

**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

## September 2025

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



*This month, I am going to start with a disclaimer. As you know, I have been reading a bit lately and want to share a bit on that subject. Part of my inspiration this month is from a book assigned by the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.*

Humor is essential to living a quality life, in my opinion. Humor is also essential to a successful ministry. Minister and author JoAnn A. Post shared humor throughout her book *Steward of Stories: Reflecting on Tensions in Daily Discipleship*. Post shares a humorous story about the "Happy Family" menu item in a Chinese restaurant. She listed the recipe for the dish and then explained, "It is, indeed, a happy family with the mother and child, the hen and the egg, served on the same plate, baking in each other's juices. She hilariously continued "fowl mature and embryonic whirled together in a quivering mass of poached poultry parts" and wondered "if the eviscerated hen is so pleased to be plated beneath the whipped remains of her inert offspring." She mixed humor with alliteration and quality authorship.

Post merged the exotic dish reference with her central dilemma that "congregations are not families." She shared a story about someone with a traumatic connection to the church and a traumatic childhood. Perhaps the most important statement in the chapter was "The children and adults in our care need to know that the church is not simply a replication or endorsement of their twisted family rules." Post's congregation and family separation gave me much to consider. I have been guilty of saying that I have a church family. The congregation I grew up in and the congregation I serve are vastly different from my genetically related family.

I have also used "the body of Christ" to discuss and include the whole church – the congregation. Post called attention to how that phrase can invoke issues in our society and culture. There is no perfect congregation or body of Christ. We are all part of the "anemic, misshapen, arthritic" makeup of the "reality of the disciples' shared life," she said. No two individual bodies are the same and thus cannot make up a splendidly formed body of Christ. Jesus questioned, "Who are my mother and brothers and sisters?" while also stating that "...whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is my brother and sister and Mother" (Matthew 12:50). While Christ was formed in human image, we all display different images.

So, while I see the difference between congregation and family, and recognize they are indeed not the same, a congregation has some qualities of a family, and vice versa. I can understand how one in a congregation may refer to their fellow church members as their church family. Families are connected through DNA, look like each other, and (usually) love each other, unlike a congregant who loves another congregant. A congregation mostly enjoys time together (in worship), is (mostly) supportive of each other, and has disagreements. Noting the similarities between the congregation and families is perhaps what will make the congregation healthier and more reflective of Christ.

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

### Prayer Emphasis for the month:

For global leaders to serve with justice and love.

### 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/>



### September Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Michael McCrone
- 2 – Joyce Kohler  
Bob Barr  
Mia Cauffman
- 7 – Emily Barr
- 20 – Danny Whitney
- 23 – Scott Orr
- 27 – Leroy Hare

#### ANNIVERSARIES

- Charles & Leigh Henline 9-13-1975
- Carroll & Jackie Miller 9-17-1988
- Dennis & Gaylene Lombardi 9-27-1969



*Downtime in devotion*  
Wednesdays in the Word  
Wednesdays at 12:15 pm  
@fpcnp on Facebook or fpcnp.org

## Outdoor worship

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

*Note: Weekend  
after Labor Day!*



**American Red Cross**

### Blood Drive

**September 15<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 4 pm  
at FPC**

*Sponsored by Kason Baker*

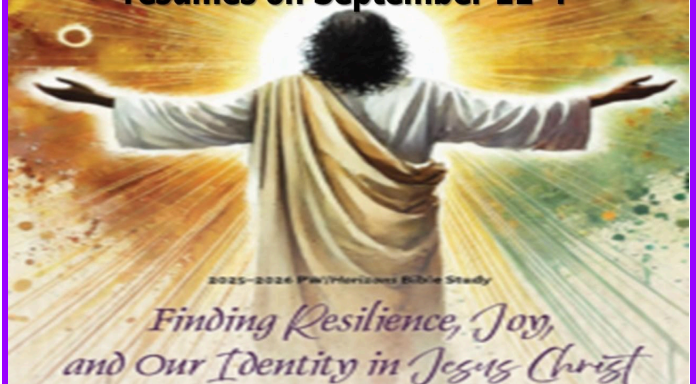
*To Donate : Contact Kason or visit [redcrossblood.org/give](http://redcrossblood.org/give)*

## Adult Bible Study

Mondays at 10:30 am  
Starting Sept. 29 for six weeks  
“WHO is the HOLY SPIRIT?”

*Please register with the office.  
No materials needed.*

**Presbyterian women's bible study  
resumes on September 11<sup>th</sup>.**



2025-2026 PWV/Women's Bible Study

*Finding Resilience, Joy,  
and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*

Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for your time and consideration for presenting me with the First Presbyterian Church scholarship of \$500!

