



The Builder



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 is in recess for the summer and will resume in September

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

**Join us at Wildwood Park for Worship and Potluck Picnic
Sunday August 10 – 10:30am**

**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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CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY!

As I sit down to compose this brief article, for some reason I am thinking about birthdays and getting older. Probably because my birthday is coming and I am getting closer to the age of 80. I am not there yet but I am approaching it. I remember when I thought that 65 was old. Now here I am approaching 80.

Birthdays need to be celebrated. I think it is more important to celebrate a birthday than a successful exam, a promotion, or a victory in sports. Because to celebrate a birthday means to say to someone: "Thank you for being you." Celebrating a birthday is exalting life, and being glad for it. On a birthday we do not say: "Thanks for what you did, or said, or accomplished." No, we say: "Thank you for being born and being among us."

On birthdays we celebrate the present. We do not complain about what happened or speculate about what will happen, but we lift someone up and let everyone say right now in the present: "We love you." "We celebrate the life you are sharing with us!"

In God's holy word we find:

"I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers." - Ephesians 1:16

I want to suggest to you that the best gift you can give someone is prayer. Pray for the other person, giving thanks for their life, their faith, and their influence upon us.

Here is another thought:

I have lived more days than I have left on earth. Only God knows how long any of us have left to live, but one thing I do know is this: **everyday matters**. In the 90th Psalm we read, "*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom*" (Psalm 90:12).

I believe that pondering the brevity of life helps you to think about what is truly important.

Have you done that lately? I encourage you to take time to think and consider this. What is truly important as I live out my life? Come to worship with us as we all figure it out!



Join us in celebrating our church's

170th anniversary on
Sunday, August 10, at Wildwood Park!

We will celebrate with an abbreviated worship service followed by a potluck picnic. If you are able, bring a food item to share – but come with or without – there is always more than enough to eat! The worship committee will provide plates, silverware, napkins and drinks. ALL ARE WELCOME!!



CALLING ALL SINGERS..... As the summer starts winding down, and kids get ready to go back to school, it is time to warm up your voices and get ready to come back to choir. The choir will start practicing on Wednesday, August 27. We will keep our same schedule of practicing each Wednesday from 7 to 8 p.m., with the third Wednesday of each month off for Session meetings. Please mark your calendars. If you have any questions, please reach out to Abby Reese. Look forward to seeing everyone again.



We enjoyed Special Music during our worship services in July. Kim and Kris aka The Grannies sang *On Eagles' Wings* and Laura Osborne share one of her Matthew West's numbers, *Truth Be Told*. Thank you for sharing your God given talents, Ladies!





August Birthdays:

5 Linda Martin
8 Janet Osborne
15 Ellie Ribbles

Happy 1st Birthday!

16 Brad Marion
18 Kim Reese
20 Kaelie Frields
23 Pastor Tom
24 Nathan Zaroban
26 Laura Osborne

Anniversaries:

29 Ed & Virginia Reed

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 Anniversariy calendar, please don't hesitate to let Jane know! Please call the office or email your information to:

secretary@firstpresnc.org.

Please continue prayers for the following church family and friends: Ed Reed, Steve Mangum, Pastor Tom & Janet Osborne, Tom 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.

Serving this month:

Organist: Abby	Acolytes: Youth
Greeter: Jane Zimmerman	Scripture: Tony Reese
Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Frields	
Sound/Power Point: Kris Dierking, Alexis Dierking, Preston Scott	
Prepare Communion: Sue LeGrand	
Coffee Fellowship: Helen Lundak and Rose DeKock	



The **Church Library** is in the conference room. (third door on the left - educational wing) Several books are newer, but many have been on the shelves for more than 40 years. Please stop by the table in the fellowship hall and give your opinion on the books there. Should we keep these books in the library or is it time to find another home for them?

The latest editions to the library are the following:

America's Prophet Moses and the American Story by Bruce Feiler

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren

Invisible by Jennifer Rothschild

Choosing Gratitude by Nancy Leigh DeMoss

Luke - Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws by Adam Hamilton

We have a wonderful selection of books in the library: Bibles, Bible reference books, Christian novels, Children's Christian books, and so much more. Stop in and discover some great books.

Take one, bring one, enjoy some great reading!



Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30 Worship & Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship 8 th Sunday after Pentecost	4 Food Pantry UMC 3-5pm	5	6 Lunch Bunch Spring Garden 11:30 Quilters 1pm	7	8	9
10 170th Anniversary! Worship & Picnic at Wildwood Park 10:30am 9 th Sunday after Pentecost	11	12	13 Lunch Bunch Gram's Place 11:30 Quilters 1pm	14	15	16
17 Worship 10:30 10 th Sunday after Pentecost	18 Food Pantry UMC 3-5pm	19	20 Lunch Bunch Porter's 11:30 Quilters 1pm Deacons & Session 6:30	21	22	23
24 Worship 10:30 11 th Sunday after Pentecost	25	26	27 Lunch Bunch Downtowner 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir practice 7pm	28	29	30
31 Worship 10:30 Hunger Offering 12 th Sunday after Pentecost						

THEY DID IT 100 YEARS AGO! (You won't hear this anywhere else)

100 years ago, was the final day of the widely followed Scopes trial in Dayton, TN, where the truth of the Bible was essentially put on trial for the nation (and an international audience) to see. Sadly, the Christian defending the Bible compromised on Genesis, allowing for millions of years, and was unable to answer certain questions about the truth of Genesis. And the results are still felt today!

Dr. Terry Mortenson writes that the trial greatly fueled the public debate about the origin of the world. The scientific status of [evolution](#) was elevated in the minds of the public. Teaching [creation](#) was soon removed from the public schools, and evolution now wholly controls the curriculum. Fundamentalist ("Bible-believing") Christianity and belief in creation (especially the supernatural creation of [Adam and Eve](#)) were discredited.

A recent Gallup poll indicates that 37% of Americans essentially believe the Genesis account of the creation of humans. But the rest accept human evolution, and even the majority of Christians accept the millions of years view of the earth. The battle in 1925 and the battle today is not, as so many think, one between science and religion. It is rather a battle between the naturalistic dogma (i.e., religion) of the scientific majority and the plain teaching of Scripture. It is ultimately a battle between man's fallible word and God's inerrant Word. For 200 years Christians have creatively tried every conceivable way to fit millions of years into Genesis 1: either *into* "figurative" (or "mythological") days, or *between* the literal days, or *before* the literal (or "figurative") days. But it won't fit. They have also argued that Noah's Flood was either a localized flood in the Middle East or a mythological flood. But none of these interpretations stand up to sacred scrutiny of an open Bible, which is why there are so many different old-earth views. Despite their wide and growing number, none of them can harmonize the Bible with the evolution story.

Yes, the issue has always been and continues to be **the authority of God's Word!** Will we start with God's Word or will we take man's ideas and add them into Scripture (essentially making man, not God, the authority)?

Compromise never pays. God hates compromise (go read the Old Testament prophets and you'll clearly see it!), and compromise just fuels more compromise.

The solution for every Christian is to stand boldly on the authority of the Word of God . . . from the very first verse!