

PASTOR:Emily McCreery
308.530.7175**ADMIN ASSIST:**

Mia Cauffman

MUSIC**DIRECTOR:**Jennifer
Smallcomb**BELL****DIRECTOR:**

Jill Dolan

Treasurer:

Vern Ehlers

CLERK OF**SESSION:**

Amy Cauffman

DEACON**MODERATORS:**

Sheri

Hoschouer

Scott Baker

PW**MODERATOR:**

Dixie Francis

Elders:

Jon Beggs

Amy Cauffman

Shad Connick

Marcia Henline

Chuck Francis

Cheryl

MacDonald

Deb Weitzel

Jim Whitney

Kay Wright

Deacons:

Melinda Baker

Scott Baker

Gracelyn

Cauffman

Sheri

Hoschouer

Cyndee Orr

Scott Orr

Bev Sallee

Cecil Sallee

David Schiel

Joy Schiel

Rich Shaw

June Shaw

OFFICE HOURS**MON-THURS****11-3**

Church & Home

March 20261901 West Leota Street, North Platte, NE 69101
(308) 532-1083 www.fpcnp.org

As the church calendar moved to a new season – Lent, I was thinking about the changes, transformation, transfiguration, lament, hope, and temptation that come along with the new season. Not just a church season, but a weather season and a season of life.

I wondered how often others think about the church calendar or if it was only something I enjoyed reflecting on. I like to ponder and reflect on the church's liturgical season and soak in the meaning of the season. I read a book once, *The Circle of Seasons* by Kimberlee Conway Ireton, that delicately guides the reader to meet God in the precious space of each church season. *The Circle of Seasons* offers a map through the liturgical seasons and how they each provide a unique venue for congregants and ministers alike.

The author, like many of us, noted that when growing up, she thought of Lent as what she was “giving up.” I can attest that it has been something I have thought about, but it is not the first thing I envision when I think of Lent. If you are like me before I was called to ministry, you may not know or understand the significance behind the church seasons. Some do not notice the changing of the seasonal paraments – the fabric draped from the pulpit, lectern, and Table – regardless of the meaning behind it. Perhaps it is new information that with each church season, there are themes and lectionary readings specific to the day or season under discussion.

The church year begins with the Advent season – a season of waiting. Sometimes, it feels like the Advent season disappears into or is absorbed by the secular holiday season. As one waits and prepares during this season, we ready ourselves each Sunday to light another candle as we rejoice with the greatest gift of love through the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve. It is after Christmas Eve and Christmas Day that the church Christmas season begins. Sometimes the Christmas season is overlooked or simply skipped over. After the Christmas season, we find ourselves entering Epiphany, which is 12 days after Christmas – January 6. The celebration of Epiphany or the Baptism of Our Lord can mark this season. The season of Epiphany continues for six weeks until Transfiguration Sunday, which is closely followed by Ash Wednesday. As we know, Ash Wednesday ushers in the Lenten season and Christ's 40 days of temptation. This season culminates with Holy Week that includes Palm Sunday and the Triduum – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. Without the Three Days, there would be no Resurrection Sunday or Easter Sunday.

Fifty days after Easter is the Day of Pentecost. But just before that is Ascension of the Lord – a church holiday that is almost always unnoticed. Pentecost is recognized as the day we are filled with the Holy Spirit or the day the Advocate came to us, as Jesus proclaimed. Trinity Sunday is the Sunday following Pentecost. The season of Pentecost continues until Christ the King Sunday, which is the Sunday before Advent. The season of Pentecost is also referred to as Ordinary Time. While all church seasons are important and vital to the flow and fluidity of the year and Scripture lessons, Ordinary Time is often misunderstood or seen as less important than higher seasons such as Advent or Lent, even though we spend most of our church year in Ordinary Time. According to Ireton, “the word *ordinary* is rooted in the word *ordinal*, to count.” But they are not simply ordinary or unimportant days. These days are “time that counts, that matters.” Obviously, Holy Week and Easter are Christian staples, but taking the time to focus on this special time of the church calendar can enhance our experience of these days.

