

“THE CORNERSTONE”

FEBRUARY 2024 – MARCH 2024

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

206 E. 20th Street P. O. Box 444

Falls City, Nebraska 68355

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

Worship Time: 11:00 AM

Pastor's Reflection

Heavenly Father, as we enter into this season of Lent and embark on our journeys into the wilderness, we ask for your guidance and wisdom to discern your will for our lives. As we reflect on the upcoming event of "Epiphany's Echo," may we be reminded of the profound occasion of the birth of Jesus, the journey of the Magi, and the promise of salvation through Jesus' ministry. Grant us the grace to fully understand and embrace the significance of these events in our lives. Amen.

Welcome to First Presbyterian! We are filled with excitement as we gather together to celebrate this special time, this sacred space, and prepare ourselves for the upcoming journey into the Wilderness of Lent. Throughout this season, we will encounter the significance of the Crucifixion, the joy of the Resurrection, and embrace the Promise of Salvation.

On this February 4th at 2:00 pm we invite you to attend and experience the "Epiphany Echo," a remarkable presentation that will unfold God's Master Plan before our eyes. We will reflect on the profound occasion of the Birth of the Christ Child, rejoice in the journey of the Magi as they found our precious Jesus, and witness Jesus himself grow into his ministry, fully understanding who he is and his purpose in our Promise of Salvation.

One of the highlights of our celebration will be the incredible talent of entertainers hailing from St. Louis, MO, including our very own Amalia (Morehead) LaViolette, Connie Krull, joined by Sebastian Boelhower and our own Michele Gaskell. It is worth mentioning that Amalia's great-grandfather, Governor John Morehead, holds a special place in the history of our church, and we are privileged to have her with us. To those of you who know me as Rick, at First Presbyterian, I kindly extend an invitation to join me at the reception immediately following the program. This will be an opportunity for you to get to know me not only as a

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member of First Presbyterian, but also as a proud father and grandfather. I also encourage you to personally extend a warm welcome to our hometown daughter, Amalia (Morehead) LaViolette, as she returns home accompanied by her husband Richard, and guest artists Connie and Sebastian.

Let us lift our voices in gratitude and praise, for this is indeed a glorious occasion! Together, let us celebrate, strengthen our bonds, and embrace the wonder of God's love. Welcome home!

Pastor Rick

STEWARDSHIP

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

As we go forward into the year 2024, I would like to ask you to consider supporting your church as it continues to invest significant funds in providing online access for various religious activities throughout the entire year. Cameras, software, online accounts, and staffing costs are only part of the expenses to provide to the church family recordings of the Sunday and Holiday services, Coffee with Pastor Rick, and Bible Study sessions. Also, outreach to the community includes programs such as Wednesday's Mosaic Table and special events like the February 4th Epiphany's Echo music celebration. We also plan to have a totally new website for your use in the first quarter of the new year. We believe the new site will provide existing and additional services to you with increased ease and satisfaction.

As a lifelong Presbyterian, doing an "ask" is very difficult, personally. However, I believe the religious activities and services provided can and are helping all of us to know God better and in some cases address personal concerns of individuals in the church family. The Holman Bible Dictionary defines stewardship as "Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation."

"Each of us should use whatever gift we have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Blessings and Grace to you,

John Martin, Treasurer

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The One Great Hour of Sharing campaign will kick-off on February 18th. These gifts are a reminder how blessed we are by God's abundance, and through the simple act of sharing we express our gratitude. We will complete our campaign with a dedication on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Envelopes and coin boxes for this special offering will be on the ramp entrance and sanctuary tables.

WEDNESDAY MOSAIC TABLE

We will be hosting a special Wednesday Mosaic Table on February 7 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm with Sixpence. As partners with Sixpence, dinner will be served to the staff and families that evening. You are most welcome and encouraged to attend. Please notify Pastor Rick or contact the church office no later than February 5th, in order for us to have a head count for meals.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Daylight Savings begins on March 10th. Remember to spring forward an hour and set your clocks one hour later before retiring on March 9th. As the song goes, we want everyone to "make it to the church on time".

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mark your calendars! The Community Easter Music Program will be held at Humboldt United Methodist Church on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024 under the direction of Rev. Tom Osborne. The time will be determined later and we will update the information when available. Practice begins on Sunday, February 11th from 6:30 pm and will continue each Sunday evening at First Methodist Church, Humboldt, Nebraska. All voices are welcome and encouraged to join the choir. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend a meaningful and faithful program. See you there!

+++++++CHURCH NEWS+++++++

RECOMMENDED READING

Gospel Bound by Collin Hansen & Sarah Eekhoff Zylstra
The Wood's Edge by Lori Benton
Boo Humbug by Rene Gutteridge
Mystic Sweet Communion by Jane Kirkpatrick
Never Look Back by Kathy Herman
Centered by Jason Brown with Paul Asay
Expiration Date by Eric Wilson
Faith, Farming and Family by Caitlin Henderson
The Sacred Life of Bread by Meghan Murphy-Gill

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

All newsletter articles for the April-May newsletter will be due to the office by **March 11th**. Thank you for marking this *important* date on your calendar and submitting good news to be shared!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! EPIPHANY MUSIC SUNDAY

First Presbyterian Church will celebrate Epiphany on **February 4th** with a special music program **at 2 pm**. We give thanks for God's faithfulness to our church, and for all the wonderful blessings we are receiving, specifically in our music ministry. We are dedicating a program of music in various mediums to be held in the Sanctuary. In addition to our own talented, organist and pianist Michele, we are pleased to announce she will be joined by Amalia (Morehead) and Richard LaViolette and Connie Krull from St. Louis, Missouri. We are hosting the event for the Falls City community. This is a great opportunity to attend and invite everyone. We need everyone's smiling face and warm hearts to welcome our neighbors and friends to First Presbyterian. Please invite your neighbors, friends, and children. We have been abundantly blessed and this is one way our community will observe our gratefulness. It is our hope, the event will be well attended and remembered fondly.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be held on January 28th. If you are unable to attend and would like a copy of the 2023 annual report, copies will be available on the tables at both entrances after the meeting or call the church office 245-2650 to obtain a copy.

CONTRIBUTION REPORTS

Contribution reports are included with the newsletter. Those receiving the newsletter via email will receive them in the mail. If you have any questions, please contact the office @402-245-2650. Thank you.

JOINT LENTEN SERVICES

The Falls City and Hiawatha Presbyterian churches have held joint Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services in the past. We expect to do so again in 2024, but at the time of this publication, details are not finalized. Please watch the bulletin for updates as they become available.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

On Sunday, February 11, we will collect the Super Bowl offering. Everyone is asked to bring items for the Food Pantry or monetary donations. Celebrate the Super Bowl by helping to replenish the Food Pantry inventory. Please use a pew envelope and mark Souper Bowl for monetary donations. Thank you for helping to overcome hunger in the community!