



# PRESBYTERIAN PARABLES

November 2021

First Presbyterian Church  
Lexington, Nebraska



Volume 21,  
Issue 11

## VOLUNTEERING IN THE COMMUNITY

Thank you to the volunteers that helped at Majestic Theater on October 15th! The volunteers were: Pastor Eddie, Emma Mariel, Layla Mariel, Larry & Sharon Steinberger, Nancy Evans, Steve Luther, and Dian Lauby.



## 50 YEAR MEMBERS

On October 24, 2021, our 50 Year Members were recognized. The members included are: Dale & Donna Holbein, Mary Reed, Blaine & Chris Mueller, and Loretta Falkinburg.



## ALL SAINTS DAY

All Saints' Day was observed on Sunday, October 31st. That morning in worship, we remembered members and loved ones of our congregation that had entered into life eternal in the past year. Families/friends lit a candle for their loved one. Below is the list of the loved ones we remembered.

### SAINTS OF OUR CONGREGATION

Mildred L. "Mickey" Hundley  
Bernice Pebley  
Marion "Jean" Jeanne Henderson  
Bill Rawson  
Norman Lans

### FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES

Les Allen—Son of George & JoAnn Allen  
Ronnie Rogers—Father of Randy Rogers  
Mike Acosta—Brother of Fran Acosta-Carlson  
Marjorie Timm—Mother of Andrea Nisley  
Marlene Calder—Step-mother of Allison Luther  
Marvion Reichert—Brother of Joyce Rimpley  
Ollie Schoneman—Mother of Karla Denker

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## First Presbyterian Church

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### OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday

8:30—11:30 a.m.

Noon—3:00 p.m.

### CHURCH STAFF

Teaching Elder—Rev. Eddie Mariel

Director of Worship Ministries—Holly Rickertsen

Hostess—Linda Anthony

Office Manager—Kimmy Schuster

### RULING ELDERS

Dr. Fran Acosta-Carlson

Allison Luther

Jeanne Burns

Dave Margritz

Sally Heusinkvelt

Allan McClure

Janice Lans

Kirk Psota

Dian Lauby

Clerk of Session: Don Anthony

### DEACONS

George Allen

Steve Falkinburg

Joan Allen

Chuck Malcom

Dorothy Bremer

Darlene Malcom

Vicki Davis

Rhea Musil

Marlene Delap

Tom Musil

Loretta Falkinburg

Carol Nelson

## SERVING IN NOVEMBER

**Ushers:** Fred & Andrea Nisley

**Greeters:** Ken & Wally Fox

**Offering Counters:** Fred Nisley & a member of Properties

**Lay Leaders:** November 7th—Dr. Fran Acosta-Carlson  
November 14th—Kirk Psota  
November 21st—Layla Mariel & Loralai Rickertsen  
November 28th—Sharon Steinberger



**NO NURSERY**

## COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Mission/Outreach Committee — November 1, 7:00 p.m.

Faith Committee — November 2, 7:00 p.m.

Properties Committee — November 15, 7:00 p.m.

Personnel Committee — November 16, 7:30 p.m.

Congregational Care Committee — November 18, 7:00 p.m.

Session — November 23, 7:00 p.m.

## WOMEN'S GROUPS

**-SOUTHSIDE BIBLE** cancelled until further notice.

**-PW LUNCHEON** on November 4 at noon

**-FAITH CIRCLE** meets November 18 at 9:30 am. — Sarah is hostess.

**-MARTHA CIRCLE** meets on November 18 at 2:00 pm. — Carol is hostess.



## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



### MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Our MOW's Volunteers this week were Lorin and Dorothy Bremer, Dan Roberts, Pat Sherman and Sharon Steinberger. Thank you for taking time to help deliver these meals. I know the residents appreciate it. Our next delivery date is Dec. 6 - 10.

Sharon Steinberger is looking for new volunteers. It only takes an hour a day for the week and it is a fun, rewarding service. Please contact Sharon if willing to help.

### LOOSE OFFERINGS

Loose Offerings during the month of November goes to **Blanket Sunday**



### FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry *needs your help more than ever*, so please continue to help support the Lexington Food Pantry by placing non-perishable food donations in the basket in the narthex!



### CAREPORTAL

First Presbyterian Church is now a part of the CarePortal network!

CarePortal is a technology platform that connects vulnerable children and families to people who have something to give. Social workers uncover the needs. CarePortal makes local churches aware, giving them a real-time opportunity to respond.

