



PRESBYTERIAN PARABLES

May 2022

First Presbyterian Church



Volume 22,
Issue 5

EXCERPTS FROM EDDIE

Greetings church,

Here is an invitation to sit with the ruminations and wonderings of Father Richard Rohr. As we celebrate the mystery and wonder of the Risen Lord we must pause and take time to reflect, for ourselves, what the Lordship of Jesus means in each one of our personal lives; and in our collective life as a community. If Jesus is Lord, and we are for Jesus, then perhaps the follow up question is *not* “who are we against?” but rather “who does being for Jesus make us for in our day to day lives?” In other words, how do we continue and maintain the proactive work and mission of Jesus?

“SOMETHING IS REEMERGING”

“We know from cultural studies and historical experience that groups define themselves and even hold themselves together largely negatively - by who they are *not*, what they are *against*, and what they do *not* do. We need a problem or an enemy to gather our energies. We usually define ourselves through various purity codes to separate ourselves from the ‘impure’ and the presumably unworthy. Simple worship (what we are *for*, or in *support* of, and what we *love*) is much harder to sustain. Thus, most reformation and revolutions need someone else to be wrong much more than they need any discovery of a higher level of consciousness themselves.

Thus, Jesus never affirmed opposition or contrariness, because he knew that it was merely a same-level or lower-level response to the problem (even when empowered by some new and good ideas). The new group was infected by the same hubris and oppositional energy, and would soon engender the same kind of reformation. Thus, the endless progressive-conservative pendulum continues to swing and we do not yet move forward spiritually.

Emerging Christianity is trying *not* to make this mistake and hopes to be an inclusive notion of religion that is not against this or that. Evil and sin *do* need to be named and exposed (not directly fought!), however, and this is the prophetic role of religion. Without prophecy, religion cannot critique itself and ends up being largely self-serving. Jesus’s starting point was never sin, but human suffering. This deeper and increasingly obvious teaching of Jesus is strongly reemerging in our time, from many different disciplines of wisdom and study.”

Even when opponents *tried* to get a reaction out of Jesus, he steadfastly carried on his mission of addressing human suffering. When a vicious crowd dragged the woman (but not the man she was with!) caught in the act of adultery before him for judgment, he simply said “whoever is without sin, let him cast the first stone” and did not condemn the woman. When he was hauled before the governor to answer charges, he simply said “you say so”. Even on the cross, when the one criminal heckled him to save himself, he told the other criminal “today you will be with me in paradise”. If we are truly for Jesus, let’s start imagining who *else* that makes us for in today’s world. The answer will likely include far more people than you would have thought when you started.

Meditations taken from “*Yes, And ...: Daily Meditations*” by Richard Rohr. Copyright 2013, 2019.

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

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 MAY



Ushers: Ken Fox & Wally Fox

Greeters: Robert & Anna Copper

Offering Counters: Vicki Davis & a member of Properties

Lay Leaders:

May 1: Don Anthony
May 8: Andrea Nisley
May 15: Abbie Owens
May 22: Anne Grubb
May 29: Mary Reed

Loose Offerings during the month of May goes to:
VBS

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Mission/Outreach Committee – May 2nd, 7:00 p.m.
Faith Committee – May 3rd, 7:00 p.m.
Properties Committee – May 16th, 7:00 p.m.
Personnel Committee – May 17th, 6:30 p.m.
Congregational Care Committee – May 19th, 6:00 p.m.
Session – May 24th, 7:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

-SOUTHSIDE BIBLE cancelled until further notice
-FAITH CIRCLE meets May 26th at 9:30 am. Joan Rupke is Hostess & Joyce Olsen is leading the lesson.
-MARTHA CIRCLE meets May 19th at 2:00 pm. Sharon Steinberger is Hostess & Marlene DeLap is leading the Lesson.

SERVICE COMMITTEE UP NEXT:

GROUP B

April 26, 2022 Session Meeting

Regular Session Meeting

Location: Conference Room

Date: April 26, 2022

Time: 7:00 pm

Moderator: Rev. Eddie Mariel

Elders Present: Dr. Fran Carlson, Dian Lauby, Allan McClure, Jeanne Burns, Kristin Psota, Bruce Rickertsen

Elders Excused: [Sally Heusinkvelt](#), Allison Luther, Dan

Elders Absent: Dan Roberts

Others: Don Anthony

Prayer and Devotions: Rev. Mariel

Minutes: Minutes of the March 22,2022 Regular Session meeting. Corrected Kristin Psota spelling. Motion to approve as corrected. Seconded and carried.

