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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

JULY 2026

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



I do not read for pleasure much these days. Although I do have a lengthy list of books I would like to read when time allows, or I decide I have achieved my highest level of education, and it is time for a break. As a professional student and pastor, most of my reading is for sermon research and preparation or class assignments. If I have a free moment outside of those two reading responsibilities, I usually spend it reading ahead and working on the next assignment. But in true fashion, I was reading for class, of course, a book of sermons last week. I, a preacher who creates sermons weekly, read books that are collections of sermons. In my first career as a sports journalist, I used to search for other newspapers and read them. I would look for inspiration or layout ideas. I would try to find comparable pieces to what I had done, or even areas where I would not have printed what the newspaper printed. And there was something about holding a newspaper in hand, shuffling through the pages, and then noticing the black ink on the pads of my fingers when I was finished that I miss. So today, I read books of sermons. And I get the same butterflies at the beginning of reading someone else's sermon and at the *Amen* that I do when I deliver my own sermons.

I cannot quite decide if I am dedicated to my craft or lack hobbies.

This book, *And God Spoke to Abraham*, compiled by Fleming Rutledge, an Episcopalian priest, is of sermons she preached from 1975-2010. For the first 20 years, she preached nearly every Sunday in parish churches and then as a "peripatetic preacher" after that. Each sermon is built around an Old Testament text. When I began to read the assigned pages, I set a goal of how much I would like to read before I went to sleep for the night. I found myself eagerly longing to read more. And more. And more.

Rutledge's sermons were fruitful and charged. I wanted to share them with the congregation in an elementary story-time-like setting. (I still may someday.) While many were written and delivered before I was born or before I graduated high school, they elicit merit today. Just like another book we know well – the Bible. It is not a coincidence that the text written two thousand years ago is more than relevant when applied to our daily lives. God does not work in coincidence. Even when we sometimes think God did not hear our cries.

"But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me. Can a woman forget her nursing child or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these might forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. Your builders outdo your destroyers....' ~ Isaiah 49:14-17

We are reminded not only in the Old Testament, but also in the New Testament that God is with us each day. God hears our cries, suffers with us, and celebrates with us.

"Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose." ~ Romans 8:24-28

Reading in Christ,
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, Glenda Feeney,
Sheri Hoschouer, Keaton Kloss, Dennis
Lombardi, Jason McEntee & Louise Steele.
Family & friends of Matthew McCarthy.

Prayer Emphasis for the month:

For listening minds and peace-filled hearts.

- July 5 at 10 am
- Bring your coffee, lawn chairs if you have them
- Relaxed worship style

Outdoor worship



July Birthdays

08 – Jeanie Thies	23 – Charlene Cash
12 – Cooper Leibhart	Chloe Kaminski
14 – Melinda Baker	25 – Zachary Ochsner
16 – Glenda Feeney	29 – Martha Orcutt
19 – Tom Pendleton	31 – Richard Shaw
21 – Evelyn DeVoe	



Clawdia says ...

Save the date!
VBS is July 13
8-noon



July Anniversaries

07/21/1973 – Randy & Mary Hughes
07/31/1993 – Dan & Shandell Sims
07/18/2020 – Robert & Joy DeVoe



Please welcome guest preachers ...

July 26	Jean Anderson
Aug. 2	Jean Anderson
Aug. 9	Rev. Breen Sipes

*Pastor Emily will return
from Seminary Aug. 16.*

Time for a refresh

Order of worship changes for July, August



Blessing of the backpacks

August 16 at 10 a.m.

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



Birthday cake kit

- Bring items to FPC June 28-July 12
- Kits will be assembled for GMFP



The project of making up birthday cake kits that are given to patrons at the pantry was started by Mary Hughes. The mission committee would like to continue this worthy project. We need your help! Please bring a cake mix, a can of sprite or 7up, and birthday candles to the church anytime from June 28-July 12. Monetary gifts would be appreciated also. The patrons who receive these kits are thrilled to get a birthday cake. Thank you for your help with this project!



Gary Trego receives top Nebraskaland Days award!

Gary has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Dale Studley Award, one of the Nebraskaland Days organization's highest honors recognizing individuals who exemplify the values of leadership, service, western heritage, and community commitment. Gary has dedicated countless hours to serving his community and preserving Nebraska's Western heritage.

Grace Ministries Food Pantry

July 2026

May Figures:

141 Households with 408 individuals.

109 of the households above had children under 18.

9964 pounds of food given out

4 emergency customers.



Donations:

Anonymous

Philip Woracek

Tim Axthelm

Larry Sanger

Karen White

Bev and Cecil Sallee

Molly Jackson

Co-Directors :

Tammy Miller 530-8406

Francine McKenzie 530-0436

Leigh Henline 530-2601

Food Bank for the Heartland:

We continue to have one delivery a month from the Food Bank for the Heartland in Omaha. In June we received 1,882 lbs of food including ground beef, cereal, mac and cheese dinner, peanut butter, black beans, tuna, canned ravioli, and canned vegetables. Using the computerized system for checking customers in is continuing to work well. We were very thankful to receive the good news that donors to the Food Bank will be covering the 'Hot Spot' internet connection needed for that computerized system for another year. This saves Grace Ministries \$20 a month!

Welcome!

We welcome a new unloader to our list of stellar volunteers. David Clouarte has come forward, asking to be put on our call list. Thank you David!!! We are happy to have you aboard!

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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC	2	3	4 Happy 4th of July!!
5 10am – Outdoor Worship Communion	6 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts	7	8 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC	9	10	11
12 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	13 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts VBS 8am-Noon	14	15 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC	16 Matthew M. Funeral @11am	17	18
19 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org Communion	20 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts Committee Night 6:30pm	21	22 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC	23 Emily gone 23rd – 10th	24	25
26 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	27 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts	28	29 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC	30	31	

In Church Worship Service on Sundays at 10am