

**PASTOR:**

Emily McCreery  
308-530-7175

**ADMIN ASSIST:**

Naomi Okoye

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:**

Jennifer Winder

**BELL DIRECTOR:**

Jill Dolan

**ORGANIST:**

Nick Henline

**TREASURER:**

Vern Ehlers

**CLERK OF SESSION:**

Ned Mack

**DEACON MODERATORS:**

Janet & Leroy Hare

**PW MODERATOR:**

Dixie Francis

**ELDERS:**

Shaina Bassett  
Jon Beggs  
Shad Connick  
Vern Ehlers  
Lowell Fenster  
Chuck Francis  
Dave Glenn  
Ned Mack  
Kay Wright

**DEACONS:**

Amy Cauffman  
Porter Connick  
Janet Hare  
Leroy Hare  
Ann Jones  
Ellie McClymont  
Jim McClymont  
Carol Norgaard  
Irene Ridgway  
Bev Sallee  
Cecil Sallie  
June Shaw  
Rich Shaw  
Laura Stewart

# Church & Home

March 2024

1901 West Leota Street, North Platte, NE 69101  
(308) 532-1083 [www.fpcnp.org](http://www.fpcnp.org)



My family and I enjoy traveling. We have been blessed with travel opportunities and to experience other cultures. It is one way we learn and grow. When traveling though, typically my husband and I are leading the way. Sort of. Trying to get the family in the car, on the plane, or to the next point of interest.

But while we are leading in our small way, it is God who is at the helm. Or trying to be ... if we get out of the way and out from our clouded view.

How can we let God lead us out of the wilderness if we shield our eyes from the light that Christ brings? We cannot follow in darkness. The light is for us to see. To see God and to follow. To let God lead us. To let God lead us up a mountain. Out of Egypt. On a road trip. No matter the journey, God is the navigator.

We may not know where the final stop is or even the next stop, but with God leading, we will finish the trip. God will not lead us astray.

My family took a trip that we did not know each day where we would end up. But we unveiled our eyes to see the light of God, trusted, and let God lead us. And I will say, there have been times that I have been incredibly happy to NOT know what is coming next.

Letting God lead us through the wilderness can take us to places only dreams were made of.

+++

Lent is my favorite time of the year – not just my favorite time in the church year, but my favorite time of the year in every avenue. For many reasons, I look forward to Lent and Holy Week, especially for the time spent in silence and prayer, waiting, fasting, and wondering, and then being awestruck at Christ defeating death.

The Lenten season is a beautiful experience.

We are offered a chance to be filled with the hope in Christ Jesus. The hope of eternal life. The hope of rebirth. The hope that can only be received through Jesus Christ.

As we are gifted hope year after year during this season, we are also provided with opportunities to let go of idols and temptations and refocus our hearts on Christ. It is a time to dig deep within ourselves.

**"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." ~ Romans 15:13**

We have temptations all around us and those temptations steer us away from the path of the Lord. As the devil tried to persuade Christ during his 40 days with temptations of bread and authority over all the kingdoms of the world, Christ remained steadfast in his faith and mission. Christ responded with the writings from God and ultimately said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

So how do we not put the Lord our God to the test? How do we ignore or eliminate temptations?

Perhaps first by looking within ourselves and identifying those temptations.

What tempts you?

How can you ignore those temptations and focus on Christ and God's mission?

Is there an item or idol that you can go without that would increase your concentration or make it easier to focus on Christ?

Do we desire to see beyond the temptations and focus solely on Christ?

As we make our way together in the next 40 days leading to the Resurrection of the Lord and Savior, I urge you to retrain your concentration to Christ. My hope is that you will be drawn nearer to God and encouraged by the hope that Christ's life and resurrection bring to us.

Lenten blessings to you,  
Pastor Emily

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Coy Baker      | 12 Nancy Mack    |
| 2 Kora Weigel    | 13 Jon Beggs     |
| 3 Janice Walters | 16 Cash Cauffman |
| 4 Dax Connick    | 18 Scott Baker   |
| 5 Larry Stobbs   | 20 Vern Ehlers   |
| 6 Maxine Mulder  | 21 Kelly Ehlers  |
| 7 Kent Miller    | 22 Sharon Glenn  |
| 8 Spencer Clough | 24 Janet Hare    |
| Marcia Henline   | 25 Maris Schad   |
| 10 Ann Jones     | 26 Chuck Henline |
| 10 Jeff Petersen | 28 Ron Norgaard  |



3/3/1962 Mary & Tom Pendleton  
 3/14/1998 Barb & Bob Barr  
 3/23/2002 Wendy & Joe Staroska

*I was not in attendance for Soup-er Bowl Sunday. However, I was delivered a bowl of soup and delicious desserts. It was very much appreciated! Thank you for the thoughtfulness of my church family. - - Marilyn Jones*



## Red Cross Blood Drive hosted by Coy



The Deacons met Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 9:15. They reported on the events of a very busy month.