Clerk's Report:	Communion:	4/3/2022 – 59
		In-Home- 1
		Total 60

Deaths: 2

Barbara Dorthea "Barb" Poehler passed away April 9, 2022 at Cozad, NE. Funeral services were April 15, 2022 at First Presbyterian Church in Lexington with Rev. Eddie Mariel officiating. Inurnment was at Fairview Cemetery in rural Cozad.

Ardith Elaine Bendler passed away April 13, 2022. Funeral services were April 21, 2022 at Reynolds-Love Funeral Home in Lexington with Pastor Bill Ohlmann officiating. Inurnment was at the Prairie Home Cemetery in Holdrege, NE.

Marriage:	0
Transfers:	0
Removal:	0
Membership:	216

Attendance Report: Received as presented

Financial Report: Received as presented

Balance Brought Forward 01/01/2022	\$19,501.92
Receipts	74,771.13
Disbursements	57,470.77
Balance as of 4/22/2022	\$36,802.28

Motion made to include the investment fund balances in the monthly financial report. Seconded and carried.

Pastor's Report: Received as presented

Faith Team: Recommended to have Vacation Bible School in the building June 27 to July 1 from 3:15 to 5:30 each day. Carried

Mission and Outreach: No recommendations

Properties and Endowment and Gifts: No recommendations

Congregational Care: No recommendations

Personnel: Reported the hire of Sarah Mariel as Office Manager. Kimmy Schuster will continue as Bookkeeper.

Deacons: No report

Other Business: Allan proposed that the bookkeeper and Treasurer in collaboration together be given permission to access up to \$10,000 from the Vanguard investment funds (Manse Funds) should the need arise to pay the bills.

Next Meeting: May 24, 2022 at 7:00 pm in Conference room

Communion servers for May 1: Jeanne Burns, Dian Lauby

Devotions next meeting: Allan McClure

Adjourned with prayer by Pastor Mariel

Respectfully submitted: Don Anthony, Clerk of Session

Note: Request to have Kimmy Schuster attend a Session meeting to explain the financial accounts

Down a Garden Path
By Karla Dorncaher
a book review by Jo Sherman

Since we often plant flowers and vegetables in May, I chose this delightful small book to review this month. This is one of the many that Doran and Pat Post gave our church library.

Karla Dornacher is a Christian author and illustrator who has written over 50 books, some of which are coloring books for both children and adults.

We learn that “The Lord God planted a garden. He not only created the first garden, He also created you and the spiritual ‘garden of your heart’. His desire is for you to be a strong, healthy, well-watered garden—even in the midst of ‘weeds, thistles, and thorns’ of daily life”

We know it takes several items to have a good garden, one of them is good soil. “Good heart soil is an ongoing, never-ending process...He is able to till the hard places, remove the rock, and pull of the weeds of the world.”

Karla tells us that, “your life is of far greater value than a small patch of dirt and a few peas or cauliflowers...God has promised to be your protection. His outstretched arms will keep you safe.”

We learn in Ecclesiastes chapter 3, that there is a time for many things, our author has used part of scripture concerning the seasons to have a garden. “There is a time for tilling, a time for planting, a time for weeding, and a time for resting...Take time to be still. Lay aside your tools, your seed packets, your garden gloves, and sit with Him.”

To give us confidence in ourselves, she writes, “God created you just as beautiful and unique as any flower. There is no one else like you. He has designed you with a unique combination of gifts and talents, strengths and life experiences. But He never designed you to stand alone. You are an important and valuable ‘flower’ in His bouquet.”

She has shared a beautiful prayer for us. “Lord, may the roots of my heart—my thoughts, my desires, my words, and my deeds—be firmly established in the soil of your wonderful love. Help me today and every day, to draw my nourishment from You and Your Word. And Lord, during the dry times, give me strength to keep growing deeper, seeking You always. Amen.”

When she isn’t at home in Vancouver, Washington, writing delightful books, Karla enjoys traveling and spreading God’s love to others.

Thank you Doran and Pat Post for donating so many books to our church library. They will be enjoyed by many, youth, as well as adults. Thank you also, Liz Sanderman for your donation of books, and to anyone else who has given our library.

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 and place it in the offering plate.