I invite you to live in the season and spend time reflecting on how we are encouraged to transform and grow into our faith throughout the year. Let us journey together.

Living in the season with you,
Pastor Emily

We are praying FOR YOU ...

Contact church office to be placed on the prayer list
Printed list in worship bulletin
Names read during services

Prayer Request

Justin Durboraw, Sheri Hoschouer, Cheryl Kurth, Keaton Kloss, Dennis Lombardi, Louise Steele, & Mark McKenzie.

Prayer Emphasis for the month:
For the strength to ignore temptation.



Dr. Kim Baxter
to speak here

March 22 during worship
Will discuss Craig Memorial Hospital in Kenya



- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 – Coy Baker | 13 – Jon Beggs |
| 3 – Janice Walters | 16 – Cash Cauffman |
| 4 – Dax Connick | 17 – Traci Dugan |
| 5 – Larry Stobbs | 18 – Scott Baker |
| 6 – Maxine Mulder | 20 – Vern Ehlers |
| 7 – Kent Miller | 21 – Kelly Ehlers |
| 8 – Spencer Clough | 22 – Sharon Glenn |
| 8 – Marcia Henline | 24 – Janet Hare |
| 10 – Jeff Petersen | 25 – Maris Schad |
| 10 – Ann Jones | 26 – Charles Henline |
| 12 – Nancy Mack | 28 – Ronald Norgaard |

PCUSA Q&A

March 1, after worship

Bring your questions

Relaxed discussion



Tom & Mary Pendleton – 03/03/1962

Bob & Barbara Barr – 03/14/1998

Joseph & Wendy Staroska – 3/23/2002

GUEST PREACHER
MADILYNN
MCENTEE

March 22

Story of
Lazarus



Scout Sunday

March 15

Scouts to serve
soup, pie lunch
following worship.

Scouts will host a
silent auction during
the soup lunch.



Usher training night

March 16 • 6 pm

Elders and Deacons encouraged to attend.

Followed by defibrillator training.

God calls us to help others. In response to that call, FPC will be hosting a community household giveaway on March 21 in the Family Life Center. Community members will be invited to visit on March 21 from 9 am - 1 pm and take what items they need. There will be no cost for any items.

To answer this call, we are looking for gently used household items as donations. Items may include, but are not limited to: living room furniture (sofas, chairs, end tables, TVs, TV stands); bedroom furniture (bedroom sets, dressers, mattresses, nightstands, bed frames); dining tables; kitchenware (utensils, pots and pans, food storage containers); blankets, backpacks, and lamps. Clothing or knick-knacks are not accepted.

All items may be dropped off in the Family Life Center during church office hours March 16-19. If you need help transporting your items, please call the church office before March 16, and a church member will assist you.

The Deacons will graciously help steward this response.

PLEASE consider donating your gently-used items to this cause.



Seeking household furniture donations

Community give-a-way

March 21 • 9 am – 1 pm

Bring gently used items to FPC between 3/15-3/20

Please no knick-knacks.

*"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
~ Galatians 6:2*

In Christ and appreciation,
Pastor Emily



CHOIR PRACTICE

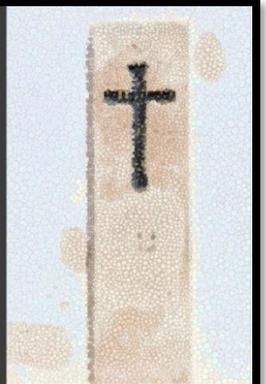
SUNDAYS
AT 9 AM

STARTING
MARCH 8

LUNCH AND LEARN: SPRING BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT
AT 12:45 AT ECOS

LED BY PR. EMILY & FR. STEVE



MARCH SERVICE COMMITTEE

Coordinator: Deb Weitzel, Beverly Sallee

Members:

Leigh Henline, Patty Whitney, Susan Peters, June Shaw.



