



Grace and Peace to you!

What a wonderful surprise I had on January 15, two days after my birthday. You all blessed me with beautiful flowers and so many lovely cards. Thank you! I have read the cards more than once.

Lent begins this month, with Ash Wednesday on February 22, 2023. We will have a soup supper in the Family Life Center that evening, followed by a Taizé worship service. Taizé is a contemplative form of worship with prayer, scripture and songs that are melodic and easy to learn. Please join us on Ash Wednesday to begin the season of Lent. (More information will be coming about the time.)

During the Sundays of Lent, the theme will be wilderness. The Israelites spent forty years in the wilderness; Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness; and, so, Lent is 40 days. The stories of both the Israelites and Jesus tell us that we experience the presence of God in the wilderness. Granted, we live in the city; however, there are wilderness seasons in our lives, when life seems to be a struggle. And, when it seems that all that we usually have is not available, God still provides.

During Lent, we will consider being thankful for burdens, and that wilderness times are times for learning, challenges, dependence on God, comfort and new beginnings. I invite you to attend worship in Lent (February 26 through April 2) and discover all that the wilderness has to offer.

Peace,  
*Becky*

### **Faith Presbyterian Church**

**Becky Balestri, Pastor**

**8100 Giles Road, La Vista, NE 68128**

**402-331-6944**

**Web page: [www.faith-presbyterian.com](http://www.faith-presbyterian.com)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/faithpresby](https://www.facebook.com/faithpresby)**

### **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#.

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

## Session Highlights

The Session elders resumed their discussion of *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You Are Going*. The chapter was on the soul of a church, which is the essence of a congregation. One item that we especially noted was the author's observation that "an era of thriving has come to an end, and a new way of being is not yet clear." The elders understand this and are open to God's leading on this new way of being.

Decisions and actions that the session took:

- Approved the budget for 2023

- Added funds to the pastor's discretionary fund

- Approved moving the clothing to the nursery and preschool rooms, and for there to be a monthly clothing give away

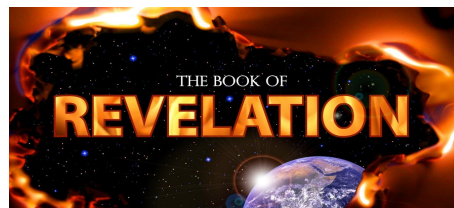
- Discussed the possibility of having a team of members with concealed carry on Sunday mornings; this discussion was postponed for two months

Please be praying for your elders as they continue to discern where God is leading this congregation.

### NeighborGood

Formerly Tri-City Pantry

Melissa Nelson, Executive Director of NeighborGood, was guest speaker at our January 22nd service. A collection was taken for the pantry, and thanks to the generous donations of Faith, our congregation sent \$692 to NeighborGood.



Are you interested in learning about the Book of Revelation? Are you aware it's a book about worship? Yes, it is! To learn more, you are invited to the next Bible Study, Sundays, February 12, through April 2, 2023, from 8:45 to 9:30 am, in Room 9 on the lower level. Questions? Please either email or call Becky Balestri, who will be teaching the class.  
(402-709-0568, [becky@faithpresbyterian.com](mailto:becky@faithpresbyterian.com))



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 15 Deb Ziegler  
Feb 19 Mary Ridge  
Feb 21 Gary Tifini  
Feb 25 Rod Bosserdet

### Sightings

Maybe you've heard: a water pipe broke the week after Christmas and soaked the music room. **Steve Harmsen** did a lot of clean up. However, much of the music got wet, and so a large crew sorted, and laid out the music, let it dry and then restored it. A huge thank you to **Debbie Eggers, Rob Crick, Judi Crick, John O'Brien, Mary Ann Stevens, Lynda Shafer, Meg Dorsee, Al Zimmerman, Marc Wagoner, Rod Bosserdet, John Tresemer** and **Ruth Tresemer**.

**Janine Yates** and **Carolyn Ernst** are leading a GriefShare class. Six women from our community are attending - a wonderful way to share our church with those in need of God's love.

**Ranae Overton** and three people from the Omaha Christian Card Group took a deck of cards and visited Bob Meyer. The four of them had a great time playing pinochle. Thank you to Ranae for organizing a fun event for Bob.

## PW = Presbyterian Women

For those of you who might not know, PW is short for Presbyterian Woman, and this organization is open to ANY woman who attends Faith Presbyterian Church. In the months ahead, I will help list some of the things we do and support at Faith Church: locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally. We usually meet in the Fellowship Hall the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 1pm for a short business meeting followed by a Bible Study at 1:30pm for about an hour or so. In February we will discuss **Bathsheba from The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak** by Shannon Bream. Hope to see you **February 21 at 1pm, or at 1:30pm** if you prefer! Need a book? Questions? Grab Debbie Kippley or Debbie Eggers

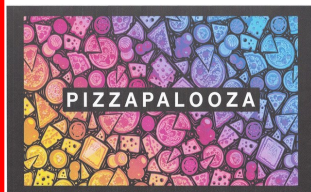
## RMDs

As we get older we are required to take out what is called a Required Mandatory Distribution (RMD) from your IRA/401K's. The money you are required to take out is taxable and is counted as income. There is good news as you can use a portion of that to cover your pledge for the church, and that portion will not be taxed. For example - if you are required to take out \$30,000 and your pledge is \$6000. You will not be taxed on \$6000, the amount donated to the church. You will need to contact the finance manager of your IRA/401K and have them send the check (in this case \$6,000) directly to the church for your pledge. As long as you do not physically take control of the money it is not taxable. You will need to notify the church that the check is coming and who from so that it can be applied to your pledge for that year.

