

# “THE CORNERSTONE”

AUGUST, 2021 – SEPTEMBER, 2021

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>

Worship Time: 11 am

## *Pastor's Reflection*

*Empowering God, you counseled the first apostles through Jesus to await your authorizing and authenticating Spirit to fuel the efforts. Send your divine power upon us as well, thus strengthened from above, we may carry out your mission and your ministry in accordance with Christ's vision. In his name, we humbly pray. Amen*

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessings to you this day, as we hopefully at the time of this writing, continue to enjoy the moderate temperatures of July creeping into August, while we dance among the rain drops of our given days. I remain grateful for my Presbyterian sisters and brothers who love and support me in our understanding of “togetherness” as a foundational block to everything good. And, I am grateful for my children, their health and zest for life. I give thanks for the opportunity to move into Falls City and safely into a welcoming home. A home which directs me to “My Church” to regain the necessary balance to begin the day anew.

“The future is as bright as the promises of God,” So spoke Adoniram Judson, pioneer missionary to Burma, on the occasion of his being accused of “jungle madness” because of his service to his Christ. “Love Will Find a Way!” Jesus said, “Where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also” *Matthew 6:21*. The thing we value most will have our hearts and our interests. Where our interests are, our energy and resources will soon be also. This is the way love acts. It is the nature of love to give and to give sacrificially.

It is so with God's church. If we are convinced the church is engaged in God's work for the world and can honestly and sincerely say we not only wish this work to be done but we have a veritable passion for seeing it done, we will build the church. Love will not let the church of God, its people and causes, to go unfed.

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When we love the Kingdom of God and the church through which it is being brought about, we will sing:

“For her my tears shall fall,  
For her my prayers ascend;  
To her my cares and toils be given  
Till toils and cares shall end.”

It is with the earnest hope that in paying tribute and bringing remembrance to those who have built this church, we the living, may apply the truths of the Christian gospel to the very serious problems of our age.

Born in the age of the horse and buggy, First Presbyterian Church of Falls City, Nebraska continues through the 155<sup>th</sup> year and into a new age of private/corporate space travel. Yet, the message is the same, “God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Reverend Robert L. Giles, pastor of this Church for many years, stated, “We cannot remind ourselves often enough the church is not man’s enterprise, but God’s. We sometimes speak of the church as if it were a mere community created like a political party, a labor union or a service club. The Christian Church came into being, not because a few followers of a crucified carpenter decided there should be one, but because the Lord said, ‘I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.’”

In this faith men and women have served the church. They have witnessed and died for it. No preacher can enter his pulpit without praying that he may be a worthy successor of the spokesperson for God who stood there before him. No church member can sit in the pew without feeling the unseen presence of those who worked to make the Christian Church a reality. Whether, a parent, a grandparent, a friend, a respected acquaintance, we all feel their unseen presence even today, in making this Church a reality. Sometimes we become impatient with the institutional Church, wondering if it really advances the cause of Christ or whether the Holy Spirit might not break through its walls to establish new forms of Christianity. Imperfect as it may seem, the church is still God’s building, bought and paid for by the tears and sacrifices of past generations.

Today is as important as any day, in giving an opportunity to survey the church’s achievements and failures during past years. More important, it is an opportunity to set our sights for the future. I pray that each and every one of us will find the joy in our hearts in both tasks. Indeed, **“The future is as bright as the promises of God,”**

Blessings to you this day!  
Pastor Rick

## FIRST FRIDAY BREAKFASTS

We will resume our First Friday Breakfasts in September though we will wait until **September 10<sup>th</sup>** to avoid the Labor Day weekend. Please put the 10<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for an interesting speaker and a good breakfast to start your day. Please let John Martin know of speakers you would like to hear or a topic you would like addressed and he will take it from there.

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

### BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING DRIVE

The Back-to-School Clothing Give-Away is being held by St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 20<sup>th</sup> & Towle Street. The church began receiving clothing on July 12<sup>th</sup> and can be brought to the church basement Monday thru Thursday from 8 am until noon. Use the southeast ramp door and follow the signs. Clothing is for children birth to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade. Distribution will occur on Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 5 pm and Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 11 am. For further information or to volunteer, contact Chuck Smith – 402-802-2514.

### PIONEER FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

The Foster Grandparent Program through Blue Valley Community Action is seeking individuals 55 years of age and older to become mentors to children. Volunteers provide emotional and educational support to children. They could teach reading and math for those who are at risk of falling behind in school. Volunteers will also assist in developing the child's social/emotional skills and independence. The program began in 1972 and is funded by AmeriCorps. The scheduling is flexible and grandparents can receive a stipend for their service. If interested, contact Tanya Good, Program Coordinator at 402-223-6036 or Toll Free 800-540-8981

### DANGER! HOLY BIBLE

Bible use can become habit-forming. Regular reading can cause loss of anxiety, fear, and a decreased appetite for impatience and anger.

Symptoms include increased love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If symptoms persist, just **PRAISE THE LORD!**

## MY CHURCH

BEFORE I was born MY CHURCH gave to my parents' ideals of life and love that made my home a place of strength and beauty.

In helpless infancy MY CHURCH joined my parents in consecrating me to Christ and in baptizing me in His name.

MY CHURCH enriched my childhood with the Romance and Religion and the lessons of life that have been woven into the texture of my soul. Sometimes I seem to have forgotten and then, when else I might surrender to foolish and futile ideals of life, the truths MY CHURCH taught become radiant, insistent, and inescapable.

In the stress and storm of adolescence MY CHURCH heard the surge of my soul and She guided my footsteps by lifting my eyes toward the stars.

When first, my heart knew the strange awakenings of love MY CHURCH taught me to chasten and spiritualize my affections. She sanctified my marriage and blessed my home.

When my heart was seamed with sorrow, and I thought the sun could never shine again, MY CHURCH drew me to the Friend of all the Weary and whispered to me the hope of another morning, eternal and tearless.

When my steps have slipped and I have known the bitterness of sin MY CHURCH is helping me to train them for all joyous and clean and Christly living.

MY CHURCH calls me to Her heart. She asks my service my loyalty. She has a right to ask it! I will help Her to do for others what She has done for me. In this place in which I live, I will help Her keep aflame and aloft the torch of living faith.

William Henry Boddy, D.D.

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

All newsletter articles for the October-November newsletter will be due to the office by **September 13<sup>th</sup>**. Please submit an article for the newsletter. Keep everyone informed about the activities of the church. Thank you for marking this *important* date on your calendar!

### Recommended Reading

It's Good to Be Queen by Liz Curtis Higgs

Unstoppable by Nick Vujicic

Be The Message by Kerry and Chris Shook

Unveiling The Past by Kim Vogel Sawyer

Called For Life by Kent & Amber Brantly

Heaven, Hell and Life After Death by Kay Arthur & Bob and Diane Vereen

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

### +++++++PARISH NEWS+++++++

#### Buchanan Highlanders

The Buchanan Highlanders will be with us Saturday morning, August 14, 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.

#### DIAPER CLOSET NEEDS AND LEMONADE DAYS

The Diaper Closet participated in the July Lemonade Days and was a great success. Not only did we have visitors to the booth, but also gained great information about other resource programs in the community. We received nice donations from St. Thomas Episcopal Church and the employees of Community Medical Center to help replenish our stock of baby needs. Many thanks to our volunteers Judy Crawford, John Martin, Laura Gonnella, Lori Thompson, Lena Lippold, Jennifer James and Judy Mueller. If you have a couple of hours from 4-6 pm on a Monday, please consider donating that time to the Diaper Closet. Contact Jenner James if you have time to volunteer or questions about the Diaper Closet.