



PRESBY-NOTES

May 2017

First Presbyterian Church
321 North 5th Street
Beatrice, NE 68310
Interim Pastor John Duling

It is the mission of First Presbyterian Church of Beatrice to know Christ, to make Christ known, and to exhibit Christ's love through worship, education and service.

My Dear Friends in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ!

I love the Easter Season! It is reviving with new life, spring coming to life after winter's dormancy, and beginning the planting season. I would like to see this all year long and not just a seasonal thing! How? I would challenge all of us to spend every day doing something called, "Eastering!"



The story of Thomas in John 20:24-30 is a good way to explain what I mean. Thomas was not with the disciples the night of the first Easter of Jesus' resurrection. He missed the excitement of seeing the Risen Lord! He would not believe that Jesus has risen. The only way to believe was for Thomas to put his hands on the nail prints of the Lord's hands or on the sword wound of Jesus' side.

Amazingly, Jesus appeared to the disciples a week later. This time, Thomas was with the disciples. Jesus immediately went to Thomas and placed his hands on the nail prints and the sword wound on Jesus' side. Jesus challenged Thomas, "Don't be unbelieving, but believe!" Thomas was so overcome seeing the Risen Lord that he fell to his knees and cried out a very personal confession, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus blessed Thomas for believing, but He also challenged one saying, "Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing." (John 20:29b The Message Bible)

The gospel writer then added these words, "Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs that are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way He personally revealed it." (John 20:30-31, The Message Bible).

"Eastering," is the practice of believing and acting on that belief every day of one's life. Every day becomes Easter! One of my favorite Easter praise hymns says, "Every morning is Easter morning from now on!" In the same way, why not be an "Eastering People" who celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from this day forward?

We put this faith into practice believing what we have affirmed in worship concerning our Vision Statement. Now, the Session is writing a Mission Study that is based on this Vision Statement of the church. It is how we put flesh and reality to the vision. The Session is prayerfully taking the results of our town hall gathering and putting them into this mission study or profile of what this church believes. It will be the attraction of what a prospective pastoral candidate for this congregation will see. It will be visually accessed through the church's website and Facebook page.

The question then becomes, "Will that prospective pastoral candidate see this congregation doing what we say we believe?" I pray so, if we really believe we are "Eastering People!" Are you an Eastering man, woman, child, or teen? Try being that Eastering person in whatever you do and believe and see if it fits. I pray that you will find yourself experiencing Easter more than just one Sunday a year!

A fellow Eastering person,

Pastor John Duling

SESSION NEWS

Attendance in March: 3/5 – 59; 3/12 – 60; 3/19 – 65; 3/26 – 76; April: 4/2 – 62; 4/9 – 74.

May 21, we will have a joint worship service here with Christ Episcopal Church.

This summer worship time will stay at 10:30.

The lights in the sanctuary have been replaced.

We will be serving Warren's Table on May 2. Volunteers are needed contact Lance Brinkman or the church office if you can help.

Vacation Bible School dates will be May 30 to June 2, watch for details.

Senior pot luck breakfast will be April 30 at 9:15 we have 4 seniors this year.

The town hall meeting will be April 30 following worship a free lunch will be provided. Plan on being at this meeting as we will be wrapping up the mission statement phase and deciding what we want in a new Pastor. Plan on attending this meeting to let your views be heard in what you want to see in a new Pastor.

The next regular Session Meeting will be May 15, at 6:30 with a special training with Kris Peterson (committees will not meet) the Session Meeting will be at 7:15p.m.

Suzanne Byler, Clerk of The Session

Congratulations to

Cooper Blum,
Lauren Daake,
Tyler Milke
and
Cody Sohl



our high school seniors
graduating from Beatrice
High School on May 14.



Ardyth Orwen	3
Sharon Langvardt	9
Malory (Behrens) Coward	15
Bill Cook, III	18
Neely Sutter	19
Kathy Whitmore	19
Bert Wolter	22
Julie Hay	24
Richard Appleget	25
Damen Kugel	30
Briggs Rinne	31

Pastor Duling's General Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday - 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fridays - Day Off (My wife insists!)

Saturday - By Appointment

Sunday - Worship and Sunday School 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Afternoons for family and calling, if needed.

But since appointments and commitments will arise a weekly schedule will be posted.

