

Presbyterian Parables

June / July 2018

First Presbyterian Church
Lexington, Nebraska

Volume 18,
Issue 6/7

SUMMER FOOD BOXES!

The Giving Team of First Presbyterian Church is partnering with First United Methodist Church and inviting you to be a part of feeding children and families this summer! We have previously supported Thanksgiving Baskets in November, but with the addition of the Y's "Turkey Trot", the team reimagined the timing and mission of this project. They decided to help fill the gap for families during the summer when kids no longer have access food at school.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ◆ **Financial Donations** to the Food boxes: place your donations in the Offering Plate marked "Food Boxes" or to the church office by *July 15*. Money to be used to buy fresh fruit, ham, bread, milk vouchers and veggies.
- ◆ **Food donations delivered to church by July 15**—please place your food items in the grocery cart in the narthex
- ◆ **Help put together the baskets** Friday, July 21 at FUMC

Food Donations Requested

- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Canned Fruit individual servings with pull tab top
- Dried Beans
- Rice
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Boxes or bags of cereal
- Large Marshmallows
- Graham Crackers
- Hershey Chocolate Bars
- Bagged (already popped) popcorn
-



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CAMPFIRE GATHERINGS

PLEASE JOIN Us Wednesday evening, June 27, in our church courtyard for another Campfire Gathering at 7:00pm. This will be a casual evening of singing and fun, along with folks from the Methodist Church. Bring your own lawn chairs if you have them and join us for this relaxed community outreach.





First Presbyterian Church

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Lexington NE 68850

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Website:

www.lexpresbyterian.com

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First Presbyterian Church of Lexington

Summer Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. - Coffee/Fellowship

9:30 a.m. - Children's Mini-Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Worship/nursery provided

11:00 a.m. - Coffee

Church Staff

Teaching Elder: Pastor Eddie Mariel

Hostess: Linda Anthony

Financial Secretary: Julie Rickertsen

Office Manager: Alice Screws

Joy Ringers Director, Chancel Choir

Director, and Music Coordinator: Holly Rickertsen

Ruling Elders

Dale Biehl	Mary Reed
Robert Copper	Curt Rickertsen
Ed Heusinkvelt	Beth Rogers
Da'Lacy Lans	Tempie Roberts
Steve Luther	

Clerk of Session: Gene Nansel

Deacons

Linda Anthony	Tom Musil
Dorothy Bremer	Carol Nelson
Jonelle Lans	Pat Sherman
LaDonna McClure	Julie Rickertsen
Larry Moomey	Sharon Steinberger
Rhea Musil	Carol Stock

Serving in July

Head Ushers: Dave and Alisa Margritz

Greeters: Carol Nelson and Helen Young

Offering Counters: Bruce Rickertsen and a Properties Volunteer

Lay Leaders:

July 1 – Sharon Steinberger

July 8 – Dwayne Margritz

July 15 – Mary Reed

July 22 – Don Anthony

July 29 – Darlene Malcom

Nursery Volunteers:

July 1 – Quentin Carlson

July 8 – Jordan Lans

July 15 – Isabella Carlson

July 22 – Abbie Owens

July 29 – Kamryn Pike

***** Lay Leaders: If you switch Sundays with another Lay Leader, please let the church office know by Thursday noon of that week so that the Lay Leader can be listed correctly in the Sunday bulletin.**

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Endowment/Gifts – July 17, 5:30 p.m.

Properties Team – July 16, 7:00 p.m.

Giving Team – August 6, 7:00 p.m.

Faith Team – August 7, 6:30 p.m.

Welcoming Team – August 16, 6:15 p.m.

Personnel Team – August 21, 5:45 p.m.

Session – August 21, 7:30 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS!



-CONGRATULATIONS to Lindsay (Steinberger) and Christopher Whitney who were married in Omaha on May 12. Lindsay is the daughter of Larry and Sharon Steinberger.

SYMPATHY



-OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS are with Jo Sherman and family on the death of Dale Sherman.

-OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS are with Yvonne Rickertsen on the death of her mother, Jessie Meyer.



