

# “THE CORNERSTONE”

OCTOBER, 2022 – NOVEMBER, 2022

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

*To all the Saints in Christ Jesus... Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the Gospel from the First Day until now. **Philippians 1: 3-5***

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

*The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers. (A Brief Statement of Faith)*

Three years ago, the Session of First Presbyterian Church – Falls City accepted the invitation from the General Assembly of PC(USA) to be a Matthew 25 Church. Matthew 25: 31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive, and we wake up to new possibilities. It is in this conviction, both the 222<sup>nd</sup> and 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted our National Denomination to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned, or poor. At the time, FPC-Falls City was the third Church in the Nebraska Homestead Presbytery to accept the Invitation from PC(USA). Today there are over 1,100 plus congregations, mid councils, and groups that have signed on since its launch in April 2019.

The recently gathered statistics from PC(USA) show the above vision stated by Jesus, unites all Presbyterians and people of faith. Accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, we can help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the neighborhood, our community, and the world. We recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice,

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and mercy shine forth and are contagious. We rejoice in how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose. Our common identity to do mission.

Since 1866, First Presbyterian Church – Falls City continues to build on what we have done well. Remembering those who came before us, their trust in God and their commitment to follow the Spirit in Mission. In the early Spring of 2022, I asked Session for permission to write a “Request for Funds Grant” from the Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation to focus further, to go deeper, and to make “Action” our charge. We were approved for the Grant and were the largest recipient of approved grant funds made by the Nebraska Presbytery Foundation within Homestead Presbytery. Our “Action,” our “Charge,” if you will, is in part, our “Wednesday’s Mosaic Table.”

“Wednesday’s Mosaic Table,” is an alternative worship service to our traditional Worship Service on Sundays. It is a worship service with a different format including the blessing of a meal, a message, a segment of Engaging Matthew 25 through film, a discussion in our Presbyterian way of faith, and a question-and-answer period. Childcare is provided. The Service commenced on September 7, 2022, and will continue at 5:30 pm on the following dates:

September 21, 2022  
October 5, 2022  
October 19, 2022  
November 2, 2022  
November 16, 2022  
November 30, 2022  
December 14, 2022  
December 28, 2022

A call to the church office is needed to reserve a meal the day before which is Tuesday. (Not necessary if attending the Service only.)

Congregational Vitality is one “action name” PC(USA) has given to the Matthew 25 Church. The name is not about numbers! It’s not a measure of how many members are on our rolls, or how large our budget is, or even how many baptisms we celebrate each year. Rather, it is a mindset and commitment to re-energize and live out our church’s faith in our community and the world. Vitality is a passion for following Jesus. Growing in faith and discipleship, embracing people beyond our church walls, working for justice, reconciliation, and serving our neighbors in need. It is a way of life that sees with Christ’s eyes and uses our collective gifts to make a true and life-changing difference. I do understand every community is different and faces its own challenges. Growing in vitality always requires prayer and discernment to figure out how we are called. I hope to see you soon, invite your friends and tell your neighbors! Blessings to you this day



I am looking forward to vacation time the end of October and into the first part of November. First traveling with two great-nephews to DC. Not only are they greats in relation, but also two great people to be with and we are excited to spend quality time together. Then heading south with my sister, to enjoy the beginning of the holiday season in Branson, Missouri. I will be in the office October 24<sup>th</sup> to finalize bulletins for several weeks and then pop in to catch up any bookkeeping items in between trips. If there is anything you need or have items to submit, would appreciate having the information as soon as possible. I will be back in the office with my regular schedule on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks,  
Linda



## RECOMMENDED READING

Home on the Range by Ruth Logan Herne  
Every Step an Arrival by Eugene H. Peterson  
The Mountains are Calling by Jarret Stephens  
Home by Another Way by Robert Benson  
Justice and Peace, Poverty in America, A Handbook by John Iceland  
The Art of More: How Mathematics Created Civilization by Michael Brooks

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

All newsletter articles for the December-January newsletter will be due to the office by **NOVEMBER 14<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! Submit your good news!

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

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

Daylight Savings ends on November 6, 2022. Remember to fall back, get an extra hour of sleep, but come to church on time!

## DIAPER CLOSET

We have received so many blessings over the past few weeks for the Diaper Closet. Not only have we received two great monetary donations from St. Thomas Episcopal Church and First Interstate Bank, but also additional volunteer assistance from the bank. We had bunches of toddler clothes delivered as well. Thank you for the wonderful donations and also to the many volunteers who keep the Diaper Closet running smoothly and providing a so needed service to the community. Many hands make for easier work.

## COOKIE SUNDAY

Recently the session decided to return to our first Sunday of the month Cookie Sundays. Thank you to John Martin and to Sally Wilhelm for hosting the first two months of Cookie Sundays. We plan to continue having fellowship and goodies at 10:15 am on the first Sunday of each month. If you would like to provide refreshments one month, please contact Jennifer James. Refreshments can be cookies, cake, relishes, muffins or whatever you would like to serve.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### *God's Abiding Rest is a Gift*

The text from Exodus 33:14 gives a different understanding of rest. Moses at this point in his ministry is tired and stressed, to say the least. Moses demands that God, who is also very tired of the "stiff-necked" people, lead and go with them on their perilous journey.

God says to Moses, "My presence will go with you, I will give you rest." God renews God's covenant with Moses and Israel. Rest is something that God gives and therefore it is to be received, not taken. This rest is inextricably connected with God's Presence.

Here, the word for presence is "face" in Hebrew. The imagery of God's face accompanying us through the thick and thin of our lives and our various ministries can be a bit unnerving. But the imagery is one of intimacy, not surveillance. God is with us closer than our heartbeats. The word rest here comes from the Hebrew word nuach, not shabbath. Shabbath denotes cessation and desisting from labor. Nuach denotes repose, a resting place, to be quiet, and can mean abiding with God while we are moving. Therefore, the meaning of this rest does not mean complete activity or cessation from motion, but it is God's gift of God's intimate presence accompanying us as we journey through life. Let us receive this precious gift from God as we begin each new day.

One day, a young boy asked his grandfather, "Which is the best day to pray?" The wise man replied, "My son, the best day to pray is the day you die." The boy was astonished and replied, "How can I know the day of my death?" The man answered, "No one knows the day of his death. That's why we need to PRAY EVERYDAY."