



PRESBY-NOTES

June 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.

Learning about an influential early Christian

First Presbyterian Church will spend six weeks this summer exploring the life, ministry, and faith of the Apostle Paul. Beginning Sunday, June 7, and continuing through July 12, our worship services will focus on key moments in Paul's journey as recorded in the Book of Acts and reflected in his letters to the early church.

Paul remains one of the most influential figures in the Christian faith. Once known as Saul, a persecutor of Christians, his dramatic encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus transformed not only his own life, but the course of the church itself. Through his travels, teaching, and letters, Paul helped carry the message of Jesus far beyond Jerusalem into the wider world.

Yet Paul's story is not simply about the past. His questions are

often our questions. How does faith change a life? What does it mean to follow Christ in a complicated world? How do Christians remain faithful amid uncertainty, conflict, suffering, and change? Paul's writings continue to speak to the church because they are rooted in the realities of everyday life and the hope of the gospel.

Throughout this series, we will explore Paul not as a distant historical figure, but as a fellow traveler in faith. We will follow him through moments of conversion, calling, courage, imprisonment, worship, conflict, and perseverance. Along the way, we will reflect on what it means for the church today to live as people shaped by grace and sent into the world with hope.

Whether you have studied Paul for years or are encountering his



story for the first time, this series offers an opportunity to deepen faith, ask questions, and rediscover the power of the gospel to transform lives.

We invite you to join us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. as together we learn from the life and witness of Paul and consider what his story continues to say to the church today.

Ten facts about the Apostle Paul

- **He had two names:** Born Saul (his Hebrew name), he also used Paul (his Roman cognomen) to connect with the Gentiles and the broader Roman world.
- **He was a Roman citizen:** Born in Tarsus (in modern-day Turkey), his citizenship granted him special legal privileges, such as the right to a fair trial and protection from certain types of corporal punishment.
- **He was a tentmaker:** To support himself financially and avoid becoming a burden to the churches he planted, Paul worked as a tentmaker.
- **His nephew saved his life:** After he was arrested in Jerusalem, over 40 men plotted to ambush and kill him. Paul's nephew uncovered the plot and warned the Roman commander, who then sent Paul to Caesarea with a heavily armed escort.
- **He dictated his letters:** Paul did not physically write most of his letters. Instead, he dictated them to a secretary (called an amanuensis), though he usually added a brief greeting or signature in his own handwriting at the end.

(continued on page 2)

Ten facts about the Apostle Paul

(continued from page 1)

- **He used a spiritual retreat:** Before beginning his active ministry, Paul spent time in Arabia, which scholars believe was a spiritual retreat where he focused on learning and preparing for his future work.
- **He traveled extensively:** Paul embarked on three major missionary journeys, traveling thousands of miles across Syria, Anatolia, Macedonia, and Greece to plant numerous churches.
- **He endured extreme suffering:** In his letters, Paul lists the profound hardships he faced, including shipwrecks, imprisonments, beatings, stoning, and constant danger.
- **His legacy is massive:** He authored 13 (or 14, depending on the debate over Hebrews) of the 27 books in the New Testament, making his writings the largest single contribution to Christian theology.
- **He was likely executed in Rome:** Tradition holds that Paul was beheaded in Rome during the reign of the Roman Emperor Nero.



Grateful for yesterday, looking forward to tomorrow

As June 1 approaches, I realize that I will soon begin my fourth year serving as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Beatrice. It is difficult for me to express just how grateful I am for the opportunity to walk alongside this congregation in ministry. What began years ago as membership in this church, and later service as a ruling elder, became something I never could have fully imagined when I was commissioned to serve as pastor in 2023. Over these past three years, we have shared so much together. We have celebrated baptisms, confirmations, weddings, anniversaries, and answered prayers. We have also stood together in hospital rooms, funeral homes, moments of uncertainty, and seasons of grief. Through it all, I have witnessed again and again the faithfulness, compassion, and generosity of this congregation.

One of the greatest blessings of serving this church is seeing how willing so many of you are to say “yes” when asked to help. Whether it is serving a meal, delivering a bed, teaching children, helping with worship, supporting missions, caring for a neighbor, serving on session, or simply offering a listening ear, you continue to share your gifts in ways that strengthen the life of this church and reflect the love of Christ in our community.

Your encouragement has meant more than you may realize. A kind word after worship, a note, a prayer, a handshake, or a simple expression of support has often arrived at exactly the right moment. Ministry is never done alone, and I am deeply thankful for the partnership we share in serving Christ together.

I continue to be guided by the words of 1 Peter 4:10, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

That verse describes this congregation well. God has blessed this church with many different gifts, and I see those gifts lived out week after week through your faith, service, kindness, and commitment to one another.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving alongside you. I look forward with hope and gratitude to what God still has in store for First Presbyterian Church of Beatrice in the days ahead.



Verna Tubbs; Connie Dake; Diane Mayer; Gayle Eskra; Gary Higgins; Deb Bishop; and Jerry Milke.

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); and Jodee Bolli (Jesse & Betsy's sister-in-law).

Our sympathy is with James and Missy Sohl on the death of their son Alex on May 15.

From Outreach Committee

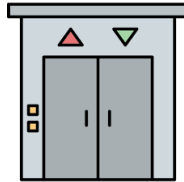
Warren's Table served 87 meals on May 5th. Our next date to serve will be Tuesday, July 7th, menu to be determined. Thanks for all the help who provided casseroles and cookies, and those who served, carried meals and cleaned up.



We check the Little Pantry before we fill it and if someone leaves items, we check the expiration dates. Very seldom do we remove items. We can't take glass items, and remove them. This week I removed cans because of the heat and will again put them in when it is cooler.

Sweet Dreams Ministry delivered three more beds, totaling 111.

Save August 9th after church for the Fall Picnic. We possibly will get it catered.



Elevator News!

Great News for First Presbyterian Church!!! The Session has approved the construction of a lift system that will allow church members and visitors to church to access the basement, first floor and second floor using a lift system. In addition, the lift system can be accessed from the remodeled street level entry on the north side of the church. The entry and lift system will meet all of the requirements of Americans with Disabilities Act and any security needs the church might have.

The Finance and Personnel Committee has been working with Casper's Construction and their subcontractors to design a system that will work for the church and will fit into a budget the church can support. After meeting with all contributors to the project the design and planning have been completed and the next step will be construction. The lift will start at the remodeled north entry and can go down to the basement level, go up to the first floor and go up to the second floor. The lower-level entry will be located in the current Little Pantry room, the first-floor entry will be located in the former Children's and Youth Ministry office, and the second-floor entry will be located in the north half of the children's classroom. All of the displaced areas have been relocated to another room within the church.

Financing will come from the Elevator Fund that was started years ago that has been managed by Memorial and Endowment.

Thank you for your patience for the Lift Project and your support of the project.



Presbyterian Women's will meet in June for the annual Birthday Offering gathering.
The time and date will be announced.

Renee Jones
Moderator



Each week this summer during *Singing Our Faith*, we will take a closer look at one of the songs of the church. Some weeks we will explore a traditional hymn that has been sung for generations. Other weeks we will reflect on a children's song that teaches faith in simple and lasting ways, or a contemporary song that speaks to the life of the church today.

Along the way, we will learn something about the history behind the music, the scripture and faith that inspired it, and the ways these songs continue to shape our lives and our congregation.

If you have a favorite hymn you would like to learn more about just send the name of the hymn to pastordorismartin@gmail.com.