



# PRESBY-NOTES

July 2024

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

### Seven young people travel to Camp IdRaHaJe

On Sunday morning, June 23, I watched seven young people and our Youth Coordinator Karen Schlueter load up the van for a trip to Camp IdRaHaJe in Bailey, Colo. I thought about how it had been a while since we sent kids to camp, and I thought about the generosity of a member that helped make this trip possible, but mostly I thought about what a wonderful experience this was for my children and for me when I was young. I especially reflected on the impact it had on me and my children's faith formation and prayed it would have a similar impact on these seven young people.

My son, Lucas, went to Camp Calvin Crest while he was still in elementary school. When I picked him up I asked if he had missed me. He responded, "I kind of forgot I had a family." At first, I was saddened but then thought this is a good thing. His horizons were expanding and he had learned about the larger family of God. He continued to enjoy these summer adventures and thrived on Mission trips.

Many summer camps are geared toward helping attendees get better at something. For example, basketball, dancing, or volleyball. But church camp is devoted to helping each individual grow in their faith. Church camp is an opportunity for spiritual growth and development. Not only does it to



*Que, Mason, Noah, Savannah, Ava, Taionna, Adeline and Youth Coordinator Karen Schlueter get ready to leave for a week at Camp IdRaHaJe.*

provide a safe and welcoming environment, but it also offers activities and programs that promote spiritual well-being. Whether it be a Bible study, worship service, or a presentation on Christian values, church camp can help to deepen one's understanding of their faith and strengthen their relationship with God.

I have to be honest and say one of my memories of attending church camp is eating frog legs. I wish I could provide a wonderful explanation of how this has changed my life or provided me with a new understanding of scripture but I cannot. What I can tell you is that when I recall this memory, I also recall the acceptance I felt at camp by both my fellow campers, the staff and most importantly by God that encouraged me to take a chance. I felt

like I belonged to those at camp and was indeed one of God's beloved. Maybe it did change my life!

The theme for Camp IdRaHaJe is "Let Him Be Known" based on 1 Kings 18:36-37, "36 At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. 37 Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have turned their hearts back." May our seven young people return to us with a deeper understanding and appreciation of what it means to be known by God and to be ready to make God known to others.

\*The youth are leaving June 23 to 29 for Colorado youth camp

\*Vacation Bible School will be July 8 & 9th 9:30-11:30am watch for details

\*All the security cameras are installed and working.

\*The new electronic sign for the front lawn was approved funding is coming from the Gwen Cooper memorial.

\*August 18th is the annual summer picnic joining us will be the Homestead Harmonizers (they will be singing during the service). Christ Episcopal Church will be invited to attend.

\*Sweet Dreams Ministry delivered beds 48, 49 and 50 last month.

\*We will be serving Warren's Table on July 23. (note date change for this month)

\*We will be participating in the Big Give again this year on September 12th

\*There is no stated Session meeting in July next meeting is August 19, 2024 at 6:45pm



PRAYERS: Bruce Greenwell; Ellen Greenwell; Connie Dake; Diane Mayer; Bob Hancock; Judy Prebyl; and Norma Jean McNamee.

Also: Alyssa Lock (Kristin Jurgens' granddaughter); Shannon Fanning; Steve Arneal; Hope Johns (Maxie Arneal's great granddaughter); Imogene Johnson (Connie Dake's sister); Norma Mitschler (Frank's sister); and Janet Parde.

Our sympathy is with Gene and Fran Martin on the passing of Gene's brother Stan, Sunday, June 16, in Mitchell, NE.

Our sympathy is with the family and friends of Dick Timmerman who passed away Wednesday, June 12 in Lincoln.



Renee Jones	6
Ava Bolli	7
Ashley McConnell	10
Cassidy Thavenet	10
Sharon Matson	12
Don Harmon	24
Randy Schlueter	25
Maxine Arneal	25
Diane Mayer	27
Gary Higgins	28



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Westminster Guild



Westminster Guild will not meet in the months of July and August. The group will resume September 9<sup>th</sup> which is the second Monday of the month.  
"Have a Great Summer"

# Flat Jesus is on the move

Flat Jesus has been to a high school graduation, Smith Falls in western Nebraska, a Veterans Cemetery in Omaha, and Homestead National Historical Park.

There is still time to take Flat Jesus on an adventure and qualify for a prize. Prizes will be given in the following categories:

- The most people in a photo with Flat Jesus
  - Taking Flat Jesus to work/school
- The most animals with Flat Jesus - Jesus loves pets too!
  - Flat Jesus with a rare animal
  - The funniest Flat Jesus picture
  - Flat Jesus in the most unique place
  - Flat Jesus in the highest place.
- The greatest number of pictures with you and Flat Jesus.
  - Flat Jesus in the place that is the farthest away.
  - Flat Jesus with the youngest person.
  - Flat Jesus with the oldest person.

The contest will end after Labor Day weekend. The Outreach and Evangelism Committee will decide the winner in each category. Just call the church if you would like a Flat Jesus to take on your next adventure.

