



# First Report

~ A publication of First Presbyterian Church ~  
840 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68508  
February 2017 / Volume 48 No. 2

## Welcome to my Blog!

Over the past 10+ years, I have had several online blogs. My first one was “Transforming Followers”, which I started when I served as an Executive Presbyter, working with 65 churches in central and southwestern Minnesota. Then I started another one called “A Deeper Spiritual Life, when I began my work as a Spiritual Life Coach and Spiritual Director.

Rather than keep multiple blogs floating out in cyberspace, I've combined them into one new site: Sue's Musings. You are welcome to check it out at [www.suecoller.com](http://www.suecoller.com). Most of the “Transforming Follower” posts are under January 2017, and previous posts from A Deeper Spiritual Life are archived by date entered. Feel free to explore them, and take what is useful to you. You'll find quotes that have been meaningful to me over the years, stories from churches, book reviews, meditations – just a variety of stuff.

Now that I'm settled here as your pastor, I am looking forward to starting up my blog again, with book reviews, thoughts, and comments on the intersection between faith and life.

—Pastor Sue

~ Rooted in God ~ Open to Grace ~ Filled with Joy ~

## Welcome Kris Brammer!

Kris Brammer, our new Director of Christian Education, will begin his work with us on Monday, February 27. We are excited about the gifts he brings to our ministry, and we are looking forward to getting to know him and his passion for Christian Education ministry.

## Annual Meeting of the Congregation Sunday, February 5

following the 11:00 AM-only worship

*A luncheon follows in Fellowship Hall served by the youth.*

## Forum Class

**Sunday, February 5, 9:45 a.m., Great Hall**

Paul Smith is a “Lay Clergy” when it comes to the Nebraska State Penitentiary. He regularly visits Death Row inmates housed in Tecumseh, Nebraska. This journey had some of its beginnings right here at First Presbyterian Church with a conversation while sacking pears during a Jacob's Well Food Distribution. Paul will share his insights into this ministry, his reasons why, and other pertinent information on Sun., Feb. 5, during the “Forum” class. *Micah 6:8*

## Ash Wednesday Service

**Wednesday, March 1, 7:00 p.m.**

Join us in the sanctuary for a reflective Ash Wednesday service, marking the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time of self-reflection and penitence, in preparation for Easter. We will enact the ancient practice begun in the 6<sup>th</sup> century of marking our foreheads with ashes, symbolic of our mortality and our repentance, and take some time to reflect on God's love for us and our response to the great gift of Jesus Christ.

*If you are interested in some of the history of the observance of Lent, here is a great article: [www.christianitytoday.com/history/2008/august/beginning-of-lent.html](http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/2008/august/beginning-of-lent.html)*

## The Old Testament Background to the Lord's Supper

**6:15-7:15 p.m., Wednesdays,**

**beginning March 8, through Lent**

Ever wonder about the symbolism of the words and actions of communion? Join us as we explore the Old Testament background to the Lord's Supper on Wednesdays in Lent. We will conclude our study at our congregational Maundy Thursday Service, with a celebration of a Christian Seder. More info in the March Newsletter!

## February 5<sup>th</sup> is Scout Sunday!

Scout Sunday is a time for congregations across the U.S. to recognize youth in their congregation that are active in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Our congregation has several youth currently involved in scouting, including:

Jacob Diedrichsen - 4th grade Boy Scout

Jaide Loehr - 1st grade Daisy Girl Scout

Andrew Peterson - 11th grade Boy Scout

Emily Van Meter - 4th grade Junior Girl Scout

Lydia Van Meter - 1st grade Daisy Girl Scout

Scouting is much more than camping and badges. Scouts have opportunities to take part in many activities, learn new things, and grow into leaders. They also participate in numerous community service projects. Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms to church on Scout Sunday. Please take the time to visit with these Scouts, and learn more about their accomplishments and experiences.

