

# “THE CORNERSTONE”

AUGUST 2024 – SEPTEMBER 2024

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: 11:00 AM

## *Pastor's Reflection*

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

**Philippians 4:6-7**

Heavenly Father, as we transition from the month of August, with its hints of autumn in the air, to the month of September, a season of new beginnings and the full embrace of fall's splendor, we come before you with hearts open to your guidance and grace. In this time of change and transition, we seek your wisdom to navigate the shifting seasons of our lives with faith and courage. Just as the colors of the leaves begin to change from the greens of summer to the warm hues of fall, help us to embrace the transformations within our own hearts and souls.

As we bid farewell to the warmth of summer and welcome the cool breeze of autumn, may we find solace in the constancy of your love and the beauty of your creation all around us. Grant us the strength to let go of the past and the readiness to step boldly into the new opportunities that lie ahead. May the months of August and September be a time of reflection, growth, and renewal for each of us, preparing our spirits for the blessings and challenges that the changing seasons bring. Help us to see the beauty in each moment and to trust in your divine timing as we journey through the turning of the year.

In your name, we offer this prayer, grateful for the gift of each season and the promise of new beginnings that lie ahead. Amen.

First Presbyterian  
Church  
P O Box 444  
Falls City, NE 68355

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Let us reflect on the timeless wisdom of our faith, drawing inspiration from the diverse perspectives within the Reformed tradition upheld by the Presbyterian Church (USA). In the words of Francis Schaeffer, we are reminded reformation is a continuous journey of rediscovering the true interpretation of the Bible. The Presbyterian Church (USA), rooted in the Reformed tradition, emphasizes the importance of allowing Scripture to guide and shape our beliefs and practices. As we look into the depths of God's Word, let us embrace this journey of reformation with open hearts and minds, seeking to align our lives with the teachings of the Bible.

R.C. Sproul's reflections on predestination prompt us to engage challenging theological concepts with humility and openness. The Presbyterian Church (USA), influenced by the teachings of John Calvin, acknowledges the complexities of predestination while emphasizing God's sovereignty and grace. Let us approach these doctrinal discussions with a spirit of inquiry and a willingness to embrace the mysteries of God's plan for our lives.

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones' profound statement underscores the foundational truth that our faith rests entirely on God's grace. The Presbyterian Church (USA) affirms the centrality of grace in salvation, echoing the sentiment of Ephesians 2: 8-9. Let us humbly acknowledge our dependence on God's unmerited favor and strive to live out our faith in gratitude and obedience.

Lastly, as we navigate the complexities of ancient texts and translations, let us remember the importance of approaching Scripture with reverence and discernment. The Presbyterian Church (USA) upholds the value of accurate and faithful translations of the Bible, recognizing the profound impact of language on our understanding of God's Word. Let us engage the Scriptures with diligence and humility, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in discerning the true meaning of the text.

May we, as a community of faith, be united in our commitment to the Reformed tradition, grounded in the eternal truths of God's Word and empowered by the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. Let us embody the love, compassion, and grace of Christ as we seek to be faithful disciples in a world yearning for the light of the Gospel.

Amen,  
Pastor Rick



A big thank you from Larry Schwarting for all the cards and notes celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was surprised and grateful to hear from so many both near and far.

### **SOME CHURCH HUMOR--**

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe. So, she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for the whole week. As the two kids walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally, she said to Timmy, 'Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?' Timmy nonchalantly replied, 'Yeah, I know who she is.' The little girl asked 'Well, who is she?' 'That's just Shirley Goodnest and her daughter Marcy,' Timmy replied. 'Why is she following us?' asked his friend. 'Well,' Timmy explained, 'every night my Mum makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life, so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!'

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; The Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace. May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always.

## RECOMMENDED READING

Everything Good About God Is True by Bruce Reyes-Chow  
Ready to Rise by Jo Saxton  
The Place We Make by Sarah L. Sanderson  
Reservations for Two by Hillary Manton Lodge  
The Mitford Series by Jan Karon

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

All newsletter articles for the October-November newsletter will be due to the office by **September 16th**. Thank you for marking this *important* date on your calendar and submitting good news to be shared!

## +++++++CHURCH NEWS+++++++

### BUCHANAN HIGHLANDERS

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. They were unable to join us last year due to a death in their bagpipe family. We are excited to have them return this year!

### DIAPER CLOSET

A huge thank you to Carrie Ramsey and daughter for the generous donation of toys and stuffed animals. We received many bags filled with gently used toys that will provide hours of entertainment for many children. Larry and Marlene Schwarting's granddaughter Jayme Vice works for Growing Great Kids. Her organization and the S. E. Nebraska Health Department delivered a HUGE donation of diapers. If you see Carrie, her daughter, Jayme or anyone from either organization, please thank them!

## Being, Not Doing: How do we DO that?

By [Jeff Glover](#)

Recently a client in our therapy session expressed, “I’ve heard the whole ‘I’m a human being, not a human doing’ thing, but...” he paused and then exclaimed, ‘But I understand how to do. That makes sense to me. I’m not sure I know how to just be!’”

I suppressed my impulse to smile. (Because I try to be professional, naturally—I am a therapist, after all!) But then he went on, “Jeff, how do I do that?!”

I love being a therapist. I love doing therapy. But there are moments when I swear life is playing a joke on me. When, on occasion—and I hope appropriately—my clients see me smiling or even recently a client in our therapy session expressed, “I’ve heard the whole ‘I’m a human chuckling’”, I explain that I’m not laughing at them or their problem; my humor is grounded in my personal identification with their struggle. I often wonder: How do I do that? Just be!? Furthermore, I joke with my clients about my hesitation in even talking about this, because I know that whatever comes out of my mouth next will have to be applied to my own life!

Regardless of which side of the conversation we’re on, we all need people who we identify with. Yes, that’s me! I struggle with that, or I want that for my own life, or whatever it is. It’s as fundamental as our need for identity. Who I am? What do I have? What do I need? What do I want? For myself? For my loved ones? For our world? To identify is like finding a proper diagnosis in medicine. It helps appropriately point to the next set of questions: What now? How do I get there? It helps define what we need to DO next.

So, we tend to define ourselves by what we DO. It isn’t always helpful. We need to remember the practices of simply being. At the same time, while we need to practice identifying qualities of being, perhaps inherent qualities of what it means to be a human being, to “just be” can still take at least a little bit of doing.

At least, that’s true for me. I hope I’m not alone.