

**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

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

## August 2025



The Gospel selected for the second Sunday of August, Luke 12:32-40, was the same Gospel lesson of the second sermon I preached. I remember it so vividly and the innocence wrapped up in that message.

Climbing into the pulpit with sweaty palms and butterflies in my belly was overcome by my zest to preach the Good News! My naïve self was ready to preach that sermon! (I still get excited each week to preach a sermon.) That sermon, unbeknownst to me at the time, prepared me in many ways for life in ministry.

Nearly seven years ago, I officially began a call to ministry that has adapted, changed, and grown in ways I could only dream of. Much of my calling to First Presbyterian and even in ministries before I landed here relate to that second-ever sermon.

**"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit..." ~ Luke 12:35.**

Are we dressed for action? Do we have our lamps lit? God promised that Christ would return. Should that return come tomorrow or the next day ... are we ready for it? Are we ready to leave this earthly home and join Jesus and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in our new heavenly home?

**"You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." ~ Luke 12:40.**

How do we get ready for action or light our lamps? Does lighting our lamps mean that we are secure in what we have in our retirement account? Is it that we have our house paid for and all of our financial ducks in a row?

Do we have a rainy-day fund to cover our household bills should something unexpected happen? Do we have all the proper insurance coverage? Is the will finished and signed? Funeral and burial arrangements made and recorded? Is your heart ready?

But when the Son of Man comes to us as he promised, are we ready to greet him? Are we ready to greet him with the sound relationship we have been forming and building throughout our lives?

**"You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." ~ Luke 12:40.**

Are you content in your relationship with Christ? Have you confessed your sins and asked for forgiveness for your own transgressions? Have you forgiven others that have trespassed against you? Have you reconciled soured relationships? Have you forgiven yourself?

Building and maintaining a solid and everlasting relationship with Christ should be at the top of our daily chore list. Not only do we need to be confessing and praying to God, but we need to listen to how the Holy Spirit is guiding us. Listening can be the hardest part, but in that quiet space, we can find all that we seek from God. In that quiet space, we can develop and grow the most loving relationship with Christ Jesus that enriches every facet of our lives.

As we ready ourselves, our children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends for a new school year ... a fresh beginning ... are we readying ourselves? Whether we are starting a new school year or not, we are afforded a time to begin again each day. If you have not already, start building your relationship with Christ. I encourage you to find that time to speak to God and then devote equal time to listen.

Yours 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, Martha Orcutt, Glenn Petersen,  
Dennis Lombardi, and Mary Ann Youngren.

### Prayer Emphasis for the month:

A safe and joyous start to a new school year!

### 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/>



### August Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### BIRTHDAYS

11 Gary Trego

12 Ned Mack

14 Lowell Fenster

17 Mary Ann Youngren

27 Ryan Kaminski

31 Jeanette Lawrence



#### ANNIVERSARIES

Lowell & Willa Fenster 8-01-1987

Shad & Tanya Connick 8-05-2000

Danny & Jaci Whitney 8-05-2005

Ned & Nancy Mack 8-09-1970

Vincent & Traci Dugan 8-10-1991

Vern & Kelly Ehlers 8-19-1977

Jim & Patty Whitney 8-24-1974

Leroy & Janet Hare 8-26-1962



Wednesdays in the Word

Wednesdays at 12:15 pm

@fpcnp on Facebook or fpcnp.org



### Blessing of the backpacks

August 10 at 10 a.m.

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



### 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*

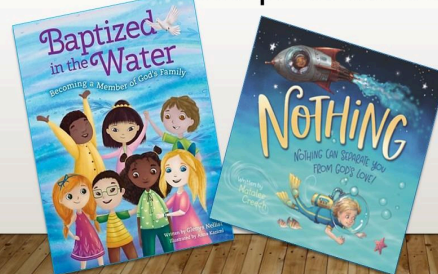
### Outdoor worship

- Sept 7 at 10 am
- Relaxed worship style
- Bring your coffee, lawn chairs if you have them

Note: Weekend  
after Labor Day!

