

PRESBY-NOTES

March 2026



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.

Tell Me Something Good Stories That Carry the Good News This Lent

Throughout Lent we are returning to the stories that tell us who Jesus is — not in abstract theology, but in lived encounters. These are not simply moral lessons or ancient memories. They are proclamations of good news — news so good it reshapes how we see God, ourselves, and our neighbors. Below are the Gospel texts guiding our journey.

The Great Dinner **Luke 14:15–24**



Jesus tells of a man who prepares a great dinner and invites many. When the meal is ready, the invited guests begin offering polite excuses — responsibilities, property, obligations.

The host does not cancel the feast. He does not shrink the table. Instead, he sends his servant into the streets to bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame. And when there is still room, the invitation stretches even farther — into the roads and hedges — “so

that my house may be filled.” The Good News? God’s welcome will not be stalled by indifference. Grace keeps moving outward. The table widens. Those who assumed they had no place discover they are precisely the ones being sought. Lent reminds us: we are invited. And we are invited to become people who help fill the table.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed **Matthew 13:31–32**



From the smallest seed grows shelter for others. The Good News? God’s kingdom often begins invisibly — in small acts of mercy, quiet faithfulness, gentle courage. What seems insignificant can become refuge. As we revisit this parable, we may

ask: What small seed of kindness might God be asking us to plant?

The Wedding at Cana **Gospel of John 2:1–11**

At a wedding celebration, when the wine runs out, Jesus quietly transforms water into abundance. The Good News? God’s generosity is not rationed. The jars are filled to the brim. Joy is restored. What could have been embarrassment becomes delight. God’s love does not run dry. It overflows.

The Woman with the Alabaster



Jar Gospel of Luke 7:36–50

A woman interrupts a dinner party, washes Jesus’ feet with her tears, and anoints him with costly perfume.

The Good News? Love is stronger than shame. Forgiveness restores dignity. Jesus receives her devotion publicly and defends her when others judge.

Grace leaves a mark — not of condemnation, but of mercy.

Stories That Carry the Good News This Lent

The Feeding of the Five Thousand **Mark 6:32–44**

In Mark’s telling, Jesus sees the crowd and is moved with compassion because they are “like sheep without a shepherd.” The disciples suggest sending them away. Instead, Jesus says, “You give them something to eat.”

Five loaves. Two fish. A multitude



seated on green grass.

The Good News? Compassion does not dismiss hunger. It meets it. What seems insufficient becomes abundance in Christ’s hands — and there are twelve baskets left over.

And the disciples are not spectators. They distribute the bread. They gather the fragments. They participate in the miracle.

Jesus Blesses the Children **Matthew 19:13–15**

When others attempt to send children away, Jesus stops them: “Let the little children come to me.”

The Good News? The kingdom is not reserved for the accomplished. It belongs to those who trust. There is no résumé required for grace.

The Woman Caught in Adultery **John 8:1–11**

A woman stands accused and exposed. Jesus kneels, writes in the dust, and says, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first



to throw a stone.” One by one, the accusers leave. “Neither do I condemn you,” he tells her.

The Good News? Mercy interrupts condemnation. Accountability remains — but it is shaped by restoration, not humiliation.

The Measure of It All

In Gospel of Matthew 25:35–40, Jesus makes the connection unmistakable:

“I was hungry and you gave me food... I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

The banquet in Luke becomes lived hospitality.

The feeding in Mark becomes daily bread shared.

The mustard seed becomes shelter. And in Matthew 23:23, Jesus names the weightier matters: justice, mercy, and faithfulness. This is not sentimental faith. It is embodied faith.

Paul echoes the promise in Ephesians 3:20–21: God is able to ac-

complish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. The abundance at Cana. The overflow of baskets. The widening invitation. The restoration of dignity. None of it is scarce.

When we revisit these stories during Lent, we are not merely remembering what Jesus once did. We are being formed into people who reflect that same generous love.

We hear Good News:

Invitations instead of exclusion.

Abundance instead of scarcity.

Forgiveness instead of shame.