**THANK YOU:** *Global Passion Ministries NE thanks PW, Mission Outreach committee, Sunday School children and all of First Presbyterian for their ongoing generous and loving support of our mission work in Nicaragua. Your donations have done amazing things in this part of the world and will again this year. Please remember us in prayer, we will be in Nicaragua Feb. 16-26. It is God's work done with our hands and your support.*

*Thank you once again. Alicia, Karl and Sue*

*Ministers: Members of Congregation*

*Pastor/Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Sue Coller • Pastor for Sudanese Ministry: Rev. Jock Tut Paleak*

*Music Director: Dr. Brian Pfofner • Organist: Dr. Charles W. Ore*

*Interim Youth Coordinator: David Kamran • Coordinator of Finance: Patricia Wissink • Publications Secretary: Susan Diers*

*Maintenance/Custodian: Jeff Kephart • Clerk of Session: Terri Sherman • Associate Clerk of Session: Joan Berglund*



Music & Fine Arts at  
First Presbyterian Church



*Our next concert....*

## Sing from the Heart — *Our Favorite Things*

Sunday, February 19, 7:30 p.m., Great Hall

*Dessert Concert & Charity Fundraiser for The Food Bank of Lincoln Backpack Program.*

*Featuring The First Presbyterian Choir, with special guests:  
Malley Keelan, tenor and Daniel Martinez, guitar.*

*Tickets: 402-477-6037, [www.fpclincoln.org](http://www.fpclincoln.org) (seating limited)*

## Presbyterian Women Highlights



### **Presbyterian Women Purpose**

*Empowered and freed by God in Jesus Christ,  
and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:*

*To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study.*

*To support the Church worldwide.*

*To work for Justice and Peace.*

*And to build an inclusive, caring community of women that  
strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to  
the promise of God's Kingdom.*

**Just a reminder:** Three Bible study groups meet, one the first Wednesday of every month at 9:30 AM in Rm 115 (contact Arta Smith), After Work Group meets the fourth Monday every month at 5 PM also in Rm. 115 (Contact Terri Sherman) and SSS meets the third Thursday of every month at 1:30 PM in the Rousseau Room (Contact Jolene Peterson). These groups are using the Horizons Bible Study, "Who is Jesus?"

Financial contributions are appreciated and funds go to the Presbytery, Synod, and Churchwide to support mission. Checks may be made out to Presbyterian Women and sent to the Treasurer, Louise McCormally, 5211 S. 37<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, NE 68516.

Since 1922, the Birthday Offering has provided and continues to provide much-needed financial assistance to numerous worthwhile programs not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. Each year, as many as five new projects-domestic and international-are carefully and prayerfully selected by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee to help meet a crucial need for persons who are hurting or are disadvantaged. The generosity of Presbyterian women and their families and congregations, as demonstrated through their Birthday Offering gifts, helps chosen recipients find real solutions for projects related to health, education, economic development, and the needs of women and children.

**On Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has designated this day to "Celebrate the Gifts of Women". Following the second service on that day, a catered luncheon will be served TO THE CONGREGATION: Everyone is welcome. Following the luncheon the Birthday Offering will be dedicated.**

The February funeral committee is: Eleanor Novotny, Chair, Suanne Stange, Mary Lou Busch, Dale Novotny, Irene Colborn, Pam Boyle, Sherry Knapp, Willa Smith and Sharon Peterson.  
— Terri Sherman, PW Contact

## Session Highlights—January 12, 2017

### **Christian Education**

Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> will be Scout Sunday. The youth will serve lunch for the annual meeting. Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> the committee will present Bibles to the third grade students. Bob Jeambey will lead a 6 week study during Lent, focusing on Marcus Borg's *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. Pastor Sue will be teaching a Lent class on Wed.'s from 6:15-7:15 pm, starting on March 8<sup>th</sup>, that will focus on the Old Testament background to the Lord's Supper. May 14<sup>th</sup> - CE volunteer recognition as part of the Children's time during services. April 9<sup>th</sup> - Easter Egg Hunt will be held during the Sunday School hour. June 4<sup>th</sup> - Graduates/Bair Scholarships Recognition during service. Approve allowing Boy Scout & Girl Scout product sales (popcorn and cookie sales) at the church.

### **DCE (Director of Christian Education) Search committee**

Kris Brammer will start Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>

### **Music and Fine Arts**

Potential dates for the 2017/2018 concert events were discussed.

### **Personnel**

Approved Continuing Ed funds for Pastor Sue to attend the Next Church National Gathering. Kris Brammer will start Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>.

