



The Builder



2025

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 - 9:15am – Adult SS - 9:30

Classes will recess this month for the summer and will resume in September

Thursday May 1st is National Day of Prayer

Sunday, May 11 – Celebrate Mother's Day

Monday May 26th is Memorial Day

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

Keep in touch.....

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

Church Office: Hours: 9-2:30, Monday – Thursday Phone: 402-873-5306, Email: secretary@firstpresnc.org

Church Website: www.firstpresnc.org **Homestead Presbytery website:** www.homesteadpres.org

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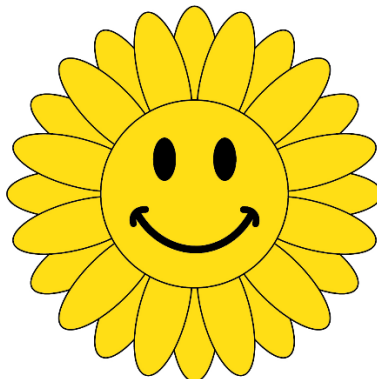
Did you realize that the happy face, or smiley face is 42 years old? About 42 years ago, Carnegie Mellon University professor, Scott E. Fahlman, used three keystrokes that suggest a horizontal smiley face. A colon, a hyphen and an ending parenthesis and there it is! :-)

Today, the smiley face and other emotional icons are known as emoticons. They are used to help people express their feeling when they're typing a message. In fact, the smiley face ☺ has generated a cottage industry. Smiley faces can be seen on just about anything. Except people!

People who have smiles on their faces not only look better, but they probably feel better. And they make others around them feel better, too. Too many people forget what their face looks like to others. They step into the world each morning with a grumpy face, or a worry face, or a frowning face, or a sad and resigned face. It might be a good thing every morning to do a face check: What does my face look like today?!?

Fortunately for us, God's face is constant. We're reminded of this in the Aaronic Benediction which is found in the Old Testament book of Numbers, chapter 6: "The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

As we strive to reach others in our community for Christ, we need to think about our facial expression. Does the joy of our Easter faith shine through, or are we grumpy, frowning and sad? Allow the Lord to make his face to shine upon you and receive the peace of God. Then you can find it easier to put on a happy face. ☺



Preston Anthony Scott Confirmation



Almost 30 years ago I (Abby Reese) was confirmed in this church. Now my son, Preston Anthony Scott, has been confirmed.

Preston is a 13-year-old young man that is the light of my life. He enjoys playing in the middle school band with his saxophone and plans to continue playing in high school next year. He swims on the local swim team; and is playing soccer this spring. This past winter he played basketball for the middle school. His hobbies are putting together Star Wars Legos, video games, riding his bike, and hanging out with friends.

I love you Preston and remember that God is always with you. You just need to start the conversation. Love, your mom



Easter Sunday and Confirmation Sunday for Preston. Pastor Tom and Carla Zaroban were his teachers/mentors. That morning, Elder (Grandpa) Tony Reese joined Pastor Tom and Carla in the confirmation service. Following the ceremony, Preston shared his gift of music with a saxophone solo, accompanied by his mom Abby Reese. Preston, congratulations. You had a great turn-out of family and friends for your confirmation!





Happy Birthday in May!

- 1 Gertrude Ettleman
- 6 Lisa Osborne
- 6 Jan Bolejack
- 13 Dave Patton
- 18 Nick Maddox
- 23 Carla Zaroban
- 24 Preston Scott
- 26 John Marion

Happy Anniversary

- 24 Jeff & Teresa Frields

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 Anniversary 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

Acolytes: Youth

Greeter: Carol Hammond Scripture: John James

Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Frields

Sound/Power Point: Kris Dierking and Alexis Dierking

Prepare Communion: Trent Mangum

Coffee Fellowship: Youth of our Sunday School

Please continue prayers for the following church family and friends: Pastor Tom & Janet Osborne, Jan Bolejack, Tom and Janet Hemphill, Teresa Frields, and for those unable to attend worship in person. Please call or email the office if you have someone to add to this list.



