



# PRESBY-NOTES

September 2023

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.

## PASTOR'S PEN

### Jesus chose 12 ordinary men as his disciples

During June and July we studied the disciples and on the first Sunday in August I talked about eleven of the twelve disciples and the characteristics associated with each of them. The congregation was then asked to name a member of this congregation which most closely demonstrated the characteristics of each disciple. From the results it is clear we think many of us have several of the characteristics the disciples illustrated in their lives. I think though one person said what we were all thinking, "We are all disciples of Jesus."

I hope if anything was learned during this sermon series it is exactly that. We are all called to be disciples and just like the first eleven disciples each of us has different gifts to share the story of grace which is ours because of the sacrifice of Jesus.

One of the first things I want to talk about is how ordinary these men were. According to John MacArthur, "they were perfectly ordinary men in every way. Not one of them was renowned for scholarship. They had no track record as orators or theologians. In fact, they were outsiders as far as the religious establishment of Jesus' day was concerned. They were not

outstanding because of any natural talents or intellectual abilities. On the contrary, they were all too prone to mistakes, misstatements, wrong attitudes, lapses of faith, and bitter failure-no one more so than the leader of the group, Peter. Even Jesus remarked they were slow learners and somewhat spiritually dense. In Luke chapter 24, verse 25, he says to the disciples walking to Emmaus, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!"

*'The things you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.'*

2 Timothy 2:2

Yet, with all their faults and character flaws-as remarkably ordinary as they were-these men carried on a ministry after Jesus' ascension that left an indelible impact on the world. Their ministry continues to influence us even today. And I hope by learning more about them we can also influ-

ence those around us.

Many of us want to put faith in Jesus as Savior but find it difficult to follow him as Master and Lord. Jesus called twelve people together, not just to teach them about discipleship, but to actually disciple them. He modeled what was expected of disciples and how to achieve it. The Gospel of John hints that Jesus' discipling of these men took about three and a half years. To become great at anything, a person needs time and practice-far more than innate skill, good blood, or intelligence. Experts have settled on ten thousand hours as the magic number for true expertise. It seems it takes the brain this long to assimilate all that it needs to know to achieve true mastery. If you calculate the time the disciples spent with Jesus, assuming they took a Sabbath but otherwise spent day and night with him for three years, it actually equals just over ten thousand hours.

I would suggest that we commit to continuing to learn from Jesus through reading the Bible, participating in Bible studies, participating in the life of the church, and in prayer to discern what each of us is being called to do to spread His word.

Disciple	People at First Presbyterian								
Simon Peter	Fran	Doris M	Paul H	Doris M	Randy S	Doris M	Suzanne B, Renee J	Randy S	Randy S
Andrew	Maxine A	Karen S, Don H	Don H	Sue J	Suzanne B	Don H	Bette Anne T, Fran M	Kristin J	Kristin J
James	Randy S	Renee J, Karen S	Doris M	Paul H	Sue J	Greg W	Randy & Karen S	Renee J	Karen S
John	Karen S	Diane M, Ardys M	Fran M	Karen S	Jesse B	Karen S	Bolli Family	Karen S	Don H
Philip	Ardys M, Don H	Sue J, Kristin J	Ardys M	Neil M	Renee J	Ardys M	Sue J	Greg W	Paul H
Bartholomew, Nathanael	Sue J	Paul H, Randy S	Suzanne B	Amanda F	Paul H	Lennie S	Jerry & Ardys M	Ardys M	Sue J
Thomas	Paul H	Ardyth O		Randy S	Jerry M	No doubt many of us	Paul & Julie H	Gene M	
Matthew	Gene M	Bette Anne T	Randy S	Gene M	Kristin J	Bette Anne T	Gene M	Suzanne B	Gene M
James, he son of Alphaeus	Kristin J, Julie H	Suzanne B, Shirley M	Neil M	Ardys M	Alan L	Frank & Shirley M	Sharon & Alan L	Sue J	Alan L
Thaddeus (Jude)	All the children	Sharon L	Renee J	Renee J	Doris M	Jerry M	Ardyth O	LouAnn W	Jesse B
Simon the Zealot	Doris M	Fran M, Jesse B	Amanda F	Don H	Fran M	Paul H	Don H, Neil M	Doris M	Doris M

- \*Before our meeting Terri Sherman from the Homestead Presbytery explained the new Presbytery team structure.
- \*Homestead Harmonizers worshipped with us on August 20th and joined us for the neighborhood picnic following the service, 90 to 100 people were served.
- \*September 3rd we are going to try something new and worship in Fellowship Hall as a worship activity we will try to do this monthly.
- \*Sunday School for the youth will resume on September 10th with a Super Sunday in Fellowship Hall.
- \*On September 17th we will worship at the Episcopal Church to help them celebrate their 150th year.
- \*Volunteers are needed to help stock the little pantry see Fran Martin if you can help.
- \*We serve Warren's Table next on September 5th volunteers are needed if you can help contact Fran Martin.
- \*The next stated meeting of the Session is September 25th at 6:45pm. This is a new date as Doris will be out of town on the 18th.



*Prayer Concerns*  
*This past month*

PRAYERS: Gayle Eskra; Hal Thaut; Maria Ojeda; Connie Dake; Diane Mayer; Bob Hancock; Judy Prebyl; Barb Harrison; Norma Jean McNamee.

