

PASTOR:
Emily McCreery
308.530.7175

ADMIN ASSIST:
Mia Cauffman

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:
Kay Wright

MUSIC DIRECTOR:
Jennifer Smallcomb

BELL DIRECTOR:
Jill Dolan

Treasurer:
Vern Ehlers

CLERK OF SESSION:
Ned Mack

DEACON MODERATORS:
Sheri Hoschouer
Scott Baker

PW MODERATOR:
Dixie Francis

Elders:
Shaina Bassett
Jon Beggs
Amy Cauffman
Shad Connick
Chuck Francis
Dave Glenn
Ned Mack
Deb Weitzel
Kay Wright

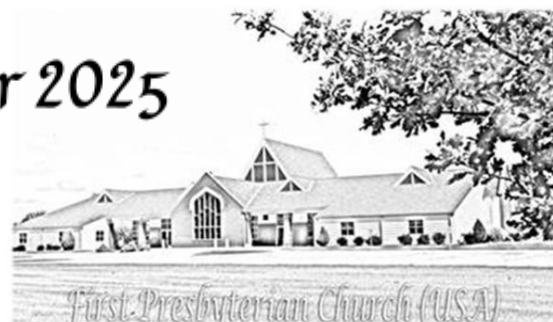
Deacons:
Kason Baker
Scott Baker
Janet Hare
Leroy Hare
Sheri Hoschouer
Ann Jones
Bev Sallee
Cecil Sallee
David Schiel
Joy Schiel
Rich Shaw
June Shaw

OFFICE HOURS
MON-THURS 11-3

Church & Home

October 2025

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



My sister and I always wanted a brother.

It was just the two of us growing up. I was the older and wiser sister. She was the younger and always-got-what-she-wanted sister. I was the one my parents learned to parent with, she coasted (because of me) and never got in trouble. She was the favorite (and still is). We were certain a brother would have been a great addition to our duet. He could protect us. He would likely do whatever we told him to do, which would make him the focus of consequences and not us. He would have cute friends. He would be another body to share chores with. He could have been a real asset. But it was not in God's will for a brother in our family.

My sister and I have a great deal of brothers and sisters and friends and family in Christ. Our brothers and sisters in Christ are our neighbors, our friends, strangers, acquaintances, extended family, and all members of God's glorious kingdom. Just like biological, adopted, and foster siblings, there are times when we do not agree or see eye-to-eye with our brothers and sisters in Christ. But they still remain. And always will. Because God designed it that way. God designed for us to walk our earthly pilgrimage and eternal life with all the members of God's kin-dom. Hand in hand, heart in heart. Together.

That also means God's design is for us to love. L-O-V-E. LOVE. To love all. To love each other. Not only a few. Not only those who vote the same way as us. Not only those who speak the same language as us. Not only those who believe the same way as us. Christ's design was that we simply and *emphatically* LOVE each other.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor, theologian, and anti-Nazi nonconformist, once said, "Christians always see other[s] as brethren to whom Christ comes; they meet them only by going to them with Jesus."

Do we? Do we see them only when we want to see them? Or if they see us first? Do we see them only if they look or act like us? Do we see them if they practice the same religion as us? Do we see them only if they agree with us?

Author Charles Ringma offers "Everyone that we meet, be they neighbor or stranger, is a person made in God's image and is, therefore, a person of worth and dignity. Yet, like ourselves, that person also bears the marks of the fall and of sin, and is therefore a candidate for the restorative love of God in Christ. While we should reach out to others in friendship and interest simply for their own sake and not only in order to evangelize them, we do need to meet them with Christ in our hearts and in the hope that they, too, will meet Him who is the Giver of life."

We are neighbors. We are brothers and sisters and friends and family. We are strangers. As God's design. But we are very much the same. We are all created in the image of God. As God's design. And we are very much of worth and dignity. Each of us. As God's design.

"For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God. Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another."

~ Romans 14:11-13

Your sister in Christ, Pastor Emily

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:

Harry Feeney, Dennis Lombardi, Mark McKenzie,
Glenn Petersen, Breen Sipes, and Mary Ann Youngren.

Prayer Emphasis for the month:

To share Christ's love and not as a tool for hate.

Embracing Hope With Bob & Kristi Rice

Serving in South Sudan

Words of encouragement
are always welcome!

You can email them at:
bob.rice@pcusa.org or
kristi.rice@pcusa.org

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

Newsletter link:

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



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

4 – Cassandra McCarthy
6 – Doug Wright
13 – Beverly Sallee
 Jakob Ochsner
15 – Patty Whitney
17 – Griffen Whitney
21 – Dennis Lombardi
22 – Duane Hoschouer
25 – Dixie Francis
26 – Cecil Sallee
27 – Wendy Staroska
30 – Eva McCreery

ANNIVERSARIES

Ron & Chris Ochsner **10/11/1997**
Scott & Cyndee Orr **10/23/1977**
Mike & Kristi Leibhart **10/25/1997**



Downtime in devotion

Wednesdays in the Word

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

Mission Sunday

Oct. 19
after worship
Clean up inside &
outside church



**Friday,
Oct. 31
5:30-7 pm**

First Presbyterian
1901 W. Leota St.



