

PASTOR:

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Jennifer
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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

AUGUST 2026

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



I wrote a sermon once about what kind of sign(s) we were looking for from God. Are we looking for God to show up in a bright neon flashing sign saying, "Here I am!" Do we think God will show up with an entourage and then, after inspecting the clatter and crowd, we will understand who the excitement is about? Will God send us an email or letter or text message that says, "meet me here at this time. I will be the one dressed like this." Do we think that God will knock on the door and once we open it (if we even do), we will instantly recognize God, or God will say, "Hey, I just wanted to introduce myself. I'm God."

Again, I was reading a book of sermons the other day, and the Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor wrote a sermon called, *Show Me a Sign*. She mentioned that Gideon, a judge, needed a visit from an angel for him to understand and accept his call from God. "And even the angel had to work pretty hard," Brown Taylor said. But even after the angel's workmanship, Gideon was not sure and offered several reasons not to accept God's call. For him to accept, he was looking for a big display and a sign that this was God. Since neon lights, fireworks, and noise makers were not around in the Old Testament days, the sign would need to come by a different route. The Lord told Gideon that God would be with him, and all of his excuses or lack of qualifications did not matter – but that Gideon was the one God called. However, still undeterred, Gideon asked for a sign that it was God calling him.

God granted the sign that Gideon was seeking. There is more to Gideon's story, but my focus here is that it is not just you and me who are seeking signs from God. We can ask, or many times demand, God to deliver a sign to us, but sometimes that sign does not come the way we want or expect. Sometimes the sign is delivered right to our doorstep, and we just trip over it as we look around to see who rang the doorbell and took off. What is important is that we understand that when God calls us, God promises to journey with us. As Brown Taylor said about Gideon's request, "All that mattered was this partnership with God, who does not call anyone to do anything without promising to go too."

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There were loads of joyful sounds and giggles around the empty church building recently. On July 13, Madilynn McEntee, Marcia Henline, and Kay Wright led an exciting morning of Vacation Bible School. There were crafts, snacks, stories, games, and a whole lot of fun! Having bigger faith than our fears was a key lesson for the young ones in attendance.

But I wonder if the leaders learned even bigger lessons than they taught? I wonder if they learned how important they are to the young people they led? I wonder if they learned that without their commitment to VBS and this church, no lessons would be taught? I wonder if they learned that they are greatly impacting a generation? I wonder if they learned they are leading young people to Christ? I wonder if they learned that they are helping our youngest congregants understand how much God loves us? I wonder if they learned just how much they are loved by this congregation and God?

Thank you, Madilynn, Marcia, and Kay, for your commitment, dedication, love, and care for the precious Presbyterians. You are loved!

Wondering in awe,
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

Pam Ames, Justin Durboraw, Glenda Feeney,
Keaton Kloss, & Louise Steele.

Prayer Emphasis for the month:

For the local agencies doing God's work of serving
others.



Please welcome guest preachers ...

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

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

August Birthdays

11 – Gary Trego	26 – Shandell Sims
12 – Ned Mack	27 – Ryan Kaminski
14 – Lowell Fenster	31 – Jeanette Lawrence
Jennifer Smallcomb	



Blessing of the backpacks

August 16 at 10 a.m.

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

Time for a refresh

Order of worship changes for July, August

August Anniversaries



Lowell & Willa Fenster 08-01-1987
Shad & Tonya Connick 08-05-2000
Danny & Jaci Whitney 08-05-2005
Ned & Nancy Mack 08-09-1970
Vincent & Traci Dugan 08-19-1991
Vern & Kelly Ehlers 08-19-1977
Jim & Patty Whitney 08-24-1974
Leroy & Janet Hare 08-26-1962



Outdoor Worship

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

Guest Preacher Madilynn McEntee

Aug. 30

Jesus foretells his death

The mission committee wishes
to thank all of you for donating
items for the birthday cake kits.
We will be able to put together
about 50 kits. Hopefully the kits
will put smiles on many faces.
Your generosity is greatly
appreciated.

Fill the backpacks

- Food drive for Grace Ministries Pantry Aug.16-31
- Bring items to church



Fill the backpacks

Mac & cheese dinners and peanut butter



Blanket Sunday

Sept. 20
CWS blanket fund offering
\$10 for one blanket



Bring 1 or 2 quilts to decorate pews for Blanket Sunday

Sept. 20



The NPPS runs a Kids Klub after school and during the summer program that is designed for children, focusing on educational and recreational activities. The Congers have played a vital role in this program over many years providing financial support to make sure the kids have pool passes and learn how to swim instruction. Trudy Merritt has worked very closely with the Congers during this time. To honor the Congers, Trudy was instrumental in getting a group picture with the kids and putting a thank-you message on the football field scoreboard as an expression of what Joe and Dorothy have meant to the program and all those who have participated in it. – Courtesy of Bob Barr

VBS July 2026



Grace Ministries Food Pantry

August 2026

June Figures:

122 households served with 371 individuals
100 of those households have children under 18
7 emergency customers
8,985 lbs of food given out

Donations:

Kathy and Gordon Reifschneider
StoneBridge Christian Church. (100 lbs of food)
Kay Almond
Lynda Wilkinson
First Methodist (535 lbs of food)

Co-Directors :

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

From the Food Bank for the Heartland, Omaha:

We were able to get about 2800 pounds of food on July 10. Items included ground beef, turkey and chicken slices, tuna, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, mac and cheese dinner, and oatmeal. Due to the price of canned fruit, we have stopped purchasing it, so it was a treat to get several varieties in this delivery. And of course, receiving quality protein options is always a major win!

Fresh Foods, North Platte:

Fresh Foods Westfield continues to provide great options for us to purchase. We are so thankful to be able to work with such kind employees who find us good bargains AND deliver! They also donated both brown paper bags and plastic bags for us last month. WOW! Next time you are in Fresh Foods Westfield, be sure to thank them for working so hard to "help us help the hungry" in our area! We continue to buy fresh milk and eggs every week, and receive some gallons free by using our 'points'. We also purchase an assortment of items such as canned vegetables, cheese, bread, rice, and meat. THANK YOU, FRESH FOODS!

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
2 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	3 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts	4	5 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC	6	7	8
9 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	10 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts	11	12 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC	13	14	15
16 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org Communion Blessing of the backpacks	17 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts Committee Night 6:30pm	18	19 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC	20	21	22
23 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	24 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts	25	26 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC	27	28	29
30 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org Communion	31					

In Church Worship Service on Sundays at 10am

