



The Builder



2023

The newsletter serving the families & friends of:

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

Ash Wednesday on February 22

Sunday School for all Ages – 9:15am

Worship on Sunday mornings - 10:30

The Sacrament of Holy Communion - the 1st Sunday of each month

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

Keep in touch.....

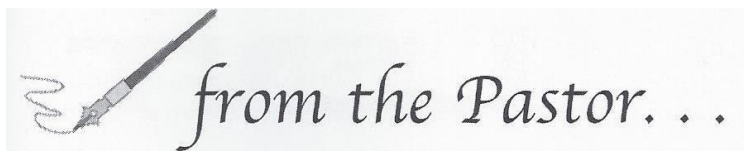
Pastor Tom: Email: presbypastortom@yahoo.com Phone: 402-274-8199

Church Office: Hours: 9-2:30, Monday – Thursday

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

Church Website: www.firstpresnc.org

Homestead Presbytery website: www.homesteadpres.org



There was a fellow who had suffered a few hard knocks in life. This man insisted that all his problems in life stemmed from his lack of hair. It seems that ever since he started going bald, his life started falling apart. He had been divorced three times. Seems his obsession with his hair had driven away at least one of those wives. He wasn't doing well in his sales job. Surely if he had more hair, he would be making more sales. He had undergone two sessions of hair implants, but neither of them gave him enough hair to restore his lost confidence. He would be successful in business and happy in his marriage if only he had more hair. This man sorely needs to get on with his life. Some of the most successful men who have ever lived have been--how shall we say it?.... "follically-challenged."

By the way, I read recently that a farmer named John Coombs discovered that hair began to sprout on his bald patch after it had been licked by his cows. That's what I read, men. I can't vouch for its accuracy. However, another man, Guy Tolson, a farmer from Ghent in Belgium, heard about Coombs' good fortune and smeared damp salt on his head to encourage his cows to lick it, and he too regrew a full head of hair. Again, I can't vouch for its accuracy. If it's true, though, forget about spending a fortune on Rogaine. Just find a friendly cow.

You may be saying, Pastor, what does this have to do with anything? Well, this coming month we begin the season of LENT. And a major theme of LENT is to make some changes in your life. Now we are not talking about changing how many hairs you have on your head. I'm not even talking about changing your overall appearance. The point is to make a change in our hearts to receive Christ at EASTER again!

Repent! What an important word for our time. It simply means, turn around make a change. And many of us would profit from taking Jesus' words seriously—make some changes. This is not to say that we are rotten sinners. But at times we feel our life is going nowhere. We are not having nearly the success or the joy we anticipate out of life. And Christ says to us, "Repent." Perhaps we are in a destructive relationship, or we have acquired an unsavory habit, or we're in some trying situation that is sucking the passion for living right out of us. We know we need to change. We know we ought to start over. Where do we get the power to do what we need to do? And Christ says, "Turn around make a change."

But how? How do we make a new start? How do we make a new beginning?

WE BEGIN BY TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR LIVES. This is one mark of a mature person, and it is the mark of the person for whom there is hope--we quit blaming our situation on our parents, or our boss, or our spouse. We point the finger of responsibility squarely at ourselves.

I hope you will take the season of LENT seriously and make the changes needed in your life!

Pastor Tom

Celebrating in FEBRUARY

- 1 Happy Birthday Dee Antes
- 6 Happy Birthday Bill Dammast
- 10 Happy Birthday Mike James and Kathy Nelson
- 13 Happy Birthday Bryan Frields
- 14 Happy Birthday Brent Shanholtz
- 18 Happy Birthday Tom Hemphill
- 20 Happy Birthday Doris Martin and Bunny Shanholtz
- 25 Happy Birthday Jim Frerichs and Jack Hobbie
- 26 Happy Birthday 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 Anniversaries calendar, please don't hesitate to let Jane know! Please call the office or email your information to secretary@firstpresnc.org



When it comes to our kids and Pastor Tom, it's always a good time for a photo op! Smile for the camera, Katie Frerichs and Pastor Tom! 😊



Calendar Of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Lunch Bunch at Subway 11:30 Quilters 1pm	2	3	4
5 Sunday School 9:15am Worship/Holy Communion 10:30 5 th Sunday after Epiphany	6 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	7	8 Lunch Bunch at Arby's 11:30 Quilters 1pm Deacons 5:15 Session 6:30	9	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am 6 th Sunday after Epiphany	13	14 	15 Lunch Bunch at Taco John's 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir Practice 7pm	16	17	18 Presbytery In Fremont
19 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30am Transfiguration of the Lord	20 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	21	22 Lunch Bunch at Hong Kong 11:30am Quilters 1pm Ash Wednesday	23	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30am Hunger Offering 1 st Sunday in Lent	27	28				

Serving this month:

Organist: Abby Reese Scripture: Jeff Maddox Greeters: Kurt & Carissa Curtis Acolytes: Youth
 Camera: Marv Zimmerman Power Point: Jane Zimmerman Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fields
 Nursery: Jan Marion, Carol Maddox, Carissa Curtis & JoAnn Martens

