



The Builder



January

2024

The newsletter serving the families & friends of:

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

Worship on Sunday mornings - 10:30am

Sunday school for all ages at 9:15am

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**

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday January 28

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

Greetings to our Church Family,

I wonder if you can remember the “Broom Hilda” cartoon in which her troll-like, naive, innocent little friend Irwin puts on a long-tailed formal tuxedo jacket, picks up a conductor's baton and walks into the woods alone.

Irwin steps up on a fallen tree trunk and begins to wave his arms as if to conduct. There are no musicians, only rocks, trees and flowers. Soon, musical notes pour from the rocks, trees and flowers and fill the panel. Finally, Irwin turns and confidently says to the reader, "It's all in there; you just have to work at getting it out."

As we look at this new year that has just arrived, we know it is filled with all kinds of dreams and possibilities: "They're all in there; we just have to work at getting them out."

I wonder how many dreams are never realized because the dreamer never gets into action. If you were to follow the stories of immigrant families who come to this country, you would find episode after episode of astounding success. Why? One reason has to be a sense of urgency--they simply cannot afford to fail. There is no safety net to catch them. They don't have the social networks that others can rely on--they have only themselves.

Jesus had a sense of urgency about his life. It is clear from the time that he came out of the river after being baptized by John that his face was set toward his mission in Jerusalem. That did not mean that he did not take time for reflection. In fact, he immediately went into the wilderness for forty days of testing, prayer and self-examination. But nothing could delay him, discourage him or defeat him.

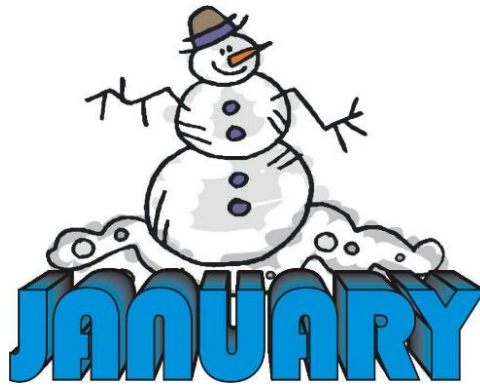
HE DID NOT LOOK BACK. In fact, in Luke 9:62 Jesus says it pointedly: "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Jesus knew there was no turning back. Tranquil days in the carpenter shop of Nazareth were soon only a dream. This is who he was and what he had been called to achieve. The threats of public humiliation, imprisonment and even death on the cross did not dissuade him. He had committed himself to God's plan for his life... and He would see it through.

Now as we begin the new year of 2024, it is a time for new beginnings. So let's start this New Year with a sense of humility and urgency and a commitment to give our very best to whatever noble dream God has placed in our heart.

When we do that, I believe that we can achieve great things for the Lord.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Pastor Tom



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Happy Birthday, Lilly Frields
- 11 Happy Birthday John James
- 14 Happy Birthday Eunice Fass & Mariah Koencke
- 15 Happy Birthday Stephanie Shrader
- 16 Happy Birthday Linda Frerichs
- 19 Happy Birthday Jeff Maddox
- 20 Happy Anniversary Rev Bob and & Misty Burdett
- 25 Happy Birthday Shannon Wehling
- 26 Happy Birthday Kate Patton & Alexander Frerichs
- 28 Happy Birthday Abby Reese
- 30 Happy Birthday Jerry Higgins

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

Serving this month:

Organist: Abby Reese	Scripture: John James	Greeters: Jeff & Carol Maddox
Camera: Marv Zimmerman/Alexis Dierking	Acolytes: Youth	
Sound/Power Point: Kristie Dierking	Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Frields	

Please continue prayers for the following church family and friends:

Tom & Janet Hemphill, Diann Starr, Rev. Bob and Misty Burdett, Nancy Blackshear, the Bassinger family in Dunbar, 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.



Calendar Of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR Office closed	2	3 Lunch Bunch at Little Ted's 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	4	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord
7 Sunday School 9:15 Worship/Holy Communion 10:30 Coffee Fellowship Baptism of the Lord	8 Activity reports for the annual report due in office	9	10 Lunch Bunch The Keeping Room 11:30am Quilters 1pm Deacons 5pm Session 6:30pm	11	12	13
14 Sunday school 9:15 Worship 10:30 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	15 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	16	17 Lunch Bunch at Subway 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir -7pm	18	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am Annual Reports available 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	22	23	24 Lunch Bunch at Arby's 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	25	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:15am Worship 10:30am Hunger Offering Annual Meeting 4 th Sunday after Epiphany	29	30	31 Lunch Bunch at Taco John's 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm			

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR REGULAR GIVING.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD - SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS 2023!



M
E
R
R
Y

C
H
R
I
S
T
M
A
S
!



Carla Zaroban and Kristie Dierking worked tirelessly on the set up, planning and execution of their Sunday school Christmas program: *Christmas Around the World*. They worked with the kids and gave us wonderful examples of different traditions and celebrations used around the world. Then the adult Sunday school served desserts using recipes, also from around the world. They asked for volunteer bakers and our church family did not disappoint! It was a great day for everyone. Merry Christmas 2023!



Above and left: Audience participation with the Krystal Bells. Thanks, Abby – that was fun!

Right: Pastor Tom and Branch are enjoying a day of vacation with Tommy the Train! Happy vacation, both of you!



We would be missing one last opportunity to appreciate the Christmas altar if we didn't have a picture. It was so pretty with the new Advent banners as a backdrop, the poinsettias, and the Nativity. It was a truly another Blessed Christmas at First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City.