

Arms of Faith

Faith Presbyterian Church

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

March 2025

Dear Faithfuls,

Matt Haig writes in *The Comfort Book*, "We are often encouraged to see life as one continual uphill climb. We talk about ladders without even thinking. Career ladders. Property ladders. Of being on the top rung of the ladder. Or the bottom rung of the ladder. We talk of climbing the ladder. We talk of rising up. We talk of uphill struggles. In doing so we visualize life as a kind of vertical race, like we are human skyscrapers reaching for the clouds. And we risk only ever looking above to the future or below to the past and never around at the infinite horizontal landscape of the present. The trouble with ladders is they give you no room to move around. Just room to fall."

During Lent, we will *not* be climbing the ladders in life. We will instead be exploring what it is to have a "Good Enough" life, and a good enough faith. We will look to the infinite horizontal landscape to see all the good gifts that God has for us.

To start our non-climb Lent, please join us on March 5 for a soup supper and an Ash Wednesday service. (See elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.) You are invited to worship on Sunday mornings, when the Sunday themes will be:

March 9 - Holy Ordinary Lives

March 16 - Out of Our Control

March 23 - "Alternative" Medicine

March 30 - We Are Not the Problem

April 6 - We Are Fragile

April 13 (Palm Sunday) - We Are a Group Project

April 17 (Maundy Thursday) - Blessed, Regardless

April 20 (Easter Sunday!) - A Good Enough Faith

I look forward to staying off the ladder with you in the coming weeks.

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

Session Highlights

Because it was the coldest day ever in the history of keeping temperature records, your Session did not meet in person. They did make two decisions by email:

Approved giving the Ash Wednesday offering to support Sheltering Tree

Approved the new fee schedule for using our facilities.

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

Session Retreat/Training

Your elders had a training/retreat morning on February 8. We reviewed the responsibilities of the session per the *Book of Order*, we clarified, hopefully, what each committee's responsibilities are. And, we learned our spiritual types: sage, lover, mystic and prophet. Your session is filled with sages (mind people), and fewer lovers (heart people), mystics (soul people), and prophets (strength people). Mindful of this, the elders agreed to be sure to listen to the heart, soul and strength people when making decisions. After the training, the elders retreated to El Vallarta for fellowship and good food. Please ask your elders what spiritual type they are and what they learned about themselves.



FAITH PRAYER CHAIN

Email prayer requests to
prayer@faith-presbyterian.com
or call the office from 9am - 5pm
402-331-6944

Clothing Give Away Update

While 54 people doesn't sound like a lot, keep in mind those people came out in the snow and bitter wind chill to come to the Give Away. Faith Church is definitely filling a need.

The next Give Away is March 15. Winter coats, blankets and bedding always go fast.

We will be sorting on Wednesday, February 26, March 5, 12, and 19, and April 2.

Thanks again for your continued support.

John and Terri and the
Mission and Evangelism Team



Lunch Bunch began on March 3, 2023.

Join in the fun and fellowship
on March 7, 2025 at 11:30 am
at **Mama's Pizza**

8146 S 96th Street, La Vista

as we celebrate another year of
friendship, and much laughter with a few
corny jokesters!!!

Sign up at church by March 5 or contact
Sharon Fleming at
402-709-2103 or sfleming43@aol.com for
your reservation or if you need a ride.

Coloring Day!

The pillars in our upper level hallway are mostly decorated by pictures made by our church children – and some grandparents. (Oh, and by Ranae and Becky, who enjoy coloring at home.) Currently, there are many wintery pictures, and spring is coming, so we need to change things up.

Children, parents, grandparents and any adults who like to color, and who like pizza, are invited to coloring day on March 17, 2025, at 11:00 am. (Millard and Omaha school districts do not have class this day.) We will have the coloring pages, and crayons/markers/coloring pencils. No reservations required – just come. We'll have pizza after an hour of coloring.

Questions? Please call the church office and talk with either Ranae or Becky, Colorers-in-Chief.

Ash Wednesday Service



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. We will have a soup supper and Ash Wednesday service on March 5, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the Family Life Center. Our theme for Lent is *Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith*. Please join us on March 5 as we begin our Lenten journey.

An offering will be received during this service, which will be given to Sheltering Tree (<https://shelteringtreecommunity.org/>). There will be baskets on the tables for your offering.

End of Life Booklet

Earlier this year, the Discipleship Team produced an End of Life booklet with information about care facilities, planning your funeral, estate planning and more. If you did not receive one of these helpful resources, please contact the church office and we will provide you with one.

Faithfuls Step Up to the Call for Food

Our Mission and Evangelism Team designated the month of January as the NeighborGood month, asking members to donate non-perishable food to the pantry. Faith members heard the call and responded!

