

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 Sallee
June Shaw
Rich Shaw
Laura Stewart

Church & Home

April 2024

1901 West Leota Street, North Platte, NE 69101
(308) 532-1083 www.fpcnp.org



It has been a busy but very successful late winter or spring semester here at the church. A group of about 15-20 members wrapped up our Lenten Bible Study of Judaism the week before Holy Week. I am confident in saying that this Bible study spurred the most conversation and growth in all that I have hosted here at FPC.

The Presbyterian Women have two more Bible Study sessions before they complete their year. When my schedule allowed, I sat in on their morning gatherings. While I enjoyed their fellowship and always tasty treats, the study and preparative work by Ann Jones was remarkable. This study, "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts" as presented by Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir encourages a deep reflection on ourselves and our understanding of the world around us.

I completed all of my requirements for my graduate studies course at Princeton Theological Seminary. Since September I have been working in a cohort of about 20 students from all over the world toward securing a Certificate in Youth and Theology. I am already missing the incredible study, learning, and growth this course offered. Not only was this course challenging and well-received, but it also provided networking and connections in the ministry field.

Perhaps the most inspiring ministry in the last few months for me has been Confirmation classes. No matter the chaos surrounding the days of the week, the hour or so I spend leading and learning from these four students fills my spiritual cup each week. The students that make up this class are gifted and dedicated to growing through the Holy Spirit.

Each student has been paired with an Elder and Deacon as they navigate the confirmation requirements. The mentors help guide the students as they learn how to be church members through new information, ushering at worship, serving communion, and completing worship reports about worship services. Former Deacon Moderator Shad Connick provided invaluable training for currently-serving Deacons and Elders and included the confirmation students in this instruction.

If it were not for the commitment and dedication of the mentors in the confirmation program, the coursework would not be as enriching. While schedules sometimes do not allow, many of the mentors attend class each week with their confirmation mentee. The mentors provide insight and experience that I cannot provide. They encourage their mentees and support them and may even share a conversation over a little ice cream now and then.

The Confirmands recently met with Session members to discuss what they have learned. They also shared some of their likes and dislikes about the class (which helped me exponentially). Next week the students will spend part of an afternoon learning about Grace Ministries Food Pantry and assisting in the daily responsibilities to get food and resources to those in the community that we serve.

I am sure you have seen the students engaged in worship through ushering or serving communion. But perhaps what you have not seen is the drive from these four to learn more about how the church works and functions outside of Sunday worship. You might not have seen the studious work to complete several worship reports throughout the month about the intricacies of a worship service. You might not have seen the nerves of four young people who are learning each day how to become a part of something bigger than themselves. You might not have seen just how intelligent each student is and how they bring their gifts to share in different ways. I am fortunate to see this every week and sometimes multiple times a week. I see it on their faces, I see it in their retainment of knowledge, I see it every time I read their worship report and how they are going to use something from the service to better themselves and those around them.

The First Presbyterian Confirmation Class of 2024 is something special. They are hardworking young people that we are blessed to have in our church family. They are working to build a quality foundational relationship with Christ that will carry them through the struggles and celebrations of life. But most importantly, they are committed to God.

Spiritually filled in Christ, Pastor Emily

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 June Shaw | 25 Kent Priel |
| 3 Anthony McCreery | 27 Zane Leibhart |
| 8 Izaak Ochsner | 29 Sheri Hoschouer |
| 9 Louise Steele | 30 George Clough |
| 11 Mike McCarthy | |



4/5/78 June & Richard Shaw

Thank you for your generous donation to our Wednesday Night meals. Sheri continues to serve hot healthy meals each Wednesday night. Your donation will enable us to continue this important ministry. -- Episcopal Outreach



Thank you Deacons,

Once again I was delivered a delicious meal. (Actually it was enough for three meals.)

I appreciate my church family and God for my gradual recovery. No more blood or iron infusions scheduled for the near future.

-- Marilyn Jones

Confirmation
Sunday
April 28



**2024 Confirmation Class:
Cutler Cauffman, Finley Cauffman,
Chloe Kaminski, Griffen Whitney**



We express our sympathy and prayers to Rachel Allison and family on the death of Lyle Anderson, who passed away February 29. Funeral service will be held here May 16 @ 11am.

Funeral service for Ibbie Majors is April 26 @ 12:30pm followed by lunch.



Affirmation of Baptism

April 28 – 10 a.m. service



American Red Cross

Blood Drive

**April 19 10 am – 4 pm
at FPC**

Sponsored by Mia Cauffman & Eva McCreery

To donate: Contact Mia or Eva or visit redcrossblood.org/give

Honoring our
graduates



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



Scout Sunday

April 21 • 10 am

**Scouts to serve
soup, pie lunch
following worship**

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

Honoring our graduates

- May 12 at 10 a.m.
- Reception to follow



Congratulations to our 2024-25 Scholarship Recipients

Bailey Bell

Eastern Wyoming College-Agribusiness Major

Ryan Kaminski

UNK-Education Major

Eva McCreery

UNK- Psychobiology Major

Maddie Ochsner

UNMC College of Dentistry-Dental Hygiene



Deacon's
Corner

Deacons meeting was held
Sunday, March 17, at the church.