## SERVICE COMMITTEE GROUP A

Co-Chairs: Marlene DeLap 324-4263 C# 325-1581  
Tempie Roberts 324-4191

Linda Barton (contact Dorothy W.)		Sarah Mariel	951-306-7404
Tracy Biehl	746-7562	Chris Mueller	324-2250
Geraldine Bricker	324-3323	Boni Muzzey	746-5882
Sharon Booth	324-6949	Betty Nelson	324-4133
Brenda Colvin	325-2852	Amy Biehl-Owens	325-0400
Nancy Evans	325-6733	Kristen Psota	746-1046
Loretta Falkinburg	325-1242	Beth Rogers	325-1534
Donna Holbein	324-3387	Julie Rickertsen	324-2825
Julie Kearney	746-0461	Joan Rupke	324-4144
Katie Kearney	325-5419	Ann Smets	324-1919
Paula Kearney	325-7062		
Penny Knapp	325-1254	* Jan Blevins	746-3065
Janice Lans	325-2028	* Geraldine Jorn	324-3749
Jonelle Lans	324-4508	* Dorothy Woodside	325-5700
Sally Margritz	324-2730		

### **EXCERPTS FROM EDDIE**

Greetings to you all,

It is now November which means that Thanksgiving is but weeks away. This is the time of year when, most frequently, we are asked to slow down and reflect on what we are thankful for, usually within the context of a family gathering.

For the majority of us, wherever we get our information from does not offer us much to be thankful for. More frequently we are bombarded with all that is currently wrong, or is going wrong, or has always been wrong that we are having trouble coming to grips with. Moreover, our culture has become so factitious that cultural divisions are extending into families; many of us are choosing our factions or tribes over our families. All of this adds up to, when asked to slow down and be thankful, a feeling very much like trying to turn your 100mph vehicle barreling straight down the highway 360 degrees at a moment's notice! It's disorienting; it's disruptive; you may lose control of the vehicle; you may flip over and roll a few times; I hope you have your seatbelt fastened.

What to do? I think we have a couple of different choices. One choice is nostalgia. We can dream of what once was and even long to go back there. We can recall family meals with no fighting. We can recall cultural norms in which we felt comfortable. A second choice is to remember. Yes, I am proposing that there is a rather large difference between nostalgia and remembering. We can remember the family meals with no fighting that came after a larger argument that day or an argument at the meal before. We can remember the perseverance and compromise that enabled the family meals with no fighting. We can remember the perseverance, bravery and compromises of previous generations that established the cultural norms with which we feel comfortable. Our nostalgia could lead us to resentment. Our remembering could lead us to appreciation.

God invites us to remember; repeatedly. A quick, unofficial, count shows that the word "remember" appears in the Bible over 285 times. Not all of these are direct invitations from God to remember but hopefully, you get the point that this is something that is important to the biblical canon and therefore, something we should be talking about a lot. For comparison's sake, some Christians talk a whole lot more about "fornicators" than remembering, but that word shows up only 8 times. Remembering is less about recalling what we think the past was (nostalgia) and more about remembering what it took to get there; remembering the journey, the process.

So this Thanksgiving, as we continue to face a torrent of things going wrong, let's remember. Remember what has been overcome; remember what has been persevered through; remember what has been compromised, and remember who has been compromised; remember the process, the journey that has brought us through. It is in this remembering that we will find what we are thankful for, and it is in this remembering that we will find the strength and faith to press on.

Grace and peace to you all.

In His Service,  
Pastor Eddie

### T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

Church T-Shirts continue to be for sale for \$12. Get signed up on one of the clipboards on Sunday to order one—or talk to Kimmy in the church office.



### LOGOS

LOGOS K-5 meets from 4:30—6:30 pm. LOGOS 6-12 meets from 6:00—8:00 pm.

Meal is provided at 6:00 pm.

This month we are meeting on November 3rd, 10th, & 17th.

All children K-12 are welcomed! Please join us!



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to help out with the Sundays Children Sermons. All material will be provided. If interested, please let Sally Heusinkvelt or Holly Rickertsen know.

### ANNUAL CLERICAL SOUP & CHILI CHALLENGE

Annual Clerical Soup & Chili Challenge is on November 10, 2021 from 11am—1pm at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Come show your support for the Lexington Ministerial Association and Pastor Eddie by voting/donating for his stew!



### THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY SERVICE

A Thanksgiving worship service for the entire community is November 21 at 7pm at Calvary Assembly of God.

### BABYSITTING SKILLS CLASS

Are you interested in helping in the Nursery on Sundays? On December 4th from 9:30am to 12:30pm, the Nebraska Extension's babysitting training course is going to be offered at our church. Educators will help youth participants, ages 11 and up, build skills in child development, safety, general care, and nutrition. Cost is \$10 per youth. Snacks will be provided!



