are small, but we hold the promise of God's awesome powers at work within us and through our gifts. We share our gifts so that God can use them and grow them just like the mustard seed becomes a tree big enough for birds and the yeast grows big enough to make the bread and provide sustenance for us.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

You're invited to celebrate... *PW Gives Day* – July 31

This will be a day to celebrate the many ways that Presbyterian Women give to witness to the promise of God's realm. Your financial support would be very much appreciated by both our local and district Presbyterian Women.

This year is proving to be a challenge for all of us and the Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City are reaching out to us for help. Because of the Covid 19 restrictions, they were unable to hold their annual Salad Luncheon. They will not be having a rummage sale this fall and even the Holiday Bazaar is in question. These three events have been the financial boost to the treasury and in turn, the basis of most of the donations to PW's many mission projects. Please offer your support if you are able. We will be grateful for any amount you can give.



Congratulations, Nathan Zaroban!
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Student of the Month!



Tara's Graduation Party – Celebrate with Us!

Saturday, July 11 11am – 2pm

603 Wildwood Lane – Nebraska City

Lunch will be served - bring a lawn chair if you would like!

Kaycee Driever, Bellevue University soccer player earns A.I.I. Academic All-Conference honor!



Posted: Jun 19, 2020 [A.I.I. Release](#): The Association of Independent Institutions recognized more than 500 student-athletes from 16 institutions for their classroom successes with selection to the 2019-20 academic all-conference team.

Eligible student-athletes from 11 championship sports must have completed at least two consecutive terms at the institution and played in at least one varsity competition during the school year. Student-athletes must have at least a 3.2 cumulative grade point average.

Nine Bellevue University student-athletes were recognized from the women's soccer program. Kaycee Driever, Nebraska City, is one of those nine so honored. Congratulations, Kaycee!

Kaycee is a member of First Presbyterian Church. Her parents are Chad and Cari Godsey and Matt & Tina Driever. Her grandparents are Howard and Dee Antes.



Our prayers continue with intensity this month! Pray that we can continue on our daily journey with faith and humor! Pray for an end to this pandemic. Pray for our leaders worldwide; our national, state and local leaders. Pray for those protesting, that they have a clear understanding of why they are protesting and for what result. Pray for our first responders, medical staff, our local businesses and school officials, as they struggle to make necessary changes in operations going forward. Pray for those dealing with other ongoing health issues. Please pray also for the following church family and friends: Tom and Janet Hemphill, Lonnie and Doris Martin, Kevin Driever, Rev. Bob Burdett, Christine Allgood, Kay Dammast, Sean Gleason and Karen Brannon.

Laughing matters.....



If you've ever moved, you may be able to 'relate' to the following: Tom and Janet Hemphill, on their recent move to Omaha, were having difficulty making an electronic device operate. Son David helped Tom out by reversing the batteries – all was well....but then came the problem with Cox Cable. The tv worked great in the afternoon. Not so that evening. The man on the phone was so patient but said at last "I don't know what else to do". Tom proceeded to plug the tv into another outlet and low and behold – it worked! Apparently, some of the outlets in their new place are turned on and off by the wall switch!

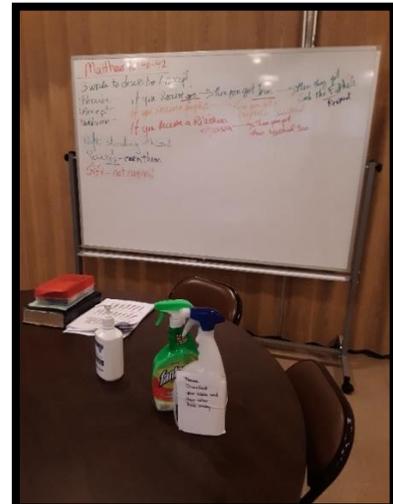


Shaving Cream Slime

Now banned from the Frerichs' home!

But Isaac and Katie sure had fun with Kristie that day!

A new dry erase board was ordered for use in the Fellowship Hall, allowing for better social distancing. (note the sanitizing bottles on the table) Pastor Tom is using the new board for our Bible classes, *Sunday Preview*, on Thursdays. (join us at 10am or 7pm!) The board arrived in many pieces, but with trusty screw- driver, pliers and wrench in hand, Jane and Carol got it assembled and ready for use! All in a day's work. 😊



What is Your Hospitality Quotient? By Jane Zimmerman

Pastor Tom's message last Sunday, *What is Your Hospitality Quotient?* was relatable to life today. Do we show hospitality to one another? Do we love one another? Love thy neighbor.....remember that particular commandment? Mark 12:29-31

Kindness, optimism, intellectual curiosity, work ethic, empathy, self-awareness, integrity. These particular words are used in a *Hospitality Quotient* implemented by Danny Meyer, a successful businessman and owner of several restaurants. Meyer hires his employees using a calculation of Hospitality Quotient 51% and skills 49%: happy staff, happy customers! Pastor Tom advises that every church needs to be concerned about its 'hospitality quotient'. He reminds us that church should be more of a hospital for sinners rather than a country club for do-gooders. 😊

The writer of Hebrews tells us that we are to be hospitable to 'strangers, for thereby, some have even entertained angels unawares' (Hebrews 13:2) Do you remember ever being a stranger? Jesus taught that we are to be hospitable to strangers. We are here to serve, not to be served.

Jesus said "and if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones....." When Jesus refers to the 'little ones' he is referring to those who are most needy, those who are most vulnerable, those who have no other advocate. While we were yet sinners Christ died for us. The way we show love for Christ is by reaching out to His little ones.

Have you checked your *Hospitality Quotient* lately? Remember - no act of kindness is ever wasted!

Pastor Tom shares more history and information about each of his sermon topics at his weekly Bible study. We enjoy a great hour of fellowship and education! His Bible study, *Sunday Preview*, is held each Thursday at 10am and 7pm. Join us if you are able!



Guidelines for our Return to Worship Service: In an effort to be proactive in keeping our church family safe during the Covid 19 pandemic, we have adapted the following guidelines to help us protect each other and demonstrate our care for each other as we return to church services: If you are feeling ill or have a high-risk health condition, we suggest that you stay home for now. We plan to record each service and post it on our church Facebook page: *First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City*. You may wear a mask to worship, but it is not required. You are asked to sit with your family or close friend, and not move around the sanctuary. Several pews are roped off to allow for social distancing. Hugs and handshakes are strongly discouraged for the time being. There will be hand sanitizer available for you to use as you enter the building and sanctuary. The order of service will be abbreviated. We will not share the peace as we usually do. There will not be a Children's Time. Please place your offerings in the collection plate on the table at the back of the sanctuary either before or after the worship service. We encourage bringing your personal Bible as the Church's Hymnals and Bibles will not be available. The nursery will NOT be available at this time. Children are to stay with their family at all times. The restrooms will be available for use, one occupant at a time. Children must be accompanied by an adult. When the service is over, please maintain the 6-foot distancing and do not gather in the sanctuary or narthex. The Church is sanitized by volunteers on Saturdays.