

The First Presbyterian Church PC (U.S.A.)

206 E. 20<sup>th</sup> Street P. O. Box 444

Falls City, Nebraska 68355

402-245-2650 – <http://www.fallscitypres.org>

August 2019/September 2019

August Worship Time: 10:45 am

September Worship Time: 11:00 am

### **Reflections from Rick--**

*Father God, through the church, Your great wisdom has been made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to Your eternal purpose which You accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. You do everything which You propose to do, nothing can disrupt or derail your plans. My life is in Your hands. Glory be to God. Amen*

Grace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessing to all of you as we acknowledge we are in the full throttle of “Summer Fun” including reunions, vacations, gardening, a good book, and the completion of any and all of the “honey do” items we have been putting off.

The First Presbyterian Church has a great start of “Summer Fun”. We enjoyed hosting FPC-Humboldt and Interim Executive Presbyter, Stephen Earl to worship together on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have participated in great measure with David and Glenda von Behrens *Little Stars Music Program* by hosting three class sessions each Wednesday during July. I have met the parents of the children who have been the recipients of the Scholarships provided by the FPC-FC. They are grateful to the Church, for without this loving gesture, their children would not have access to this wonderful program. And of course, we have fully enjoyed the respective performances of Michele and David individually and as a duet. We are indeed blessed.

We have received correspondence from Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, Presbyterian Mission welcoming FPC-FC as a Mathew 25 Church. We are among the first of 100 congregations, mid councils and organizations making the Matthew 25 commitment to actively engage in the world. We are now able to learn about resources, provide network opportunities and engage with our communities, and with each of our fellow Presbyterian Churches within the denomination. In the next few weeks,

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I will look forward to sharing our success stories of the wonderful work we are doing within our community, as well as learn from other success stories of other PC(USA) congregations. A new Facebook group has been created just for those who have committed to Matthew 25. It is a space to share resources and best practices, inspire others with stories of success, and join together, in prayer for one another.

Commencing July 28<sup>th</sup>, we will begin our Ephesians Series, *No Longer Strangers*. This walk through the letter to the Ephesians teaches the church how to be a community worthy of the gospel. In the midst of familiar interpersonal conflicts, the writer of Ephesians reminds them, they are “now in Christ Jesus,” no longer strangers to God and, more importantly, no longer alienated from each other. Because of this new life in Christ they are experiencing a radical transformation of their identity, as individuals and as a community. These six weeks explore, what does it look like to live rooted in reconciliation; vertical and horizontal with God and with neighbor and how do we practice it in radial ways?

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Sermon Title/Focus</b>	<b>Scripture</b>
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	<i>The Family</i> God chose us to be adopted together as a family in Christ	Eph. 1 3-14
August 4 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Aliens Brought Near</i> God reconciles divided peoples in a politically subversive act.	Eph. 2:11-22
August 11 <sup>th</sup>	<i>God's Powerful Love</i> God can do things through us we cannot imagine.	Eph. 3: 14-21
August 18 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Bound Together</i> God calls us to unity, requiring humility and acceptance of one another.	Eph. 4: 1-16
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Making Peace</i> God calls us to make peace, dealing with anger in a righteous, loving way.	Eph. 4: 25-32
September 1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Overflow</i> God fills us with the Spirit, bringing joy and thankfulness to ordinary days.	Eph. 5:15-20

*WELCOME*

*TO THE FRONT PORCH*

*10:15 am*

*AUGUST 24, 2019*



++++++PARISH NEWS++++++

**First Friday Breakfast**

First Friday Breakfasts will resume on September 13 at 7 am. Please note the breakfast will be held on the second Friday in September. Over the last several years, we have had a variety of topics with great speakers. Please join us as we begin our fall session with speakers Tim Rhodd, Chairman and Alan Kelly, Vice-Chairman, of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. Other speakers are lined up with talks including Richardson County's Oil Industry Past, Present and Future; championship dog training; and details regarding Data Banks on students! Please put 7:00 am September 13, October 4, November 1 and December 6 on your calendars now. We will have additional information for you in the near future and at that point we will ask you to RSVP to John Martin so breakfast can be prepared accordingly. See you there!

**Readers for Service**

We are looking for readers to read scripture during church services. Please consider helping with this fulfilling duty. Contact Jennifer James if you are interested. She looks forward to hearing from you.

