

# “THE CORNERSTONE”

OCTOBER 2023 – NOVEMBER 2023

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

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

Falls City, Nebraska 68355

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Worship Time: 11:00 AM

## Pastor's Reflection

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

**Matthew 11: 28-30**

Today, we gather with hearts full of hope, ready to embark on a journey of spiritual revival. Just as Peter Marshall Sr., who served the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church of Washington D.C., in the late 1940s, reminded us of the healing power of rebuilding a nation's soul through the brokenness of its individuals' souls, we too shall dive deep into the wellspring of our faith and discover the transformative love of Jesus, our gentle and humble King.

In a world that often feels torn apart, burdened by the weight of troubles and the struggles of daily life, it's easy to lose sight of the path that leads us to genuine restoration. But fear not! For when we turn our gaze heavenward, we find a gentle God, a God who beckons us, saying, "Take my yoke, and I will give you rest to your soul." My friends, this invitation from our Lord is not one of empty promises, but of genuine solace. Jesus understands the burdens we carry, the brokenness we endure, and the weariness that tugs at our very souls. With open arms, He offers us respite from the storms of life. He knows our deepest struggles and our darkest moments, and longs to bring healing to our wounded hearts.

Yet, as we embark on this journey of restoration, let us remember that rebuilding isn't always easy. It requires introspection, honest reflection, and humility. Just as a nation's soul is rebuilt one person at a time, so must we individually allow our souls to be mended by the loving touch of our Savior.

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My friends, it is through our brokenness that the light of Christ shines brightest. It is through our trials and tribulations that we truly understand the depth of God's grace and love. In our brokenness, we find strength, resilience, and the opportunity for transformation.

So let us not be discouraged by our brokenness. Let us, instead, embrace our flaws, knowing it is in those very imperfections God's love shines through. With colorful passion, let us strive to rebuild not only our own souls but also the soul of our nation. As we come together, let us take to heart the humble King who invites us into His rest. Let us remember transformation starts with each and every one of us, as we surrender our burdens and allow Him to heal our wounded hearts.

I encourage you, my beloved, to embark on this journey of rebuilding with open hearts, renewed spirits, and a firm commitment to love one another as Christ loves us. Together, let us be the agents of change, radiating hope, and allowing the love of God to shine through us. May our souls find rest in His yoke, and may our collective restoration be a testament to the transformative power of faith. Rise, my friends, and let us rebuild our nation's soul, one broken and mended heart at a time, knowing that in our journey, we are never alone. Amen!

## RECOMMENDED READING

*Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

*Beautiful Country* by Qian Julie Wang

*Call Me A Woman* by Laurie Levin

*The Cry of Tamar* by Pamela Cooper-White

*You're Gonna Make It* by Daniel Fusco with D. R. Jacobsen

*Zig* by Zig Ziglar

*The Confidential Life of Eugenia Cooper* by Kathlee Y'Barbo

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

All newsletter articles for the December-January newsletter will be due to the office by **NOVEMBER 13TH**. Thank you for marking this *important* date on your calendar and submitting good news to be shared!

## WORDS TO PONDER

Do all the good you can  
In all the ways you can  
As long as ever you can  
By all the means you can  
In all the places you can.  
---John Wesley

Don't keep the faith----spread it around!

To experience God's love and not give it away, is like holding an unopened gift.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Indian Cave State Park will host the annual Pink Pumpkin Walk at 11 am, Saturday, October 21. Registration is \$25 and includes a t-shirt. A personalized pumpkin for a cancer survivor or for the memory of someone who had cancer, can be ordered for \$10, All proceeds go to the Richardson County Cancer Fund. All paces are welcome, from runners to people with walkers. The Giles girls often walk in memory of Jeanne Giles, and would be happy to have you join them. To register or order a pumpkin, call Angie at 402-883-0014 or Joyce at 402-855-6087 by October 7.

Give  
Thanks!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS – NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Beginning in October, we will have two new opportunities for fellowship.

Starting on Monday, *October 2, 2023* and every Monday thereafter, will be **Monday Morning Coffee with Pastor Rick** at 9:00 am (online-30 minutes) via Zoom and Facebook. This will be an opportunity to visit together on unique topics, current events, and what is coming up at First Presbyterian. A time of lightheartedness with no set agenda except laughter is welcome and recommendations of your favorite coffee.