### Bless Pastor's Backpack

and book presentation for youth



August 24  
during  
worship



# Fill the backpacks

Instant mac  
& cheese  
dinners



# Fill the backpacks

- Food drive for Grace Ministries Pantry Aug. 17-31

- Bring items to church



Dear Church Members,

Thank you for your support in my education! I appreciate the scholarship. I am enjoying my time in Hastings but it is always nice coming back.

Sincerely,  
Cory Baker

First Presbyterian Church,

I want to thank you guys so much for the graduation gift! That devotion book is awesome, I love it! I also want to thank you so much for my scholarship! That will help me incredibly as I pursue my college education! I know that my church family will always have my back!  
-Hobby Kamiraki

Thank you to everyone who brought food over, prayed for us, and visited us during Martha's recovery. The power of prayer is amazing and the comfort of good food was very helpful!

-Jim & Martha Orcutt

To First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your generous hospitality in allowing us to stay the night in your beautiful Church on our mission trip to South Dakota. It was a very comfortable stay. Thank you so much!

-Tom Abbotts Church group



# Grace Ministries Food Pantry

## August 2025



### Would you like to be a part of the fresh leadership of Grace Ministries Food Pantry?

**Tammy Miller** and **Leigh Henline** are both ready to step away from the Pantry, after serving for many, MANY years. Since the pandemic, running the Pantry has been a completely different process than before, one we never could have imagined!

Where once over 90% of the food came from the Food Bank in Omaha at no cost, we currently must purchase the vast majority of our food locally, at retail prices with donated funds and funds from our savings account, which is shrinking.

Tammy and Leigh have focused on a healthful blend of milk, meat, eggs, canned vegetables, pasta or rice, bread, tuna, and peanut butter to give our customers. We hope that can continue.

We have a small but STELLAR group of dedicated volunteers in place, serving as customer aides, truck unloaders, sackers, and inventory control. **Our volunteers are the BEST!!!**

**Tammy** does the ORDERING. She places weekly orders in person at Fresh Foods in North Platte and monthly orders online with the Food Bank in Omaha. She also spends time at the Pantry, seeing what needs to be ordered, and is available for questions that might come up.

**Leigh** does all of her work from home. She keeps track of all FINANCES, pays bills and updates two bank accounts. She keeps records of all DONATIONS and writes the thank you notes. She also writes this monthly article, and shares info with local churches about our Pantry. She prints all required forms, client cards, recipient sheets, local assistance cards, etc.

We desire Grace Ministries to continue as long as it can, as long as the donated funds last, to serve people in need in our area. Fresh new eyes might be able to think outside the box, write grants, and try new ordering options, both from the Food Bank and with local purchases. We are worn out, and have given the Pantry all we have to give.

Our jobs can be split into multiple jobs, if there is a team of folks that would like work together! Again, think outside the box! Tammy and Leigh WILL be here to train and assist! If no one comes forward, we will have to come up with a different plan for the Pantry, so...

**We will need to know if you are interested in either of these jobs by SUNDAY, AUGUST 31.**

*Please, prayerfully consider how YOU can help serve your church and families in need in our area!*

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...**  
Items from the food collection box

**from the Community....**

Sue and Richard Darling  
First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Nancy Kemptar  
Teri  
First Methodist Church



### June 2025 Totals:

Households Served: 135  
with 401 individuals

Total Pounds given out:  
8427

New families: 31

### Co-Directors

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Salvation Army Dinner	2
3 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at <a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a>	4 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts	5	6 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion	7	8	9
10 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at <a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a>	11 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts	12 CSFP 8am-9:30am	13 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion	14	15	16
17 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at <a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a>	18 9am Ladies Sewing 5pm Committee night 6pm Scouts	19	20 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion	21	22	23
24 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at <a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a>	25 9am Ladies Sewing 5:30pm Session Meeting 6pm Scouts	26	27 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion	28	29	30
31 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at <a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a>		Emily will be at Seminary August 3rd-17th.				

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