HOLY WEEK WITH JESUS

Text "Jesus" to
833-510-5006

Or scan code

Real-time messages
during Holy Week



Communal worship
services

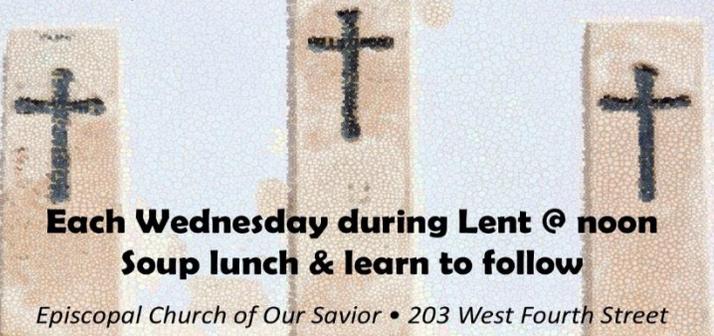
Ash Wednesday
@ ECOS with Pr. Patrick

Maundy Thursday
@ FELC with Pr. Emily

Good Friday
@ FPC with Fr. Steve



Stations of the Cross



Each Wednesday during Lent @ noon
Soup lunch & learn to follow

Episcopal Church of Our Savior • 203 West Fourth Street

Each
Wednesday
during Lent

LENTEN SERVICES

Soup
dinner at
5:30 pm

Worship
at 6:30 pm

First Lutheran Church • 305 West Fifth Street

PALM SUNDAY

March 29, 2026

with Holy Communion
10 am



Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion



April 2 • 7 pm

First Lutheran Church • 305 West Fifth St.

Good Friday

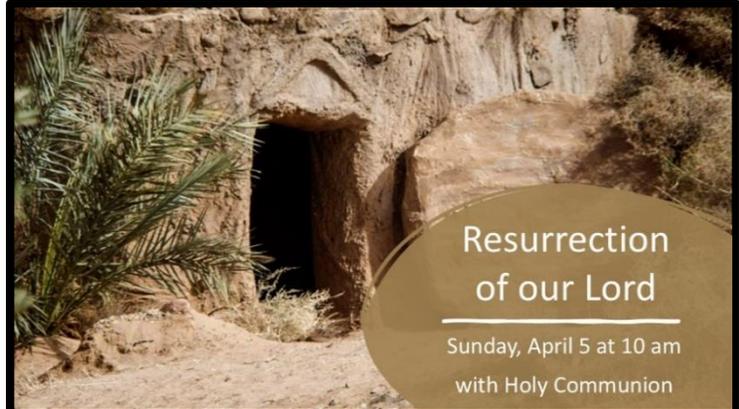
April 3, 2026 • 7 pm

First Presbyterian Church • 1901 West Leota St.



Resurrection of our Lord

Sunday, April 5 at 10 am
with Holy Communion



Holy Week

**First Presbyterian Church (USA)
North Platte, NE 69101**

**Scholarship Application for
Ogier College Fund
General College/Seminary Fund
Hastings College Fund**

**THE APPLICANT IS RESPONSIBLE TO COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS
OF THE APPLICATION INCLUDING REQUIRED DOCUMENTS
INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED**

Qualification and Eligibility Requirements

Who May apply?

All scholarships are for graduating high school seniors with a "C" average or current college students with a 2.5 GPA living in Lincoln County. Scholarships may be used at a college: 4-year (8 semesters), 2-year (4 semesters), trade school, or seminary.

Applications must be made annually.

- **Ogier Fund:** a student living in Lincoln County, NE
- **General College/Seminary:** an active member of the First Presbyterian Church, North Platte. Preference to those entering or enrolled in Seminary.
- **Hastings College Fund:** an active member of First Presbyterian Church, North Platte enrolled in Hastings College.