Fellowship potluck

Sign up in Narthex
to bring main dish
or side dish

Nov. 9
after worship

**You're
invited!**

to Game Day
in honor of
Cecil's birthday!

Oct. 25 • 2-4:30 pm

FPC Family Life Center

Games, snacks provided



All Saints Sunday

- Honor deceased Saints with a candle on Nov. 2
- Deadline is Oct. 27

SCAM ALERT!

Email pretending to be Pastor Emily asking for gift cards or to help discreetly.

Pastor Emily or FPC staff will **NEVER** ask for money, gift cards, or discreet help.

Trunk or Treat will be in the Family Life Center, October 31st from 5:30pm - 7:00pm. **PLEASE** donate candy or money for candy. Boxes will be placed in the narthex in October. We also need people to decorate a table & hand out candy. Please sign up on the list in the narthex!!

On October 19th we will have a shortened Church service at 10am and then we will work inside & outside the Church for Mission Sunday. Pizza will be served at noon! **Please plan to come and help keep our Church looking good.**

Thank you all for the send off & kind words! My years with you have been a delight.

-Ann Jones



Grace Ministries Food Pantry



OCTOBER 2025

DONATIONS

A huge thank you to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church! Kason Baker delivered the August 'Fill the Backpack Drive' items to Grace Ministries and there were 223.5 pounds of macaroni and cheese dinner, cereal, peanut butter, and more great items! WOW! We are so thankful to receive it! It will likely be given out within a week, but it is surely filling many 'back-to-school-tummies' and we thank you ALL!!!!

Also, a big thanks to all of you who contributed to the Deacons Special Project this year! Your donations totalled \$446, which will have been spent on peanut butter, milk, eggs, and cheese at Fresh Foods. We appreciate the Deacons earmarking your gifts for us, and for all of you who contributed to the project!

And another great donation from Trego Dugan Aviation, who brought in 181.5 lbs of canned and boxed non-perishables! Wow! That was a lovely surprise on September 5th!

Other wonderful donations for October :

Chuck and Dixie Francis

Deb Weitzel

Mary E. Agler

Catholic Community Food Pantry

Anonymous

Update on "Points" from Fresh Foods

We have learned that Fresh Foods is ending the "points" that you all have been so kind to donate for Grace Ministries. We have until October 15th to spend our accumulated points. We are sad, as your points saved us between \$50 and \$100 each week. If a new program is in the works, we will let you know. A final and great big THANKS for all of you who turned your hard-earned points over to us. Very much appreciated.

Catholic Community Food Pantry gifts

The local Catholic Community Food Pantry has been extremely generous in sharing their bounty with us. Lately, we have been receiving several large trays of bread items from them each week, such as buns, bagels, and loaves. We have been more than happy to distribute them to our customers. We have plenty of freezer space available to keep it in great shape when needed.

Food Banks for the Heartland

We were finally able to get about 1500 lbs from the Food Bank in Omaha in September. Items included granola, canned potatoes, peanut butter, catfish, canned fruit and veg, and pasta. The Food Bank is not a government entity. They do receive USDA commodities, but rely heavily on donations from manufacturers and retailers. The Food Bank is also affiliated with the charity 'Feeding America'.

Hand Writing on the Wall

In the past, Grace ministries received their entire inventory from the Food Bank for the Heartland and from donations from individuals and businesses. Food Drivers were plentiful. Donated money was used for rent, utilities, paper bags, cleaning supplies, clerical supplies, and the occasional purchases of margarine and sometimes meat. The rest of the money was saved carefully for a rainy day, thankfully, because we are in the middle of a several-years-long rainstorm!

Since the Covid Pandemic, the entire process has changed due to food shortages, rising costs of producing food, and out of control inflation that started in the Pandemic. We are currently having to purchase $\frac{3}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ of our food at retail prices. We are doing the best we can to stay afloat, but as you know, we cannot last forever. Please keep Grace Ministries and its volunteers and leaders in your prayers.

AUGUST 2025 FIGURES

Households served : 130

Individuals in those households : 333

Pounds of food given out : 7,470

New families : 39

Co-Directors :

Tammy Miller 530-8406

Francine Mckenzie 530-0436

Leigh Henline 530-2601

Grace Ministries Food Pantry operates at 114 East C St.

PHONE NUMBER : 308-520-7458 (answered during operating hours only)

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion	2	3	4
5 10am In-Church Worship with communion Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	6 9am Ladies Sewing Bible Study 10:30am 6pm Scouts	7 Staff/Session training Office closed 1-4pm	8 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion Session retreat 5pm	9 PW Bible study 10am & 6:30pm	10	11
12 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	13 9am Ladies Sewing Bible Study 10:30am 6pm Scouts	14	15 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion	16	17	18
19 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	20 9am Ladies Sewing Bible Study 10:30am 6pm Scouts Committee night 5pm	21	22 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion	23	24	25
26 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	27 9am Ladies Sewing Bible study 10:30am 6pm Scouts	28	29 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion	30	31 Trunk or Treat 5:30-7:00pm	

In Church Worship Service on Sundays at 10am