



Church and Home

July 2016



"Boldly with Christ We Belong, Believe, Grow and Reach Out"

First Presbyterian Church
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STAFF

INTERIM PASTOR:

Rev. Steve Nofel

ADMIN ASSIST:

Naomi Okoye

CUSTODIAN:

Diane Nawyn

CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Connie McCreery

BELL DIRECTOR:

Ann Jones

CHILD CARE:

Deb Welsh

ELDERS

Clerk of Session:

Jon Beggs

Dean Kurth, **Treasurer**

Rachel Allison

Scott Baker

Lowell Fenster

Chuck Francis

Ann Jones

Kristi Leibhart

Nancy Mack

Ron Ochsner

Martha Orcutt

Glenn Petersen

Sara Pierce

Mandy Vargas

Deb Weitzel

DEACONS

Howard & Ruth Gebhardt

Janet & Leroy Hare

Jim McClymont

Tammy Miller

Maxine Mulder

Zac Ochsner

Cyndee & Scott Orr

Susan Peters

Irene & Danny Ridgway

Bev & Cecil Sallee

Robert Weber

Rod Weitzel

Jenny Zachry

PW MODERATOR:

Dixie Francis

We welcome Rev. Steve Nofel our interim pastor!

The following letter was the search committee's initial introduction to Steve. We share it so you, too, can sense his energy and passion. Plan to be in worship as he begins his ministry with us on July 3. You will have an opportunity to meet and greet him following the service.



Dear Friends,

I am Steve Nofel, along with my wife, Kim, I am the co-pastor of the Montezuma Valley Presbyterian Church.

I am currently seeking a new position on my own. As our two sons grow and mature, their needs are changing. So, Kim will be taking a break from active ordained ministry.

As I studied your ministry information form I felt compelled to apply for the position of interim pastor. As you will see in my personal information form, before coming to Cortez, I was a success intentional interim pastor, and have a gift and passion for interim ministry.

I was struck by First Presbyterian first words of narrative were directed at spiritual growth, living out the Gospel in our daily lives, and being joyful as we grow in Christ.

Spiritual leadership, mentoring others in the Lord and helping to develop spiritual leadership are my deepest passions and greatest strengths.

I am excited to see the leadership of the church is looking for a spiritual shepherd who can mentor others in discipleship. I feel called to both.

I have a passion for smaller congregations and I relate well with God's children of all ages. In fact, passionate for the Gospel is an apt and good description of me. I am an excellent and enthused teacher. I am also a risk taker always willing to try new things, but at the same time embracing and celebrating what has come before us.

My greatest strengths are my energy, imagination, enthusiasm and love for the Lord. These traits are abundantly apparent in my prayer life, preaching, teaching, ministry and personal life. My wife describes me as a Christian Energizer bunny.

Grace and Peace,
Steve Nofel

The above was a letter of introduction I sent to the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee when I originally wrote them to consider me for the position of interim pastor. I really painted myself as a swell guy and pastor! While everything I said was true, I am not as cocksure as I sound. I am a deep / devout Christian which means I am faithful but not perfect. As St. Paul wrote, "I strive toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14. I pray that we have a great time striving together into the future that God has for each of us and our church. Grace and Peace, Steve

By-For-About FPC



Birthday Blessings

3	Tami Forrester	12	Cooper Leibhart
4	Ellie McClymont	14	Melinda Baker
6	Terry Ackerman	16	Glenda Feeney
7	Mary Anderson		Tami Hacker
	Kathleen McCoy	19	Tom Pendleton
8	Pat Forrester	22	Roy Barta
	Annie Pankonin	23	Charlene Cash
	Jeanie Thies		Chloe Kaminski
9	Howard Gebhardt	25	Zachary Ochsner
		27	Harriet Nielsen
		29	Martha Orcutt
		30	Lyle Anderson
			June Powers

July Anniversaries

7/3/1987	Rachel & Scott Allison
7/14	Julie & James Bunker
7/16/1955	Mary & Lyle Anderson
7/23/1977	Sue & Steve Finke

Mowers Needed

There is a sign-up chart on the bulletin board in the office to sign up for mowing or you can call Chuck Francis at 660-1577. Thank you.



Our Sympathy and Prayers

for the family of James D. Lane, husband of Sandra Hutchens Lane and brother-in-law of Irene Hutchens Ridgway who passed away Sunday, June 19.