EXERPTS FROM EDDIE

Greetings Friends,

In light of recent events, I wanted to take this opportunity to review and go over basic tenets of biblical interpretation; agreed upon practices in the academy, which translates to the pulpit and public sphere, so that God's holy and authoritative word to us can be responsibly studied and communicated. This branch of study is called *hermeneutics*. *Of course, even with solid, agreed upon hermeneutical standards, scripture can still be used and abused to advocate ideas that, upon responsible hermeneutical study, end being non-biblical and anti-God. We have seen this throughout history. The Bible was used to advocate for the crusades which resulted in the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of Muslim people. The Bible was used to advocate the Spanish Inquisition which resulted in the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of non-Catholic people. The Bible was used to advocate slavery and the subjugation of African American persons in the United States, an issue which split our own Presbyterian denomination until our reconciliation in 1983, which resulted in the death of millions of African American people and continues to have multiple deleterious effects upon African American communities that persist to today. The Bible was used to advocate the rounding up and persecution of Jewish persons by Nazi Germany which resulted in the extermination of millions of Jewish people. As God fearing Christians, who love God and love one another, and who respect the authority of the Bible, it is our duty to be responsible in our interpretation thereof. We pursue responsible hermeneutics while bearing in mind Jesus' warning to us; "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea." (Matthew 18:6; see also, Mark 9:42 and Luke 17:2) What follows is an overview and summary of key notes I took from my biblical hermeneutics class while attending Fuller Theological Seminary. The class was taught by Dr. Love Sechrest. Dr. Sechrest is a renowned New Testament scholar who is well respected in her field.*

Exegesis (hermeneutics/interpretation) is both an art and science. The artistry comes from unpredictable results. The Bible is a living document. Though the canon is closed, because the Holy Spirit is alive and active in the lives of people who read the Bible, the Bible itself is also alive as people engage with it. "One may study the Scriptures to understand them in their literary forms and in their historical and cultural contexts in order to hear and Word of God more clearly and to obey more faithfully." (W-5.3002b, *Book of Order*) *The Bible itself is fully divinely inspired, God's word to us, while being communicated by human artistic means including various literary genres. Therefore, we need to include literary methods in our hermeneutical methods such as word studies, intertextuality and narrative criticism. The background of the interpreter/reader also adds to the artistry of exegesis. The science comes from the critical lenses we apply to scripture as informed by other disciplines and resources of the academy. These ensure more predictable results and include such things as taking close looks at grammar, syntax, and historical conditions. Much of this work has been for us already through the vigorous and thorough work of Bible translation committees thereby providing us with the myriad of interpretations available to us today. Further, there are different emphases which allow for a more comprehensive picture of what the Bible is saying to us today. Some emphasize the writer of the text. In this approach, the reader attempts to see behind the text in discerning if there is a single meaning in the text or multiple, nuanced meanings. Further, what might the author's intent be? And, what is the historical context of the author as he is writing? Some emphasize the text itself. In this approach, the reader attempts to take the text at face value while keeping in mind that the text is literature and therefore utilizing all appropriate literary tools and devices to understand the literary nature of the text. Finally, some others emphasize their own modern day context. In this approach, the reader pays special attention to how modern readers of Scripture encounter the text. We all carry some bias with us into our reading of scripture based on our own situations, cultures, ideologies, etc. While I would love to say that there is one definitive process thereby making things definitively and proverbially "black and white", there simply isn't, hence my earlier, and continued, language of responsible hermeneutics/interpretation.*

So what does the actual interpretive process look like when done in a responsible manner? First, we want to attend to the history of the text for study. This includes questions like, who wrote it and to whom, if applicable? What is it about? When was it written? Where was it written? The genre of the text would also be included in this portion of study. Next, we want to attend to the details in the text. What world does the text create? What did the implied author(s) intend to communicate (to the best of our understanding)? What did the first hearers hear? After that, we want to attend to the

(continued on page 6)



Birthday Club

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.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

-SOUTHSIDE BIBLE STUDY is done for the summer.

FAITH CIRCLE will meet on June 28, 2018. Hostess is Carol Stock. Linda Anthony has the lesson.

The July meeting will be July 26. Hostess is Joyce Olsen, Marilyn Biehl has the lesson.



LOGOS

LOGOS is all done for this session and will resume in the Fall after school starts. Have a wonderful and safe summer everyone!!



THANK YOU NOTES

-THANK YOU to all those who volunteered to delivered MOW's for the church April 23-27. Our local home-bound residents appreciate this service. Those who helped deliver the hot meals were: Doran and Pat Post, Dorothy Woodside, Pat Sherman, Carol Nelson, Marlene and Morry DeLap, Karla Denker, and Beth Rogers. Thanks a lot everyone.

