



# The Builder



2023

The newsletter serving the families & friends of:

**First Presbyterian Church  
1005 1<sup>st</sup> Corso - Nebraska City NE 68410**

**Worship on Sunday mornings - 10:30am**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion & Coffee Fellowship  
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](mailto:presbypastortom@yahoo.com) Phone: 402-274-8199

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

Email: [secretary@firstpresnc.org](mailto:secretary@firstpresnc.org) Phone: 402-873-5306

**Church Website:** [www.firstpresnc.org](http://www.firstpresnc.org)

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



“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” —Ephesians 6:18

This is a wonderful verse from the New Testament. It reminds me to keep on praying for all of you. I hope that you pray for me as well! Since the sermons have been about prayer these last few weeks, I thought it would be good to say some things about prayer in this fashion.

What if you had a friendship with someone you could call any time, night or day? A friend who met with you regularly and allowed you to talk non-stop for ten, twenty, thirty minutes—or more—and never asked you to stop? Or maybe you just send out a quick call or text now and then, and no matter what, that friend was always there to answer. Suppose as well that this friend reached out to you to give you guidance, support, love, and encouragement even when you didn’t call and ask for it first.

You would feel deeply loved by that friend, right? Happily, that’s a description of how any of Christ’s followers can approach God.

Prayer is a mystery. God is all-knowing. We can’t tell him things he doesn’t already know. And he is sovereign—working and weaving everything everywhere together to accomplish his perfect eternal purposes. These truths make us ask: Why do I even need to pray?

And yet, for reasons we can’t fully understand, God commands us to pray: “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful” (Colossians 4:2). Furthermore, God tells us that our prayers are eternally significant: “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results” (James 5:16, NLT).

Now here is one more thing I think people often wonder about:

“In the name of Jesus, amen.” Praying “in the name of Jesus” means more than mindlessly tacking that phrase on to the ends of our prayers. Biblically, a name represents all that a person is and stands for. Doing anything in a person’s name means to do that thing as if he or she were doing it.

To pray in Jesus’ name means praying the kind of prayers Jesus would pray. An “in the name of Christ” prayer should reflect who Jesus is—his person and works.

I hope this month’s emphasis on prayer has been a blessing to you!

Pastor Tom



- July
- 3 Happy Birthday, Richard Hadden
  - 3 Happy Anniversary, Bryan & Kaelie Frields
  - 4 **Happy, blessed and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Everyone!!**
  - 7 Happy Birthday, Udine Wilton
  - 8 Happy Birthday, Tom Weddle, Brian James and Bill Roker
  - 9 Happy Birthday, Virginia Reed
  - 9 Happy Anniversary, John & Jayne James
  - 15 Happy Anniversary, Marv & Jane Zimmerman
  - 17 Happy Birthday, Mary Finkner
  - 19 Happy 11<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Paighton Marion
  - 28 Happy Birthday, Tara Maddox
  - 29 Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Isaac Crumley

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](mailto:secretary@firstpresnc.org)

**Please continue prayers** for the following church family and friends: RuthAnn Weddle, Lincoln McLaughlin, Nancy Blackshear, Walt Sellers, Tom and Janet Hemphill, Leland Stoner, and for those unable to attend worship in person. Please call or email the church office if you have someone to add to this list.

**Serving this month:** Coffee Fellowship hosted by Udine Wilton

Organist: Abby Reese

Scripture: Jan Marion

Greeter: Carol Hammond

Camera: Marv Zimmerman/Alexis Dierking

Acolytes: Youth

Communion prepared by Tony Reese

Sound/Power Point: Jayne James

Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Frields


Nursery: Rose DeKock, Ruth Ann Weddle, Kim Reese, Udine Wilton & Jan Marion



For the Food Pantry.....please bring **canned goods** to church this month. Paper towels, tissues, and toilet paper will be greatly appreciated, as are all donations! Thank you so very much for all of your generous donations each month!



