



PRESBY-NOTES

April

2021

*It is the mission of First Presbyterian Church of Beatrice
to know Christ, to make Christ known and to exhibit Christ's love
through worship, education and service*

Faithful Footprints: Reflections on our journey following Jesus

Happy Easter! Once again, we are celebrating Easter in an unsteady time. Last year at this time we were just under a month into the pandemic precautions and celebrating Easter in our homes. Little did we know



that a year later we would again be celebrating Easter under pandemic precautions. And yet, this year there is a little more sense of hope than Easter last year. Last year we didn't know what to expect but for sure the pandemic would come to an end sooner than later, right? And yet days turned into week and weeks into months, and...you know the rest. This year though, there is hope. There is the hope that some of us have been vaccinated and others of us will be in the coming months. This year we understand how masks and hand sanitizer can keep us safe and allow for some of us to gather with extra precautions. And this year, we all have toilet paper! At least I hope we do!

Our experience of Easter this year is truly representative of what that original Easter meant for Jesus' followers and for us today as well. Jesus' resurrection brought hope in a time of uncertainty, but not fully seen or realized hope at the time. Jesus was alive, but it wasn't for sure what it meant for the lives of his followers; particularly as they were being persecuted. Jesus' resurrection brought the promise of new life, but how that life would and should look was not clear. The encounters with the risen Jesus brought excitement, but also fear and anxiety.

This past year of the pandemic has led us to this Easter in which we experience much of the same emotions that Jesus' followers did that first Easter morning. We too are experiencing hope for a future different than what we are currently experiencing, but we don't know where

that hope will lead us in the future. We know that coming out of this pandemic our lives will be different, but we don't know how that will look. And we have encountered Jesus in different ways during the pandemic and we will experience Jesus differently this Easter. These experiences have brought us excitement, but also fear and anxiety.

This year, Easter truly does resemble the experiences of that first Easter, while also indicating the hope that lies for us in the future ahead. Most importantly, the first Easter and Easter this year share the most important thing of all: the love and life of Jesus that is given to all of us.

Easter is truly a time to celebrate that suffering and death does not have the final word, but the love and life of God is stronger, as revealed to us in the resurrection of Jesus. And not just spiritual suffering and death, but physical suffering and death as well is never given the final word. So, as we celebrate Easter this year, let us reflect on our experiences of the last year, giving thanks for how we have experienced Jesus and looking forward to the new life Jesus is giving us. We may not know what lies ahead, but we know who goes beside us and will guide us every step of the way into our new life. Happy Easter!

Your partner in the journey,

Zac

(Image by jeffjacobs1990 from Pixabay.com (CC0))

*Received a thank-you card from Bill and Mary Ann Rowe for thinking of them in December for the prepackaged communion

*Confirmands will meet with Pastor Zac and Doris Martin at the church this month with safe social distancing practices followed

*Proposal made for the High School Senior Breakfast to be held on April 25, 2021. More details to follow at a later date

*Maundy-Thursday communion will be prepackaged bread and juice for in person communion and arrangements for delivery to those unable to attend in person will be made

*Outdoor coffee hour to begin after Easter Sunday, sign up sheets to go around

*Idella Whitmore Scholarship recipients are Doris Martin and Colton Daake

*Frozen chosen will update weekly on available casseroles and what is needed. Please include ingredients and heating instructions. Allergy safety guidelines will be compiled by the committee at a later date

*Next Warren's table will be served on May 4, 2021

*Camp Calvin Crest will be having camp this year. Registration online is available currently

*Karen Schlueter, Doris Martin, and Suzanne Byler will be attending an upcoming commissioner training session



PRAYERS: Carol Straub; Diane Mayer; Verna Light; Willard Engelman; Bob Hancock; Dorothy Appleget; Charlotte Carney; Judy Prebyl; William Cook III; Barb Harrison; Maxine Arneal; and Dennis Luckey.

Also: Shannon Fanning; Vera Lyons; Elmer Cook; Linnel Rials; Skylar Nicola; Elizabeth Shotkoski-Jurgens; Pat Morris; Steve Arneal; Lori Eckert; Jake Frana; Timothy Briskey; Mike Willet; Judy Knispel; Stan Martin (Gene Martin's brother); Nancy Chalupa; Hope Johns (Maxine Arneal's great granddaughter); Imogene Johnson (Connie Dake's sister); Norma Mitschler (Frank's sister); Adam Ideus (Stephanie Ideus' brother); Ros Heckenlively (Zac's cousin); and Kent Ruigh (Kristin Jurgens' cousin).



Thank you to all who contributed to the JOYS Salad and Sandwich Luncheon.

Special Thank You to Betsy Bolli, Lynn Carothers, Karmen & Brian Daake, Connie Harmon, & Carol Wolter for helping prepare the food.

Sunday, April 11

9:15am

Confirmands meeting in fellowship hall

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FROZEN CHOSEN

‘Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.’

Hebrews 13:16

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BEATRICE, NEBRASKA

Casserole Count Update

Two casseroles are waiting to be shared for the Frozen Chosen Ministry. Please share with our members, our friends, and our neighbors. And thank you for making the casseroles. Please let a member of the Outreach and Evangelism Committee (Paul Hay, Steve Paulmeyer, Fran Martin) know if you are aware of someone that could use a casserole but you are unable to deliver it.



