

**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

July 2025

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



Sometimes I have to laugh at myself when I think I am in control of my schedule, my routine, my plans, well ... basically my life. I like to have a schedule, a routine, and a plan. Over the last handful of years, I have let go of some of my desire to have things mapped out and just let events or situations happen. Maybe it's maturity, maybe it's age. It is probably maturity.

Even though I do not need to have a complete outline of what the day or week will resemble, I like organization. So, every Thursday I look at the next week and work through the tasks that must be completed. Those tasks many times include writing a sermon (because the congregation expects one every Sunday 😊), planning worship, planning Downtime in Devotion, pastoral care needs, and administrative requirements. I write down what I feel I can get done in the day. Sometimes I can work ahead. Sometimes I play catch-up.

I also work in downtime. This time is spent listening to God. My downtime may be spent by time in the study of Scripture. It may be a walk. It may be just quiet time in the stillness. It may be spent in prayer or quality in the Sanctuary at church. Whatever it looks like for the week, this special time keeps me going and is critical to my self-care.

Recently I was reading a devotional of mine that reminded me to relax and let God lead me through the day. I had to just stop and giggle because no matter how hard I wrestle with being organized or scheduled, my plan is always just *my plan* and not God's plan.

How often do you find yourself switching to God's plan from your plan? Or is your plan too rigorous that there is no time for God's plan? I have had days ... weeks even, in my life that I did not make any time for God or God's plan. I kept myself so distracted with professional demands or mothering needs that when God was calling ... I could not even take a message. So I adjusted *my plan*.

The most important aspect of my week ... I carve in time for the Holy Spirit's work. I do not know when the Holy Spirit will guide me or how long or labor-intensive that mission might be. When the Holy Spirit does call I want to give my full attention and not be bothered by thoughts of "oh I really should be doing this right now," or "I have to get this and this done yet today" or "the laundry is piling up and I need to get a load or two washed before I go to bed." The Holy Spirit made time for me and I absolutely want to make sure I make time for the Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Emily



## JULY Birthdays & Anniversaries

### BIRTHDAYS

3 – Richard Shaw  
8 – Jeanie Thies  
12 – Cooper Leibhart  
14 – Melinda Baker  
16 – Glenda Feeney  
19 – Tom Pendleton  
21 – Evelyn DeVoe  
23 – Charlene Cash  
Chloe Kaminski  
25 – Zachary Ochsner  
29 – Martha Orcutt

### ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Joy DeVoe – 07/18/2020  
Matthew & Cassandra McCarthy – 07/17/2022



- July 6 at 10 am
- Bring your coffee, lawn chairs if you have them
- Relaxed worship style

## Outdoor worship

### 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/>



### Blessing of the backpacks

August 10 at 10 a.m.

Bring your backpack for  
a blessing before the  
new school year starts!

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:

Glenda Feeney, Hayes Jording, Martha Orcutt, Glenn Petersen, Larry Shaw, Bethany Springer, Mary Ann Youngren, Jon & Carol Beggs.

The family and friends of Ethan Tichelaar, Dan and Irene Ridgway's grandson.

The family and friends of Kay Toillion.

### Prayer Emphasis of the month:

Freedom for ALL.

Downtime in devotion

Wednesdays in the Word

Wednesdays at 12:15 pm

@fpcnp on Facebook or fpcnp.org



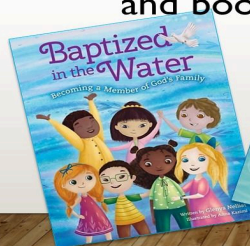
### Please welcome guest preachers ...

|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| Aug. 3  | Rev. Breen Sipes |
| Aug. 10 | Mr. Dave Glenn   |
| Aug. 17 | Rev. Breen Sipes |

*Pastor Emily will return  
from Seminary on Aug. 24*

### Bless Pastor's Backpack

and book presentation for youth



August 24  
during  
worship



# **FIRST COMMUNION**

June 8, 2025

Picture Credits to Tom Pendleton, Dan & Angela Stinman, and Jill Dolan.







## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 16-20











Current ruling elders met with Pastor Emily and Rev. Sharon Rees for an imagination retreat at Ned and Nancy Mack's house on June 18. They were joined by site committee members Maris Schad, Tammy Miller, and Connie McCreery, who are working with Pastor Emily for an internship for seminary.



Pictured are front row L-R: Rev. Rees, Connie McCreery, Kay Wright, Maris Schad, Deb Weitzel, and Ned Mack. Back row L-R: Amy Cauffman, Pastor Emily, Shaina Bassett, Shad Connick, Tammy Miller, and Dave Glenn. The group shared their takeaways from the retreat with the congregation on June 22.

***After finalizing the color choice with Deb Weitzel, Nancy Mack painted the classroom where the men now enjoy their Wednesday morning coffee.***







## Women's Fellowship

Fellowships & Bible Studies will resume in the Fall

Where to from here? Sometimes looking back at where we've been can give clarity to the journey ahead. Let's use the sequence of the church year as our reference guide.

Advent – awakening hopeful anticipation

Christmas - rebirthing God's son in our hearts

Baptism – the teaching begins Thanks to our author for highlighting significant teachings in Jesus' ministry.

