

Arms of Faith

April 2024

Faith Presbyterian Church
Becky Balestri, Pastor
8100 Giles Road, La Vista, NE 68128
402-331-6944
Web page: www.faith-presbyterian.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithpresby

Dear Faithfuls,

As I write this, there are chrysalides in the sanctuary. Two weeks ago, they were small caterpillars, that grew huge. Now, they *appear* to be dead. However, we know that they are not. In a few days, butterflies will emerge. For me, butterflies are a helpful metaphor of the transforming power of our resurrecting God.

Also, as I write, John and Terri O'Brien are on their way to the southern hemisphere. They will be visiting both Australia and New Zealand, and they will be there for Easter. As spring is starting here in Nebraska, autumn is emerging 'down under.' We are so accustomed to celebrating the new life of the resurrection in the spring, when all around us new life is blossoming, I wonder how the Aussies celebrate Easter with the death of winter approaching.

This is the season of Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead. I believe in the 'big' resurrection after death; I also believe that there are 'little' resurrections in life, and the butterflies keep me mindful of this. Celebrating Easter even as fall approaches might be the more powerful reminder of the little resurrections of life – that when things have been a struggle, and newness unfolds, that's resurrection.

When that brother of yours, who has just been consistently mean to you, takes a turn and shows compassion, that's a little resurrection. When the child who has struggled and struggled in school, finally gets the teacher that makes a difference, that's a little resurrection. When you've been experiencing too much pain, and also doing your physical therapy exercises, and finally, the pain is gone, that's a little resurrection.

I invite you, during these 50 days of Easter, to pay attention. Pay attention to the little resurrections in your life. Pay attention to new life unfolding in some way. Pay attention to the flowers blooming and the grass growing, and the caterpillars becoming butterflies. And, then, give thanks to our resurrecting God.

Peace,
Becky

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#.

Session Highlights

Your elders started their session meeting in the sanctuary, praying the prayers on the prayer walls. We then moved to the Fellowship Hall for the rest of the meeting.

Doug Bogenhagen and Tracy Kristensen shared their experience of being at the Youth for Christ dinner/fundraiser. They raved about the presentations and how impressed they are with this ministry.

The elders took the following actions:

Created a covenant for our meetings together (ask an elder about this!)

Elected **Doug Bogenhagen** as commissioner to the next Presbytery meeting; **Tracy Kristensen** is the alternate, should Doug be out of town

Approved using up to \$5,000 of memorial funds to refurbish Room 1

Our clerk, **Joe Seda**, shared that he had attended a webinar on "Record Preservation and Digitation." He found it interesting, and noted that we will continue to keep paper copies of all our records. (Ask Joe about the irony of digitizing our records, and the cost.)

The Session is grateful for the faithful giving of this congregation! As of the end of February, pledged giving is at 128% of what was pledged. Wow!

This year, we are living into our Lifework of *sharing Christ's love; spreading Christ's Word; caring for others*. As we make decisions, let our lifework guide those decisions.

Transitions Group

When a family member's memory starts to change and decline, it is a challenge for the people around them. If you are in this situation, Faith Church is here for you. A small group of members and friends meets monthly, all of whom have a family member with some form of dementia. We share our experiences. We listen. We comfort and console, and we even give a little advice.

If there is a member of your family that is transitioning to the next stage of life, a time when their memory isn't good, you are invited to be part of this group on the third Friday of every month, at 10:00 am in Room 1— the room with comfy chairs. Coffee is always served.

Questions? Please call Becky Balestri at 402-709-0568.

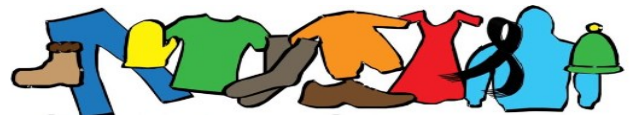
Clothing Give Away Update

"Ask and you will receive". Thanks so much to everyone who has donated items for the give away. Thank your neighbors, friends, etc, for us. Without everyone's support we would not be able to continue this ministry.

The next give away is April 20. We will be sorting on March 27, April 10, April 24, and May 15 from 9:00-11:00.

Thanks again for all your support.

John and Terri O'Brien
and the Mission and Evangelism Team



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 from our Helping Hands Team, contact the church office or Doug Bogenhagen at 402-630-8487.

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

Topic Saturday

Please come to the Village Inn at 72nd and Giles on Saturday, April 27, at 10:30 am for **Topic Saturday**. The March conversation on traditions and idols was very engaging. The topic for April will be Diversity. Yes, we're going to be bold and discuss diversity in the church, and we'll probably add unity to the conversation.

Questions? Please call/email Becky Balestri at bkillion@hotmail.com or 402-709-0568.



The next Fun & Lunch will be
April 5th at 12:00 pm

First Watch

304 Olson Drive, Papillion
(Southeast side of Hwy #370 and 84th Street)

If you haven't
attended yet, consider participating in a fun filled
lunch time.

Anyone of any age is invited to join us.

Sign up at church by April 3rd or contact Sharon
Fleming at 402-709-2103 or sfleming43@aol.com
for your reservation or if you need a ride.

Presbyterian Women

We invite all women of Faith to
join Presbyterian Women on the
3rd Tuesday of each month
January through May at 1:30
pm for Bible Study. We are
using Shannon Bream's book
*The Love Stories of the Bible
Speak*. The book includes
Biblical lessons on romance,
friendship, and faith. If you
would like to attend, please
contact the church office or
Debbie Kippley at
drdbk@aol.com.

