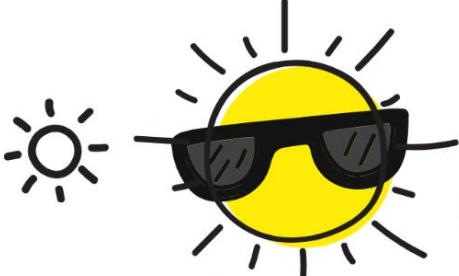




The Builder



AUGUST 2026

The newsletter serving the families & friends of:

First Presbyterian Church – 1855 - present

1005 1st Corso - Nebraska City NE 68410

Worship on Sunday mornings - 10:30am

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 for all ages will begin on Sunday September 13
9:15 for children, 9:30 for adults**

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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In the Bible, several people experienced name changes that often signified a transformation in their identity or purpose. Notable examples include Abram becoming Abraham, and Saul becoming Paul, and Simon becoming Peter, each reflecting a significant shift in their destinies.

Instances where God changes a person's name, symbolize a new identity and purpose. These name changes are significant and carry deep spiritual meaning. These name changes in the Bible serve as powerful reminders of God's transformative power and His ability to shape our identities and destinies. They also highlight the significance of encountering God and the profound impact it can have on our lives.

God changing names in the Bible serves as a powerful reminder that He is actively involved in our lives and desires to transform, guide, and bless us. It demonstrates His sovereignty and the divine plans He has for each individual. These name changes provide us with valuable insights into the character and intentions of God, and they inspire us to seek His purpose for our own lives.

Do you know that we all will be given a new name. The Lord said in Revelation 2:17,
“To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows but he who receives it.”

Traditionally this the mysterious white stone with a new name is a profound image of the identity, position, and rewards that await followers of Jesus who faithfully walk with Him.

Though the full significance is unclear, we can grasp enough to be encouraged in our relationship with Christ. He sees us as His beloved, accepted, victorious children and longs to bless us beyond what we can imagine.

The white stone symbol reminds us of Jesus' tender intimacy with us as well as the need to persevere through trials as we look ahead to eternity with Him. It signifies victory and acceptance; in this context, it symbolizes a new identity granted to the faithful.

Receiving a new name on a stone signifies a profound shift in one's identity and status before God, moving the believer into a relationship defined by personal recognition. This promise functions as a covenant reward, emphasizing that God knows and values the individual identity of those who remain steadfast in their faith.

I hope that this promise will encourage and enable you to walk faithfully with the Lord. Come to worship with us and surely you will find energy and strength to continue your faith journey!

Pastor Tom



2 Steve & Tami Mangum
5 Linda Martin
15 Dick James
15 Ellie Ribbles
16 Brad Marion
17 Connie Higgins
18 Kim Reese
20 Kaelie Fields
23 Pastor Tom
24 Nathan Zaroban
26 Laura Osborne
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 at 402-873-5306 or email your information to: secretary@firstpresnc.org.

Serving this month: Organist: Abby Reese
 Scripture: Tony Reese Greeters: Dean & Denise DuVall
 Facebook/Photographer: Teresa Fields
 Sound/Video: Jane and Marv Zimmerman & Dean DuVall
 Prepare Communion: Trent Mangum
 Coffee Fellowship: Rose DeKock & Helen Lundak

Please continue prayers for the following church family and friends: the family of Richard Martens (Randy's brother) Austin Parker, deployed to the Mideast, Max Callen, Nancy Starr, Gertrude Ettleman, Marcia Catalone, Misty Burdette, Lonnie & Donna Miller, Ashler Roehler, Carissa Curtis, Cindy Jewell and for those unable to attend worship in person. Please call/email the office if you have someone to add to this list.



Where does summer go?

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer break. It is time to start thinking about choir. I have been looking for new music and finding more options with easier melodies.