Also: Alyssa Lock (Kristin Jurgens' granddaughter); 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; Stan Martin (Gene Martin's brother); Nancy Chalupa; Hope Johns (Maxie Arneal's great granddaughter); Imogene Johnson (Connie Dake's sister); Norma Mitschler (Frank's sister).

Our sympathy is with Connie Dake and family on the passing of Vance on Wednesday, August 30 at Beatrice. The funeral will be here at First Church Tuesday, September 5, at 10:30 a.m.



Shirley Mitschler	4
Barbara Harrison	10
Andy Carothers	14
Savannah Bolli	20
Shirley Haner	26



Sunday School for children and youth resumes with a Super Sunday on September 10, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

There will be NO Sunday School September 10, as Worship will be at Christ Episcopal.

Sunday School resumes Sept. 17, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.





PW will begin the new program year on Wednesday, September 13, with a business meeting at 9:30 a.m. Bible Study led by Pastor Doris Martin will follow at 10:00 a.m. .

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As we leave worship each Sunday we walk under a banner that reads, "The Worship is Over, The Service Begins." On Sunday, September 3, we will not wait for worship to be over to begin the service because the session voted to have worship in Fellowship Hall and working on service projects will be a part of the service. The service will look much like it does in the sanctuary but will also be more relaxed and allow for collaboration. Feel free to bring something to drink.

First Church will serve Warren's Table on Tuesday, September 5th. Volunteers are needed. Contact Fran Martin if you can help.

A confirmation class for sixth through 10 graders will begin on September 10 at 9:30 a.m. Students and their parents are encouraged to attend an informational meeting during this time.

On Sunday, Sept. 17, we will have worship at Christ Church Episcopal to help celebrate the 150th Birthday of the church. Worship services will begin at 10 a.m. on Sept. 17 at Christ Church Episcopal. This was decided by the session at its August meeting. They felt it would be good to support them and also celebrate our long history of working together. There will be no Sunday School.



## **"TEAMWORK"**

That's what it took to make our Presbyterian Picnic a SUCCESS! A special thank you to Kristin Jurgens for donating the Sloppy Joes, Tracy Crawford for donating the homemade ice cream, and Sue Jedlicka, Karen Schlueter, Louann Weaver, Julie Hay, Ardyth Orwen, Shirley Mitschler, and Renee Jones for donating potato salads. Of course, we want to thank the ladies from the Episcopal church for all the salads they donated. Thank you to Neil McConnell, Randy and Karen Schlueter for organizing and setting up the tables. Thank you to all the people that helped go buy groceries, decorate and set the tables and preparing the kitchen to help things run smoothly. Of course, thank you to all that served in the kitchen and dining room and the clean up crew!

Committee on Outreach and Evangelism



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CALENDAR

2023-2024 YEAR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BEATRICE

*All FPC women are Presbyterian Women  
and encouraged to participate  
in one or all of the activities*

### **September 13**

9:30 a.m PW Business Meeting 10 a.m.— Bible Study in the parlor

### **October 11**

9:30 a.m PW Business Meeting 10 a.m.— Bible Study in the parlor

### **October 18**

Noon—Presbyterian Women Lunch Bunch, Location TBD

### **November 8**

9:30 a.m PW Business Meeting 10 a.m.— Bible Study in the parlor

### **December (TBD)**

Holiday Tea

### **January 10**

9:30 a.m PW Business Meeting 10 a.m.— Bible Study in the parlor

### **February 14**

9:30 a.m PW Business Meeting 10 a.m.— Bible Study in the parlor

### **February 21**

Noon—Presbyterian Women Lunch Bunch, Location TBD

### **March 13**

9:30 a.m PW Business Meeting 10 a.m.— Bible Study in the parlor

### **April 10**

9:30 a.m PW Business Meeting 10 a.m.— Bible Study in the parlor

### **April 17**

Noon—Presbyterian Women Lunch Bunch, Location TBD

### **May 8**

9:30 a.m PW Business Meeting 10 a.m.— Bible Study in the parlor

### **June (TBD)**

Noon—Presbyterian Women Lunch Bunch, Location TBD

*A collection will be taken for the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering*



# Sweet Dreams Bed Ministry

Sweet Dreams Bed Ministry is one of the non-profits participating in the Big Give on Sept. 14, 2023. Since First Presbyterian Church began this ministry we have provided 29 children with a bed frame, a mattress and box spring, and all the necessary bedding.

The cost for each delivery is about \$400. Typically the church has paid for the bed frame, mattress and box spring while members have donated the mattress covers, the bedding and pillows. In addition the ministry provided pillows for students in BLAST@Stoddard, the after-school program for Beatrice Public Schools.

Please consider donating to Sweet Dreams on Sept 14. The Pre-give window will be from Sept. 6 – Sept. 13. Supporters are encouraged to pledge their intended gift during this time, but should understand that their card will not be charged until Sept. 14.

**biggive**  
GAGE COUNTY  
SEPTEMBER 14th  
Day of Events

**IN-PERSON DONATION SITE**  
Vintage Venue  
7am - 7pm  
Join us on September 14th at Vintage Venue where we will be offering an in-person donation site from 7am to 7pm.

**NONPROFIT FAIR**  
Vintage Venue  
7am - 5pm  
Participating organizations are welcome to join us at Vintage Venue to take part in a Nonprofit Fair.

**COUNTDOWN PARTY**  
Vintage Venue  
5pm - 7pm  
Join us in celebrating Big Give Gage and countdown with us as we try to reach our total goal amount!

Sweet Dreams  
MINISTRY



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
BEATRICE, NEBRASKA