- ♦ The Soup-er Bowl dinner was a great success. Ann reported that the amount of \$276.00 was collected for the Food Pantry. The Deacons have decided to help the PW with this worthwhile project annually.
- ♦ Cecil reported that the Game Night on February 17 went well. He would like to see more people participating.
- ♦ The Deacons provided 60 dinners at the Salvation Army on February 16th.
- ♦ A good team of workers served goulash, green beans, bread, bananas, milk, and cookies.
- ♦ It was moved and seconded to continue with the Salvation Army dinners for 2024. Other options for volunteer projects such as the Episcopal Church community meals will be discussed in May.
- ♦ The Deacons agreed to give \$100 to the Blanket Fund.
- ♦ The Deacons' help in the church services was discussed. The Deacons will continue to help greet attenders, usher, serve communion, and mentor. They will provide rides and meals to people in need. Deacons will also continue to reach out to the congregation with cards and calls.
- ♦ The Deacons wish for everyone to have a great February and March. Spring will be here soon.



## Handbell practice Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Monthly worship  
performances

Contact  
Director Jill Dolan  
for more info



## Like to sing?

Join the choir!



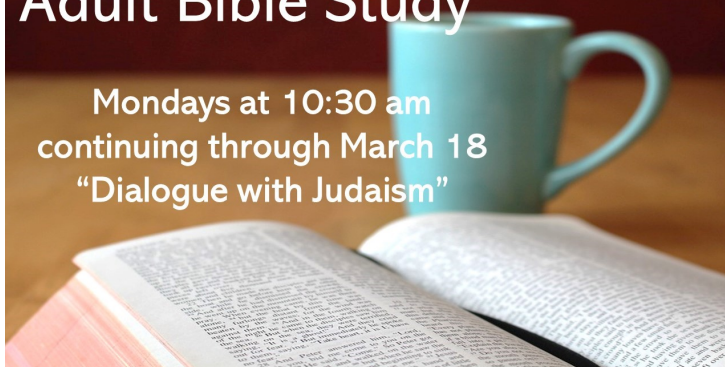
*Practices are Wednesdays at 7:30 pm*



Evelyn Mae DeVoe baptized February 18  
Parents: Joy & Robert DeVoe  
Grandparents: Susan & Jeff Petersen

## Adult Bible Study

Mondays at 10:30 am  
continuing through March 18  
"Dialogue with Judaism"



We can never have too many prayers.

Call the church office to be placed on  
our prayer list.  
308.532.1083

*How can we pray for you?*

### Prayer Requests:

Barb Barr, Elaine Besthorn, Dorothy Conger,  
Joe Conger, Marilyn Jones, Glenn Petersen,  
Arlene Richardson, Irene Ridgway, Bev Sallee,  
Mary Ann Youngren

### Prayer Emphasis for the month:

To let go and let God lead.

## Honoring our graduates

Email  
photo/honors/plans  
to the office by April 19  
for Church & Home



## Downtime in devotion

Wednesdays in the Word

Wednesdays at 12:15 pm  
@fpcnp on Facebook or fpcnp.org





**LENTEN ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR 2024**  
Participating North Platte Churches: Messiah Lutheran,  
First Lutheran, Episcopal Church of Our Savior and First Presbyterian

**ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 7pm** at Messiah Lutheran Church, 2700 W A St

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 7pm** at First Lutheran Church, 305 W 5th St

**GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 7pm** at First Presbyterian Church

**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, and EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31,**  
worship services will be held at the individual churches

**Prayer  
Labyrinth  
during  
Holy Week**

Available during business hours  
M-F 9 am to 4 pm

**LENTEN SERVICES**

Each  
Wednesday  
during Lent

Soup dinner  
at 5:30 pm

Worship  
at 6:30 pm

*First Lutheran Church • 305 West Fifth Street*

**NAIL IT TO THE CROSS**

Each worry, stress, or sorrow,  
each need you're thinking of ...  
Nail it to the Cross,  
and entrust it to Christ's love.

A trial or temptation,  
a challenge hard to face ...  
Nail it to the Cross,  
and give it to His grace.

For Christ redeemed all suffering,  
all struggle, loss, and death ...  
He "nailed" the world's salvation  
as He took His final breath.



