

Arms of Faith

April 2023

Dear Faithfuls,

At the February Session meeting, the elders expressed their deep appreciation for the faithful, generous giving of our congregation! You all are supportive in a strong and important way. Right now, pledged giving is at 101.44% of what was pledged. Thank you!

Churches often use two basic metrics for determining church vitality: worship attendance and giving. There are other metrics for viewing church vitality. We are aware of these: the Sunday morning Bible Study started with eight people in attendance and has grown to 14 regularly coming. That is 14% of Sunday worship attendance learning about scripture.

We have between five and fourteen people regularly having fun and enjoying fellowship playing pickle ball. The new Lunch Bunch had 17 people enjoying lunch and fellowship together. And, mission! In the first two months of the year, we have already given \$3,343 toward various mission opportunities. That is generosity at work!

And, there is more. On Sunday, March 12, in the evening, at least 48 people from Crossroads were in worship and enjoyed dinner – plus the puppet team was there – plus the people that served the meal. On Saturday, March 18, 109 people came to the Clothing Giveaway, receiving clothing, toys, home goods and more. Plus, 12 of our members, including two grandchildren, were here to assist the shoppers.

Every Friday, a group of men enjoy donuts and dialogue. I respect that the group is for men, so I have not attended; please ask Chuck Shafer how many attend that group.

Once a month, a group of members who have a family member with some level of dementia, gather for conversation and support. Eight people are regularly in the comfy room sharing their stories and hearing compassion.

Yes, our worship attendance is one measure of the vitality of this church. Yes, pledged giving is another measure of the faithfulness of this congregation. And, when we look at Monday through Saturday, we see so much life and ministry happening!

Peace,
Becky

Faith Presbyterian Church
"To know, to grow, and to show Christ to
all people"

Holy Week at Faith Church

Holy Week, the week beginning with Palm Sunday and going through Easter, tells the central story of the Christian faith – that Jesus died for us and was raised on the third day. We invite you to participate in these worship services to grow in your faith journey:

April 2, Palm Sunday, 10:00 Worship Service – Come join the parade as Jesus enters Jerusalem, and stay for brunch following the service.

April 6, Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm Worship Service – We will have a service of shadows, and enter the darkness of the night that Jesus was betrayed.

April 7, Good Friday, 7:00 pm Worship Service – The story of Jesus' crucifixion will be told with lights and shadows. Join us for this most solemn of services.

April 9, Easter Sunday, 10:00 Worship Service – Rejoice with us as we celebrate the Risen Christ!

Sightings

The first monthly Clothing Giveaway brought over 100 people to the church! A huge thank you to **Carolyn Ernst, Steven Ernst, Rob Crick, Bob McKulsky, John O'Brien, Pat Starke, Phyllis Wennstedt and her two grandkids, Tracy Kristensen, Ruth Tresemer and Sung Jo** for helping people with sacks, carrying items to cars, welcoming people and hosting this extraordinary mission opportunity.

Chuck Shafer, Lynda Shafer, Terri O'Brien, Bill Neubert, Debbie Kippley, Janice Miner, and Mary Ann Stevens hosted Crossroads Connection on March 12. The soup and chili supper was delicious! Mary Ann played beautifully during the worship service. And, kudos to the **Puppet Team** for sharing "We Believe" with the Crossroads group.

Rich Wordekemper noticed that the pew pencils needed sharpening, and that someone ought to do that. The next day, a light bulb went on – he could be that person! Thank you, Rich, for sharpening the pew pencils!

The large plant near the front door takes a lot of water. Thank you to **Sung Jo** for watering the droopy plant and helping it stay healthy.



*Apr 2 Ranae Overton
Apr 3 Ben Jamieson
Apr 3 Steve Harmsen
Apr 6 Rob Crick
Apr 9 Anna Howard
Apr 17 Ginny McKulsky
Apr 17 Peter Svoboda
Apr 19 Debbie Kippley
Apr 19 Barb Rooker
Apr 20 Jacob Hayes
Apr 21 John O'Brien
Apr 22 John Davey
Apr 23 Al Levene*

Helping Hands to the Rescue

Congregation members – Do you have jobs at home that you cannot do on your own (cutting up limbs, small electrical or plumbing jobs, yardwork, etc)? For help, contact the church office, and we will check with our Helping Hands Team.

The Faith Church Helping Hands Team is in need of a coordinator for 2023. Anyone interested in filling this need please contact the church office.

If you would like to join the Helping Hands Team, please let us know and we will add you to our list of helpers.

Clothing Give Away

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Clothing Give Away. Everything went well and we served 109 people. Whether you sorted, donated, helped set up or tear down, we really appreciate everything you do.

The next Give Away is April 15 from 9-12. We will be sorting April 5 & 12 from 9-11. Thanks again. John and Terri O'Brien

Great Exercise & Great Fellowship

Join us for  **Pickleball**

Mondays 6:30 pm
Thursdays 1:00 pm

Join us for  **Volleyball**

Sundays 1:00 pm

If you are interested and want more info, contact the church office.