Choir will have their first practice on Wednesday, 08/26, at 7 p.m. I am working on a tentative schedule for at least the rest of 2026. While I work on the schedule, I am planning to put the song we will sing for each Sunday as well.

Wednesday nights are one of my favorite nights of the week, and it is always my goal that everyone who joins us has the same experience. I hope to see old faces and maybe some new faces on 08/26. This group is for all ages.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions about choir. If you would like to get a sneak peak of some of the music selections for this year, please let me know. I hope to have folders filled with some of the music in a couple of weeks.

Thank you. I hope to see as many of you on 08/26 as possible."



Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship and Holy Communion 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 10 th Sunday after Pentecost	3 Food Pantry UMC 3-5pm	4	5 Lunch Bunch Subway 11:30 Quilters 1pm	6	7	8
9 Worship 10:30 11 th Sunday after Pentecost	10	11	12 Lunch Bunch Arby's 11:30 Quilters 1pm	13	14	15
16 Worship 10:30 12 th Sunday after Pentecost	17 Food Pantry UMC 3-5pm	18	19 Lunch Bunch Taco John's 11:30 Quilters 1pm Session and Deacons 6:30pm	20	21	22
23 Worship 10:30am 13 th Sunday after Pentecost	24	25	26 Lunch Bunch Hong Kong 11:30 Quilters 1pm Choir practice 7pm	27 CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE 9am-5pm	28 CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE 9am-12pm	29
30 Worship 10:30am Hunger Offering 14 th Sunday after Pentecost	31					

Nebraska City Food Pantry in August: donations of backpack food and/or drinks would be greatly appreciated. Thanks!

Our Church Family in Action!.....



Our back parking lot has new coat of asphalt, and Randy Martens finished the project with new parking space and handi-cap markings. The Grannies sang for our worship service, and our elders helped Pastor Tom serve communion. Dorie helped her mom and dad light the candles before the service began and was totally intrigued with the process....as most one-year-olds would be! Bryan and Liz – she is such a doll!

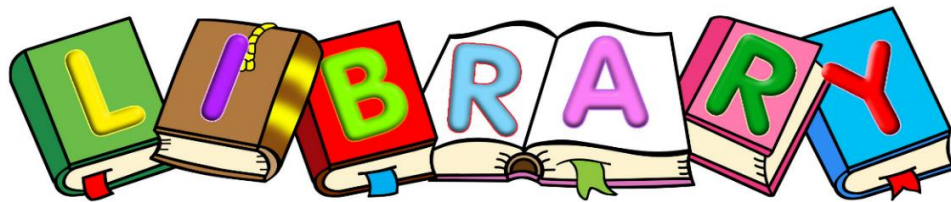


Cassidy, Landry and Baylor (also known as the kids in the James gang) are such great help when it comes to gathering in the coins during the Hunger Offering. Our church family gave a total of \$111. 54 this month, in addition to lots of items in the donation boxes for the Food Pantry. Thank you, kids and church family!



Sunday September 13 – return to our new year of Sunday School classes!

The teachers, adult class, and kids will serve refreshments after our worship service that morning. Please join them and celebrate our new year in Sunday School!



It's always a good time to check out the books in our church library, and in addition to the books in the conference room library, a recent addition is on a table in the fellowship hall. There is no better time than when the heat is on outside, to fix an iced drink and pick up a good book to read!

New to our library: (on the table in the fellowship hall)

Praying God's Word by Beth Moore

How to Live Right when Your Life Goes Wrong by Leslie Vernick

Calm My Anxious Heart by Linda Dillow

90 Minutes in Heaven by Don Piper

God Moments for Dark Days by Jennifer Rees Larcombe

Keeping God in the Small Stuff – Devotions for Every Day by Bruce & Stan

Life's Healing Choices by John Baker

The Servant Leader by Ken Blanchard & Phil Hodges

God Is In Control by Charles Stanley

Time Out for Prayer – Devotions for Women by Julie Baker

Loved to Life by Ann Voskamp