Fellowship Time!!!

**MS Friendship meets
Friday, July 1st
6:00pm at the airport**

RSVP to Pennie Mattke or the church office.



July Service Committee

**Coordinator: Joyce Kohler
Members:**

Carol Beggs, Dorothy Conger,
Kelly Ehlers, Kristi Leibhart



May and June 2016



Finance Update

The Finance committee will not meet until July 11 to review May and June financial reports. We will have these numbers for you in the August newsletter.



Thank you so much for all the cards, encouraging words, gifts and reception held in my honor. I am at a loss for words for the outpouring of love from all of you. I have never for one day regretted taking this job and have enjoyed every day. I look forward to many more in the upcoming years. It has truly been an honor to serve this church. I sincerely feel blessed.

Thank you so much! *Naomi*



A Deacons' meeting was held on May 29, 2016 to discuss our up-coming Christmas project and to select two Deacons to serve on the nominating committee. Ruth and Howard Gebhardt volunteered for the nominating committee. The Christmas project was tabled for later discussion.

On June 10, the Deacons served goulash to 110 people with 33 seconds and thirds at the Salvation Army dinner. Thanks to everyone who assisted with this meal from making cookies, preparing food, serving and cleaning up.

The next Deacons' meeting is August 28, 2016 after church.

Blessings,
Irene Ridgway
Secretary Deacons



Church Office Hours

9:00am - 12:00pm
(closed during lunch)
1:00pm - 3:00pm

Mission Opportunities at FPC

Adventures of Bob and Kristi Rice

Democratic Republic of Congo
Kanaga, West Kasai



Keeping up With the Rices

<http://bobandkristi.blogspot.com/>

Wilderness

I lift up my eyes to the hills -- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth (Psalm 121: 1-2).

There is something therapeutic and healing that happens, basking and glorying in the wonders of wilderness, God's glorious and untamed creation. Last month Kristi and I had the privilege, along with Jim and Sherri Bertolet (Kristi's parents), to visit Glacier National Park. We arrived in West Glacier, Montana, by train from central Illinois. We arrived before the major tourist season, beating the crowds. It was a bit cold and rainy at times, but the marvels of the place were beyond expectation. So many times I would gaze upward, with neck craned far back, drinking in the deep beauty and wonder of a place beyond description. I would meditate upon God's glory and goodness, simply giving thanks. Enjoy a few of our pictures taken, along with a soul stirring poem by Henry David Thoreau.



Our little party, posing in the shelter of Mount Sinopah, the wavelets stirring at Two Medicine

Wilderness by Henry David Thoreau

We need the tonic of wilderness, to wade sometimes in marshes where the bittern and the meadow-hen lurk, and hear the booming of the snipe, to smell the whispering sedge where only some wilder and more solitary fowl builds her nest, and the mink crawls with its belly close to the ground. At the same time that we are explore and learn all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be infinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by us because unfathomable.

We can never have enough of nature. We must be refreshed by the site of inexhaustible vigor, vast and titanic figures, the sea-coast with its wrecks, the wilderness with its living and its decaying trees, the thundercloud, and the rain which lasts three weeks and produces freshets. We need to witness our own limits transgressed, and some life pasturing freely where we never wander.



Goodbye Radio: Hello Streaming



We are no longer broadcasting on the radio. To live stream our 10AM Sunday Worship Service on your computer go to our website: www.fpcnp.org (First Presbyterian Church North Platte) and click on "view live streaming of 10am service." The video of the service is also archived for three months.

Please contact the church office if you have any questions or concerns.

"Second Sunday = Second Purchase" of an item for the Pantry



Bring an item (or two) and put them in the grocery cart on the Second Sunday - or - leave it in the pantry box any time during the week - or - take it to the pantry at 114 C Street between 1-3pm.



Call Connie McCreery if you are willing to share your musical talent during worship this summer or if you know someone who would like to share.

Grace Ministries Food Pantry

Another busy month at Grace Ministries Food Pantry!! We've had some amazing donations, thank goodness! The Channel 10/11 Can Care-A-Van plus the USPS Mail Carriers' Food Drive brought in nearly 6,400 pounds of food the past few weeks! As always, the community support for events like these is very strong, and we are so appreciative! You only have to spend a few minutes at our Pantry to see how our customers appreciate your donations, too!