Enclosed and above are my fall class schedule and Wayne financial aid office address.

Thanks again!

Emma Elliott

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

I am incredibly grateful for your support and belief in my future. Thank you so much for the \$500 scholarship. In the fall, I am going to UNO for music education. Music has changed my life in so many incredible ways, and my dream is to help kids find the same connection to music. Thanks to your support, this dream is about to be reality. I can't wait to see where God takes my life, and I will always remember your amazing support. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Katie Abbott

I also want to give a HUGE thanks to your committee at First Presbyterian Church!!!! Thank you guys so so so much for the scholarship and paying for college isn't cheap whatsoever so I want to extend my gratitude for picking me for your scholarship! It will go to good use!!

Thanks so much again,

Anna

Dear First Presbyterian Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to sincerely thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the First Presbyterian Church scholarship. I am truly honored and grateful for your support and generosity.

This scholarship is a tremendous blessing that will help ease the financial burden of my education and allow me to focus more fully on my academic and personal growth. I am committed to using this opportunity to pursue my goals with integrity, dedication, and faith.

I also want to express my appreciation for the spiritual support and encouragement you have offered me throughout my life. Your investment in my future means more than words can express, and I hope to one day give back to others as you have given to me.

Thank you once again for your kindness and belief in me.

Sincerely,

Porter J. Connick

Porter J. Connick



*A recent deacons project was a  
bookcase with books for our  
younger readers.*



*Blessing of the backpacks 2025*







# Grace Ministries Food Pantry



## September 2025

### ??? Who Volunteers Time at the Pantry ???

#### First Presbyterian Church

**Kay and Doug Wright** (Doug: unloader and general helper, Kay: inventory control, sacker, general helper)

**Dave and Sharon Glenn**, weekly Fresh Foods order receivers

**Janet and Leroy Hare** FPC collection box deliverers

**Karla Dorzweiler**, sacker

**JoAnne Greene**, meat manager

**Deb Weitzel**, customer aide

**Cyndee and Scott Orr**, (Cyndee: customer aide, Scott: delivers excess Mobile Food Pantry items)

**Connie McCreery**, unloader

**Jim Whitney**, unloader

**Amy Cauffman**, unloader

**Rich and June Shaw**, unloaders

**Charlene Cash**, customer aide

**Pastor Emily** unloader

**Tammy and Kent Miller** (Tammy co-director, Kent: odd jobs)

**Leigh and Chuck Henline** (Leigh co-director, Chuck: odd jobs)

**Tammy Weber**, who will be replacing Tammy Miller!

#### Episcopal Church of Our Savior

**Rob and Janet Evans**, unloaders

**Lisa Huebner**, unloader

**Marcia Mapes**, customer aide

**Lois Vargas**, translator if needed

**Father Steve Meysing**, unloader

#### First Evangelical Lutheran

**Arta Sonneman**, customer aide

**Nyhlia Kempke**, customer aide

**Georgia Nelms**, customer aide

#### First Methodist

**Francine McKenzie**, co-director

#### At Large

**Sue Darling**, customer aide, general helper, and assists with food bank deliveries

**Denise Skiles**, customer aide, sacker

**Lisa Brauer**, customer aide

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  
Chuck and Dixie Francis

#### from the Community....

Karen White

### Volunteer Update!

Tammy Miller's wish to retire from the Pantry is coming true! Tammy Weber has begun training to take over the ordering of food and we are very happy about it! **THANK YOU TAMMY WEBER...** you'll be GREAT!

Leigh has decided to continue as financial director, handling donations, banking, record keeping, and being a spokesperson for the Pantry if needed. However, Mia in the Office will be taking on a few of Leigh's other jobs, such as the printing of forms, writing Thank You notes, and writing the newsletter! **THANK YOU MIA!!**

### July 2025 Totals:

Households Served: 128  
with 334 individuals

Total Pounds given out:  
7323

New families: 17

**Prayerfully consider how YOU might be able to help~**

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.

### Co-Directors

**Tammy Miller 530-8406**

**Francine McKenzie 530-0436**

**Leigh Henline 530-2601**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts	2	3 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion	4	5	6
7 Outdoor Worship - 10am Communion	8 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts	9	10 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion	11 PW Bible study	12	13
14 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at <a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a>	15 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts Blood Drive 10am-4pm  Committee meeting 5pm	16 CSFP 8am-9:30am	17 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion	18	19	20
21 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at <a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a>	22 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts Session meeting 5:30pm	23	24 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion	25	26	27
28 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at <a href="http://www.fpcnp.org">www.fpcnp.org</a>	29 9am Ladies Sewing Bible study 10:30am 6pm Scouts	30				

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