My cell phone number is: 402-981-6073

RAYER CONCERNS THIS PAST MONTH

Josh Johnson, Bob Hancock, Zelda Stevens, Charlotte Carney, Phyllis Engelman, Mary Hancock, Diane Mayer, Byron Ray, Marie Kerl, Dennis Prebyl, Karen Higgins, Henry Kerl, Harry Milke, Cindy Ahlstrand, Ken Ruhnke, Mary Mullen, Mildred Guenther, Dorothy Appleget, Eunice Sullivan, Willard Engelman, Dorothy Rockemann, William Cook III, and Ruth Jensen (now on hospice).

Also: Lori Eckert, Pat Morris, Steve Arneal, Jake Frana, Elizabeth Shotkoski-Jurgens, Timothy Briskey (Jane Beavers' brother), Richard Crom, Carol Koslofsky (Fran Martin's sister), Skylar Nicola, Mike Willet, Elmer Cook, Linnel Rials, Earl & Verna Lyons, Mason Barnard, Shannon Fanning (Ardyth Orwen's son-in-law) Judy Knispel, Cathy Carel (our sexton's wife), and Stan Martin (Gene Martin's brother).

Our sympathy is with Jim and Jane Beavers on the death of Jane's sister, Donna McCarty, at Mishawaka, Indiana on March 25.



GREETERS, USHERS & ACOLYTES

May 7:

Greeters & Offering—Amanda Fossler, Neil McConnell, Missy Sohl

May 14:

Greeters & Offering—LaRaesha Kugel, Damen, Kugel, Amanda Fossler

May 21:

Greeters & Offering—Amanda Fossler, Neil McConnell

May 28:

Greeters & Offering—Jesse Bolli



**The Church Office will be
closed Monday - May 29
in observance of Memorial
Day**

**Our missionary serving Malawi, Africa
Jim McGill - will be in Lincoln
At Westminster Presbyterian Church
Friday, June 2, at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Carol Harp at 402-261-6897
for information if you plan to attend.**

PW met Thursday, April 20, 2017 in the church parlor .
Refreshments were served by Sue Jedlicka and Ardys Milke.

Hostess was Shirley Mitschler. The tables were decorated with spring flowers, her beautiful quilted table runners and a crocheted angel she made for everyone.

A big thank-you went out to all who made a salad and helped serve the Aril 3rd Lenten Luncheon, 105 attended.

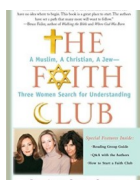
The Spring Gathering will be April 29, with registration starting at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed to greet, help with registration and serve the luncheon.

The 2017-2018 Horizons Study book was passed and Ardyth Orwen will order for those requesting.

Missy Sohl brought up the "Free the Girls" mission and contacted Blue Valley Community Action for items needed for their food pantry & homeless shelter. Boxes were placed in the narthex for donated items.

Bette Anne Thaut led the Bible Study lesson "According to Hebrews with the key scripture—Hebrews 12:1-2.

The next meeting will be May 18, 2017, and the Birthday Brunch will be in June.



The PW Book Club will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor on Tuesday, May 16, to discuss *The Faith Club* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner.

Westminster Guild met Monday, April 3, at 6:30 in the parlor for their monthly potluck supper and business meeting. Ardys Milke was the hostess. She used "Spring" as her decorating theme and also provided dessert and devotions.



Due to all members being involved with the "Mondays-in-Lent" luncheon held at our church—the program consisted of updates on Easter, Maundy Thursday, graduation, the PW Spring Gathering April 29 and Town Hall meeting April 30.

A generous monetary gift was received from Linda Nuismer in memory of her mother, Garnett Cox, a long time dedicated Guild member

Our next regular meeting will be Monday, May 1 with hostess Carol Straub. Program by Mary Kostel per Shirley Mitschler on the "Bags of Love" project. All women of the church and friends are welcome.



Thank you to all who contributed to the JOYS Salad and Sandwich Luncheon. \$343 was raised for Mission Trips.

Last day of Sunday School will be May 21.
Classes will resume in September

Vacation Bible School will be Tuesday May 30 – Friday June 2.
9:00 – 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Registrations must be returned by May 21.



NEWS and Notes

Westminster Guild will meet Monday, May 1, at 6:30 p. m. for their monthly covered dish dinner.

First Church will serve Warren's Table Tuesday, May 2, at 5:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed.

If you plan to help, please let the office know at 223-3933.

There will be not Bell Choir or Choir practice on Wednesday, May 3.

Pastor John will take communion to the home bound on Monday, May 8

The PW Book Club will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor on Tuesday, May 16, to discuss

The Faith Club by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner.