**RETURN TO: First Presbyterian Church
Attention: Scholarship Committee
1901 West Leota
North Platte, NE 69101
For Questions, call: 308-532-1083**

Awarding Scholarships: An applicant will be considered for all qualifying scholarships. Scholarships will be awarded under only one of the programs. Winning applicants must inform First Presbyterian Church North Platte of their college student ID number in order to receive their scholarships.

Use of Scholarship Funds: Scholarships must be used for tuition, books, fees, and materials. All awards will be paid by First Presbyterian Church to the educational institution in which the winner is enrolled. Scholarship awards will be paid over two (2) semesters.

Application Due Date: Application must be postmarked by or received in the office of First Presbyterian Church on or before **March 15, 2026**.

Selection of Awardees

Ogier Fund: Awards will be based on financial need, ACT/SAT scores and Grade Point Average, responsibility/service to others, school and/or community activities, and two (2) letters of recommendation.

General Fund/Seminary: Awards will be based on financial need, ACT/SAT scores and Grade Point Average, responsibility/service to others, school and/or community activities, and two (2) recommendation letters. Preference given to seminary students.

Hastings College: Awards will be based on financial need, ACT/SAT scores and Grade Point Average, responsibility/service to others, school and/or community activities, two (2) recommendation letters, and admission to Hastings College.

Additional Information:

High School students must include a **copy** of an **official transcript** from the most recently attended high school. High school transcripts must include 7 semesters.

College students' transcripts must include the most recent fall semester.

Two (2) Recommendation Letters: Which must include a letter from:

1. A counselor or teacher
2. An adult who knows you (not a relative) an employer, if you were employed, or scout leader, church member, etc.

Renewal applications: must include the most recent academic transcript and must have **two (2) new** letters of recommendation.



Grace Ministries Food Pantry



March 2026

DONATIONS

Tim Axthelm

Laura Stewart

Angela Boyer

Jess Owen

Lincoln County 4-H

North Platte Elks Club BPOE

First Presbyterian Church



January Totals:

Households served: 142

Individuals in those household: 414

Pounds given out: 9639 (estimate)

New Households: 18

Families with children under 18: 40

Emergency assistance given: 23

In February, we were able to get 10 cases of canned peaches, 320 pounds of frozen chicken breast meat, 8 cases of pancake mix, and 180 pounds of frozen ground beef free of charge from the Food Bank.

Thank you friends at First Presbyterian Church! Canned soup is especially appreciated on these colder days, and the soup you've brought will be very much welcomed by our families in need! Together you brought us 81 pounds of canned soup in February! Thank you Janet and Leroy for delivering!

We continue to be in need of more volunteers...

•**We need more Unloaders on our list.** Unloaders are needed when we have an order from the Food Bank for the Heartland in Omaha, usually once a month. The Food Bank suggests we get 1 unloader for every 500 pounds of food we are receiving. (We also have a crew at the Pantry ready to help unloaders.) Unloaders lift and move only what they are comfortable moving. The truck driver gets the food out of their truck and on to the sidewalk and it is up to us to get the food into the Pantry and put away. We have a few days notice before they arrive at their designated time, which is between 9am and 4pm on weekdays, no weekends or evenings. *Must have and use a cell phone!!!*

•**We need more Customer Aides.** Customer Aides assist our customers that are arriving for food. Monday, Wednesday, Friday. 1-3. We have several extra Aides, but really need more on the roster to allow for illness, travelers, and other work commitments. No computer work, but you will be using a cell phone, card file, and be moving bags to the front door from different areas in the Pantry. Our customers do not come into the Pantry. We hand the food out to them across a table. You can offer your time for as many or as few 2 hour shifts as you would like.

•**We need fresh leadership.** No doubt about it. Tammy and Leigh have been doing this a long time, and will happily train the right people.

Thank you for considering helping with any of these positions.

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 (Answering during operating hours only)

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