Approved funding to Jock Paleak for tuition for his last class to finish his bachelor's degree.

### **Property**

Discussing a way to create handicap spaces in the sanctuary. This was referred to Worship & Sacrament to look at design options and bring back to Session. An all church clean-up day is planned for Sat., Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>. We hope to cover the sanctuary, Great Hall, and Fellowship Hall if we have enough help.

### **Stewardship & Finance**

2017 budget was approved.

### **Session Business**

The Annual Meeting will be Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. April Session meeting changed to April 6<sup>th</sup> because of Maundy Thursday. Discussed holding a session retreat. Set plans in place for weather cancellations with postings on KFOR, 10-11, and Channel 8 and on the website if possible.

### **Worship & Sacrament**

Approved holding one service on Feb. 5 at 11:00 a.m. (date of the annual meeting). Approve an Ash Wednesday service on March 1 at 7 p.m. To approve a Maundy Thursday service on April 13 at 6:30 p.m. which will include a supper.

# Life in the Church — February 2017

## Wed., Feb. 1

8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR  
 9:00 - Circle 2 & 3/115  
 10:30-1:00 - OLLI Class/GH  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 12:00 - Men's Lunch/Stauffer's  
 5:30 - F3 Meal /FH  
 6:20 - Task Force  
 (Comm. Garden & Parking Lot)/115  
 7:30 - Choir rehearsal

## Thurs., Feb. 2

8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 9:00 - Sewing Group/FH  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 1:00 - Lincoln Lit Classes  
 5:45 - S&F/115

## Fri., Feb. 3 Sue's day off

8:00 - Organ Practice/S  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR  
 10:00 - Moving in the Spirit//208  
 5:00 - Nuer Basic Lang. Classes

## Sat., Feb. 4

8:30-11:30 - Jacob's Well  
 10:00 - Sudanese Bible Study/208  
 4:00 - Voice Lesson/GH

## Sun., Feb. 5 Communion Sunday

9:45 - Forum Class/GH  
 11:00 - Youth prepare food for  
 Annual Meeting Lunch/FH  
 11:00 - Worship/S  
 12:00 - Annual Cong. Meeting/FH  
 12:30 - Nuer Worship/GH  
 No Youth Group

## Mon., Feb. 6

8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 5:00 - W&S/115  
 6:00 - CE/Library  
 5:30-8:30 - Irish Dancers/GH  
 7:00 - Men's AA/FH

## Tues., Feb. 7 Session Reports due

7:00 - Men's Breakfast/K  
 8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 10:30-12 - Lincoln Lit  
 11:00 - Staff Meeting/115  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 4:30 - Gathering Place/Worship & Sac  
 5:30 - Property/115  
 6:00 - Women's AA/FH  
 6:00-8:00 - GtS BB/Gym

## Wed., Feb. 8

8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215

9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR

10:30 - OLLI Class/GH  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 12:00 - Men's Lunch/Stauffer's  
 5:30 - F3 Meal /FH  
 7:30 - Choir rehearsal

## Thurs., Feb. 9

8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 9:00 - Sewing Group/FH  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 1:00 - Lincoln Lit Classes  
 6:30 - Session/GH

## Fri., Feb. 10 Sue's day off

8:00 - Organ Practice/S  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR  
 10:00 - Moving in the Spirit//208  
 5:00 - Nuer Basic Lang. Classes

## Sat., Feb. 11

8:30 - Stephen Ministry/FH  
 10:00 - Sudanese Bible Study/208  
 4:00 - Voice Lesson/GH

## Sun., Feb. 12

8:30 - Worship/GH  
 9:30 - Children & Youth Activity Time  
 9:30 - Hebrews Group/211  
 9:45 - Adult Bible Disc/115  
 9:45 - Adult Bible Study/RR  
 10:00/10:15 - Sunday School  
 11:00 - Worship/S  
 12:30 - Nuer Worship/GH  
 4:00 - Bell Rehearsal/S  
 5:30 - Youth Group/FH

## Mon., Feb. 13

8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 5:30-8:30 - Irish Dancers/GH  
 7:00 - Men's AA/FH  
 7:00 - Personnel/Hebrews