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



Left: Pastor Tom ordained our new Elders and Deacons

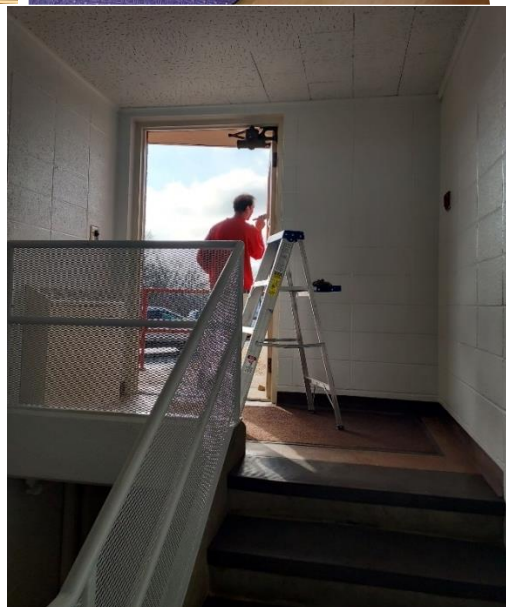
Elders in 2023: Randy Martens, Jeff Maddox, Ed Reed, Kurt Curtis, Abby Reese, Ken Zaroban, Tony Reese, Doris Martin, and Marv Zimmerman

Deacons in 2023: Udine Wilton, Jan Marion, Kim Reese, Eunice Fass, Carissa Curtis and Jane Zimmerman

Below: we dedicated our worship improvements to the sanctuary: carpeting, pew cushions and hymnals.



Dedication of Worship Improvements



Left: The future looks bright in our newly painted entryway! What a great improvement! Thank you, Randy Walford, Lincoln Paint and Décor.

Stephanie Shrader traveled to Mexico with a mission team from 1st Lutheran Church – Nebraska City. The group of six women and six men helped build a home in San Luis Rio Colorado, a Mexican town just south of the border from San Luis, Arizona. They stayed in the mission's 'Home of Hope'. On one of the project days, the family receiving the home made the noon meal. Rosa, a volunteer with 'Home of Hope' showed the group how to make potato burritos for one other noon meal. It was an exhausting, but so rewarding, mission trip.

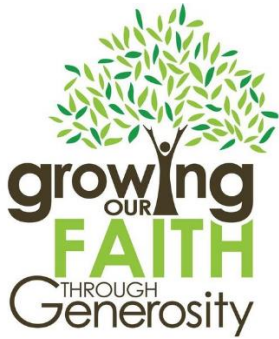


The family of 7 that received the home, pictured below, is enjoying a sturdy new home complete with a shower and a kitchen!



Homes seen in the background are typical of most homes in the area. The need is great. God's blessings on this group and these families. Thank you for sharing the information with us Stephanie. Visit Stephanie's facebook page for several more wonderful pictures of this mission trip.

Please continue prayers for the following church family and friends: Janet Osborne, Ed Reed, Marta Calhoun, Larry & Marilyn Brammier, Jan Bolejack, Edith Simmerman, Howard & Dee Antes, Rosanna McSwane, Tom & Janet Hemphill, RuthAnn Weddle's friend Laurette, Laura Osborne's friend, Suzanne, Abbee James' aunt Tami, and for our folks in the Ambassador: Glenis Hopp, Adelene Vock, Kathy Nelson, Foy Thayer, Connie Driever, Loran & Mary Donna Patton



STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Here are four reasons why people give to the Church:

1. They want to obey out of love.

The commands to give are clear and unambiguous. **Obedience** in the Christ life is always about the heart. It's wanting to find out what God wants, and then wanting to do it. It's the wonderful dynamic of having Him as both Forgiver and Leader. It's like being in love with your spouse and wanting to do things that you know would please them. Giving is always a reflection of where your heart is positioned.

2. They want to express gratitude.

When you are given much, you are compelled to show your gratitude by giving back. If, as the Scriptures teach, "every good and perfect gift is from above" ([James 1:17](#)), then every good and perfect gift in your life is from God. That's a lot to be grateful for. This includes a child's love, a roof over your head, your very next breath.

3. They want to experience God's love poured out through blessing.

I do not believe in the "health and wealth" idea that if you give, you can expect to [get rich](#). I do believe that there is direct blessing on our lives that can very well be financial in nature when we give the way God asks. Specifically, that our giving will never outpace our supply. The larger picture is to want everything God would bring to bear on our life that is in the "blessing" category, and there is arguably more in the Bible about blessings flowing into human lives through financial obedience than almost any other **submission** we offer.

4. They want to make a difference for the One they love and the ones they've been called to love.

God has called to us to serve the least and the lost and to do it through the church of which we are a part. That has a dollar [sign](#) attached to it, and appropriately so. There are homes to build, food to supply, clean water to provide... there is outreach to be made, creative strategies to be pursued, resources to be put in hands. The check you write is arguably among the greatest differences you can make with your life for Christ and the ones He's called us to care about.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR REGULAR GIVING!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Transfiguration – February 19



Ash Wednesday – February 22



Gifts of Women Sunday – March 5



Daylight Savings – March 12



Palm Sunday – April 2



Easter Sunday – April 9

