

Arms of Faith

February
2026

Dear Faithfuls,

Fifteen years ago, the movie *The Way* was in theaters. I was moved by the characters in the film, the ah-ha moments they had, the relationships that developed and the beauty of the land. Since that movie came out, three of my friends have walked the Camino de Santiago, and returned renewed. So, when Worship Design Studio offered a Lenten series based on *The Way* I recommended it to the Worship Committee and they agreed - let's go on *The Way*.

Lent begins this month, on Wednesday, February 18.

(Please see the article in this newsletter about the Ash Wednesday service.) Marcia McFee, founder of WDS, says, "Sometimes things happen in our lives that cause us to awaken to a new perspective and we begin to reassess the life road we are following, the directions we are going." That's what we will hopefully do during the six weeks of Lent - get some new perspectives, assess again where we are going in life, maybe have a change of direction, even.

You are invited to watch the movie (please see the article in this newsletter as to when) and then come prepared on Sunday mornings to find a new way, an alternate way, a repentant way to live a life of faith.



Peace,
Becky

Faith Presbyterian Church

Becky Balestri, Pastor

8100 Giles Road, La Vista, NE 68128

402-331-6944

Web page: www.faith-presbyterian.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithpresby

Office hours: Monday - Thursday

9am - 5pm

*Our lifework is sharing Christ's love,
spreading Christ's Word, caring for others.*

Session Highlights

Four visitors were at the January meeting, because they were seeking membership at Faith Church. The elders voted unanimously to receive **Joseph Ciriaco, Sarah Ciriaco, Carin Ellefson, and Autumn Marion** as members of Faith Church. Please be sure to introduce yourselves!

Your elders also did the following:

- Edited our Session Covenant to include what is necessary for a good meeting for our new elders. (If you are curious about the Session Covenant, ask an elder. Their pictures are in the Centrum.)
- Agreed to read *Anatomy of a Revived Church* together during 2026. (You might read it, too!)
- Approved leaving the south door unlocked during Sunday worship services
- Agreed to have communion on Easter Sunday.
- Agreed to meet at Wildewood Church for the annual session retreat.

Please pray for your elders as they lead this church **to share Christ's love, spread Christ's Word and care for others.**

Legacy Fund

At the beginning of 2024, the Session established the Legacy Fund for the purpose of providing long-term financial stability for the church, while also providing funds to further the work of Jesus Christ. The Legacy Fund is accounted for separately from the regular operations of our church. The income from the fund (interest, dividends, capital gains) will be used for non-budgeted projects and ministries of the church, capital improvements, and mission beyond what our regular budget allows.

The fund was originally started with \$30,000. Since then we received an anonymous gift of \$15,000. As of December 31, it has grown to \$54,443, gaining a little over 16% for the year and almost 21% since the Legacy Fund began. We are grateful to the givers of this fund, and to the Finance Committee, doing an excellent job of overseeing this important fund.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please stay after the worship service on Sunday, February 1, 2026, for our annual congregational meeting. As usual, the congregation votes on the pastor's compensation, and can bring any business to the congregation. Our Fellowship Team is hosting a potluck lunch. Please bring your best dish and ask the Fellowship Team how you can help! Fellowship will provide beverages – the congregation gets to provide everything else. **AND**, be sure to wear your **wildest**, funniest socks!



Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. We will have a soup supper (thank you Fellowship Committee!) and an Ash Wednesday service on February 18, at 6:00 pm in the Family Life Center. Our theme for Lent is *The Way*. Please join us on February 18 as we begin our Lenten journey.

Your Session

Clerk of Session - Joe Seda

Discipleship	Lynda Shafer
Facilities	Matt Kasprzak Jim Willett Doug Bogenhagen
Fellowship	Joni Huddleston
Finance	Angie Madden
Human Res	Bob Meyer
Mission & Ev	Janice Miner
Worship	Al Zimmerman

Clothing Give Away Update

Next Give Away is February 21st. We will be sorting on January 28, February 4, 18, March 4, and 18.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the March Give Away will be moved to March 28.
Thanks to all our helpers!!!!

John and Terri &
the Mission & Evangelism Committee



January Lunch Bunch at El Vallarta



The next Lunch Bunch will be on
Friday, February 6th
at **11:30 am**
The Wild Chicken Grill
8300 Giles Road, La Vista

Sign up at church by February 4th or
contact Sharon Fleming at 402 709-2103 or
sfleming43@aol.com for your reservation
or if you need a ride.



The Way - a movie

Our Lenten theme is *The Way*, and we will be referencing - sometimes - the movie "The Way." The movie is about a father, who in honor of his son who died on the Camino de Santiago, walks the Camino himself. On the way, he learns more about the son who died, meets curious people, and has insights he may never have had had he not walked the Camino.

We will be showing the movie on **February 22, at 4:00 pm**. Yes, a Sunday afternoon - you're invited to come! We'll have popcorn and pop, because you have to have popcorn and pop when watching a movie. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall.