## Tues., Feb. 14 Valentine's Day

7:00 - Men's Breakfast/K  
 8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 10:30-12 - Lincoln Lit  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 6:00 - Women's AA/FH  
 6:00-8:00 - GtS BB/Gym

## Wed., Feb. 15 First Report Deadline

8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR  
 10:30 - OLLI Class/GH  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 11:30 - Mayor's Interfaith Prayer  
 Breakfast Comm. Mtg/115  
 12:00 - Men's Lunch/Stauffer's

5:30 - F3 Meal /FH

7:30 - Choir rehearsal

## Thurs., Feb. 16

8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 9:00 - Sewing Group/FH  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 12:30-3:00 - OLLI Class/GH  
 1:00 - Lincoln Lit Classes  
 1:30 - Circle IV SSS/RR

## Fri., Feb. 17 Sue's day off

8:00 - Organ Practice/S  
 10:00 - Moving in the Spirit//208  
 5:00 - Nuer Basic Lang. Classes

## Sat. Feb. 18

8:30-11:30 - Jacob's Well  
 10:00 - Sudanese Bible Study/208  
 4:00 - Voice Lesson/GH

## Sun., Feb. 19

8:30 - Worship/GH  
 9:30 - Children & Youth Activity Time  
 9:30 - Hebrews Group/211  
 9:45 - Adult Bible Disc/115  
 9:45 - Adult Bible Study/RR  
 10:00/10:15 - Sunday School  
 11:00 - Worship/S  
 12:30 - Nuer Worship/GH  
 5:30 - Youth Group/FH  
 7:30 - AFS Concert:  
 Sing from the Heart/GH

## Mon., Feb. 20 President's Day

8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 5:30 - Music & Fine Arts/RR  
 5:30-8:30 - Irish Dancers/GH  
 7:00 - Men's AA/FH

## Tues., Feb. 21

7:00 - Men's Breakfast/K  
 8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 10:30-12 - Lincoln Lit  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 6:00 - Women's AA/FH  
 6:00-8:00 - GtS BB/Gym

## Wed., Feb. 22

8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 12:00 - Men's Lunch/Stauffer's  
 5:30 - F3 Meal /FH  
 7:00 - Choir singing at Legacy

## Thurs., Feb. 23

8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 9:00 - Sewing Group/FH  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR

11:30 - ESL SCC/215

1:00 - Lincoln Lit Classes

## Fri., Feb. 24

8:00 - Organ Practice/S  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR  
 10:00 - Moving in the Spirit//208  
 5:00 - Nuer Basic Lang. Classes

## Sat., Feb. 25

10:00 - Sudanese Bible Study/208  
 4:00 - Voice Lesson/GH

## Sun., Feb. 26

8:00 - Organ Practice/S  
 9:30 - Children & Youth Activity Time  
 9:30 - Hebrews Group/211  
 9:45 - Adult Bible Disc/115  
 9:45 - Adult Bible Study/RR  
 10:00/10:15 - Sunday School  
 11:00 - Worship/S  
 12:30 - Nuer Worship/GH  
 4:00 - Bell Rehearsal/S  
 5:30 - Youth Group/FH

## Mon., Feb. 27

8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 5:00 - After Work Bible Study/115  
 5:30-8:30 - Irish Dancers/GH  
 7:00 - Men's AA/FH

## Tues., Feb. 28

7:00 - Men's Breakfast/K  
 8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 10:30-12 - Lincoln Lit  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 6:00 - Women's AA/FH  
 6:00-8:00 - GtS BB/Gym

## Wed., March 1

8:30 - ESL SCC/208, 215  
 9:00 - McPhee Parent Grp/RR  
 9:00 - Circle 2 & 3/115  
 10:30-12 - OLLI Class/GH  
 11:30 - ESL SCC/215  
 12:00 - Men's Lunch/Stauffer's  
 5:30 - F3 Meal /FH  
 6:00 - Choir rehearsal/S  
 7:00 - Ash Wed. Worship Service/S

*Dates & times subject to change*

*Pastor Sue on vacation  
 Feb. 20-26*



## ~ Joys & Concerns ~

### Bereavements:

*Ann Powers and family in the death of her daughter,  
 Susan Powers-Alexander, on January 6, in Lincoln.*