The Deacons have had a
productive month. Some of our
activities have been the Deacons meeting with
the Confirmation class and discussing church
procedures.

The Deacons have been and continue to care
for homebound members with cards and meals
and rides when needed. Of course the Deacons
continue to enjoy greeting the congregation at
services and helping with worship procedures.

As we move into Spring, the Deacons plan to
provide Easter treats in the children's worship
bags. They have also been busy making Easter
baskets and writing cards for those members at
home.

We, at this time, are looking forward to the
Fish Fry and all the Easter worship services and
celebrations. Hope everyone can join in on the
worship services of our Risen Lord.

Have a Happy Spring!

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:

Elaine Besthorn, Dorothy Conger, Joe Conger,
Ashlee & Aaron Davidson, Marilyn Jones,
Esther Neufeld, Glenn Petersen,
Arlene Richardson, Bev Sallee, Karen Troyer,
Mary Ann Youngren

Prayer Emphasis for the month:

To find refuge in the Resurrection.

JAM for the 'littles'
meets Apr 7 & May 5



JAM

Jesus
& Me

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

You are not in this alone.

Pray, chat with others on this journey of loss

Griefshare

Discontinued.



Learn with us!

- FPC tour in Omaha
Christianity, Muslim, Judaism
- May 20 from 1-4 pm
- Fellowship meal following tours

*For more info see Pastor.
Registration required.*



"The Tri-Faith Commons is the only place of its kind in the world. It brings together a synagogue, church, mosque, and interfaith center on 38 acres in the American heartland of Omaha.

Tri-Faith is a national model and center for interfaith learning, collaboration, and celebration."

A tour of all three faith centers is scheduled for members of First Presbyterian Church on May 20 beginning at 1 pm. Each faith center tour will last approximately one hour.

Following the tours, members are invited to break bread and fellowship. An optional meal is planned immediately following the tours at Charred Burger (1150 Sterling Ridge Drive Ste 107) - just a few blocks north of the Tri-Faith campus (13136 Faith Plaza.)

Each member is responsible for their transportation to and from Omaha as well as any meals and souvenirs.

The fee for the tours is provided by First Presbyterian Church funding.

Please register with the FPC office before May 13 if you plan to participate in the tour.

A short meeting will be held on May 12 after worship. Carpooling with others is an option.

First Presbyterian Church, its employees, and agents are not responsible for any property damage, personal injury, or death during this tour or transportation to and from the sites.



Fellowship underscored our Lenten fish fry as folks gathered at the table. Behind the scene in the photo many others shared in the shopping, preparation, serving, and clean up. Our high school boys greeted and served those coming through the drive up. Fellowship was extended as deliveries were made and received in homes.

Thank you to all who shared in the evening.



EASTER WORSHIP AT LINDEN COURT

2024 CONFIRMANDS AND MENTORS



2024 CONFIRMANDS MEET WITH SESSION





PALM SUNDAY

Our Confirmands assisting with Worship.

2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

"Do everything in love."

Presbyterian Women's 2024 Churchwide Gathering will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, August 8–11, 2024. Save these dates.

The 2024 PW Gathering will be an exciting, faith-filled time to renew connections within and across PW groups from across the country. Join us to be invigorated, equipped for your PW life, welcomed into community by hundreds of other PWs, and empowered to "Do everything in love." Registration forms available in the office.

APRIL SERVICE COMMITTEE

Coordinators:

Cheryl Kurth, Janet Hare

Members:

Charlene Cash
 Marcia Henline
 Cheryl MacDonald
 Cyndee Orr
 Mary Pendleton
 Irene Ridgway
 Wendy Staroska





Women's Fellowship

Coordinating Team Meeting, April 4 @ 10:30am

Fellowships meet Thursday, April 11

Morning Fellowship:

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

Evening Spirts:

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

Sacred Encounters

By Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir

The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts

"I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together." This Avery and Marsh childlike song (1972) has a no-nonsense message when asking who is the YOU?

Luke's story of the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8:26-40 shows how God orchestrated an answer. As Philip, the evangelist, traveled out from Jerusalem to spread the gospel geographically, he encountered an Ethiopian Eunuch reading Isaiah 53. (Isaiah 53 are prophetic words foretelling the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.) When the Eunuch asked for guidance to understand, Philip responded by sharing the good news of the gospel. In turn, the Eunuch responded with a request to be baptized.

God's intervention shows who is included in the Kingdom of God. The Eunuch's inclusion breaks all barriers: ethical, geographical, racial, sexual and marginalized.

