



# The Builder



hello  
**December**

2024

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**

**Sunday School begins at 9:15am – Adult SS at 9:30**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion and Coffee Fellowship - 1st Sunday of each month**

**Sunday Worship services are posted on our Facebook page:**

**First Presbyterian Church – Nebraska City Facebook**

**Sunday School Christmas Program – Sunday, December 15**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Tuesday, December 24**

**Merry Christmas! – Wednesday, December 25**

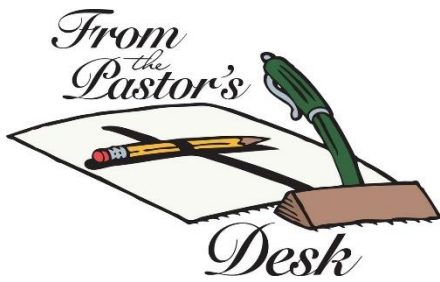
**Keep in touch.....**

**Pastor Tom:** Email: [presbypastortom@yahoo.com](mailto:presbypastortom@yahoo.com) Phone: 402-274-8199

**Church Office:** Hours: 9-2:30, Monday – Thursday Phone: 402-873-5306, Email: [secretary@firstpresnc.org](mailto:secretary@firstpresnc.org)

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

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Christmas lights are going up- all around us these days. They bring us beauty and joy in this season of Advent and Christmas. Yet, looming in the shadows are all the troubles of this world. They often create darkened spirits. It's easy to forget that God has called us to be our Lord's light in this world. Surely you will agree with me that our world does indeed need the Light of Christ!

There are a lot of things that we wait for with excitement this time of the year – reunions with family and friends, traditions, and special activities, the giving and receiving of gifts, even taking a break from the everyday routines and demands.

The Word of God, the Bible, reminds us of the life-changing gift that outshines the darkness of this world—Jesus. Jesus is the Light of Peace in our lives ... and the truth is that the joy of Christmas is found in you!

It's not found in the fanfare of the lights and surroundings of the holidays. You and I have been given the light of Christ to share with our world. Remember singing the children's song, *This Little Light of Mine*? Christmas is a great time to let your little light shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Matthew 5:16 says, "... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." God has empowered us to shine our light in the ways we behave, speak, work and interact with others each day. Be sure to remember to shine brightly so that we can truly celebrate Christ's birth.

I hope to see you in worship during this holy season of the year. Pastor Tom





## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 01 Happy Birthday Adam Wilton
- 04 Happy Birthday Pat Wehling & Josh Martens
- 08 Happy Birthday Dave LeGrand
- 10 Happy Birthday Bill Peterson
- 13 Happy Birthday JoAnn Martens
- 14 Happy Birthday Randy Martens
- 19 Happy Birthday Lori Koeneke
- 23 Happy Birthday Bev McGinnis
- 24 Happy Birthday Nels Wilton
- 27 Happy Birthday Ruth Ann Weddle
- 28 Happy Birthday Keith Dierking
- 30 Happy Anniversary Bill & Jean Dammast
- 31 Happy Birthday Gene Mercer

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)

Serving this month:

Organist: Abby Reese

Greeter: Carol Hammond

Scripture: Jeff Maddox

Acolytes: Youth

Facebook/Photographer: Teresa FIELDS

Sound/Power Point: Jeff Maddox/Jane Zimmerman/Marv Zimmerman/Alexis Dierking

Prepare Communion: Randy Martens Coffee Fellowship: Jan Marion/Kim Reese/Jane Zimmerman

**Please continue prayers** for the following church family and friends: Pastor Tom & Janet Osborne, Doris Marin, Howard & Dee Antes, Jan Bolejack, Jen Stoakes, Edith Simmerman, Ed Reed, and for those unable to attend worship in person. Please call or email the office if you have someone to



Left: Alexis Dierking manned the sound system and cameras in November while Jayne James ran the power point presentation. On Veteran's Day, Howard Antes and Tony Reese carried the Christian flag and the American flag to the front for display. (right)



BTW.....Tony is wearing his uniform from 1968 – it's still a perfect fit!



# Calendar Of Events

# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Sunday School 9:15 Adults SS 9:30 10:30 Worship & Communion	2 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	3	4 Lunch Bunch Taco Bell 11:30am Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	5	6	7
8 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30	9	10	11 Lunch Bunch Runza 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	12	13	14
15 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>Christmas Program</b> Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30	16 Christmas Box distribution at the Food Pantry UMC 3-5pm	17	18 Lunch Bunch Pizza Hut 11:30am Quilters 1pm Session 6:30pm Deacons 6:30pm	19	20	21
22 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm</b>	25 	26	27	28
29 <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas</b> Sunday School 9:15 Adult SS 9:30am Worship 10:30 Hunger Offering	30	31 <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>				

# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX DEDICATION



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Operation Christmas Child boxes! We delivered 61 boxes this year.