**Little Stars Summer Music Program**

First Presbyterian Church provided scholarships for students who love and desire to learn more of music as an art and who otherwise would not have been able to participate. Classes are taught jointly by David and Glenda von Behren, music teachers experienced in the field of education elementary-aged children.

Several classes were held at the church to give children the opportunity to explore the pipe organ.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry Basket**

Many beautiful prayer shawls have been made by some busy women. They are located in the basement on the bookcase. If you need one or know someone who would enjoy, please take one. If you have one to share, please leave one!

**Diaper Closet**

Thank You to Great Western Bank for their commitment to the Diaper Closet. During the month of May, the bank collected donations for the Diaper Closet. All are greatly appreciated!

**Restroom Attention**

From time to time we are finding the sink dripping or the toilet running. Please make a double check both are shut off before leaving. A little drip can add up quickly increasing the utility expense. Thanks a bunch!

**They Are Back and We Are Excited!**

The Buchanan Highlanders will be with us Saturday morning, August 24, from 10:15 am until Cobblestone Parade time. They bring a wonderful reminder of our church's Scottish heritage. They are based in St. Joseph, Missouri and will play a selection of patriotic, historical and religious songs on the church balcony. Shade, chairs and cold water will be provided. The balcony is also a great place to watch the parade as it makes the turn from 20<sup>th</sup> street onto Harlan. The sound carries about two blocks and the concert is a great way to start the parade.

++++++Homestead Presbytery News++++++

Most of the world would have difficulty remembering exactly what they were doing on March 15, 2019. But for people living in Nebraska, the date will be forever etched in their mind as "the day all heck" broke loose and blizzards and floods washed away decades of memories and possessions and forever changed the landscape of parts of the Nebraska farmland. Those "in the know" tell us that every single Nebraskan will be or has been affected in some manner by the floods of 2019!

Within a week of the flood, representatives from Presybterian Disaster Assistance were in Homestead Presbytery, assessing initial damage and giving us information needed to start connecting with the areas most in need. There are groups who focus on "rapid response" to meet the needs immediate needs of food, shelter, water, clothing. Many of our Presbyterian churches opened their doors to welcome displaced people or provide meals or serve as collection/interview sites.

As this was happening, Homestead Presbytery made an initial request for a \$7,500 grant for immediate needs. Part of the grant has been spent to assist with immediate needs with the remainder used to establish host sites within the directly flooded areas providing housing, a place to cook and shower for work groups coming yet this summer.

Many of the rapid response teams have moved on to the next disaster, but we in Homestead Presbytery continue to work with our brothers and sisters to help in the long term recovery. We will be making a grant request for brick and mortar expenditures and have some funds donated directly that will be prayerfully distributed on your behalf. We are also in the process of forming a Homestead Presbytery Disaster and Beyond Response Team. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please email Gary Haller at [txhaller2@att.net](mailto:txhaller2@att.net) or Sue Babovec at [chaplainsueb@hotmail.com](mailto:chaplainsueb@hotmail.com).

#### +++++++COMMUNITY NEWS+++++++

##### **Back to School Clothing Give-Away**

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church 20<sup>th</sup> & Towle Street, are hosting the community Back to School Clothing Give-Away. Clothing donations for sizes birth-12th grade are accepted Mon-Fri, 8 am -12 noon through August 4th. Any adult clothing should be appropriate for high school aged youth. Please use the SE ramp door and take donations to the church basement. Volunteers are needed to sort clothing Aug 5-7, and staffers for give-away days Aug 8-10 and clean up. For further information, contact Chuck Smith at 402-801-2514.



This is a great series and I look forward to sharing it with you. Please invite a friend to Church during this time, I remain confident they will enjoy the message, and I will be honored in welcoming them here at First Presbyterian Church.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Rick

##### **ATTENTION NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

All newsletter articles for the OCTOBER-NOVEMBER newsletter will be due to the office by September 16th. If you have any information you would like printed for your group or activity to be published, please submit them in written form. Keep everyone informed by submitting an article! Thank you for marking this *important* date on your calendar!

##### **Recommended Reading**

Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week by Amy-Jill Levine

Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple by Adam Hamilton

Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America

by Jennifer Harvey

70 Hebrew Words Every Christian Should Know by Matthew Richard Schlimm

Here, Now, With You: Six Movements of Compassion for Life and Leadership

By Gregg Louis Taylor

If you have any book(s) you have enjoyed and would recommend, please email to [presbyterian@sentco.net](mailto:presbyterian@sentco.net)