**HOLY WEEK**

**Palm  
Sunday**  
March 24 @ 10 am  
FPC

**Maundy  
Thursday**  
March 28 @ 7 pm  
FELC

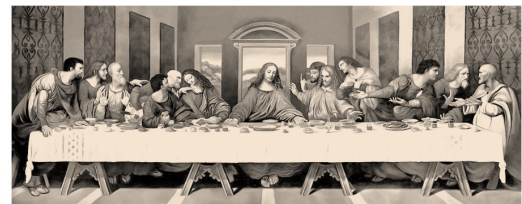
**Good  
Friday**  
March 29 @ 7 pm  
FPC

**PALM  
SUNDAY**

March 24, 2024

with Holy Communion  
10 am

**Maundy Thursday**  
with Holy Communion



March 28 • 7 pm

*First Lutheran Church • 305 West Fifth St.*

**Good Friday**

March 29, 2024 • 7 pm

Service with Nails

*First Presbyterian Church • 1901 West Leota St.*

**Resurrection  
of Our Lord**

Sunday, March 31 • 10 am  
with Holy Communion



## One-great hour of sharing

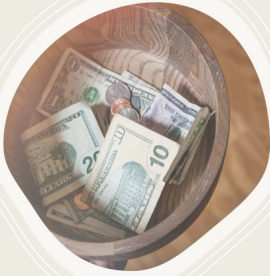
Offering designated to disaster relief, hunger, and self-development

Collected through March 10



## Easter offering

Funds used to help offset cost of heating coils on roof for ice jams



## Easter lilies

Order forms are in bulletins  
\$16 each

Deadline is March 18



## Confirmation class underway

- Wednesdays at 5:30 pm
- No class during Holy Week
- Confirmation Sunday April 28



## Stations of the Cross

**Each Wednesday during Lent @ noon**  
**Soup lunch to follow**

*Episcopal Church of Our Savior • 203 West Fourth Street*

This Lent, you're invited to a weekly walk with Jesus, to reflect on our Lord's life being poured out for us. With a printed reflection guide, join the crowd walking (indoors) the Stations of the Cross. Most stations are based on Bible accounts of Jesus' last day; a few stations are based on Christian tradition. Each station includes a spoken reflection on Jesus' journey, silence, and a prayer. You can stand or sit at each station.

Stations are on Wednesdays through March 27 at Noon, at Church of Our Savior, 203 West 4th Street. Soup and conversation follow. Silent prayer time in the church will be at 11:30 am and after Stations until 1:30 pm. If you have questions, please contact Fr. Steve Meysing at 532-0515, ext. 202.



March 22

5-7 p.m.

Drive through  
or dine-in  
at FPC

Free-will  
offering

**Last JAM for the  
season – Mar 17**

# JAM

## Jesus & Me

First Presbyterian Church  
Sundays 9:15-9:45 a.m.





## Women's Fellowship

**Coordinating Team Meeting, March 7 @ 10:30am**

**Fellowships meet Thursday, March 14**

Morning Fellowship:

10:00am - Bible Study, Fellowship & light brunch

Evening Spirits:

6:30pm - Bible Study, Fellowship & light supper

## Sacred Encounters

By Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir

### *The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*

"O God, in Jesus you came and turned the world upside down." Our author showed this to be true in the sacred encounters of people on the margins; the vulnerable, the outcast, the scorned. Luke's gospel recounts Jesus teaching his disciples that the reign of God is all inclusive: everyone is treated with dignity and respect: everyone is a child of God.

In continuing our study into Acts, the sequel to Luke's gospel, the holy spirit descends guiding Peter and John to carry on the mission Jesus had begun. Luke's writing continues with stories showing the barriers and stereotypes that were upended.

We, too, are gifted with the holy spirit enabling us to be agents of change. Prayer in the name of Jesus Christ links the living and active Lord in heaven with the faithful community on earth. May we be advocates and models of Christ's mission. - - Ann Jones

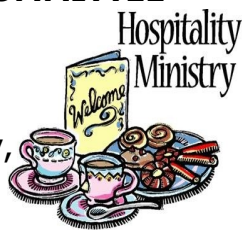
### MARCH SERVICE COMMITTEE

#### Coordinators:

Deb Weitzel, Bev Sallee

#### Members:

Leigh Henline, Jane McCarthy,  
Susan Peters, June Shaw,  
Kay Toillion, Patty Whitney



### Embracing Hope with Bob & Kristi Rice

Serving in South Sudan

Words of encouragement are always welcome! The full newsletter is on the bulletin board for anyone to make a copy to take home to read.