-THANK YOU to all my church family for your condolences, cards, food, and memorials, during this very difficult time in the loss of my daughter, Julie. Special thanks to Pastor Eddie for the beautiful service, and to Deacons Marlene DeLap, Vicki Davis, Dorothy Bremer and Carol Nelson for the food and special care. You are all appreciated more than I can say. — Alice Screws, James Screws and family, and Dan Screws



-TO OUR CHURCH FRIENDS: Thank you so much for the love, friendship, and support shown to us during this difficult time. We appreciated the delicious food, paper supplies, visits, phone calls, and general outpouring of support. This church has been a family to us for many years. Words cannot express how much your kindness and thoughtfulness has meant to us. — The family of Dale Sherman—Jo Sherman, Ken & Janet Sherman & family, Tim & Shannon Sherman & family, Tom & Cindy Goodman & family.

-A BIG THANK YOU to my church family who helped make my 80th birthday a special one with their cards and also their presence at the party on May 26th. You are much appreciated! — Dwayne Margritz



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Once every six weeks we spend a week helping folks get a good hot noon meal, delivered with a friendly face and a smile! Thank you to the following people who helped deliver Meals-On-Wheels in April: THANK YOU to the couples who delivered MOW's for the church this week, Tom and Rhea Musil, Dick and Liz Sanderman, Larry and Sharon Steinberger. **Our next MOW's delivery will be July 30 - Aug. 4.** If you are able to volunteer, please Contact Sharon Steinberger at 324-2060



LOOSE OFFERINGS

Loose Offerings during the month of July go to the Backpack/School Supplies program for kids.



GROCERY CART

The grocery cart is in the narthex ready for your non-perishable food items for the Lexington Food Pantry. The Lexington Food Pantry serves many people in need. **Holly Rickertsen took a considerable load of food from the contributions at Vacation Bible School.** The local Food Pantry shelves are always in need of your donations.

UP NEXT

SERVICE COMMITTEE GROUP A

SERVICE COMMITTEE GROUP A



Co-Chairs: Marlene DeLap 324-4263
 Janice Lans 324-5147
 Tempie Roberts 324-4191

Linda Barton (contact Dorothy W.)	Sally Margritz	324-2730
Tracy Biehl 324-2125	Julie Kearney Mohnsen	746-0461
Linda Blackman 308-455-3140	Chris Mueller	324-2250
Geraldine Bricker 324-3323	Boni Muzzey	324-5414
Sharon Booth 324-6949	Betty Nelson	324-4133
Brenda Colvin 324-5389	Amy Biehl-Owens	325-0400
Kay Denker 324-4393	Kristen Psota	746-1046
Nancy Evans 324-6056	Beth Rogers	324-6892
Loretta Falkinburg 324-5140	Julie Rickertsen	324-2825
Teri Gould 324-2226	Joan Rupke	324-4144
Donna Holbein 324-3387	Sarah Taylor	324-6996
Katie Kearney 325-5419	Dorothy Woodside	324-4721
Paula Kearney 325-7062	* Jan Blevins	
Penny Knapp 325-1254	* Geraldine Jorn	
Jonelle Lans 324-4508	* Lois Karr	
Gail Magnuson 324-3746	*Helen Young	



(continued from *Exerpts from Eddie—page 2*)

significance of the text for study today. What do our various communities hear (trying to put ourselves in others people's shoes)? We attempt to identify modern analogies for the ancient situations presented in the text. And then we ask the question, how can the community "perform" the message of the text? Finally, we want to be sure to consider context, working outward from the direct text for study, to surrounding text, the entire book in question, other biblical books in the same genre, to the testament in question and finally to the entirety of Scripture. Individual texts do not exist in a bubble separate from the rest of the Bible hence the reason so-called "proof texting" is *so dangerous and lends itself some of the abuses mentioned earlier.*

Finally friends, for your further edification, some of Dr. Sechrest's principles of exegesis. Suspend judgment while you gather observations. It is OK and even highly commended to ask questions! Questions about genre, form and structure. Questions about context; literary, historical, cultural. And, as mentioned above always bear in the mind the theological diversity of the canon even as it is one comprehensive message expressed in a myriad of ways and in a myriad of contexts.

I sincerely hope this has been helpful even if it was a bit dense and academic at times. Please feel free to reach out if you'd like to talk more about these types of issues especially during these trying times. Grace and peace to you all.

In His Service,
Pastor Eddie



-FREE HEALTHCARE CLINIC - Plans are being developed to establish a free health care clinic here in Dawson County. A free clinic is a health care community safety net that is established, operated, and maintained for the purpose of providing primary care to uninsured members of our community. We seek your input in shaping a vision for a sustainable and holistic approach to providing healthcare to low-income, uninsured members of our community residents of Dawson County.