We served 115 households, or, 285 individuals in May of 2016! 43 volunteers logged 245 hours of time filling sacks, stocking shelves, keeping the books, and serving customers. We may sound like a broken record, but our volunteers are the BEST anywhere! We so appreciate their dedication and determination to make the world a better place.

I sometimes have trouble getting a grip on just how much food leaves the pantry each month. I like to picture these items lined up on tables, as when visualizing how much space that takes up, you REALLY understand that there is hunger in our area. 337 pounds of frozen meat, 699 loaves of bread, 294 boxes of cereal, 540 cans of soup, 270 boxes of macaroni and cheese, and literally thousands of other cans and boxes of food were given out in May. And that's not all. We continue to get nice donations of produce and dairy items from the Walmart Distribution Center, and these things are very much appreciated by our families.

Let's talk about gardens. Some of you may have a nice garden started, and hopefully the bunnies are leaving your green beans and green peppers alone. Do you have a surplus yet? Just a reminder that we CAN accept your garden produce as a donation! We cannot, however, accept home-canned items such as tomatoes, beans, and jellies and jams. A thought for next summer....when you plant your garden, designate one tomato plant strictly for the Pantry, and all that it yields can be given away to folks in need!

There are many ways that we can help feed the hungry in our area, and you know that you can donate food items or cash, and give of your time behind the scenes in Grace Ministries Food Pantry, or on the front line, helping our customers. But let us all tip our hats to our wonderful group of Deacons at FPC that provides a hearty and nutritious meal to HUNDREDS at the Salvation Army. Every Friday night, there is a meal offered by different entities in the community to whomever needs it at the Salvation Army, and our Deacons are at the helm 4 or 5 Fridays a year. The Deacons would appreciate our help on those Fridays, and again, you can provide a donation or don an apron and lend a hand. The Deacons are listed in your church directory, so seek one out and ask how YOU can be of service!

"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." — [Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)

- - - Leigh Henline

Summer Church Camp . . .

June and July are camping months.

♦ At **Calvin Crest** near Fremont week long opportunities are available for children and youth grades 1 thru 8. Themes include: ranch camp, mountain bike camp, high adventure, night owls.

♦ At **Highlands camp** near Allenspark, CO, camping weeks for grade 3 thru 12 include adventure camp; music, art, and drama camp; mission adventure camp.

♦ For adult and/or families there is **Synod School** on the Buena Vista campus in Storm Lake, IA. Pastors and lay persons lead sessions providing a variety of topics and activities to pursue. A planned schedule of activities includes children of all ages. All campers attend energizing worship at beginning and ending of the day.

Camperships are available through:

- ♦ our church—stop by the church office for a form.
- ♦ Presbytery—The 2016 church camp scholarship application is now available on the Presbytery website www.centralnepresby.org.



Connecting with Jesus
in an Over-Connected World

July 24–29, 2016
Buena Vista University
Storm Lake, Iowa

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Discover Synod School!
[www.lakesandprairies.org/
SynodSchool](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool)
800-328-1880, ext. 207



July 19 – 23
in Purdue, Indiana

Pray for our youth, Katie Ackerman, Jakob and Zac Ochsner who will be attending this unforgettable conference.

July 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <i>Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.</i> <small>Psalms 150:6</small>					1 6:00pm MS Friendship @ Airport	2
3  Welcome Rev. Steve Nofel 10am Worship *Live Streaming @ www.fpcnp.org	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 9:00am Mission Fellowship	6 9am "Men's Coffee Hour" at Pop Corner	7	8	9
10 10am Worship *Live Streaming @ www.fpcnp.org	11 4:00pm Finance	12 9:00am Mission Fellowship 7:00pm WAM	13 9am "Men's Coffee Hour" at Pop Corner	14	15	16
17 10am Worship *Live Streaming @ www.fpcnp.org	18 7:00pm Session	19 9:00am Mission Fellowship	20 9am "Men's Coffee Hour" at Pop Corner	21	22	23
24 10am Worship *Live Streaming @ www.fpcnp.org	25	26	27 9am "Men's Coffee Hour" at Pop Corner	28	29	30
31 10am Worship *Live Streaming @ www.fpcnp.org			 DON'T TAKE A VACATION FROM CHURCH			