You can email them at:

[bob.rice@pcusa.org](mailto:bob.rice@pcusa.org) or [kristi.rice@pcusa.org](mailto:kristi.rice@pcusa.org)

Blog link: <http://bobandkristi.blogspot.com/>

Newsletter link:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/the-rev-bob-and-kristi-rice/>



*Scholarship Applications*

### 2024-25 Scholarship Applications are due by March 15

They are available in the church office, request one by email or go to the church

website: [www.fpcnp.org](http://www.fpcnp.org) >About Us>Youth and scroll down to click on the green button

"Scholarship Application" or simply click on this link: [2024 Scholarship Application Form.pdf](#)





# Grace Ministries Food Pantry

## March 2024



### Worth knowing:

**Grace Ministries has changed its phone number!**  
**We are now: 308 520 7458**

As our old phone was nearing the end of its life, we purchased an older cell phone and Tracfone service. It will **save us about \$320 each year** over landline service, and we will be able to download a free translator, in the (so far) rare instance that we need it! Since internet service is included with Tracfone, this was an easy decision. We tried to transfer our old number to the cellphone, but were not successful, even after 17+ hours of working with tech support.



**January 2024 was the busiest month on record**, in the recorded history of Grace Ministries Food Pantry. Luckily we were well stocked, as it took us completely by surprise. January is usually a below-normal month for us.



We are very thankful to all of you Presbyterians who donated to the **Thanksgiving Offering**, and the **Christmas Special Offering**. We also thank you for your donations totaling \$276 during the **Soup-er Bowl** Lunch!

### January 2024 Totals:

**Households Served: 162**  
**with 475 individuals**


**Total Pounds given out:**  
**9,636**

**New families: 32**



Grace Ministries Food Pantry operates at 114 East C St.  
We are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1-3 pm, except holidays.

**Grace Ministries runs solely on donations.**

 **THANK YOU** to these donors for trusting us to get food to those who need it most!

**from First Presbyterian Church...**  
FPC Donation Box by Front Door  
FPC Soup-er Bowl Lunch donations  
Jim and Ellie McClymont

**from the Community and beyond...**  
First Christian Church  
Mary Hughes  
Gene and Claudette Nelson

### This and That

Our customers can come for assistance once every three months.

Our hope is that we are giving our customers about a week's worth of food when they come.

In January, we gave each customer around 20 lbs of food.

The Food Bank for the Heartland has had more food the last couple months, for which we are extremely thankful!

We continue to buy food from Gary's Super Foods each week... milk, eggs, cheese, bread, meat, peanut butter and much more. They deliver to us, which is a tremendous help for our tired volunteers!

**-Tammy, Francine, & Leigh**  
**Co-Directors**



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday                                   |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| In Church Worship Service on Sundays at 10am  |   |  |  |  | 1  | 2<br>9am Spring Gathering @ First Lutheran |
| 3<br>9:15am JAM<br>10am In-Church Worship/ Communion<br>Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org             | 4<br>10:30am Bible Study<br>6pm Scouts                                    | 5<br>Ladies sewing                                     | 6<br>9am Men's Coffee<br>12:15pm Online Devotion<br>5:30pm Confirmation<br>6:30pm Bell Practice<br>7:30pm Choir Practice                   | 7<br>10:30am PW Coordinating Mtg                                   | 8  | 9  |
| 10<br>9:15am JAM<br>10am In-Church Worship<br>Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org                       | 11<br>10:30am Bible Study<br>4pm Finance Mtg<br>6pm Scouts                | 12<br>Ladies sewing<br>1:00pm Membership & Mission Mtg | 13<br>9am Men's Coffee<br>12:15pm Online Devotion<br>5:30pm Confirmation<br>6:30pm Bell Practice<br>7:30pm Choir Practice                  | 14<br>10:00am Morning Fellowship<br>6:30pm Evening Spirits         | 15   | 16   |
| 17<br>9:15am JAM<br>9:15am Deacons Mtg<br>10am In-Church Worship<br>Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org | 18<br>10:30am Bible Study<br>5:30pm Session Mtg confirmands<br>6pm Scouts | 19<br>Ladies sewing                                    | 20<br>9am Men's Coffee<br>12:15pm Online Devotion<br>5:30pm Confirmation<br>6:30pm Bell Practice<br>7:30pm Choir Practice                  | 21   | 22<br><br>Fish Fry<br>5-7pm | 23   |
| 24<br>Palm Sunday<br>10am In-Church Worship<br>Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org                      | 25<br>6pm Scouts  | 26<br>Ladies sewing                                    | 27<br>9am Men's Coffee<br>10:15am Linden Ct<br>12:15pm Online Devotion<br>No Confirmation<br>6:30pm Bell Practice<br>7:30pm Choir Practice | 28<br>7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship @ 1st Lutheran with communion | 29<br>7:00pm Good Friday Worship @ 1st Presbyterian  | 30   |
| 31<br>Easter Sunday<br>10am In-Church Worship with communion<br>Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org     | April 1<br>Easter Monday<br>Office Closed                                 |  |  |  |  |  |

Labyrinth available in the FLC during Holy Week during office hours.