A huge and better-late-than-never **THANK YOU!** to **Teresa Frields** for most of the pictures in our newsletters! Just imagine what the Builder would be without them!



During "Life's Little Lessons", Pastor Tom shared eggs filled with butterflies, comparing them to the tomb that Jesus was buried in and resurrected from – much like a butterfly that is 'resurrected' from its cocoon. The Choir sang "He Is Alive", we adorned the cross with flowers while singing the opening hymn, and everyone in attendance received a card that read 'everyone needs a little Jesus.



May Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2	3
4 Sunday School 9:15 10:30 Worship & Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship 3 rd Sunday of Easter	5 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5pm	6	7 Lunch Bunch Porter's 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	8	9	10
11 Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Mother's Day 4 th Sunday of Easter	12	13	14 Lunch Bunch Downtowner 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir 7pm	15	18	19
18 Worship 10:30 5 th Sunday of Easter	19 Food Pantry at UMC 3-5	20	21 Lunch Bunch Little Ted's 11:30 Quilters 1pm Session 6:30pm Deacons 6:30pm	22	23	24
25 Worship 10:30 6 th Sunday of Easter	26  Office closed	27	28 Lunch Bunch The Keeping Room 11:30 Quilters 1pm	29	30	31

Congratulations, Tarryn Godsey!

2025 Nebraska City Senior High Graduate



Tarryn is graduating May 11th from Nebraska City High School. She will be majoring in Elementary Education at Bellevue University and will also be playing basketball. Have a great summer and we wish you the best next year in Bellevue! GIRL POWER! 😊

Congratulation Lilly Frields

2025 Nebraska Wesleyan University Graduate



Here's the details....

Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Minors in Music and Biology

Graduation May 10

And her future is bright! Lilly has been accepted at Colorado State University in the PhD Psychology program for Cognitive Neuroscience in the area of Aging Research.

Best Wishes, Lilly....YOU GO GIRL!!

Palm Sunday at First Presbyterian Church.....



Welcome back, Christian Heaton! Christian played a violin solo last month. It was so good to see him again and his music was delightful! On Palm Sunday, we welcomed Carol Hammond into the fold! Carol has been involved in so many ways here, that many members didn't realize that she wasn't a member! Carol is an awesome artist and joins the quilters every week, has been greeter, coffee fellowship host, helped with bazaars and rummage sales, and we are thrilled to have her as a member of our church family! Carol transferred her membership officially on Palm Sunday. In celebration of the day, we waved the palms during the opening hymn, celebrating Christ's ride into Jerusalem.





Be on the lookout for more information. We're going to hold the 2nd Annual Puzzle Competition Day! Tentative date is Sunday, June 8. The Deacons will host the event. Grab a partner and get ready to assemble! 😊



Sunday School classes will soon be dismissed for the summer. Thank you to all the teachers for another great year. The youth will host a coffee fellowship on Sunday, May 4. Please join them for a time of food and friendship!



A huge appreciation for Abby and the choir members! You have blessed us with wonderful music all year. Enjoy a summer of relaxation and we will welcome you back this fall! The choir will hold their final practice on Wednesday, May 14 with a party to celebrate a great season. Thank you, thank you!



Arbor Day 2025: A day of reunion, friendship, accomplishment and fun. Dr. Ed Raines and Marvin Zimmerman completed the 5K race together on Saturday. This was a reunion of sorts for them. 27 years ago, Dr. Raines was the surgeon that performed Marvin's heart transplant. It was a great blessing to have them finish this race together.

Pictured with Marvin and Dr Raines are Ed's son and wife, Westin and Kris Raines, Jane Zimmerman, Ashley Stewart and Jean Stewart (seated). They all finished the 5K through Arbor Farms and Arbor Lodge together.

A Baby Shower for Liz James one for the BOOKS! 😊

Happy parents-to-be, darling decorations, delicious food, happy guests and a fabulous array of books, books and more books for baby, mom and dad! They're going to need a large bookshelf!

JoAnn Martens and Rose DeKock hosted this wonderful event. Grandmothers-to-be were beaming and Aunt Helen gifted the new baby with a quilt to cuddle with while listening to mom and dad read her favorites!