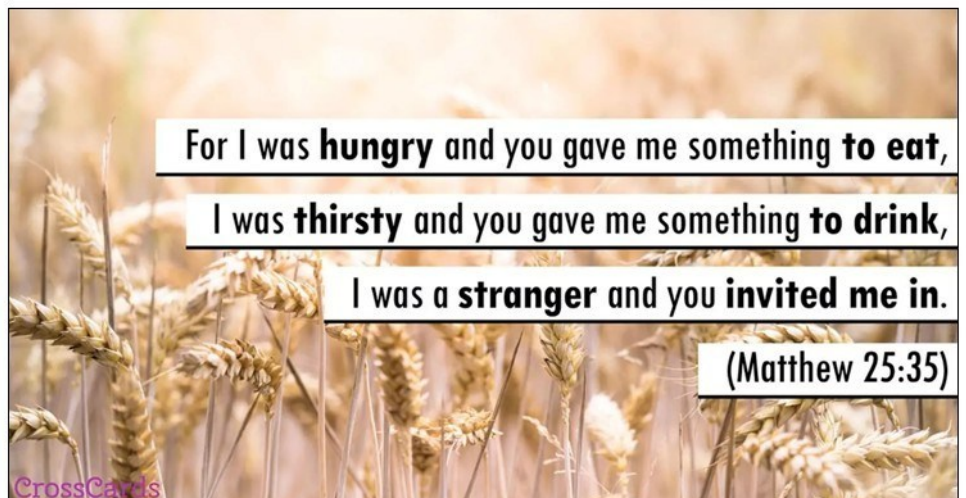
Welcome instead of barriers.

Justice shaped by mercy.

And then we are sent.

As we move toward Palm Sunday and Easter, may these stories remind us that the goodness of God is not fragile. It does not run dry. It expands, includes, and blesses beyond its origin.

We visit these stories so that we may remember. We remember so that we may trust. And we trust so that we may share — with our neighbors, our community, and a world hungry for something truly good.





*Wednesdays in Lent meal and book study continues March 4 - 25 at 6:00p.m. The book “The Message of Jesus” by Adam Hamilton is going to be studied.

*A silent auction will begin on March 1st for paintings by Wilma Huff that her family donated to the church.

*We serve Warren’s Table on March 3rd volunteers are needed contact Julie Hay if you can help.

*The Lenten offering this year 50% will go to One-Great-Hour of Sharing and 50% to the Angel Fund at the Beatrice Community Pantry.

*The next stated meeting is March 19th at 6:45pm



Lenten Kids will be on Wednesday, March 4, 11, 18, & 25. Supper will be served at 6:00 p.m. with Lenten Kids to follow.

JOYS will host their Sandwich and Salad Luncheon on Palm Sunday, March 29, following worship in Fellowship Hall. The free will offering will go to youth mission activities.



Presbyterian Women will meet March 19th at 9:30 a.m. for our business meeting. Following will be the Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. We are on chapter 7. All women of the church are welcomed.

Renee Jones
Moderator



Karmen Daake	4
Lanita Strader	5
Teresa Wissler-Baum	6
Jayma Stansberry	8
Verna Tubbs	13
Jerry Milke	15
Carol Wolter	15
Greg Weaver	17
Cori Zimmerman	18
Roger Strader	22
Ally Thavenet	24
Dan Jamison	27
Gayle Eskra	29
Lauren Daake	30



Verna Tubbs; Connie Dake; Diane Mayer; Gayle Eskra; and Gary Higgins.

Also: Shannon Fanning; Steve Arneal; Hope Johns (Maxie Arneal’s great granddaughter); Imogene Johnson (Connie Dake’s sister); Norma Mitschler (Frank’s sister); Janet Parde; Alyssa Lock (Kristin Jurgens’ granddaughter); Jodee Bolli (Jesse & Betsy’s sister-in-law); and Erin Blake.

Our sympathy is with Bill Cook and family on the passing of Betty on Monday, February 16, in Lincoln.

Many of you remember Wilma Huff, a longtime member of FPC. You also might remember her skills as an artist as she shared her paintings with the church. After Wilma's death, her family has donated many of her paintings to the church. The session has decided to host a silent auction to allow church members to purchase a painting(s) to remember her. For the first two Sundays in March, the 1st and 8th, the paintings will be placed on tables in the hallway with a bid sheet that pertains to that specific painting. Each painting will be numbered and the bid sheet will have the number of that painting. Place your name on the sheets on one or both of those Sundays. The money generated from the sale will be used for a church project. Thank you Wilma. Please contact the church office if you have questions.

First Church will serve Warren's Table on March 3rd. Volunteers are needed, contact Julie Hay if you can help served.

The Lenten Bible Study and Lenten Kids continues on Wednesdays, March 4-25 at 6:30 p.m. A Lenten supper will precede Bible Study at 6:00 p.m.

Erin Blake is planning another Organ Crawl in April. More information will follow.