Fran Martin	4
Jeanette Thober	5
Wyatt Blum	13
Ardys Milke	14
Scott Weaver	14
Jane Beavers	18
Robert Paulmeyer (Bo)	22
James Sohl	22
Verna Light	24
Anni Paulmeyer	24
Madison Blum	25
Gene Martin	25
Jacob Bishop	27



The PW Spring Gathering will be Saturday, May 15 (via Zoom):
Unformal Chat 8:30-9:00 a.m.
Program starts at 9:00 a.m.

Julie Hay

Did you know every woman in the Presbyterian Church is a Presbyterian Woman? If you did not you are not alone. Many think the only women are those that attend a monthly meeting of Presbyterian Women. This is not true and now Amanda Fossler and Doris Martin want to know how you think Presbyterian Women can best meet your needs.

Presbyterian Women have played an important role in the church and like everything it needs to change as society changes. That is what we want to hear from you. We are asking that each woman complete a survey. The survey will be sent to you in an email and the survey will also be sent to you through the postal service. Please complete one of the surveys so plans can be made to make Presbyterian Women more responsive to today's woman and allow us to continue to play an important role in sharing the good news of our faith.

Surveys will be mailed during April and women will also receive an email with an online version of the survey. We would appreciate you completing one of them. Please reach out to Doris Martin (rangerdoris@gmail.com) or Amanda Fossler (afossler2687@gmail.com) with any questions.

Let's learn about our newly planted ministries!

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Psalm 96:1



let the fun begin at the April PW meeting!

All women are invited to join us on April 15 at 10 a.m. for a zoom meeting.
The link will be sent closer to the meeting

Doris completes two additional courses

During February and March I took additional courses, Pastoral Care and Formation for Mission: Program and Mission of the PCUSA, in the Commissioned Ruling Elder series.

The class on Pastoral Care was very interesting. A part of the course involved making a pastoral visit and Pastor Zac has helped me to complete this assignment. In addition, the class watched two movies, *Wit* and *Elizabethtown*. I think we could all learn from these two films.

In *Wit*, Professor Vivian Bearing (Emma Thompson), an expert on the work of 17th-century British poet John Donne, has spent her adult life contemplating religion and death as literary motifs. Diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer, she consents to an aggressive and experimental form of chemotherapy administered by Dr. Kelekian (Christopher Lloyd) and his assistant, Dr. Posner (Jonathan M. Woodward), her former student. Facing death on a personal level, she reflects on her life and work.

In *Elizabethtown*, aspiring young shoe designer Drew Baylor (Orlando Bloom) gets fired from his high-profile job after the failure of his latest project. To make matters worse, his girlfriend, Ellen (Jessica Biel), leaves him, and he becomes suicidal. Drew's morbid plans are interrupted by the news of his father's death, and he is called back to his Kentucky hometown. On his flight home, he meets the lovely Claire (Kirsten Dunst), a sunny flight attendant who tries to help him embrace life once again.

During March I took the Formation for Mission class. I was amazed at the number of resources available for both members and churches from the national organization. I hope I can share some of them with you on upcoming Sundays.

This continues to be an interesting and spiritual journey. One of the things that has happened is my increased appreciation for my church family. One day this month I was particularly struck by its generosity and I posted the following on Facebook.

“Have you ever had one of those days when everything seems right? I had one of those days on Friday, Feb. 19. It started with the delivery of beds 10 and 11 and our crack Sweet Dreams team was there and even though there was a wait while the bed was assembled, we enjoyed visiting with each other and the family that was receiving the bed. Paul Hay kept his eye on the guys putting the bunkbed together.

Before the Ash Wednesday service, I had visited with several and had 3 of the 6 casserole spots filled for Warren's Table, and by Thursday night all 6 spots were filled. On Friday morning Kristin Jurgens responded to my Wednesday evening email and said she was going to leave to see her family in Kentucky but would stay and make a casserole. I assured her this was not necessary but at the time I really wanted to ask her to fix one before she left so we could have it in the freezer to get the Frozen Chosen idea off the ground. I think it is important to say my Frozen Chosen idea has been simmering for a couple of years while I tried to figure out how to get it going. The original idea has undergone several changes but I have never been able to let the idea completely go.

So, when Kristin sent the following message without any encouragement, “I'll plan on it, Doris, and we can freeze it at Church for someone in need.”

I responded with, “You just made my day. I really wanted to suggest that. Your casserole will be the number one Frozen Chosen casserole. Sarah, Kristin's sister, is indeed smiling.”

On that Friday it did feel like God was also smiling with me and my church family. A very good day.”

The next Sunday was equally meaningful as the first Frozen Chosen casserole was delivered to one of our neighbors. It was exactly what I had hoped would happen. As I write this there are two casseroles waiting to be delivered to a member, a friend or a neighbor we know could use something to brighten their day. God's grace is for everyone and I hope this will be a small way to share this with others.

My next classes will be at Synod School in July but Pastor Zac might let me continue to develop my preaching skills on an upcoming Sunday. I have appreciated his support each step of the way.

This decision to be a commissioned ruling elder has definitely increased my appreciation for each of you. Please know how much I treasure your prayers and your support. You are all an important part of my journey.

Doris Martin