



# PRESBY-NOTES

August

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

It is with a heavy heart that I write my final Presby-Notes article to you. My last Sunday with you is August 8, when we will have a congregational meeting following worship to “dissolve” our pastoral relationship. Looking back, our time together has been anything but ordinary as we celebrated our church’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, adapted through a pandemic together, and connected in new ways within our church and community. What a journey it has been!



When I first met with the Pastor Nominating Committee in 2018, I said that my goal as a pastor was to grow the engagement and leadership of the church. If this happened, then when I moved on from the church, you would be able to not only survive but thrive as you continued to carry-out and expand the ministries and outreach of the church—especially in times without an installed pastor. As I prepare for my last weeks with you, I am confident that this will be the case for you. Presby Beatrice has the leadership and membership engagement it needs to not only survive, but to thrive for the foreseeable future. You are connecting with the community in ways that you haven’t before and finding your current calling as a church serving the hungry and financially unstable. That is an impactful and vibrant vision that God has laid out for you in the years to come. I have no doubt that you will follow God to live into God’s kingdom in these areas and many more by using the gifts God has given each of you.

It has been my joy and honor to be your pastor since December 2018. Thank you for taking a chance on me. I have grown in so many ways because of the love and

grace that you have shown me. But it is not just me, it is my family as well. Rudi and I are grateful for the way you loved on our family. Presby Beatrice has positively impacted the life of each member of our family, particularly our girls. We are so happy that we could share in Keziah’s baptism with you. I have no doubt that your next pastor will experience the same love and grace that we have experienced, and they too will feel blessed to be your pastor.

When the session met with the presbytery’s Commission on Ministry (COM), the moderator said that she believes God already has your next pastor picked out for you, and I agree. There is a pastor out there who wants to come be a part of this special church family and care for the needy of the community alongside you—even if they don’t know it yet. It may be the first person you interview or the 20<sup>th</sup>, but if you trust the process that is based on prayer and discernment with God, God will lead you to your next installed pastor; I have no doubts.

In closing, I share these words of God with you that were originally shared with the Israelite people as they experienced a leadership change during the Exodus, “*Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go,*” (Joshua 1:9). Just as God was with the Israelites as their leadership changed from Moses to Joshua, so God will guide you to your next pastor, and ultimately your Promised Land. Even if you feel you are weak at times or feel afraid, God will still be with you. We have seen what God can do when we trust in the vision God has for us, may those experiences be the foundation for your trust and faith in God in this time of transition. I can’t wait to see from afar what God has in store for you.

Your partner in the journey,  
Zac



\*Baptism of Hattie Elizabeth Paulmeyer will be held during service on August 1st.

\*Confirmation will be held on September 19, 2021.

\*Congregational meeting to be held following church service on August 8th.



PRAYERS: Connie Dake; Carol Straub; Diane Mayer; Verna Light; Willard Engelman; Bob Hancock; Dorothy Appleget; Charlotte Carney; Judy Prebyl; William Cook III; Barb Harrison; 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); Kent Ruigh (Kristin Jurgens' cousin).



Congratulations  
To!



Dorothy Rockemann who celebrates her 98th birthday on Sunday, August 1.

**Contact Us:**

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Facebook: First Presbyterian Church—Beatrice, Nebraska

Sat. Aug 7 - JOYS Big Blue Kayak Trip. Join in the fun! Contact Karen for information!

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE SCHOOL KITS

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral notebooks
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)



Shop for school supplies NOW when they go on sale for the year. Our Sunday School children will pack the bags sewn by Verna Tubbs.



Samantha Daake	1
Dorothy Rockemann	1
Betsy Mick	3
Jesse Bolli	5
Case Fossler	6
Rick Blum	9
Derick Cook	11
Lynn Carothers	12
Connie Dake	13
Que Martin	13
Bryce Milke	14
Adeline Bolli	22
Jason Richards	22
Leigha Bales	28
Norma Jean McNamee	28
Cody Sohl	28
Connie Harmon	29

Presbyterian Women gather on Aug. 5

Rejoice in Hope, Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, will be held online on Aug. 5 from 3 to 5 p.m. The Gathering Event will be livestreamed! Watch at [www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) (PW's Gathering web page) or on PW's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenpcusa](http://www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenpcusa).

The 2021 Churchwide Gathering theme illuminates our way forward as we continue to navigate change and changing plans. "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers" (Rom. 12:12-13).

Save the Date!

The 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women is being planned for August 2024 (specific dates to come!), St. Louis, Missouri! Stay up-to-date through this email series, (which will resume in a little more than a year), Horizons magazine, PW social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and [www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering).



Westminster Guild



Westminster Guild will meet Monday, August 2nd, at 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor for a covered dish supper.

All women of the church and friends are welcome.

## Synod School and Beginning the Search

When you first read this, I will be finishing up a week at Synod School and will have taken two courses, *New Testament* and *Spiritual Direction*. The textbook for the Spiritual Direction class is “Kneeling with Giants, Learning to Pray with History’s Best Teachers.” I found it to be a great read and a wonderful introduction to a variety of ways of praying. If you are ready to explore new ways to talk to God, I would encourage you to read all or parts of this book. You may get to hear more about my experiences at Synod School in an upcoming sermon.

As we begin the process of searching for new church leadership, I wanted to take the opportunity to share my experiences since the last search when I was on the Pastor Nominating Committee and what, I believe, we can learn from this experience by reflecting on the three questions we need to be able to answer before beginning this journey.

### **Who are We?**

We need to begin here and be able to honestly answer who we are as a congregation. Just like an individual a congregation has strengths and weaknesses. And just like an individual we sometimes focus so much attention on what we do not have that we forget about our strengths. For example, it is easy to focus on how our congregation has gotten smaller, or how we miss singing a particular hymn but I remember attending a Session Retreat and we determined that what we most like about this church family is being able to know each and every member and the connections we have made with them over the years. No mention was given to size or to music.

For years, the banner over the door we exit each Sunday has read, “And now the service begins.” I would say over the last three years we can say with confidence that our service does begin as we leave the sanctuary and we become the hands and feet of Jesus in the community.

### **Who is God Calling Us to Be?**

I think God has called us to be a congregation shifting its focus from us to those in the community that Jesus would have served through a Bed Ministry, a Food Pantry right outside our doors, and a ministry to provide casseroles for families and individuals.

By working together, we have made an impact and lived out our faith.

### **Where is God Calling Us to Go?**

That is a question we will need to answer and the best way to answer it is by having each of us take the time to listen to God through prayer. As many of you know I prayed diligently last time when the search seemed to go on and on. I also took time to try and discern what God was saying as he answered my prayers. By doing this I believe God has allowed me to better serve my church family and to better serve all of God’s children. None of this would have been possible without the help of my church family or, as much as I hate to admit it, without a challenging search.

I would encourage each of you to ponder carefully each of these questions and share your responses with session members so moving forward we can begin the process of searching for new church leadership in a positive and productive manner.

In closing I would encourage each of you to visit the PCUSA website and read [Calling a Pastor](#). It explains the process that is followed and gives a good description of why this process is used. Copies are also available on the table in the Narthex.

Doris Martin

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*