*Choosing Gratitude*  
By Nancy Leigh DeMoss  
a book review by Jo Sherman

In November one day is set aside in which we are to remember to be thankful, but Nancy DeMoss suggests in her book, *Choosing Gratitude*, that we are to be continually thankful for everything.

Author of fifteen books, and a well-known speaker, Nancy is also the radio host for “Revive Our Hearts” and “Seeking Him,” which are aired on nearly 1,000 radio stations.

She shares with us the reason for writing this book, “This book is an invitation to join me on a journey. I want you to see what I’ve seen. And I want you to experience the fresh joys I am encountering as I confront those stubborn weeds of ingratitude and choose to cultivate a thankful heart... I’ve discovered that gratitude truly is my life preserver... It keeps me from drowning in what otherwise would be my natural bent toward doubt, negativity, discouragement, and anxiety.”

She tells us that “true gratitude is not an incidental ingredient... it is one of the chief ways that God infuses joy and resilience into the daily struggle of life.” She further states that, “Gratitude is lifestyle... this book is about discovering what makes gratitude truly Christian. And how it make life, even with all it’s bumps and bruises, a joy to behold.”

One of the many side notes found throughout the book is this one, “When we give out gratitude to God, we cause gratitude to well up in others’ hearts.”

She informs us that even though she was blind, Fanny Crosby wrote over 8,000 hymns for us to use when we thankfully sing our praises to God. She gets personal when she states, “You may be thinking that you are not much of a singer, neither am I. It doesn’t have to sound good to be good.” She then gives us examples of when to sing to God, as during the church service, in a car, when working outside in your yard, or anytime you are alone. “Anytime is a good time to sing your gratitude.” She quotes David in Psalms 30: 12, “O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.”

She has provided a 30-day devotional for us to get started in giving God continuous thanks. Nancy continues her work in Michigan as the Director of Women’s Ministry, as well as traveling to present inspirational speeches to emphasize giving thanks.



**HELP WANTED**

First Presbyterian is in search of a Librarian! If interested in volunteering please contact a member of the Faith Committee or talk to Kimmy in the church office.



## SESSION MEETING NOTES

Location: Conference Room

Date: 10/26/2021

Time: 7:10 pm

Moderator: Rev. Eddie Mariel

Elders Present: Dr. Fran Carlson, Sally Heusinkvelt, Allan McClure, Kirk Psota, Jeanne Burns, Janice Lans, Allison Luther, Dave Margritz

## Elders Excused: Dian Lauby

Elders Absent: none

Others: Don Anthony

Prayer and Devotions: Jeanne Burns

Minutes: Minutes of the September 28, 2021 Regular Session meeting correct the date of All Saints Day to October 31. Approved as corrected.

Clerk's Report:            Communion: Oct 3, 2021.....60  
In Home.....13

Deaths: 0

Marriage: 0

Transfers: 0

Removal: 0

Membership: 220

Attendance Report: Received as presented

Treasurer's Report: Received as presented

Balance Brought Forward 1/1/2021	\$2,458.85
Receipts	138,025.97
Disbursements	157,155.88
Transfer from Money Market	30,275.77
Balance as of 10/21/2021	\$13,604.71
Balance of Money Market 10/21/2021	\$1,000.48

Pastor's Report: Received as presented

Faith Team: Recommended to hold Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00 PM. Passed.

Mission and Outreach: Moved to have Presbyterian Women's Blanket Sunday on November 14. Seconded. Passed. Recommended to take \$837.75 from Special Revolving Accounts Building Improvements and Miscellaneous Designated Funds to pay for new signs around the building. Passed

Motion to pay the Parent-Child Center \$116.00 from Miscellaneous Designated Funds. Seconded passed.

Moved to pay the Presbyterian Disaster Relief \$203.26 from Miscellaneous Designated Funds. Seconded. Passed.



10/26/2021 Session Meeting Minutes Continued...

Moved to pay L2 \$20.00 from Miscellaneous Designated Funds. Seconded. Passed.

Properties and Endowment and Gifts: Recommended that Mary Reed, Dian Lauby, Kimmy Schuster, Linda Anthony, and Holly Rickertsen be authorized signers on the bank accounts. Passed.

Recommended to close the money market account and move the balance to the general fund checking account. Passed

Recommended to transfer funds from investments to the general fund to pay: Ken Beerman \$44,700.00 for bell tower repair, Yanda's \$15,936.50 for video system, and General Fund \$15,000.00 for a cash flow cushion. Passed

Recommended Endowments and Gifts disburse \$7240.00 to pay for part of the sound system. Passed.