Presbyterian Woman (aka PW)

PW is starting a new Bible Study for 2026. It is Gardens, Growing an Evergreen Faith in a Trustworthy God by Kat Armstrong. This study explores the garden referenced in the Bible and God's faithfulness. We have made an adjustment to our meeting times for the spring. The dates will be February 17, March 10, April 14, and end the year with lunch on May 26. We have check in and a short business meeting at 1:00 PM and start the Bible study at 1:30 PM. We finish at 2:45 PM to be out of the parking lot before the middle school's student are dismissed.

Please consider joining us for this time of fellowship.

February Birthdays

Feb 2 Jim Day
Feb 4 Susie Melonis
Feb 4 Ruth Tresemer
Feb 7 Cindy Andersen
Feb 7 Marcia Jones
Feb 8 Marcia Jewett
Feb 8 Janice Miner
Feb 10 Marc Wagoner
Feb 11 Tim Stephenson
Feb 12 Charly Huddleston
Feb 15 Carin Ellefson
Feb 15 Deb Ziegler
Feb 19 Mary Ridge
Feb 21 Melissa Kindig
Feb 25 Rodney Bosserdet

Transitions Group

When a family member's memory starts to change and decline, it is a challenge for the people around them. If you are in this situation, Faith Church is here for you. A small group of members and friends meets monthly, all of whom have a family member with some form of dementia. We share our experiences. We listen. We comfort and console, and we even give a little advice.

If there is a member of your family that is transitioning to the next stage of life, a time when their memory isn't good, you are invited to be part of this group on the third Friday of every month, at 10:00 am in Room 1 – the comfy room. Coffee is always served.

Questions?

Please call Becky Balestri at 402-709-0568.

WHAT IS A PILGRIMAGE WEEKEND?

What Is A "Pilgrimage" Weekend? You may have heard about "pilgrimage" and wondered what it is like. It is a renewal weekend similar to a Roman Catholic Cursillo or a Methodist Walk to Emmaus. Great Plains Pilgrimage is held at Camp Calvin Crest near Fremont, Nebraska, where we sleep in lodge rooms and eat great food. Transportation can be provided, to help you disconnect from the day-to-day secular world. You are invited to "Come as You Are"! Just be yourself, be accepted and be loved. God will meet you there. Throughout this very meaningful weekend, God will surround you with His love. You'll experience grace, music, laughter, worship, and various talks to help you find the path God has chosen for you.

The weekend is an experience that can act as a stepping stone, to help you return to your own daily environments spiritually nourished. Men and women are inspired to love one another more deeply as they serve the Lord, however each individual person feels called by God to serve others. Come join others on their faith journeys and be blessed. Our next Pilgrimage weekend will begin at 11:00 a.m. Friday, March 20, 2026. A special closing ceremony will complete the event by 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 22. For more information or for registration forms, please contact Chrissy Story at the following email address: gppcommunications1@gmail.com. You can also contact Chuck or Lynda Shafer, Angie Madden, or Al Zimmerman.




FEBRUARY FOOD DRIVE

During the month of February we will be collecting food for NeighborGood, our local food pantry. Please help us by placing cans, boxes or bags of food or toiletry items near the front entry. Let us be good neighbors to those in our community who are having a difficult time making ends meet. Bring a couple items from your pantry, purchase a few items during your next grocery trips, or make a monetary donation (marked Food Drive). Thank you for following Jesus by loving your neighbor.

Mission/Evangelism Team

Streaming Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 am

We continue to broadcast the worship service on Facebook. If you do not have computer access, you may listen to the service by calling 1-844-855-4444 and entering access code 716966#.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 11:00 am Annual dinner and congregational meeting 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 A Cappella Omaha 5:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	2 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 A Cappella Omaha	3 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	4 7:00 am Campus Life 9:00 am Sorting clothes 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercises 1:00 pm Mission/Evang meeting 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 11:00 am Walking Group 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC Committee Meetings 4:00 pm Worship mtg 5:00 pm Fellowship mtg 5:45 pm Discipleship mtg 7:00 pm Facilities mtg	6 8:30 am Men's Donuts & Dialogue 11:30 am Lunch Bunch	7
8 11:00 am Deacons meeting 5:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	9 5:45 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 A Cappella Omaha	10 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	11 7:00 am Campus Life 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercises 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 11:00 am Walking Group 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry 7:00 pm Finance meeting	13 8:30 am Men's Donuts & Dialogue 7:00 pm River City Squares	14  8:00 am Men's Breakfast
15 5:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	16 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 A Cappella Omaha	17 1:00 pm PW 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	18 ASH WEDNESDAY  7:00 am Campus Life 9:00 am Sorting clothes 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercises 6:00 pm Soup supper/Ash Wednesday Service	19 11:00 am Walking Group 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC 7:00 pm Session meeting	20 8:30 am Men's Donuts & Dialogue 10:00 am Transitions Group	21 9:00 am Clothing Giveaway
22 4:00 pm Movie/popcorn 5:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	23 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 A Cappella Omaha	24 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	25 7:00 am Campus Life 9:00 am Sorting clothes 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercises 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 9:00 am	26 11:00 am Walking Group 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	27 8:30 am Men's Donuts & Dialogue 7:00 pm River City Squares	28
						
<div style="border: 2px dashed black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Sunday Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 9:30 - 9:55 am </div>						