



PRESBYTERIAN PARABLES

July/August 2022

First Presbyterian Church



Volume 23

Issue 7

EXCERPTS FROM EDDIE

Greetings church,

As we continue to contemplate the theme of “You Are Welcome” here, I invite you to consider the following:

One of the spoken concerns of the congregation related to me during my interviewing process by the Pastoral Nominating Committee is that this church is dying. Clearly today, though mostly unspoken, this remains a concern of the congregation. “How does Pastor Eddie know?”, you may be asking yourself. I know because the opposite of dying is living and currently, there is a minority of the congregation who are living. This Excerpt from Eddie is a little proverbial tough love.

On Friday, July 1, after a loving, fun-filled, energetic week of Vacation Bible School, we hosted a celebration dinner with hot dogs, tacos and fireworks to which the VBS kids and their families were invited. And they came! We also were intentional about inviting the congregation to this celebration dinner so as to make these potential new members feel welcome. WHERE WERE YOU CONGREGATION?

Similarly, we hosted an UNO Game Night on Wednesday, July 6. The goal behind this was to do something fun and lively to remind ourselves that we are alive, and not dying, and to even invite some friends to. The nine (9) people who did attend, the Congregational Care Committee who put it on and the pastor’s family, did have fun! We were reminded we are quite alive! This was another opportunity to be alive and to welcome people through invitation. WHERE WERE YOU CONGREGATION?

Now, if VBS Celebration Dinners and playing UNO is not particularly fun for you; not something that would make you feel alive nor something that would incline you to invite people and make them feel welcome, then PLEASE, reach out to any member of Session. Tell them what activities the church could do that would help you feel alive and vibrant. Tell them what activities you would be excited to invite friends and family to so that those friends and family could feel and know that they are welcome here.

This is something that we all have to work towards, together. The work is not done my friends. The work is just beginning.

In His Service,

Pastor Eddie



First Presbyterian Church

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday

10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

12:30—2:30 p.m.

CHURCH STAFF

Teaching Elder—Rev. Eddie Mariel

Dir of Worship Ministries—Holly Rickertsen

Hostess—Linda Anthony

Office Manager—Sarah Mariel

Bookkeeper—Kimmy Schuster

RULING ELDERS

Dr. Fran Carlson

Allan McClure

Jeanne Burns

Kristin Psota

Sally Heusinkvelt

Bruce Rickertsen

Dian Lauby

Dan Roberts

Allison Luther

Clerk of Session: Don Anthony

DEACONS

Judy Biehl

Rhea Musil

Dorothy Bremer

Tom Musil

Loretta Falkinburg

Carol Nelson

Steve Falkinburg

Tempie Roberts

Chuck Malcom

Jo Sherman

Darlene Malcom

Sharon Steinberger

LaDonna McClure

SERVING IN JULY/AUGUST

Ushers: Ed & Sally Heusinkvelt & Linda Lauby & Bliven Family

Greeters: Linda Lauby (July) & Burns Family (August)

Offering Counters: Fred Nisley & a member of Properties

Lay Leaders:

July 24: Dennis Biehl

July 31: Andrea Nisley

August 7: Bruce Rickertsen

August 14: Mary Reed

August 21: Lorelai Rickertsen

August 28: Jonelle Lans

Loose Offerings during the month of July goes to:

Backpack Program

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Mission/Outreach Committee — August 1st, 7:00 p.m.

Faith Committee — August 2nd, 7:00 p.m.

Congregational Care Committee — August 18th, 6:00 p.m.

Properties Committee — August 15th, 7:00 p.m.

Personnel Committee — August 16th, 6:30 p.m.

Session — August 23rd, 7:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

-SOUTHSIDE BIBLE cancelled until further notice

-FAITH CIRCLE meets July 28th at 9:30 am. Joyce Olsen is Hostess.

-MARTHA CIRCLE does not meet in July.

SERVICE COMMITTEE UP NEXT:

GROUP B



June 28, 2022 Session Meeting

First Presbyterian Church Lexington, NE

Regular Session Meeting Location: Conference Room

Date: June 28, 2022 Time: 7:00pm

Moderator: Rev. Eddie Mariel

Elders Present: Dan Roberts, Allison Luther, Sally Heusinkvelt, Allan McClure , Jeanne Burns (by phone), Dr. Fran Carlson, Kristin Psota and Bruce Rickertsen.

Elders Excused: Dian Lauby Elders Absent: None Others: None

Prayer and Devotions: Sally Heusinkvelt

Motion to appoint Bruce Rickertsen clerk for this meeting. Seconded. Passed.

Minutes: Minutes of the May 24, 2022 Regular Session Meeting. Approved as presented.

Clerk's Report:

Communion: 6/5/2022—49

Marriage:

Births:

Deaths:

Transfers:

Removal:

Total Membership: 221

Treasures Report: Received as presented

Pastors Report: Received as resented

Faith Team: Recommendation: Rally Day September 11. Motion passed.

Mission: Recommendation to recognize current and past teachers August 21. Motion passed.

Properties: No action

Endowment and Gifts: No action

Congregational Care: No action

Personnel: No action

Deacons: (quarterly)

New Business:

- Discussion About our upcoming 150 th Anniversary. Will discuss more at our August meeting.

Communion servers for July 3 will be Kristin, Fran, Jeanne and Dan

Communion servers for August 7 will be Sally and Bruce

Next meeting: August 23, 2022 @7:00 pm. Devotions next meeting: Dian Lauby. Adjourned with prayer by Pastor Mariel.