Moved to take \$40,000.00 from the Roof Fund and apply it to the principal of the loan from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Fund. Seconded. Passed.

Congregational Care: No recommendations

Personnel: Recommended to increase the Senior Pastor salary and housing allowance, the Office Manager hourly rate, the Director of Worship Ministries salary, and the Hostess hourly rate by 2% for 2022. Passed with Pastor Mariel abstaining.

Other Business:

Next Meeting: November 23, 2021

Devotions next meeting: Dave Margritz

Adjourned with prayer by Pastor Mariel



### PANDEMIC'S CHANGE ON CHURCH ATTENDANCE

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

The church needs you.

And you need the church.

-Steven Massey



# November

## Birthdays

**November 1**

Amanda Bennett  
Doll Nielsen  
Kirk Psota

**November 3**

Marylin Crawford

**November 4**

Elizabeth Monte  
Teri Gould

**November 5**

Linda Anthony

**November 8**

Ava Elizabeth Holbein

**November 11**

Ken Graus

**November 12**

Alisa Margritz

**November 13**

Griffin Zachary Owens

**November 16**

Joseph Sculley

**November 17**

Parker McDonald

**November 18**

David Margritz  
Sara Rickertsen

**November 19**

Corey Reutlinger  
Greta Rickertsen

**November 21**

Julie Kearney  
Carson Holbein

**November 23**

Dale Holbein

**November 24**

Derek Evans  
Harlow Rickertsen  
Sarah Stuckey

**November 25**

Clay Nisley  
Roger Reutlinger

**November 26**

Linda Barton

**November 27**

Ethan Barton  
Randy Rogers

**November 29**




Connie Smets

## BIRTHDAY CLUB

**JOIN THE BIRTHDAY CLUB!** In your birthday month contribute \$1.00 (or 10 cents or a quarter, etc.) for each year of your life so far. The thousands of dollars contributed each year go to the Endowment Fund. The fund generates interest which is divided between Physical Facilities and Outreach Fund. If you would like to contribute, there are specially marked envelopes in the pews, or you can write "Birthday Club" on your check and place it in the offering plate.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>  <b>ALL SAINTS' DAY</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 11:00am—Knitting 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo 7:00 pm—Mission & Outreach Committee	<b>2</b> 9:30 am—Office Staff Meeting 7:00 pm—Faith Committee 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	<b>3</b> 4:30 pm—LOGOS K-5 6:30 pm—LOGOS 6-12 6:45 pm—Joy Ringers Rehearsal 8:00 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> PW Luncheon @ Noon 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>  9:00 am—Sunday School 9:00 am—Coffee/Fellowship Hour 10:00 am—Worship in Sanctuary or via Zoom 7:00 pm—'Seamless' Bible Study	<b>8</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 11:00am—Knitting 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	<b>9</b> 9:30 am—Office Staff Meeting 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	<b>10</b> LMA's Annual Clerical Soup & Chili Challenge - 11:00am—1:00pm 4:30 pm—LOGOS K-5 6:30 pm—LOGOS 6-12 6:45 pm—Joy Ringers Rehearsal 8:00 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 am—Sunday School 9:00 am—Coffee/Fellowship Hour 10:00 am—Worship in Sanctuary or via Zoom 7:00 pm—'Seamless' Bible Study	<b>15</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 11:00am—Knitting 7:00 pm—Properties Committee 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	<b>16</b> 9:00 am—PEO in the Parlor 9:30 am—Office Staff Meeting 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo 7:30 pm—Personnel Committee	<b>17</b> 4:30 pm—LOGOS K-5 6:30 pm—LOGOS 6-12 6:45 pm—Joy Ringers Rehearsal 8:00 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 9:30 am—Faith Circle 2:00 pm—Martha Circle 7:00 pm—Congregational Care Committee 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 am—Sunday School 9:00 am—Coffee/Fellowship Hour 10:00 am—Worship in Sanctuary or via Zoom 7:00 pm—'Seamless' Bible Study 7:00 pm—Community Thanksgiving Service @ Calvary	<b>22</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 11:00am—Knitting 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	<b>23</b> 9:30 am—Office Staff Meeting 7:00 pm—Session 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	<b>24</b> 6:45 pm—Joy Ringers Rehearsal 8:00 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 	<b>26</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 am—Sunday School 9:00 am—Coffee/Fellowship Hour 10:00 am—Worship in Sanctuary or via Zoom  First Sunday of Advent	<b>29</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 11:00am—Knitting 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	<b>30</b> 9:30 am—Office Staff Meeting 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo				