Let's Pitch In to Help North Bend Recover

The need to help Nebraska flood victims is just as wide and deep as the flood waters, but will last long after the flood waters have receded. In addition to supporting Presbyterian Disaster Assistance efforts in Nebraska, our church is "adopting" the town of North Bend. At its March meeting the Mission Outreach and Social Justice Committee voted to connect with a single town and focus our flood relief support. A town of about 1,200 people, North Bend lies just one hour north of Lincoln in Dodge County. Pastor Sue has been in regular contact with Michael and Kristi Hill about what is needed. Michael is pastor of the North Bend Presbyterian Church.

There are several ways YOU CAN HELP:

You can make a monetary donation:
- Make your check out to First Presbyterian Church Lincoln and put “North Bend Flood” in the memo line. Those funds will stay with our church for use specifically in North Bend.
- Make your check out to First Presbyterian Church and put “Nebraska Flood” in the memo. Those funds will go to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) fund designated for Nebraska Flooding.

You can give online or find instructions to give by text at [http://fpclincoln.org/donate/](http://fpclincoln.org/donate/).

You can donate supplies:
- Below are needs identified by North Bend residents as of March 20. Check the North Bend Eagle Facebook page (@northbendeagle) for updated information as needs change. Supplies can be dropped off at our church or taken directly to North Bend Central High School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Squeegee Mops (for floors)</td>
<td>Mops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Push Brooms</td>
<td>Scoop Shovels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box Fans</td>
<td>Shop Vacs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Plates</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food for Diabetics</td>
<td>Hand Sanitizer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber Gloves</td>
<td>Dehumidifiers</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NO clothes are needed!

You can volunteer:
- Opportunities will be posted on our FPC Facebook page and in church emails. If you do not currently get our church emails, email churchadmin@fpclincoln.org and ask to be added to our email list for First Online.
- If you do volunteer, it may be helpful to wear waterproof boots and work clothes.

For More Information

The General Command Center, Volunteer Check-In, and Donation and Distribution Site for North Bend are all located at North Bend Central High School. For general questions, call (402) 919-2337. If you want to volunteer in North Bend, provide equipment for clean-up, or volunteer your time for clean-up, call (402) 919-3976. For donations or distribution of supplies, please call (402) 919-3976.
Unveil the Splendor of Our Church
As we celebrate 150 years of ministry in the heart of Lincoln, we reflect upon our commitment to humbly serve our God and our neighborhood as we grow where we are planted. Our growth together has been filled with faith and many blessings! We have identified a new home for our community garden while growing our parking capacity. We have also received a thoughtfully planned landscape architecture design that meets parking lot codes requested by the city, and helps unveil the splendor of our church. As we continue to share God’s blessings with our neighborhood, we hope you’ll consider sponsoring a plant to honor our roots and celebrate continued growth in our faith and church. Look for the display in east entrance to sponsor a plant that inspires you and perhaps a new church family member that might walk by it. Thanks for growing together, and for making a positive difference in the lives of many!

Sue’s Musings – Looking to the Future
Can you believe it’s almost time for our 150th anniversary service? Sunday, March 31, is the magic day, so come join us as we celebrate! Several of our former pastors will be in attendance, and we’ll have a great lunch and program following the service. (Remember – one service only at 11 am on March 31!)

As we celebrate our past and look to the future, the session has been focused on the future as well. We recently held a session retreat and tackled the question that we’ve been putting off for a while – we have some great programs and things we do as a church, nevertheless we continue to experience a slow but steady decrease in members, attendance, contributions, and volunteer energy. I’ll confess it’s a little frustrating, as we’ve got a great church here and people that are hard to beat, nevertheless, we can’t argue with the numbers. So we have a choice – we can keep doing what we’re doing, which evidence says will probably not turn around our current trend, or we can try some new things that might result in membership growth and more engagement by our own members. The session decided that if we are to be faithful to our calling to be salt and light to the world, then we need to think about church growth, church in new ways, and try some new things.

What new things, you might ask? We don’t know yet! Each of our committees is charged with looking at what they can do in their areas of ministry. The session has also specifically charged our Christian Education and Music and Fine Arts committees, as two of our strongest assets, to think about how we can use those strengths to help us grow.
What can you do?

**First, support all our efforts to try new things, to change what we’re doing, and to dream.**
This is a team effort!!! Not everything we do will be successful – we know that. But some of what we do will, and some may even have a dramatic positive effect. And yes, some may even have a negative effect. We won’t know which ones will produce results of any kind will until we try. So pray with us, support our efforts, dream yourself, and share those dreams, so that we can continue to be salt and light to the world – and to each other.

**Second – share what we’re doing!** Tell your friends. Invite them to join us. When you see announcements and stories about what we’re doing on facebook, Instagram, twitter, and shapchat, share them. Growth won’t happen if we don’t share what we’re doing and invite others to join us. Did you know that 80% of people say they joined a church, not because of the programs of the church, not because of the pastor, but because a friend they know and trust invited them? Be that friend!

God is doing great things with us – and has great work for us in the future – let’s work together to see God’s dreams – and ours – come true!

*Grace and Peace,*  
*Pastor Sue*  
~ Rooted in God ~ Open to Grace ~ Filled with Joy ~

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**Holy Week & Easter Services**

**Palm Sunday – April 14 at 8:30 & 11 am**
Our 11 am service will feature the kids choir as well as our adult choir
Join us at 9:45 for our annual Easter egg hunt!

**Maundy Thursday – April 18 at 7 pm**
Join us for a special service celebrating communion  
and the events that lead up to Jesus’ death on Good Friday.

**Easter Sunday – April 21  8:30 & 11 am**
Join us as we celebrate Christ’s resurrection!  
Our 8:30 service will include a celebration of communion.  
Our 11 am service will include the choir assisting in leading us in worship.
Introducing Our New Ministry Team Members

Matt Chvala is our new part-time maintenance person. Matt will be working Sunday mornings, and Monday – Thursday mornings.

Matt Chvala grew up in Stuart, Nebraska, a small town in the north central part of the state. After high school, he went to college in Norfolk and Wayne, at Wayne State College. He has a degree in criminal justice. He joined the Air Force/Air National Guard after college. In his nine years there, he traveled to Turkey, Italy and Kuwait and various stateside bases. While working for different companies, he decided to start his own business. Now he owns and operates Platinum Premium Services and Fair Price Tree Service. His businesses focus on roofing, handyman and tree services. Matt enjoys helping people repair their homes. He likes dogs, working out and playing basketball. Matt is looking forward to working here at First Presbyterian Church and meeting members. If you see him, please say, "Hi."

Jane Holtzclaw is our new part-time staff overseeing and developing our caring ministries. Jane will be resourcing the deacons, helping with visits, and being the coordinator of all of our caring ministries. Jane can be reached at caring@fpclincoln.org.

Dr. Jane Holtzclaw is a native of Lincoln Nebraska and grew up in the First Presbyterian Church. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine where she received her MD degree and completed a residency in Psychiatry and a Fellowship in Child Psychiatry. After practicing for many years in a variety of settings including the college of medicine, private practice, and the VA she accepted a commission with the Air Force. Having served as a psychiatrist at Keesler AFB (Biloxi MS) and Minot AFB (Minot, ND) she retired from the Air Force in 2016.

While in the Air Force, Jane entered seminary, graduating with her Master of Divinity degree in 2018 from Iliff School of Theology. Family connections have drawn her back to Lincoln where she “landed” this fall. She is currently working as a psychiatrist at the Lincoln VA outpatient clinic.

Jane has had many years of experience in church leadership as a Ruling Elder. She is currently “under care” of the Northern Plains Presbytery (North Dakota) where she has fulfilled all of the requirements for ordination as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament pending a call.
FPChristian Education

If I were to ask you what Christian Education is, what would you say? How would you define it? Is it teaching Bible Stories? Is it about creating Presbyterians? Is it about becoming disciples? These are some of the types of questions the Christian Education Committee is going to be wrestling as we do some “re-imagining” of what Christian Education is and can be in order to help our church and church members grow. But beyond just defining Christian Education, we also want to ask “why?” Just as an example, if Christian Education is about teaching and knowing the stories of the Bible, we have to also ask “to what end?” What is the purpose of learning the stories and what do we want our members (not just children and youth) to do with these stories? In the coming months we will be engaging in these conversations as we try to discern God’s call for our Christian Education ministry here at FPC. If you have a few thoughts as to how you would answer the questions of “What is Christian Education” please feel free to speak to Kris Brammer either in person, by phone, or by email. We also ask for your prayers as we move forward in this endeavor.

What’s Happening in April!

Children’s Ministry and Faith Formation:
- April 7th – Children’s Mission Hour and FORUM
- April 14th – FPC Easter Egg Hunt beginning in Fellowship Hall
- April 21st – Easter Sunday (No Sunday School)
- April 28th – Activity, Time and Sunday School

Youth Ministry and Faith Formation:
- April 7th @ 5:00 p.m. – Dinner and The Escape Room
- April 14th @ 5:00 pm – Youth Fellowship – Questions of Faith
- April 21st – Easter Sunday – No Youth Fellowship
- April 28th @ 5:00 pm – Youth Closing Party at TBA

Adult Ministry and Faith Formation: (Sunday Morning Classes unless otherwise noted)
- FORUM – “Sharing our Faith, Sharing our Church”
- Bible Discovery Class meets in Room 105. The Bible Discovery Class uses the Present Word curriculum which is a bible study exploring various themes.
- Faith and Theology Class meets in Room 107. During Lent, this class will be doing the small group series book study on Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks.
- Third Sunday in Hebrews does not meet in April due to the third Sunday being Easter Sunday.
FPC Egg Hunt
The Christian Education Committee is getting ready for this year’s egg hunt (April 14th) and we could use some assistance of donated candies to fill the eggs. Any candy will do, but we are in particular need of nut and gluten free candy. Candy needs to be in individually wrapped packaging. Thank you for your help and donations.

FPC Egg Hunt Donations
Now that we are in the full swing of Lent, our eyes are now set towards Easter and Holy week. The Christian Education committee is already working and planning on this year’s Easter Egg Hunt (April 14th @ 9:45am in Fellowship Hall). We are still in need of some donations for candy (including gluten and peanut free candy) to fill the eggs before the 7th. You can drop off your donation at the office.

First Presbyterian Forum Series
Our Forum (April 7th @ 9:45am) topic this month is “Sharing our Faith, Sharing our Church.” We can sometimes find it hard to talk about ourselves, our faith, or even our church; maybe it’s because we don’t know where to start or because we don’t want to offend. But sharing our faith is a way for us to grow in our faith and sharing our church is a way for us to grow our church. This is the focus for the April Forum - "Sharing our Faith, Sharing our Church." You are invited to come hear about simple and effective ways in which we can share with others about our faith and about our church.

2019 FPC Lenten Small Group Series
Our Lenten small group series is off to a great start; we have over 50 people participating in these small groups! If you weren’t able to commit to a certain time or group during this series, but would like to follow along and engage in some personal reflection at your own pace, extra copies of the discussion guide are available here at the church. Just speak to Kris Brammer about getting a copy.
On Wednesday, February 20, the Chancel Choir sang for the residents at the Legacy Terrace Retirement Community. They sang pieces from the recent Sing from the Heart concert, and then lead the residents in a hymn sing-a-long.
On Saturday, March 9th we had Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Hass for a wonderful workshop and concert!
Please make plans to attend our final concert on Sunday, April 7th with Ken Cowan.

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Concert:
Sunday, April 7 – 3:00 p.m.
In collaboration with Lincoln Organ Showcase

Ticket Required
Adults $18, Seniors $15
Students & Children free

For Tickets call (402) 477-6037
Or go to www.fpclincoln.org/music
Arts for the Soul

“...one of the most outstanding young organist on the scene today…”
**We’re Growing, Together!**
The FPC Marketing Committee is excited to embark on a journey to help strengthen our internal and external communication efforts of activities and events related to our church family life. We will do this through stronger collaboration efforts with FPC committees, providing them with tools and resources that will help them to market their activities and events. Together, with our church family—that’s YOU, we will grow our church by sharing about our faith and church family life with others outside of our church walls. If fear or panic just settled in, especially when you read the words “…with others outside of our church walls,” we invite you to attend the April 7th forum class to learn simple and effective ways in how to share and talk about your faith and church family with others. Stay tuned, as we are also developing a fun marketing campaign that can be used when sharing our events. HINT: It has something to do with the word FAMILY.