We would love you to be involved in volunteering your gifts and skills to the realization of this project. To see how you can help, information sheets are available from the table in the narthex, or visit with Pastor Eddie.



Notes From the May 22, 2018 Session Meeting

Communion:

March 29, 2018, Maundy Thursday, 47 served, Rev. Berke Landrum officiated

April 8, 2018, 85 (estimated served), Rev. Eldin Wells officiated

Deaths:

Gordon Rimpley died March 19, 2018. Memorial services were held at Lexington First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March, 24, 2018. Pastor Eddie Mariel officiated.

Judy Moomey died March 28, 2018. Memorial services were held at Lexington First Presbyterian Church on Monday, April 2, 2018. Pastor Eddie Mariel officiated.

Phyllis Loree Mueller died March 29, 2018. Funeral services were held at Lexington First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, April 4, 2018. Pastor Eddie Mariel officiated.

Peg Michael died April 20, 2018. Funeral services were held at Reynolds-Love Funeral Home. Pastor Eddie Mariel officiated.

Previous membership-----267

Current membership-----263

Julie Anne Screws (friend of the church) died April 30, 2018 in Kearney, Nebraska. A memorial service was held May 7, 2018, at Reynolds-Love Funeral Home. Pastor Eddie Mariel officiated.

Marriages: Lindsay Steinberger and Christopher Whitney were married in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 12, 2018.

Current balances are:

Balance brought forward 01/01/18	\$ 8,663.44
Receipts	79,801.77
Disbursements	90,701.43
Transfers to general fund	10,000.00
Transfers to money market	0.00
Balance as of 05/22/18	7,763.78
Balance of money market fund 05/22/18	\$ 41,548.12

Session approved the following committee recommendations:

- **Properties Committee:** To pursue completion of the roof project with Ed Loupin authorizing him to purchase the shakes needed for installation in the spring or summer of 2019. No payments will be necessary till the start of the project.
- **Faith Team:** Do a pulpit swap with the Lexington Methodist Church on June 3rd, July 29th, and August 12th.

Pastor Eddie lead Session in discussing the following questions:

Who are we now?

As it stands now, who are becoming?

The discussion will continue and Session is asked to make more comments.

Session approved changing the date for the next meeting to June 19, 2018.



Notes From the June 19, 2018 Session Meeting

Dale Sherman, died May 24, 2018, in Kearney, Nebraska. Funeral services were held at First Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Nebraska on Tuesday, May 29, 2018. Pastor Eddie Mariel officiated.

Previous membership-----263

Current membership-----262

Current balances are:

Balance brought forward 01/01/18	8,663.44
Receipts	91,561.86
Disbursements	110,385.41
Transfers to general fund	15,000.00
Transfers to money market	0.00
Balance as of 06/19/18	4,839.89
Balance of money market fund 06/19/18 \$	36,548.12

Committee Recommendations:

Personnel Team:

To create a new paid church position called "Director of Worship Ministries". Position will be salaried based on 10 hours per week @\$12.00 per hour. The position is to average 10 hours per week, not to exceed 500 hours per year. The position will be offered to Holly Rickertsen and will consolidate all of her current positions for which she paid hourly. Session approved the recommendation.

Session appointed Curt Rickertsen to be the Presbyter at the June 30, 2018 Presbytery meeting in Minden. Mary Reed agreed to be a substitute if needed.

Session approved changing the date for the next meeting to August 21, 2018.




No July meeting is planned.



July 2018

Monthly Planner



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																		
1 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Children's' Mini Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee	2 9:00 AM Office Staff Meeting	3	4 Church Office Closed 	5	6 Pastor's Day Off	7																																																																																																		
8 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Children's' Mini Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee	9 9:00 AM Office Staff Meeting	10	11	12	13 Pastor's Day Off	14																																																																																																		
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22 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Children's' Mini Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee	23 9:00 AM Office Staff Meeting	24 7:30 PM Session	25 7:00 PM Campfire Gathering - Church Courtyard 	26 9:00 AM Faith Circle - Joyce Olsen, hostess	27 Pastor's Day Off	28																																																																																																		
29 9:00 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Children's' Mini Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee	30 9:00 AM Office Staff Meeting	31	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Jun 2018</th> <th colspan="7">Aug 2018</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Jun 2018							Aug 2018							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2				1	2	3	4	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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