MONDAYS IN LENT SCHEDULE

Join us for
worship at
noon, then
lunch

Monday,
February 23

First Presbyterian
Church

Rev. Dr. Paixao Baptista
"Caring for the Lonely"

Monday,
March 2

Centenary UMC

Pastor Jeff Collins
"Caring for the Ill"

Monday,
March 9

First Christian DOC

Fr. Joseph Faulkner
"Caring for the Weak"

Monday,
March 16

St. John Lutheran,
ELCA

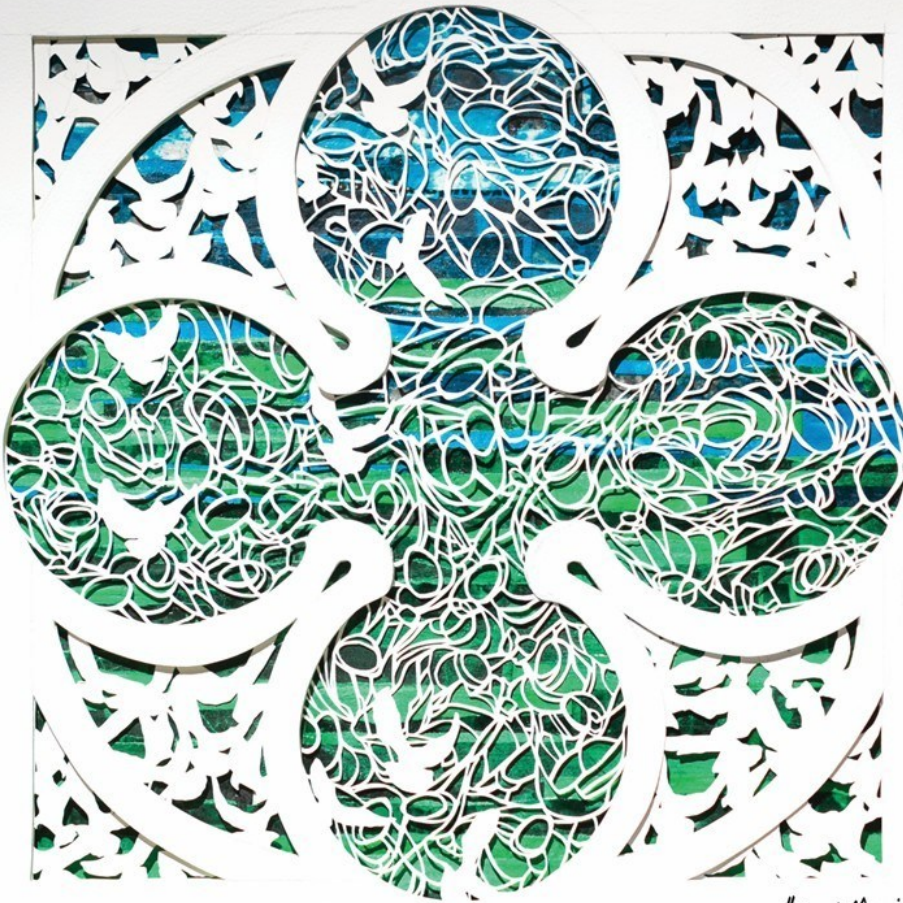
Pastor Doris Martin
"Caring for the Poor"

Monday,
March 23

Christ Church
Episcopal

Pastor Heidi Price
"Caring for Creation"

A freewill offering will be taken during lunch. The offering helps cover food costs, with the remainder donated to a charity of the host church's choice.



Hand-drawn

Meet Me in Galilee— The good news is alive in the world. Do not be afraid. Go back to Galilee. Go back o Galilee where it ll started. Go back to Galilee and and celebrate like we did at the beginning when we were not afraid, when these words of liberation had not yet drawn the trappings of imperial execution.

Birdsong

Every morning the sun rises,
majestic and steady.

She is greeted
in all her strength
with the joyous cacophony
of birdsong.

I like to believe this holy chorus
is the birds telling each other—
I'm here.

We made it through the night.
You're not alone.

What good, good news.
I think the resurrection
is a bit like that.

God is here.

We made it through the night.

We are not alone.

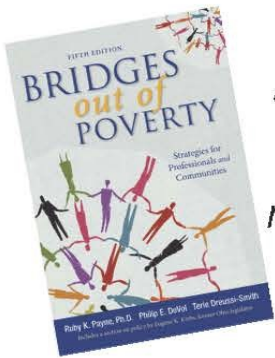
What good, good news.



the good news is..

alive in the world

Worship with us on Easter at 10:30 am



“Bridges Out of Poverty is a community framework that helps people better understand poverty, stability, and the role relationships play in creating lasting change. Through Bridges training, individuals and organizations learn how economic class shapes experiences, decision-making, and access to resources, and how communities can respond more effectively and compassionately. By bringing people together across lived experience, faith, and service, Bridges equips communities to move beyond merely helping people and toward working together to build stability, connection, and opportunity.”

Facilitated by Georgann Roth, Certified Bridges Trainer
Food Bank of Lincoln

Contact Amber Lovitt at director@casaofgagecounty.org
or Doris Martin at pastordorismartin@gmail.com
to sign up so the required book can be ordered for you.

Facebook Event Page - <https://bit.ly/4ah5mjD>

“

Childhood, after all, is the first precious coin that poverty steals from a child.

Anthony Horowitz

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