BIRTHDAY CLUB SHOUTOUTS:

Happy Belated Birthdays to... SFC Cynthia Brinley

CHURCH NEWS

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF APRIL 1ST

Operating Receipts — \$72,923.06	Roof Loan Balance — \$33,907.94
Operating Expenses — \$57,579.42	Payments Remaining this Year — \$8,004.88
Surplus (deficit) — \$19,866.71	Current Roof Fund Balance — \$9,304.10

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN UPCOMING EVENTS

-May Breakfast will take place on May 5th at 9:30. Crystal Werger, the director of the Dawson County Historical Society, will be speaking

-PW Synod Gathering will be June 16th-19th at the Hilton Garden Inn located at 1132 Larsen Park Road in Sioux City, IA.

The theme for the Synod Gathering in June will be **PW: Better Together**. The Registration Packet is available on the Synod Website or from the PW Presbytery Moderator. The Gathering Committee has selected 2 Mission Opportunities for \$10 gift cards and identified 2 recipients for the Gathering Offering. There will be 16 workshops to choose from! And a first time: Gathering Choir led by Music Leader Rev. Kristi Holler and musician Pat Penn! The Hands-on-Mission project is cutting and sewing Presbytery Disaster Assistance Gift of the Heart School Bags.

There is a **Pre-Gathering Mission Event** on Thursday, June 16th. A guided tour of the Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Hospital in Walthill, NE, will be held. Visits will also be made to the John G. Neihardt Center, the Bancroft Cemetery, Faith Presbyterian Church, and Dr. Susan’s home in Walthill. Lunch will be at the Honoring-the-Clans Sculpture Garden.

Registrations for both of these events are due **before May 15th**. Registration forms will also be available at the Spring Gathering.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

As the school year is getting closer to summer break, it is time to think about the last days of Sunday School and start thinking about VBS.

May 22nd will be the final meeting of Sunday School before summer.

VBS will take place June 27-July 1 in the afternoons from 3:15-5:30pm. We still need lots of volunteers.



End of LOGOS pizza and game night

MEALS ON WHEELS

Thanks goes out to Lorin and Dorothy Bremer, Tom and Rhea Musil, and Dan Roberts for delivering MOW's in the Lexington community. Monday was the challenge again with delivering soup and the rest of the dinner in the WIND and cold. Delivery was successful with not a drop spilled!!!! The church's next delivery date will be May 2nd-6th. WHO WANTS TO HELP???? Please let Sharon Steinberger know. Yes, it is fun and rewarding.

Next month we will be transitioning 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, 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
<p>1</p>	<p>2 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 11:00 am—Knitting 7:00 pm—Mission & Outreach Committee 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo</p>	<p>3 9:00 am—Office Staff Meeting 7:00 pm—Faith Committee 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo</p>	<p>4 6:45 pm—Joy Ringers Rehearsal 8:00 pm—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5 9:30 <i>May Breakfast</i> 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley </p>	6	7
<p>8 9:00 am—Sunday School 9:00 am—Coffee/Fellowship Hour 10:00 am—Worship </p>	<p>9 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 11:00 am—Knitting 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo</p>	<p>10 9:00 am—Office Staff Meeting 7:00 pm—Faith Committee 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo</p>	<p>11 8:00 pm—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo</p>	13	14
<p>15 9:00 am—Sunday School 9:00 am—Coffee/Fellowship Hour 10:00 am—Worship</p>	<p>16 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 11:00 am—Knitting 7:00 pm—Properties Committee 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo</p>	<p>17 9:00 am—Office Staff Meeting 6:30 pm—Personnel Committee 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo</p>	<p>18 8:00 pm—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19 2:00 pm—Martha Circle 6:00 pm—Congregational Care Committee</p>	20	21
<p>22 9:00 am—Sunday School 9:00 am—Coffee/Fellowship Hour 10:00 am—Worship</p>	<p>23 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 11:00 am—Knitting 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo <i>Remember and Honor</i></p>	<p>24 9:00 am—Office Staff Meeting 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 9:00 am—Faith Circle 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo</p>	27	28
<p>29 9:00 am—Sunday School 9:00 am—Coffee/Fellowship Hour 10:00 am—Worship 11:15 am—Confirmation Class</p>	<p>30 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 11:00 am—Knitting 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo</p>	<p>31 9:00 am—Office Staff Meeting 7:00 pm—Session 7:00 pm—Mid Platte Valley Taekwondo</p>				