Wednesday, May 17 will be the last day of rehearsal for both the Bell Choir and Choir for the year.

PW meets Thursday, May 18, at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. The hostesses will be Kristin Jurgens.

Sunday, May 21 will be the last day for Sunday School until September.

Sunday, May 21 will be a joint service with Christ Church Episcopal.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Tuesday, May 30 through Friday, June 2.

9:00-11:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.—2: 30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church is taking applications for a temporary Nursery Supervisor for the months of June and July.

The hours are from 10:15 to 11:30 am every Sunday. A job description and application form are available from the church office.

New address for Zelda Stevens is: Homestead House, 2300 Lincoln Street, Room #9.

Our missionary serving Malawi, Africa - Jim McGill - will be in Lincoln at Westminster Presbyterian Church on

Friday, June 2, at 6:30 p.m. Contact Carol Harp at 402-261-6897 for information if you plan to attend.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 29 IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY

Sermons for May

7th: "Beyond Vision to Abundant Life," John 10:1-10

14th: "But, Now...", 1 Peter 2:2-10

21st: Joint Worship and Communion with Christ Episcopal Church at the Presbyterian Church.

28th: "Scheduling Problems," Acts 1:6-14

Congratulations To!

Taionna Farley-Martin who received a first place at the Gage County Reading Classics. She will compete at the state competition.

Wyatt Blum, Lauren Daake, Alexis Thavenet, and Mercedes Zimmerman who were named to the third quarter honor roll at Beatrice High School.

Bob Person who was awarded the Friend of Education Award from the Beatrice Educational Foundation in April. Bob was a longtime former member here, who taught instrumental music in Beatrice at the high school and elementary level, and now resides in Lincoln.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

Vacation Bible School

MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2017

IN THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00-11:30 a.m. - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



PLEASE REGISTER YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN BY MAY 21.

Child's Name _____ Grade 2017 _____

Child's Name _____ Grade 2017 _____

Child's Name _____ Grade 2017 _____

Parent/Guardian
Name _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Emergency Contact _____

Relationship _____ Phone _____

Allergies or special needs _____

Permission to publish photo _____ Yes _____ No

Questions? Please call Karen Schlueter 402.223.0492 or e-mail rs45203@windstream.net

Vision Statement
First Presbyterian Church
Beatrice, Nebraska

To Know Christ.

Experience Joy through study, prayer, and the Holy Spirit. Joy comes from within. It is not the result of our circumstances or the situations we find ourselves in, but in the fruit of our relationship with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. There is Joy being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. This Church's life and mission are a joyful participation in Christ Jesus' ongoing life and work. Fueled by the Holy Spirit, we enthusiastically seek to learn God's perfect will and find direction for our congregation and ourselves. (Galatians 5:22; Philippians 2:2; Romans 5:5, 12:2, 15:13, F-1.0202 Book of Order)

To Make Christ Known.

Find Hope through worship and song as we spread God's glory. God has given us faith, hope, and love. Hope is a strong and confident expectation. Hope revolves around the future. Our hope is based upon the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus, and upon trust and faith in God. Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. We live in hope for what God has promised to us. Hope for eternal life in heaven is the foundation of what we believe. Without hope we are wondering aimlessly. God knows that people need the assurance that there is more to life than just living and dying. God promises He is in control. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11) We faithfully offer joyful praise to God, as we worship and sing together. (1 Cor.13:13; Hebrews 11:1; Titus 1:2; Romans 8:24-25; 2 Cor. 4:18)

To Exhibit Christ's Love.

Share love through outreach and caring. God's redeeming and enduring love is almighty and profound. We love because God first loved us. His love washes over us and soaks into us. By sharing His love with our church, community, nation, and world, we grow spiritually, and help others grow spiritually. Love brings us joy through trusting others and forgiveness for us. Love can heal what hurt has divided. With His love, we can be unafraid, comforted, and secure. Without His love we are bankrupt. We each have unique gifts to share that honor our Lord. We are a caring family in a world that needs care. (1 John 4:19; Titus 3:5-6; John 3:16)

Romans 5: 1-5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that we rejoice, in our sufferings, since knowing that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

This is a Journey of Joy, Hope & Love!

Come feel Christ's presence!

Come celebrate Christ's victory!

Come put Christ's love into action!

The Vision Team,
First Presbyterian Church, Beatrice, Nebraska
April 2017