Thank you so much for all the donations made to NeighborGood during this January drive. The food items were delivered to the pantry on February 3. Many thanks to **Ken and Cindy Andersen** for their help with packing up and delivery! The

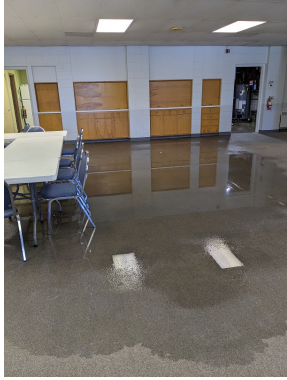
pantry staff was very grateful and the families who receive the food will appreciate it. Future donations can always be left in the basket in the church south entryway.

Thank you to our Faith Church volunteers at the pantry: **Ruth Tresemer, Shayla Hall, Ken and Cindy Andersen, and Janice Miner.** If you would like to volunteer, please contact Melissa at NeighborGood, (402) 552-7061.



Sightings

Faith Church hosted Crossroads Connection on February 23. Thank you to **Mary Ann Stevens**, for playing the piano for the service, **Steve Bottorff**, for being in the media booth, and **John O'Brien, Terri O'Brien, Janice Miner, Bill Neubert, Chuck Shafer** and **Lynda Shafer** for serving a delicious chicken meal.



On February 19, a lake surfaced in our lower level, due to a burst pipe. Multiple rooms had standing water. **Doug Bogenhagen, Rod Bosserdet** and **John Tresemer** wet vacced and wet vacced and then did some more, until the carpets were mostly dry.



Every Sunday at least two people are in the media booth, keeping the sound on, managing Facebook and keeping words and images on the screen. Thank you to **Cindy Anderson, Shayla Hall, Steve Bottorff** and **Bob Meyer** for enhancing our worship experience.



Mar 6 Karen Seda
Mar 9 Terri O'Brien
Mar 9 Sandy Stiverson
Mar 13 Ken Andersen
Mar 13 Maynard Boehler
Mar 19 David Wennstedt
Mar 21 Khyenne Cottrell
Mar 22 Pat Neubert
Mar 24 Angie Madden
Mar 26 Abby Hansen
Mar 31 John Tresemer

You're invited!

Sunday, April 6, the Avail Academy High School Choir & Band will be in worship with us and enrich our service with their gift of music. Avail is a Dutch Reformed private school from Fridley, MN. Their choir director, Summer Janssen, is a granddaughter of Marlin and the late Dottie DeBoer. Come a bit early, as they may sing at least one song before the service begins. :)

After the service, we will be hosting a potluck luncheon to feed them before they head home. Fried chicken will be provided, and we ask that you bring a side dish. There will be sign-up sheets for a head count and what side you can bring. Remember, we will also be feeding the 40 kids and chaperones plus any visitors. Look for sign-up sheets later in March.

What a great opportunity to share our space, our food/fellowship, and our love of music which is a precious gift from God. Invite a friend!

If you have questions, call Debbie Eggers or the church office 402-331-6944.

Streaming Sunday Worship Service 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#.

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Sunday Worship Time 10:00 am </div>						
2 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	3 6:30 pm A Cappella group 6:30 pm Pickleball	4 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal	5 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 10:00 am Yesterdays Kids 11:00 am Chair exercise 1:00 pm Mission/Evang mtg 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday/ Soup Supper	6 10:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC Team Meetings 4:00 pm Worship meeting 5:00 pm Fellowship Mtg 5:45 pm Discipleship Mtg 7:00 pm Facilities Mtg	7 8:30 am Men's Donuts & Dialogue 11:30 am Lunch Bunch	8 8:00am Men's Breakfast - FH 1:00 pm Omaha Christian Social Group - cards	
9 Daylight Saving Time begins 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	10 5:45 pm Book Club 6:30 pm A Cappella group 6:30 pm Pickleball	11 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal	12 7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 9:00 am Sorting Clothes 10:00 am Yesterdays Kids 11:00 am Chair exercise 7:00 pm Choir	13 10:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC 7:30 pm Finance meeting	14 8:30 am Men's Donuts & Dialogue	15 9:00 am Clothing Giveaway 1:00 pm Omaha Christian Social Group - FH	
16 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	17  11:00 am Coloring Day & pizza 6:30 pm A Cappella group 6:30 pm Pickleball	18 1:00 pm PW meeting 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal	19 7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 9:00 am Clothes Sorting 10:00 am Yesterdays Kids 11:00 am Chair exercise 7:00 pm Choir	20 10:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC 7:00 pm Session mtg- FH	21 8:30 am Men's Donuts & Dialogue 10:00 am Transitions Group	22 9:00 am Scouts Pinewood Derby - FLC 1:00 pm Omaha Christian Social Group - FH	
23 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	24 6:30 pm A Cappella group 6:30 pm Pickleball	25 6:00 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal	26 7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 10:00 am Yesterdays Kids 11:00 am Chair exercise 7:00 pm Choir NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 9:00 AM	27 10:00 am Walking Group 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	28 8:30 am Men's Donuts & Dialogue	29 1:00 pm Omaha Christian Social Group - FH	
30 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	31 6:30 pm A Cappella group 6:30 pm Pickleball						