Session Highlights

The Session elders continued their discussion of *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You Are Going*. This month's chapter was about stories that churches tell. We tell three basic types of stories: founding stories (how the church was started), glory-era stories and some churches have "shameful past" stories. The elders shared a number of stories that were important to them. One story especially stood out. One of the elders noted it was when Neal Early retired, and the decision was made not to call another associate pastor, that some of the conflict and struggles began. Several of the elders realized that they had not made that connection. If we tell that story, and recognize that the church was wise for a number of reasons for not calling another associate, more healing can come about.

Decisions and actions that the session took:

The Facilities Team has recognized that people feel safe in our church, and so there is no need for concealed carry on Sunday mornings

Approved a Mission Discernment process that will begin after Easter (be watching for more information soon)

Approved financial gifts to three Presbyterian churches to help fund youth mission trips (we have accumulated funds that haven't been used in years; this is a way for us to support both mission and youth; also these are gifts just for this year)

Please be praying for your elders as they faithfully lead this congregation in ministry and mission.

Streaming Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

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#.

Psalms Bible Study on Sunday Morning

The book of Psalms is filled with praise, thanksgiving, comfort and even lament. Join Janine Yates on Sunday mornings, at 9:00 am, beginning April 16, in Room 9, to explore this wonderful book of the bible.

Another Coloring Day

Join us
Tuesday, April 4 at 11:00 am
to color pictures for Easter
followed by lunch.
RSVP to church office.

LUNCH BUNCH

Anyone of any age gathering together for fellowship at noon

Fun and lunch on Friday, April 14 (NOT the first Friday because it's Good Friday)
at **First Watch**

304 Olsen Dr, # 117, Papillion
(about 82nd south of Hwy 370)

Need your suggestions and ideas on where to go for lunch next.

Contact Sharon Fleming at
402-709-2103 or sfleming43@aol.com
by April 9 for your reservation and
if you need a ride.

Faith Presbyterian Church

Becky Balestri, Pastor

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402-331-6944

Web page: www.faith-presbyterian.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithpresby



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<div>Sunday Worship Time</div> <div>10:00 am</div>		<div>1</div> <div>11:00 pm Omaha Christian Social Group</div>
<div>2</div> <div></div> <div>8:45 am Revelation Class 11:00 am Brunch 1:00 pm Volleyball - FLC 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 2:00 pm GriefShare 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC</div>	<div>3</div> <div>6:30 pm Pickleball - FLC</div>	<div>4</div> <div>11:00 am Coloring Day & lunch 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal</div>	<div>5</div> <div>7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 9:00 am Clothes Sorting 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>6</div> <div>1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC  7:00 pm Masaundy Thursday Service</div>	<div>7</div> <div>8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue  7:00 pm Good Friday Service</div>	<div>8</div> <div>8:00 am Men's Breakfast 1:00 pm Omaha Christian Social Group - 14/15</div>
<div>9</div> <div></div> <div>5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC</div>	<div>10</div> <div>5:45 pm Book Club - library 6:30 pm Pickleball - FLC</div>	<div>11</div> <div>6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm Deacons' meeting</div>	<div>12</div> <div>7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 9:00 am Clothes Sorting 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>13</div> <div>1:00 pm Pickleball - FLC 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry 7:30 pm Support meeting</div>	<div>14</div> <div>8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch First Watch, Papillion</div>	<div>15</div> <div>9:00 am Clothing Giveaway 1:00 pm Omaha Christian Social Group - 14/15</div>
<div>16</div> <div>9:00 am Psalms Bible Study 1:00 pm Volleyball - FLC 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC</div>	<div>17</div> <div>6:30 pm Pickleball - FLC</div>	<div>18</div> <div>11:00 pm Pw 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal</div>	<div>19</div> <div>7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>20</div> <div>1:00 pm Pickleball - FLC 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC 7:00 pm Session meeting</div>	<div>21</div> <div>8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue 10:00 am Transitions Group</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9:00 am Agape meeting 1:00 pm Omaha Christian Social Group - 14/15</div>
<div>23</div> <div>9:00 am Psalms Bible 11:00 am Crafts - Intergenerational 1:00 pm Volleyball - FLC 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC</div>	<div>24</div> <div>6:30 pm Pickleball - FLC</div>	<div>25</div> <div>6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal</div>	<div>26</div> <div>7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 10:00 am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>27</div> <div>1:00 pm Pickleball - FLC 6:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC</div>	<div>28</div> <div>8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue</div>	<div>29</div> <div>11:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group - 14/15</div>
<div>30</div> <div>9:00 am Psalms Bible St 10:00 am Youth Sunday 1:00 pm Volleyball - FLC 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC</div>			<div>Newsletter articles due 9:00AM</div>			