# Calendar Of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship/Holy Communion 10:30 Coffee Fellowship  5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	3 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	4 	5 Lunch Bunch at Little Ted's 11:30 Quilters 1pm	6	7	8
9 Worship 10:30am  6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	10	11 Session will not meet this month	12 Lunch Bunch at The Keeping Room 11:30am Quilters 1pm	13	14	15
16 Worship 10:30am  7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	17 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	18	19 Lunch Bunch at Subway 11:30am Quilters 1pm	20	21	22
23 Worship 10:30am  8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	24	25	26 Lunch Bunch at Arby's 11:30am Quilters 1pm	27	28	29
30 Worship 10:30am Hunger Offering  9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	31					

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR REGULAR GIVING!**



Lilly Fields was selected as a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship recipient to study abroad.

Fields will spend nearly a month in Rwanda completing research with the guidance of Amy Spears, associate professor of music. Their project seeks to better understand how Rwandan music teachers are integrating music into the healing process of individuals living with HIV.

"Due to the 1994 Rwandan genocide, a large number of Rwandan citizens are now HIV positive," said Fields. "A prevalent force working with genocide survivors - and helping to facilitate our research - is Musicians Without Borders." Musicians Without Borders is a nonprofit based in The Netherlands which uses music to enact social change. The organization works with individuals and communities that have been impacted by war, conflict and displacement.

"Many individuals need to travel to the capitol city to receive HIV treatment, requiring them to take off work, leave their children, and interrupt the normalcy of their daily lives," Fields stated. "Musicians Without Borders aims to make their journeys even more valuable by offering music classes." Fields hopes to gain a deeper understanding of music's power to build community and aid in the healing process through her participation in music classes and interviews with music teachers and genocide survivors.

The Gilman Scholarship is a nationally competitive program that assists students with study abroad expenses. The program aims to diversify the students who study and intern abroad and the countries and regions where they go. The scholarship is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Fields is one of 64 NWU students to receive the Gilman Scholarship since the program began in 2001.

"In my future career, I plan to conduct psychological research while exploring music as a method of healing; specifically, I'd like to explore how music can be a complimentary medicine to battle Alzheimer's, a disease which has personally impacted my family."

Fields is a junior psychology major with minors in music and biology. (Nebraska Wesleyan University – Lincoln) She is a graduate of Nebraska City High School. (information obtained from the Nebraska Wesleyan University website)



Always a pleasure, Nebraska City Apple Corp Barbershop Chorus graced us with their presence and voices, during our worship service on June 18 – Father's Day. 😊

Summer days call for routine watering! Marv is keeping the flower beds quenched and Janet Osborne fed them some Miracle Grow to help them, well, grow! 😊



The session approved the purchase and installation of replacement windows in the classrooms, kitchen, offices and restrooms. Funding for this project will be primarily coming from endowment and special gift funds. Any contributions made to help offset the cost of the project would be appreciated. If donating, please make notation that your contribution is for the window project. Your donation will be included on your annual giving statement for 2023. Thank you for your continued support of our church! The Administrative Committee



A special note from our prayer chain:

I just wanted to share with you how important our prayer shawl ministry is. I recently asked a friend if his daughter, who was going through radiation treatments, would like one. He had never heard of it. I sent a prayer shawl to Oregon. I received a wonderful thank you from her and her mother. Her mother sent me a picture of Nancy wearing the prayer shawl during her treatment. Nancy took it to several of her prayer groups to have them pray on it. Her dad saw the lunch bunch eating one Wednesday and thanked the Presbyterian ladies for the prayer shawl.

**The prayer shawls are such a wonderful way of sharing God's presence with others and a great witness for our church.**

Also...a big thank you to all who make them for us!

Blessings, Jayne James

Another recipient, a man going through heart bypass surgery put on his gifted prayer shawl and cried. He was so touched by the gesture and knew then that he was surrounded by many that cared. His surgery was successful, and he is recuperating at home.

Please stop in the office and let Jane (or any of our Deacons) know if you would like to have a prayer shawl for someone.