DID YOU KNOW-

*Faith Church has a storage
closet with medical equipment
that worshippers can
borrow.*



*Included are several
walkers, one with a
seat, wheelchairs,
canes, and crutches.*

*If you are in need of any of
these things, contact the church
office.*

Volunteers of the Day



On a rainy day in March,
grandparents, parents and
children colored spring and
Easter pictures. They are
adorning the posts in the
hallway. A big thank you to
Daisy and Layla Augustus,
Ranae Overton's
granddaughters. They both
colored beautiful pictures and
helped their grandma post all
the pictures.

On January 19th I fell and broke my
right hip and haven't been able to be at
Church, as you know. I have been very
blessed by all the prayers that have
been offered for my recovery. And, I
want to sincerely thank those who have
sent cards of encouragement, the beau-
tiful flowers, candy, and gifts. Your
love and generosity are overwhelm-
ing! A special thanks to Pastor Becky
for her numerous visits and words of
encouragement when I needed them
most. Thanks also to those who came to
visit me. I am recovering nicely and
hope to be back to Faith Church soon.

Mary Ann Stevens

Your Session

Clerk of Session - Joe Seda	
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

Sightings

Thank you to **Debbie Ziegler, Ruth Tresemer** and **Judi Crick**. They have an eye for what is attractive for banners in the sanctuary. Please note the Easter banners now in the sanctuary.

Faith Church hosted Crossroads Connection on March 3. Thank you to **Terri O'Brien** for her crockpot lasagna recipe, and to **Janice Miner, Chuck Shafer, John O'Brien** and **Bill Neubert** for serving that great meal! Also, **Al Zimmerman, Lynda Shafer,** and **Phyllis Wennstedt** were there to enjoy eating with the ex-offenders and welcoming them. **Debbie Kippley** and **Peter Svoboda** 'wrangled' the puppet team who shared a great song during the worship service. Faith Church is fulfilling Jesus' command in Matthew 25 to visit the imprisoned!

Doug and Tammy Bogenhagen, Matt Ziegler and **Tracy Kristensen** attended the Youth for Christ "Be the Story" event on March 3. Thank you for supporting this ministry, and representing Faith Church!

The Roar of Love

On May 5, the puppet team will offer a presentation based on C.S. Lewis' The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Lewis wrote The Chronicles of Narnia about the time J.R.R. Tolkien wrote The Lord of the Rings. Both authors wrote Christian truths in these novels about these lands of fantasy. The puppet dialogue will be accompanied by songs from one of the early contemporary Christian groups, The Second Chapter of Acts. Their 1978 album The Roar of Love creatively retells the story



of Lewis' The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. This will be the puppet team's most ambitious presentation that creatively retells the love, death, and resurrection of Christ, and the redemption he offers us. Please invite friends and grandchildren to worship on May 5.



Apr 2 Ranae Overton
Apr 3 Ben Jamieson
Apr 3 Steve Harmsen
Apr 6 Rob Crick
Apr 9 Anna Howard
Apr 17 Ginny McKulsky
Apr 17 Peter Svoboda
Apr 19 Debbie Kippley
Apr 19 Barb Rooker
Apr 21 John O'Brien
Apr 22 John Davey

What's the Legacy Fund, You Ask?

The Legacy Fund is similar to an endowment, without all the restrictions of an endowment fund. The Session approved this fund for the purpose of providing long-term financial stability for the church, while also providing funds to further the work of Jesus Christ. The Legacy Fund is accounted for separately from the regular operations of our church. The Fund was established by using \$20,000 of memorial funds, and by a \$10,000 anonymous gift, specified for the Legacy Fund.

Only the income from the Fund (interest and dividends) will be used for the above cited projects. This fund is being managed by our Finance Team, who will make recommendations to Session for any disbursements of income.

As noted above, we have already received a gift to the Legacy Fund. If you would also like to make a gift, or include the Legacy Fund in your will, please talk with Peter Svoboda or Becky Balestri.

We are grateful for the diligence of the Finance Team in making this Fund possible, and to the givers of this fund.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am	1 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">OFFICE CLOSED</div> 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Capella Group	2 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	3 7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercises 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	4 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC Team Meetings 4:00pm Worship mtg 5:00 pm Fellowship 5:45 pm Discipleship 7:00 pm Facilities - FH	5 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch	6 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group - FH
7 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	8 5:45 pm Book club 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Capella Group	9 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	10 7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 9:00 am Clothes sorting 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercises 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	11 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC 7:00pm Support Meeting	12 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue	13 8:00am Men's Breakfast 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group - FH
14 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	15 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Capella Group	16 1:00 pm PW meeting 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	17 7:00 am Campus Life - FLC 9:00 am Clothes sorting 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercises 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	18 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC 7:00pm Session meeting	19 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue 10:00 am Transitions Group	20 9:00 am Clothing Giveaway 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group
21 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	22 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Capella Group	23 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	24 7:00 am Campus Life 9:00 am Clothes Sorting 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercises 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 9:00 am	25 1:00 pm Pickleball 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	26 8:30 am Donuts & Dialogue	27 1:00pm Omaha Christian Social Group - FH
28 1:30 pm Volleyball 2:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal 5:00 pm Table Tennis - FLC	29 6:30 pm Pickleball 6:30 pm A Capella Group	30 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	31 7:00 am Campus Life 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 11:00 am Chair Exercises 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	