### Prayers: Jean McBride, Bob Peterson

*If you have a joy or concern to add to this list, please call or  
 email the church office. 402-477-6037, info@fpclincn.org.*

**R**emembering  
 the Church in your will.



### Saturdays: Feb. 4 & 18

9:00 AM: Doors Open  
 10:00 AM: Food Distribution  
*Thanks to all who help!*

**The Gathering Place**  
 Tuesday, February 7  
 (Worship & Sacrament serves)

Our 11:00 AM Sunday church worship service is broadcast on Spectrum  
 Channels 71.11 and/or 13, Thursdays at 8:00 PM & Fridays at 1:00 PM.  
 To learn more about us at First Church visit us at [www.fpclincn.org](http://www.fpclincn.org).



First Presbyterian Church  
 840 South 17th Street  
 Lincoln, NE 68508  
 www.fpclincn.org  
 402.477.6037

**PERIODICAL**

The FIRST REPORT (USPS 198-380) is published monthly for \$15 per year by First Presbyterian Church, 840 S 17th St, Lincoln, NE 68508. Periodical Postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Report, First Presbyterian Church, 840 S 17th St, Lincoln, NE 68508.

*Please notify the church office of any name, address, email, and/or telephone changes.*

**Next First Report Deadline**  
**Wednesday, February 15, 2017**  
*Articles received after this time may not be included in the Newsletter.*



**First Presbyterian Church, a place to belong!**

*Where faith is nurtured, curiosity is encouraged, diversity is welcomed, and all are loved.*

*For after-hour calls to the church office, 402-477-6037, the staff voicemail extensions and e-mail addresses follow:*

**Church Fax Number: 402-477-6048**  
**Church website: www.fpclincn.org**

**Pastor/Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Sue Coller**  
 x 103 scoller@fpclincn.org

**Parish Associate for Sudanese Ministry:**  
**Rev. Jock Tut Paleak**  
 x 114 jockpaleak@yahoo.com

**Music Director: Dr. Brian Pfofner**  
 x 121 musicdir@fpclincn.org

**Organist: Dr. Charles W. Ore**  
 charles.w.ore@gmail.com

**Interim Youth Coordinator: David Kamran**  
 x 106 youthcoordinator@fpclincn.org

**Coordinator of Finance: Patty Wissink**  
 x 102 finance@fpclincn.org

**Publications Secretary: Susan Diers**  
 x 107 pubsecretary@fpclincn.org

**Custodian/Maintenance: Jeff Kephart**  
 maintenance@fpclincn.org

**Church Office**  
 x 101 info@fpclincn.org



**February Birthdays**

*Birthdays are important events. If your birthday is missing from our list, or listed wrong, please call the church office so we can correct it: 402-477-6037.*

- |                       |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Erin Boyle          | 13 Jose Napier        | 22 Nyawech Koang        |
| 1 Ray Hill            | 15 Cassandra Bruguera | 22 Rev. Timothy McClain |
| 2 Shannon Diedrichsen | 16 Morgan Boyle       | 22 Elyse Peterson       |
| 5 Emily Van Meter     | 16 Edward Sexton      | 23 Clara Wilberforce    |
| 6 Dale Novotny        | 17 Jeff Koolen        | 24 Paige Buresh Rice    |
| 7 Finnegan Killeen    | 18 Shelby Knorr       | 24 Tyler Knoche         |
| 7 Audrey Richert      | 19 Henry Hill         | 24 Willa Smith          |
| 9 Brenda Straka       | 19 Annette Hinrichs   | 27 Pam Carrier          |
| 13 Carlene Miller     | 19 MarShawn Jefferson |                         |

**Sunday Morning Drivers**

- Nancy Field 402-466-7848  
 Steve Hastings 402-419-9050  
 Nancy Janike 402-489-6779  
 Betty Tenhulzen 402-486-4439

*If you need a ride to a Sunday worship service at the church, please contact a Sunday Morning Driver or the church office.*

**Winter Church Closings**

If the church services are canceled due to winter weather, information will be posted on:

- KFOR 103.3 FM**  
 www.kformow.com/weather-closings  
**Channel 10 KOLN**  
 www.1011now.com/weather/closings  
**Channel 8 KLKN**  
 www.klknv.com