**Wayfinding**
We have finished working with our Architects who have helped us with the science of wayfinding. Recommendations are starting to be implemented. We have a few new bright areas of paint color on each level of the church. This allows you to direct someone past the bright color to an area they are looking for. The committee is currently looking at vendors for new signage that will soon be placed throughout the church interior. The architect also helped us with the exterior of the building to include improved signage and landscape design. Property, along with Spaces and Places continues working on interior updates that enhance ministry. Many thanks to all who have worked tirelessly to enhance our property and ministry here at First Presbyterian.

**One Great Hour of Sharing**
On Palm Sunday we will be collecting a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. Your gift can help enable the church to share God’s love with our neighbors-in-need here in Nebraska as well as around the world. The offering helps
- by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters and food to the hungry and
- by helping to empower the poor and oppressed.
This year the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, one of three groups funded through this special offering, is particularly evident here in Nebraska. PDA is helping assess needs and support recovery efforts for Nebraska flood victims, guiding the way for Mission Groups to provide assistance. Also receiving financial support through this offering is the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People. Watch for further information in upcoming church bulletin inserts and in First Online.
SAND DOLLARS PROGRAMS FOR APRIL:

April: We will hold our supper meeting Friday evening, April 19 at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall. Our program will feature Tim Rinne* who, out of concern about climate change, tilled up their lawn a number of years ago and began growing as much of their own food as possible. Now their neighbors in their "Hawley Hamlet" neighborhood are doing likewise with 20 families currently involved. Exciting things are happening! All are welcome! *Tim is the state coordinator for Nebraskans For Peace.

Places and Spaces
There has been a lot of activity in updating spaces around the church with the upcoming celebration of the 150th. Staff, property and a small army of volunteers are sprucing up areas of the church as we continue to sort out storage areas, repurpose our resources and enhance programs and ministry throughout the church. Along with the 150th celebration, we will be offering tours of the church. It may have been a while since you have been to the deep dark caverns of the building….or in a youth Sunday school room. We hope you will join us for a tour of the church to see the many beautiful changes and work that is ongoing as we continue to use this beautiful building to enhance ministry, serve our neighbors and provide ministry in our community.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

On March 10, Presbyterian women celebrated the Gifts of Women Sunday by providing treats after both services. At First Service a special award was given to Duane and Sue Sattler for their faithful service and dedication to God and to First Church. PW is doing something a little different in giving a financial donation to First Church in recognition of the Sattler's dedicated work.

At Second Service an honorarium was given to Lynne Hughes for her faithful work in many areas of the church's work. This includes the special honorarium pin which indicates our work for peace in our lives and the world as well as nurturing our faith. Both the Sattlers and Lynne received tulip plants in hopes that spring is coming soon.

Congratulate these wonderful people the next time you see them.

The Flyleaf Book Club …
will meet on April 19. We will be discussing the book Fruit of the Drunken Tree by Ingrid Rajas Conteras.

Congregation News & Events
Spring means Green…
Spring has sprung, and green is showing up everywhere! Green leaves, green grass, green tractors in the fields…
Browse the display of books, selected for their covers in various shades of green, which includes:
- *I Love God’s Green Earth*, by Michael & Caroline Carroll
- *Grace Happens*, by Bob Libby
- *Making a Home for Faith*, by Elizabeth Caldwell
- *What Jesus Meant*, by Erik Kolbell
- *A Time to Love*, by Robert Raines

NEW! NEW! NEW!
A number of new books are being added to the FPC Library shelves, and will be on display in April.
Select titles include:
- *Britt-Marie Was Here*, by Fredrik Backman
- *The End of Your Life Book Club*, By Will Schwalbe
- *North of the Platte, South of the Niobrara*, By Bryan L. Jones

Easter Reading
*The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan is an account of Jesus’s final week of life. The story begins on Palm Sunday with two triumphal entries into Jerusalem. The first, that of Roman governor Pontius Pilate leading Roman soldiers into the city, symbolized military strength. The second heralded a new kind of moral hero who was praised by the people as he rode in on a humble donkey. The Jesus introduced by Borg and Crossan is this new moral hero, a more dangerous Jesus than the one enshrined in the church’s traditional teachings, giving up his life to protest power without justice and to condemn the rich who lack concern for the poor.

April brings us *Earth Day and Arbor Day*, two opportunities to celebrate God’s amazing world.
Browse the selection of books focusing on *God’s creation*

Librocubicularist:
(n). A person who reads in bed (lib-ro-kyoo-bi-kyoo-la-rist)
Please notify the church office of any name, address, email, and/or telephone changes.