



The Builder



2021

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

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered on the 1st Sunday of each month

Sunday Worship services are posted on our Facebook page:
First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City



Join us for our special Candlelight Christmas Eve Service. We will celebrate with special music, singing of carols and lighting our individual candles. We encourage you to invite family and friends to this special evening worship, Friday, December 24 – 7pm

We have a jam-packed schedule of events for December!
Check them out on the following pages and put them on your calendar!

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



Dear Church Family,

Each year during the season of Advent we take time to get ready for the coming of Christ again at Christmas. This year in my sermon preparations I have tried to stay close to the theme of “Preparing for the King.” I am using the advice of four characters from the Bible: Jeremiah, John the Baptist, the Apostle Paul, and Mary the mother of Jesus. I encourage you to come each week as we learn from these well-known persons of the Bible.

Jeremiah the prophet was trying to reestablish hope in the minds of God’s children. He wanted them to hear the message from God that there is hope amid their suffering and uncertainty. It is a message that is very relevant for today. Our world seems to be spinning further and further out of control each week and people are beginning to feel as though there is no hope. Come hear what Jeremiah has to say about that!

John the Baptist was an unconventional wandering preacher/evangelist. As he traveled about, he found that people needed to make a change in their personal lives so that they could receive the gift of God’s Son, the long-awaited Messiah, and be restored in relationship with the Lord. This also is relevant for today. If you have wondered what to do to be restored in your relationship with the Lord, then come and hear what John the Baptist had to say!

On the third Sunday of Advent, we are reminded by the Apostle Paul that having a picture-perfect Christmas does not center around our material “stuff” but rather in the joy and peace that the birth of the Christ child brings. Paul reminds us again that we don’t have to go out and search for the joy of Christmas. Instead, God has sent it to us! Therefore, we must be ready to receive it. No matter how out of control life may seem to be Christ brings us peace. You need to hear again how Paul says that happens.

Mary, the mother of Jesus was such an amazing young woman. In the Christmas story so many things were happening so unexpectedly and so quickly. And yet, the whole thing is full of tenderness and love. It is easy to miss the real point of the Christmas event because we are looking for the big moment, the big gift, the big pageantry of the hosts of host in heaven. But Mary would tell us that it’s really about the little private moments of joy and peace mingled together in His coming to us.

I hope you will come each Sunday! It will help you be ready for the coming of Christ this Christmas.

Blessings, Pastor Tom



December Birthdays and Anniversaries



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Adam Wilton	2	3	4 Pat Wehling Josh Martens
5	6	7	8 Dave LeGrand	9	10 Bill Peterson	11
12	13 JoAnn Martens	14 Randy Martens	15	16	17	18
19 Lori Koeneke	20	21	22	23 Bev McGinnis	24 Nels Wilton	25
26	27 Ruth Ann Weddle	28 Keith Dierking	29	30 Bill & Jean Dammast	31 Gene Mercer	

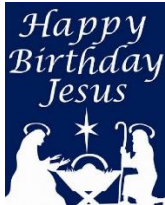
If you have additions or corrections to the Birthday and Anniversaries calendar, please don't hesitate to let Jane know! Please call the office or email your information to secretary@firstpresnc.org



Join us for **Sunday Preview** each Thursday morning, 10am. This Bible study is an expanded study on Pastor Tom's message for the following Sunday. He shares history and interesting stories direct from the Bible and other Biblical sources! Please join us! All are Welcome!



Calendar Of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Lunch Bunch 11:30am Subway Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	2 Join us for Bible Study: <i>Sunday Preview</i> - 10am	3 Set up bazaar & nativities 6-8pm	4 Winter Wonderland Bazaar 8-2
5 Worship/ Communion 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:30 Sunday School 9:15 2 nd Sunday of Advent	6 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	7	8 Lunch Bunch 11:30am Arby's Quilters 1pm Deacons 5:30pm Session 6:30pm	9 Join us for Bible Study: <i>Sunday Preview</i> - 10am	10	11
12 Sunday School Christmas Program Worship 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 3 rd Sunday of Advent	13	14	15 Lunch Bunch 11:30am Taco John's Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	16 Join us for Bible Study: <i>Sunday Preview</i> - 10am	17 Food Bank of Lincoln 12-1pm	18
19 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 4 th Sunday of Advent	20 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	21	22 Lunch Bunch 11:30am Hong Kong Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	23 Join us for Bible Study: <i>Sunday Preview</i> - 10am	24 Christmas Eve Worship Service 7pm	25 Happy Birthday Jesus 
26 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 Hunger Offering 1 st Sunday of Christmas	27	28	29 Lunch Bunch 11:30am Valentino's Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	30 Join us for Bible Study: <i>Sunday Preview</i> - 10am	31	

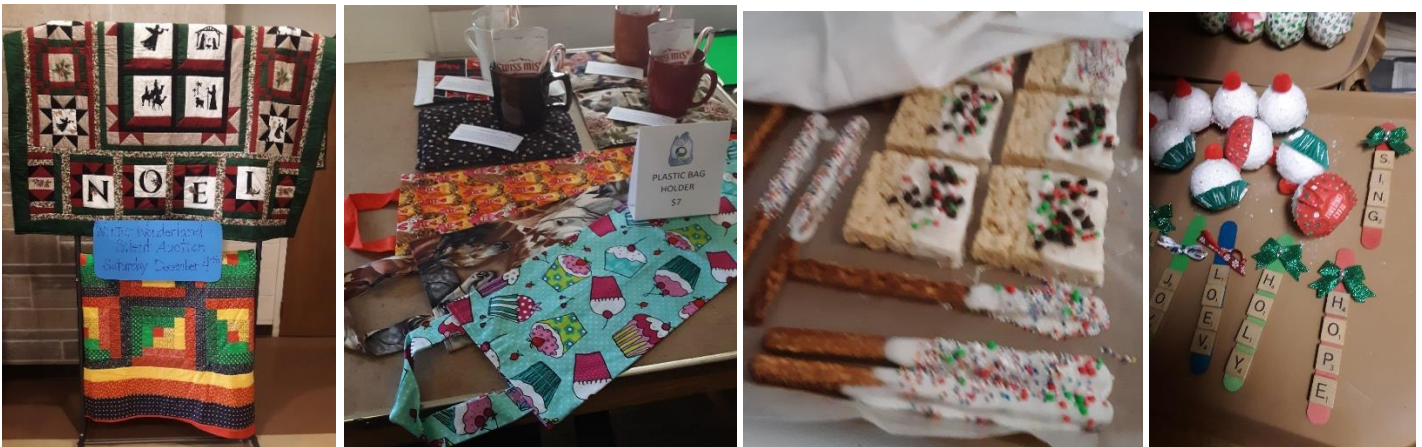


Winter Wonderland Bazaar

Saturday, December 4, 2021 - 8am – 2pm

Cinnamon Rolls, Scones and Beef/Vegetable Soup
Coffee, Tea and Hot Cider * Homemade Baked Goods
Trays & Boxes of Assorted Cookies
Handmade Craft Items * Holiday Items
Gift Baskets & Silent Auction Items

The following is a sneak peak at some of the bazaar items.....

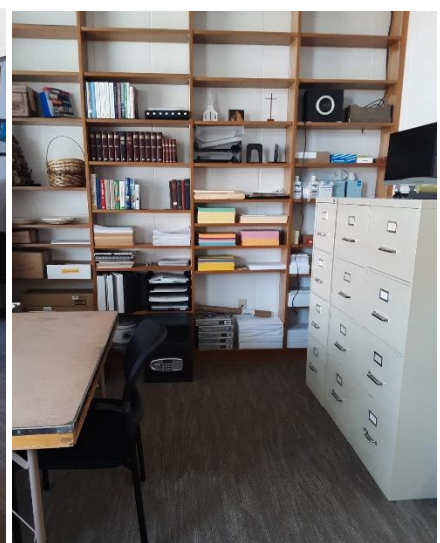


Celebrating the Nativity

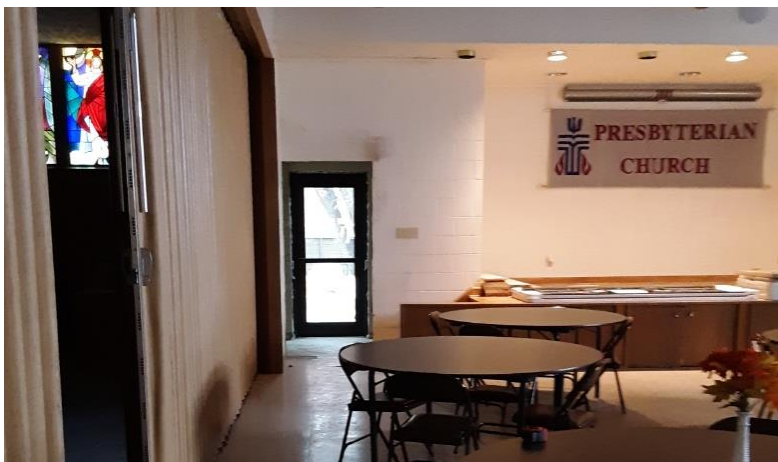
In conjunction with the Winter Wonderland Bazaar, we would like to have your participation! Please bring one (or several!) of your favorite Nativity Sets to share in a display of the many varieties available world-wide. 2" to life-size, plastic to wood to metal, realistic or child-like, these wonderful images of Christmas are such a joy to share this time of year.

If you would like to share one of your Nativity sets with our church family and friends, please bring it to the church before Thursday, December 2. We will carefully display your set during the Winter Wonderland Bazaar and throughout the month of December.

Pictured below are just a few of the Nativity sets on display. Amazing variety awaits you!



If you haven't had a chance to stop in and see the 'new' office, please do! Jeff Maddox and Jeff Friels painted the office, new carpet tiles were installed in both rooms and the furniture was rearranged. We now have a lovely office and a workroom! Thank you Jeff and Jeff, the Session for approving the changes and Jeff, Teresa and Lilly Friels for decorating the office! Jane is a very happy Administrative Assistant! 😊



Another huge change in our church is the new handicap entrance. The closet in the fellowship hall is now a new entry way. A concrete wall was cut through and an automatic door installed. A new cement path is being poured and will lead to the back parking lot.



Thank you everyone for your generous donations to the Nebraska City Food Pantry. Our 2021 total contributions are double those of last year. We wrote a check to the pantry for \$995.65!



The choir has been busy practicing for the Advent Season. New voices are always welcome!



The First Sunday of Advent was November 28 this year. The first banner of 'Hope' is hanging and the Advent candles are in place. Janet and Laura Osborne read the Advent Liturgy with Pastor Tom. Joel and Dana Pursey will light the candles and read the liturgy on December 5. Sunday School Children will light the candles and read the liturgy on December 12, the day of the Sunday School Christmas program. Bryan and Lilly Fields will take part on the 4th Sunday of Advent and Nels & Udine Wilton with help with the liturgy for the Christmas Eve Service.



Next up for the kids – Preparing for the Annual Christmas Program! Details will follow in the next few weeks.

The date of the program is Sunday, December 12

If you have a special announcement and/or picture to share, please send it to the office:
secretary@firstpresnc.org and Jane will put it in the next newsletter.



Please pray for the following church family and friends: Keith Dierking, Kathy Nelson, Amy Fields, Eileen Thayer, Rev. Bob & Misty Burdett, (they will be moving to their new home in Iowa next week. We wish them well and pray for a smooth transition to their new community. They are moving to be closer to their daughter. We continue to pray for Loran & Mary Donna Patton, Tom and Janet Hemphill, and Howard & Dee Antes. Please email your prayer requests to Jayne James at: thejamesgang777@gmail.com or call: 402-873-5092



**In this Season of Advent,
we appreciate
your support
of the Deacon Ministry!**

Dear Friends,

Christmas is quickly approaching. The Advent offering provides the funding for the work of the Deacons. This year covid continues to challenge all of us. Your Advent offering can be mailed to, or dropped off, at the church anytime during Advent (or whenever!). Advent folders are available to be picked up at the church, if wanted. Please earmark your cash or check donation for the Deacon Ministry.

The mission of the Deacons is to show love and concern for our church family, community and world. Our biggest ministry is our ER bags for kids in the hospital-to date we have prepared and donated 2500 of these bags since 2013 when the project started.

We also reach out to our shut ins, students, and those in need with visits, cards, meals, and gift cards. We supported operation Christmas child by filling boxes and giving money for postage.

Thanks to your generous donations the Deacons will be able to continue showing your love to all.
Thank you and God Bless you,

The Board of Deacons



Serving this month:

Organist: Abby Reese Scripture: Abby Reese & Preston Acolyte: Mark Hopp
Greeters: Marv & Jane Zimmerman Power Point: Julie Hopp
Camera: Marv Zimmerman Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fields
Nursery: JoAnn Martens, Ruth Ann Weddle, Rose DeKock

**COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP**



Coffee Fellowship after Worship on December 5 - All are welcome!

Laura Osborne is our hostess this month.