On *October 3, 2023* and each following Tuesday from 6:30 pm-7:15 pm we will have a **Bible Study**. This will provide an avenue to discuss and learn Scriptures for the week, reflecting on the various contexts or lenses such as economic, social, emotional, and spiritual of the time written and of today. The meeting will be held on the upper level of the church as well as online via Zoom and Facebook.



## ***The Dignity of the Human Spirit Truly Shines.***

*In the Individual Beauty of Each Moment.*

By Richard Kent Martin

It is indeed a profound realization that as a nation, we may have lost sight of the significance of cultivating the individual beauty found in each moment.

In our fast-paced and sometimes chaotic world, we often rush from one task to another, failing to appreciate the simple joys and the extraordinary blessings that surround us.

In the pursuit of progress and success, we may have inadvertently overlooked the immense value of slowing down, taking a moment to pause, and truly embracing the beauty that exists in the present. It is in this acknowledgment of beauty that we tap into the very essence of human dignity—the inherent worth and sacredness of every soul.

When we pause to appreciate the breathtaking sunset painting the sky with hues of orange and pink, or when we find solace in the laughter of children playing, we connect with the profound depth of our humanity. In these moments, we grasp the intricate tapestry of existence, interwoven with invisible threads of wonder, awe, and purpose.

By cultivating a mindset that seeks out and cherishes the beauty in every given moment, we rediscover the remarkable resilience of the human spirit. We uncover the strength to overcome adversity, to bridge divides, and to foster unity and understanding. It is within these moments of acknowledgment and appreciation of beauty that we find the catalyst for positive change, for it is in the recognition of the inherent dignity of all individuals that we can build a more compassionate and inclusive society.

As we embark on the path of rediscovering the individual beauty of each moment, let us challenge ourselves and one another to pause, reflect, and seek out the often-overlooked marvels of life. Let us open our hearts to the poetry in a gentle breeze rustling through the trees, the harmony in a heartfelt conversation, and the power of a single act of kindness.

In doing so, we empower ourselves to be the ambassadors of change and renewal. We become instruments of inspiration and agents of transformation, both in our personal lives and in the collective soul of our nation.

Together, let us reclaim the importance of cultivating the individual beauty of each moment, for it is within that recognition that the dignity of the human spirit truly shines

### The Enemies of Gratitude

*A Stewardship series exploring the things that keep us from being content and grateful.*

The fall is typically the season in which most churches make their case for financially supporting their ministry while also teaching the biblical principles of giving. This series offers an opportunity to visit gratitude by calling out the things that keep us from being truly grateful. In each sermon, we see how a misplaced focus, on how things could be or used to be better, how we are not getting what we think we deserve, or simply how life’s struggles are keeping us down, prevents us from seeing all the blessings that are right in front of us. While the Scripture selections move back and forth from the Old Testament to the New, the need for an “attitude of gratitude” is made clear in each week’s selection.

Date:	Sermon:	Focus Scripture:	Theme:
10/01/2023	Nostalgia	Exod. 17:1-17	Glorifying the past blinds us to present Blessings.
10/08/2023	Entitlement	Matt.22:1-14	None of us “deserves” the invitation, but we share it anyway.
10/15/2023	Worry	Phil. 4:1-9	It’s not about less stress, but more trust.
10/22/2023	Greed	Matt. 22:15-22	Give to God what is God’s.
10-29-2023	Disappointment	Deut. 34:1-12	Don’t let loss keep you from appreciating the good.



### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

Daylight Savings ends on November 5, 2023. Remember to fall back, get an extra hour of sleep, but come to church on time!

### -----PARISH NEWS-----

#### UPDATE ON LOWER RESTROOM

We look to complete the updating of our entrance and restroom in the lower level of the church soon. We are pleased with the reception received on the new entrance and chair lift by veterans, SixPence participants and others. The restroom remodeling has started, but completion of plumbing and electrical updates is behind due to delays by craftsman. As soon as the work is completed, we will happily inform you.

#### DIAPER CLOSET

The Diaper Closet is seeing many more families. If you have time, we could use more volunteers on Mondays from 4 to 6 pm. If you enjoy visiting with parents and seeing their babies grow, come help! If you need a quiet, sitting job, there are always diapers to sack and clothing items to sort and fold. With the increased numbers, we also really need donations. We need more size 6 and 7 diapers, plus packs (usually 50-70 in a pack) of diaper wipes. The sensitive wipes are the most popular. Baby wash, baby lotion, and 10 oz bottles of detergent are also in demand. Money is always helpful. Talk to Jennifer James at 402-245-7828 if you have questions.