IRA Requirements for RMD's can be found at this site: [Retirement Topics — Required Minimum Distributions \(RMDs\) | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)

Any questions can be addressed to me.

Bill Mavity Home: 402-331-7344  
113 Longwood Drive Mobile: 402-960-1525  
Papillion, NE 68133



F.O.C.U.S.ed Hands, the Faith Puppet Team will sponsor a Pizza Palooza on February 11, 2023, from 4:40 to 7:30 PM. The evening will include a pizza-making contest, Human Hungry Hippos, and a Pizza

Topping Toss (with fake toppings). You are invited to join the festivities and bring children or grandchildren. In addition, the puppet team will perform. Please let Debbie Kippley if you plan to attend by February 8. [drdbk@aol.com](mailto:drdbk@aol.com)

## 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 Janice Miner at 402-339-8304 or the church office, and we will check with our Helping Hands Team.

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

## Windows for Sadzi



Last spring Faith Church sent money to Malawi to help with windows for their new church.

Malawi does not have companies like Renewal by Anderson or Pella. Windows have to be fabricated by a craftsman and welded together. The windows have been made and are waiting to be installed.

## Your Session

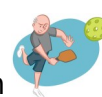
Clerk of Session - Joe Seda

Discipleship	Shayla Hall
Facilities	Matt Kasprzak
	Jim Willett
	Doug Bogenhagen
Fellowship	Tracy Kristensen
Human Res	Bob Meyer
Mission & Ev	Terri O'Brien
Support	Peter Svoboda
Worship	Al Zimmerman

## 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, call the church office.



## The Session Retreated!



The elders gathered for a short retreat on January 21. The pastor noted that the hope was to plant seeds, raise awareness, and spark some ideas about the mission and ministry of the church.

The first exercise was a values clarification process. The common values among the elders are family, love, peace, making a difference, lifelong learning, spirituality and honesty. The elders will be keeping these values in front of them as decisions are made for mission and ministry. Also, we trust that these values are common to the congregation.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the Holy Cow assessment and the long time mission statement of the church. The elders recognized that taking the assessment during a pandemic might not have been the best time to do so; answers may have been impacted by the pandemic. We discussed the four main goals that the assessment indicated for this congregation. One or two of them are do-able; one or two of them will take much effort. Related to this conversation, was seeking to discern whether it was the appropriate time for a new mission statement. The elders will be praying about this and considering it at the February session meeting.

After lunch at Culver's, the elders divided into two groups and did a prayer walk in the surrounding neighborhoods. A prayer walk means walking and paying attention, and when called to do so, pray for what is in front of you. The elders prayed for children, an air force family, youth, veterans, Faith Church, families, the middle school and a home where everyone matters. Out of this experience, what became most noticeable as a community need is the middle school.

The retreat ended with a quick training moment by the pastor as to how to lead a meeting. Elders were encouraged to prepare an agenda ahead of time, with times indicated so that teams stay focused. If you are on a team, please ask the team moderator what they learned.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 7:00 am Campus Life 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>2</b> 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC <b>Team Meetings</b> 4:00pm Worship mtg - Zoom 5:30pm Discipleship mtg - 9 6:30pm Mission/Evang - 8 7:00pm Facilities - FH 7:00pm Fellowship mtg	<b>3</b> 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue	<b>4</b> 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group
<b>5</b> 1:00 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm GreifShare 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Pickleball	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 7:00 am Campus Life 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>9</b> 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC 6:30pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Support meeting	<b>10</b> 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue	<b>11</b> 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group 4:30 pm Pizza Paollza with the Puppets
<b>12</b> 8:45 am Revelation Study 1:00 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm GreifShare 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	<b>13</b> 5:45pm Book Club - library 6:30 pm Pickleball	<b>14</b>  6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm Deacons' meeting	<b>15</b> 7:00 am Campus Life 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>16</b> 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC 7:00pm Session mtg - FH	<b>17</b> 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue	<b>18</b> 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group
<b>19</b> 8:45 am Revelation Study 1:00 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm GreifShare 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Pickleball	<b>21</b> 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	<b>22</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 7:00 am Campus Life 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 6:00 pm Soup Supper & Ash Wednesday Service <b>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b> 9:00 AM	<b>23</b> 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	<b>24</b> 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue	<b>25</b> 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group
<b>26</b> 8:45 am Revelation Study 1:00 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm GreifShare 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm Pickleball	<b>28</b> 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal				<b>Sunday Worship</b> <b>10:00 am</b>