Lent – strengthening our bond with Jesus

Easter – a resurrection revealing the abundance of God's love and mercy

Pentecost – God's spirit personally walking with each of us

We are well prepared for the days ahead.

The now present ordinary time may seem lack luster with no elaborate decorations, special programs, festive meals, greeting cards, or gifting; so, let's change our lens.

Christina Rossetti's poem *Who Has Seen the Wind* suggests another perspective.

Who has seen the wind? Neither I nor you.  
But when the leaves hang trembling, The wind is passing through.  
Who has seen the wind? Neither you nor I.  
But when the trees bow down their heads, The wind is passing by.

We don't see the wind. We don't see the spirit. But we do see the affecting action. Who has seen the spirit? Neither I nor you.

But when \_\_\_\_\_. The spirit is passing through.

Complete line 3 with what you see, what you do. Travel light. Be mindful. Alert to the spirit's movement in you and those around you, you might be privy to seeing and doing some most extra ordinary things as your faith journey continues through this not so ordinary time. Ann Jones





# Grace Ministries Food Pantry

## July 2025



### FRESH FOODS and more...

We are happy about our shopping experience with **Fresh Foods!** Along with our weekly items of eggs and gallon size milk, we also bought 120 one pound packages of rice, 960 cans of green beans, 20 cases of boxed macaroni and cheese dinner, chicken noodle soup and tomato soup, a large amount of cheddar cheese, and fresh loaves of bread in June!

We are still able to use the 'Gary's' or 'Fresh Foods' points that you so kindly donate, usually just on the milk but sometimes cheddar cheese! For example, the money we saved in June by using your points was about \$150. That helps a LOT and we appreciate your generosity very much!

**Fresh Foods** is following in Gary's tradition, donating heavy brown paper bags for us to use to bag our customers' groceries! For many years we had to buy paper bags from Cash Wa, but the quality was not what we needed and we would have to double bag, which just doubled the expense.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our June delivery from the **Food Bank for the Heartland** will bring us ground beef, peanut butter, canned black beans, applesauce cups, flour, canned fruit, and frozen fish fillets for a total of 1,348 pounds.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Welcome to new volunteer Lisa Brauer!** Lisa will be serving as a Customer Aide, one of our 'front line' workers that assists our customers when they come for food. **Welcome Lisa!**



#### May 2025 Totals:

Households Served: 122  
with 329 individuals

Total Pounds given out:  
6,612

New families: 19

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.

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...

from the Community....

Terry Simmons  
Catholic Community Food Pantry  
anonymous



### Interesting Figures....

**Number of Volunteers at Grace Ministries:**  
33

**Busiest Day at Grace Ministries:**  
22 families in two hours.

**Quietest Day at Grace Ministries:**  
0 families in two hours...which might only  
happen once a year!

**Most food given out in a single month:**  
10,588 lbs in September 2024

**Most new families in a single month:**  
37

**Number of volunteer hours needed each month:**  
approximately 300

#### Co-Directors

Tammy Miller 530-8406  
Francine McKenzie 530-0436  
Leigh Henline 530-2601



# JULY

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday                         | Saturday                       |
|--|---|--|--|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  |   | 1  | 2<br>9am Men's Coffee<br>@ FPC<br>12:15pm<br>Online Devotion                           | 3<br>Office<br>Closed                            | 4                              | 5                              |
| 6<br>Outdoor Worship   | 7<br>9am Ladies<br>Sewing<br>6pm Scouts                               | 8  | 9<br>9am Men's Coffee<br>@ FPC<br>12:15pm<br>Online Devotion                           | 10   | 11                             | 12                             |
| 13<br>10am<br>In-Church<br>Worship<br>Live Streaming at<br><a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a><br><br>Emily on Vacation | 14<br>9am Ladies<br>Sewing<br>6pm Scouts<br><br>Emily on<br>Vacation  | 15<br>CSFP<br>8am-9:30am<br><br>Emily on<br>Vacation | 16<br>9am Men's Coffee<br>@ FPC<br>12:15pm<br>Online Devotion<br><br>Emily on Vacation | 17<br><br>Emily on<br>Vacation                   | 18<br><br>Emily on<br>Vacation | 19<br><br>Emily on<br>Vacation |
| 20<br>10am<br>In-Church<br>Worship<br>Live Streaming at<br><a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a>                          | 21<br>9am Ladies<br>Sewing<br>5pm<br>Committee<br>night<br>6pm Scouts | 22   | 23<br>9am Men's Coffee<br>@ FPC<br>12:15pm<br>Online Devotion                          | 24<br>Kay Toillion's<br>funeral @FPC,<br>11:00am | 25                             | 26                             |
| 27<br>10am<br>In-Church<br>Worship<br>Live Streaming at<br><a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a>                          | 28<br>9am Ladies<br>Sewing<br>6pm Scouts                              | 29   | 30<br>9am Men's Coffee<br>@ FPC<br>12:15pm<br>Online Devotion                          | 31   |                                |                                |

**In Church Worship Service on Sundays at 10am**