Respectfully submitted: Bruce Rickertsen acting clerk for Don Anthony

**New York City on
NOTHING
By
Brad Olsen**

Brad Olsen, son of Chuck and Joyce, has written a very interesting book recounting the experiences of several young men who were sent to New York City with no money or extra clothing. This principle is based on Matthew 10:9-10.

The National Student Leadership Forum is the organization which trains young Christian men to develop a deeper understanding of the work Jesus commanded his followers to do.

Davis Bunn, an international bestselling author, wrote, "Brad Olen's remarkable book gives voice to some of these young people and in the process grants us a chance to grow along with them. A moving and illumination read."

Dr. Robin Welsh, mother of intern John Welsh, gives her thoughts from a mother's viewpoint, "When I first heard about the New York City experience, I was filled with anxiety and dread. I was only able to sleep that week because I had faith that God would protect my son, and I trusted the mentors had prepared him. I also knew my son was wise and resourceful. However, it was still terrifying, and it was the coldest week of the year!...He continues to say to this day that his trip to NYC is the closest he has felt to God. He was totally dependent on Him for everything."

All of the young men were told that they could not bring any food, or cash or extra clothes, however they were given a credit card and a cell phone for emergencies only.

Noel Stringham and Wilkes Brown were two interns who went in October, 2007. Noel, a University of Nebraska graduate, and Wilkes, from the deep south, were paired together, but their relationship started off quite shaky. Wilkes said of Noel, "He was a martyr. He hit everyone of my insecurities. He was smart and intellectual. I was not."

Noel mentioned that he believed that the Lord was going to put them together, and that the trip would be, "An education learning how to love each other."

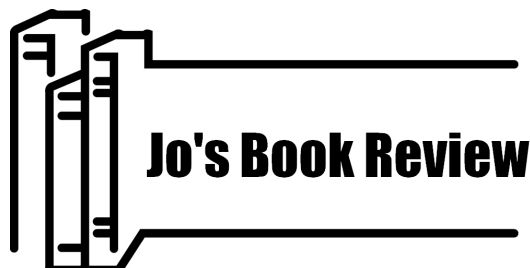
They found a church which would allow them to sleep there each night, but finding food wasn't as easy. They found work in a nearby church's soup kitchen, thinking they would be fed also. They were given 3 oranges at the end of their shift! They enjoyed them very much.

The next days they were given enough food to survive. Wilkes later said that his purpose in going was, "I was there to learn how to love a brother and to find a friend who would last the rest of my life."

JB Jenkins and Ben Hunolt were two of six young men who visited in March, 2010. These men had heard crazy stories from others who had gone before them, and were anxious to add their own adventures to the history of the group. As they got nearer, they became a bit anxious, but were befriended by a bishop and deacon from the church called, Church of the Heavenly Rest.

Brad tells us that, "One day the young men walked more than two hundred blocks during their endeavors. Another day they visited a Bible study at a church. Among other things, the two tried to serve whenever it was possible."

I enjoyed reading this book given to our church library by Brad Olsen, and I hope you will also.



CHURCH NEWS

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF JUNE 1ST

Operating Receipts — \$79,299.06

Operating Expenses — \$71,256.08

Surplus (deficit) — \$8,042.98

Roof Loan Balance — \$33,195.17

Payments Remaining this Year — \$7,004.27

Current Roof Fund Balance — \$8,303.49

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Upper LOGOS students are invited to a dessert and movie night at the Mariel's on July 27th from 6pm-8pm.




HAPPENING NOW!

First Presbyterian Church
presents...

Theology *on Tap*

Hosted by:




Sundays at the Canyon Lakes Brewing Company
June 26th to August 14th
at 7:00 pm

We will be reading, studying and discussing "The Wounded Healer" by Henri J.M. Nouwen. Nouwen will help us explore how, in our own woundedness, we can become a source of life for others.

In preparation for our first session, please read the Introduction and Chapter 1, Part 1—approximately 14 pages.

For more information or to reserve your spot—
please contact First Presbyterian Church
Phone: 308-324-5507
Email: firstchurchlex@gmail.com



We have transitioned to digital form for the monthly newsletter. You will be able to receive the newsletter on the website or have it delivered by email. If you do not receive it by email and wish to, please email us at firstchurchlex@gmail.com. If you are currently getting the newsletter mailed to you and wish to continue to receive it by mail, email us or call us to let us know. Thank you.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pastor's Day Off 7:00 pm—Mission & Outreach 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	2 9:00 am—Office Staff Meeting 7:00 pm—Faith Committee 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	3	4 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	5	6
7 9:00 am—Coffee/Fellowship Hour 10:00 am—Worship	8 Pastor's Day Off 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	9 9:00 am—Office Staff Meeting 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	10	11 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	12	13
14 9:00 am—Coffee/Fellowship Hour 10:00 am—Worship	15 Pastor's Day Off 7:00 pm—Properties Committee 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	16 9:00 am—Office Staff Meeting 6:30 pm—Personnel Committee 7:00 pm—Mid Platte	17	18 6:00 pm—Congregational Care Committee 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	19	20
21 9:00 am—Coffee/Fellowship Hour 10:00 am—Worship	22 Pastor's Day Off 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	23 9:00 am—Office Staff Meeting 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	24 6:00 pm—Upper LOGOS at the Mariel's	25 9:30 am—Faith Circle 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	26	27
28 9:00 am—Coffee/Fellowship Hour 10:00 am—Worship	29 Pastor's Day Off 11:00 am—Knitting 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	30 9:00 am—Office Staff Meeting 7:00 pm—Session 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo	31			