No one is excluded.

Who is the YOU? "All who follow Jesus, All around the world. We are the church together." Today, we are the evangelists sharing the good news. Who is the Holy Spirit sending us to include?

- - Ann Jones

Presbyterian Women Spring Tea

*Tea, snacks,
music &
fellowship*

April 20 at 2 pm

First Presbyterian Church

1901 West Leota Street

Please RSVP to Dixie at 534-5894 by April 13.

Several years ago Presbyterian Women began a Spring Afternoon Tea for our church members and invited guests. Ladies could bring a favorite tea cup, wear a spring "bonnet" and enjoy various teas and snacks provided by PW members. Music, fun and fellowship have made this a special occasion for the ladies and will again this month.

This event will be held on Saturday, April 20, at 2:00pm in the Family Life Center. Please sign up in the Narthex or call and leave a message for Dixie at 534-5894.



Grace Ministries Food Pantry

April 2024



Grace Ministries Food Pantry History

Three years ago, this information ran in our Church and Home newsletter. Joyce Kohler helped fill in the details that we all had forgotten, or never knew! Thank you, Joyce!

The Pantry was started by the Fellowship of Ministers and operated out of First Evangelical Lutheran Church at 305 W. 5th. Art and Jo Hetzke and several other Presbyterians helped with it. When the Lutheran Church decided they no longer had room for it, it was moved to FPC at 4th and Willow to the basement. There was plenty of storage downstairs and a freezer or two, but no refrigerator. There were no records saved from that time, but we know the Pantry did not have the volume of food being given out like we currently do.

When the old FPC building was sold, the Pantry was moved to a little garage-type building behind and east of Linden Manor on Willow. When Linden Manor was sold, the Pantry moved into our current church building on Leota until we found the current rental building at 114 East C St. At that point, Pastor Jim Hawley asked the ministerial group for their thoughts on the Pantry, as we now had rent and utilities to pay, plus, the Presbyterians were doing all the work. The Fellowship of Ministers had no interest in continuing the work, so it officially became 'ours' at FPC.

In the beginning it was called the 'Lincoln County Food Pantry'. Joyce wasn't sure when the name changed, but she thinks it was when the Pantry moved to our old church basement at 4th and Willow. Art and Jo Hetzke would have had much to do with the Pantry work at that time and may have chosen the name 'Grace Ministries Food Pantry'.

February 2024 Totals:

**Households Served: 95
with 263 individuals**

**Total Pounds given out:
5,952**

New families: 18



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...
Canned Soup from FPC Congregation
Marilyn Jones
Anonymous FPC Church Member

from the Community and beyond...
Our Redeemer Lutheran School
Menards
Episcopal Church of Our Savior
Messiah Lutheran
Anonymous: canned goods
Anonymous: bag of pennies
Happy Heart Specialty Foods

We need more UNLOADERS!

Can you help or do you know someone that would enjoy being a part of our team? We receive approximately 2 deliveries each month from the Omaha Food Bank. They arrive on weekdays and the time of day varies from 8am to 7pm. A few days before the delivery, a **cell phone text** goes out to all Unloaders, letting them know about the time of the delivery. We usually need between 2 and 3 people to help. Unloaders that are able to help reply via text. (You must be able to text.)

The truck driver moves the food off the truck and onto the sidewalk by our front door. Our Unloaders then carry (only as much as they can comfortably lift) the food into the Pantry to set on our shelves.

We presently have 8 Unloaders on our roster but would like more to lessen the load for everyone! **Thank you!!!**

Grace Ministries Food Pantry operates at 114 East C St.

We have a NEW PHONE NUMBER: 308-520-7458

We are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1-3 pm, except holidays.

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed 6pm Scouts	2 Ladies sewing	3 9am Men's Coffee 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	4 10:30am PW Coordinating Mtg	5	6
7 9:15am JAM 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	8 6pm Scouts	9 Ladies sewing 1:00pm Membership & Mission Mtg	10 9am Men's Coffee No Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	11 10:00am Morning Fellowship 6:30pm Evening Spirits	12	13
14 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	15 4pm Finance Mtg 6pm Scouts	16 Ladies sewing	17 9am Men's Coffee 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	18	19 10am-4pm Blood Drive Hosted by Eva & Mia	20 2pm Women's Spring Tea
21 Boy Scout Sunday 9:15am Deacons Mtg 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org 11am Boy Scouts Soup Lunch	22 No Session Mtg 6pm Scouts	23 Ladies sewing	24 9am Men's Coffee 10:15am Linden Ct 4:30pm CE Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bell Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	25	26 12:30pm Ibbie Majors funeral & dinner	27 Presbytery Mtg @ Valentine
28 Confirmation Sunday 10am In-Church Worship communion Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	29 6pm Scouts	30 Ladies sewing				

In Church Worship Service on Sundays at 10am