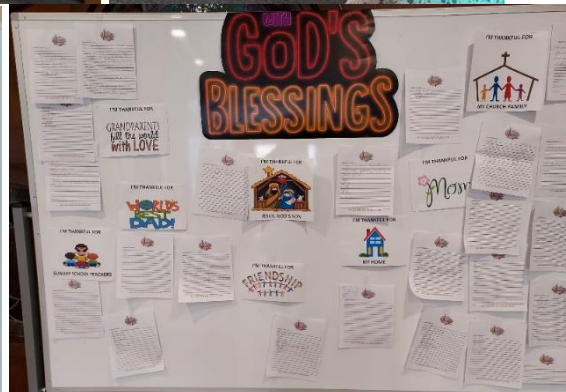
Thank you to those who donated items, filled boxes or provided money for shipping.

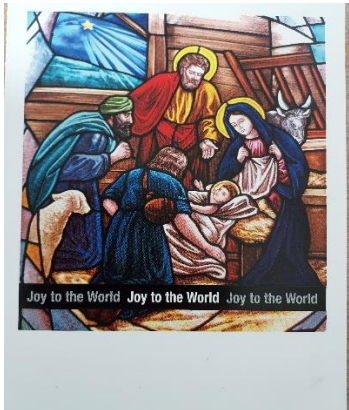
A special thanks to the Deacons, Udine Wilton and Jane Zimmerman for the support and help with organization and communication.

God Bless, Carla

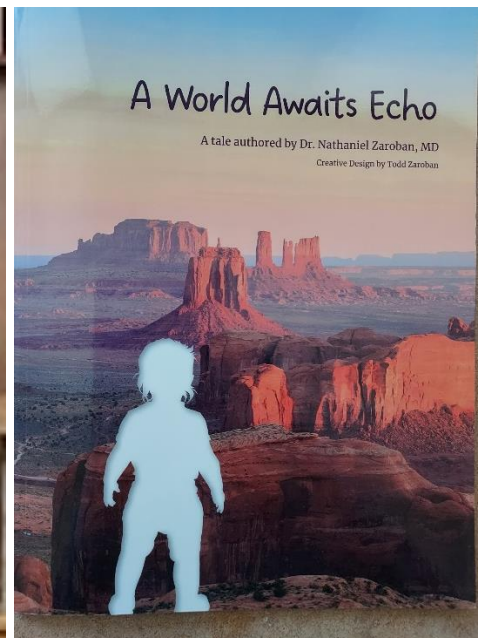
## A SPECIAL THANKS TO.....

The Sunday school kids filled out forms, thanking someone special in their life. Everyone attending church on Nov 24 was asked to do the same. The result is a board filled with thank you notes. Pastor Tom's message was a wonderful reminder to us, of all the blessings in our life.





The **Deacons' annual Advent project** has started. The folders are on the table in the narthex. Monies from the folders will support the projects of the Deacons throughout the year. Every month they deliver packets to St Mary's Hospital's ER department for children coming to the ER. Prayer shawls are donated by several wonderful crafty crocheters and knitters, and given out to anyone that would like to have one. Each month, two members visit our members unable to attend our church services and take snacks and cards. The deacons also take care of funeral lunches, donate boxes and postage to Operation Christmas Child, and financially support the Ministerial Association. Please pick up a folder today. In leu of coins, you may prefer to write a check to First Presbyterian Church Deacons. Thank you in advance for your support!



*A World Awaits Echo*, A tale authored by Dr. Nathaniel Zaroban, MD

Ken and Carla Zaroban presented a copy of Dr. Nathaniel Zaroban's book *A World Awaits Echo*, to Pastor Tom and our church members. Nate is their oldest son and dedicated his book to his daughter Sedona. It's a story that encourages children to dream big and to not let anyone impose limits upon them, including themselves. The story was inspired by a trip to Sedona Arizona, as was the name of their firstborn. 😊 It is a wonderful, picturesque book. Creative Design of the book is by Nate's uncle Todd Zaroban. If you'd like to look through the book, stop in the office and Jane will share it with you.

**First Presbyterian Church**

**Sunday School Students**

**Invite you to their 2024 Christmas Program**

**a Charlie Brown inspired Christmas!**



**Sunday, December 15**

**We invite everyone to join them**

**for the 10:30 Worship Service and Program.**

After the service we invite you to a time of fellowship and refreshments

hosted by the Adult Sunday School class

# Fall Bazaar & Salad Luncheon



Thank you to everyone that participated in this year's Fall Bazaar. The salad bazaar was successful, as was the bake sale and silent auction. Teresa Fields was the 'happy camper' that had the winning bid on the quilt! The baked goods all sold and the salads were delicious. And of course, Udine's cinnamon rolls sold better than hot cakes! Thank you again for supporting this day!



Forget the rain – that food needs to get to the pantry! Boxes, bags and cans, oh my! Tony took a car full to the food pantry in time for the Thanksgiving boxes distribution on November 17. Thank you, Tony and everyone for your donations!

Food Pantry for December: Donations for the Christmas boxes would be greatly appreciated. Lists of the food items requested are on the table in the narthex. Thank you in advance!

Our *Hunger Offering* is always a show of generosity. Thank you for giving to the Food Pantry, through our monthly Hunger Offering and food donations!