



NEWS AND NOTES

First Presbyterian Church

May, 2017

701 Chicago Avenue, Plattsmouth, Nebraska

9:30am Service

"We exist to love and serve God and to help all people know and experience the love of Jesus Christ."

Matt's Musings ~ May 2017

"Words"

"He liked the mere act of reading, the magic of turning scratches on a page into words inside his head." — **John Green, An Abundance of Katherines**

I love words, especially the written word – novels that entertain or educate or do both; articles in newspapers or magazines that tell a person's story and make me feel at least a little bit as though I'm living in it; poems that paint a picture in my mind of what it was like for the poet to walk beside the ocean or stand upon the mountain or drink a cup of coffee at the kitchen table as the day began and the family hurried into and out of the doorways to work and school and play. Words matter to me – choosing the right ones, stringing them together in a way that tells the story and pleases the ear and tickles the fancy of the mind. Words matter.

We know the power of words. Words can lift up or bring down. Words can exalt or demean. Words can break a heart open to a bigger world or words can just break a heart. Words can be weapons or salves. Words can inform, delight, wound and heal. Words can speak truth to power or spread a lie about weakness. I knew a guy when I lived in Arkansas who had a way with words – I used to say that he could take a short story and make it a long one and people loved him for it. Words matter.

Words also last – whether the speaker or writer wants them to or not. The Gettysburg Address is 187 magnificent words pulled together in such a way that the nation has long remembered them, despite President Lincoln saying within the address that the world would not long remember what was said in Gettysburg, but rather what was done there. Words matter.

I'm thinking today about the power of words as a pastor, as someone who is sometimes asked to offer guidance or counsel or wisdom; as someone who moderates the Session and writes the weekly liturgy; who offers prayers.

I'm thinking today about the power of words as a preacher, as the person who stands in or near the pulpit and proclaims God's Word, who meditates upon a scripture passage, who dives into commentaries and sermons and theology books, and who reflects upon the lives we are all living and seeks to speak to them and of them in concert with God's Word. What is the Lord saying to us today? But I confess to thinking especially about the power of words in regard to being a person: a husband, a father, a son, a brother, a friend, and an enemy. And I know that there are times my words have failed. I've wounded. I've insulted. I've demeaned. I've failed to express my love or communicate my feelings. I've made someone cry and not because they were happy. But hopefully I've also lifted up. Hopefully I've also given confidence when someone has fallen or comfort when someone has stumbled or congratulations when someone has succeeded. There have been moments when my heart has been full to overflowing with love and admiration and thankfulness and hopefully in some small way my words have given form to what I'm feeling.

Each of us has great power simply with the use of words. In our world of the 21st century, it seems more and more important that we choose our words carefully. We say much however few or many words we use.

APRIL ATTENDANCE

April 2, 107
Communion April 2 at Church 107 plus 8 at the Masonic Home (total 115)
April 9, 103
April 16 139
April 23 90
April 30 NA

COFFEE HOSTS AND HOSTESSES

Bev and Charlie Stoehr
Linda and Carl Glup, Marlene and Steve Wehrbein
Easter Breakfast sponsored by Mission & Evangelism
Janet and Drew McCartney
Della and Tom Sullivan

MAY LAY READERS

May 7 Penny Bryant
May 14 Joyce Heim
May 21 NA
May 28 NA

MAY USHERS/GREETERS

May 7 Ed and Janice Vandenberg, Dennis and Marlene Wood
May 14 Ed and Janice Vandenberg, Dennis and Marlene Wood
May 21 Ed and Janice Vandenberg, Dennis and Marlene Wood
May 28 Ed and Janice Vandenberg, Dennis and Marlene Wood

MAY 7, COMMUNION SERVERS: Sherry Condit, Rich Eymann, Scott Lubben, Janet McCartney

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES FOR MAY

May 7 ~ John 10:1-10 May 14 ~ John 14:1-14 May 21 ~ John 14:15-21 May 28 ~ Acts 1:6-1

PRAYER CHAIN, MAY 2, 10:30AM

Please contact Karen Berkland at 402-990-8063 to be a link in the prayer chain. **A Prayer Request Box** and prayer request cards are at the south entrance of the sanctuary. These requests remain confidential with the prayer chain group.

MAY 7, FELLOWSHIP

We will honor seniors on May 7th during Fellowship. If you have a senior graduating please call or text Marlene Wood at 402 297 2907

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:15-9:15AM – NO CHILDREN'S CLASS ON MAY 28

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 – 10:30AM

YOUTH GROUP, MAY 7, 5:30-7PM

Sunday school sessions are open every Sunday, **except on May 28**. We are currently learning about God's 9 "Fruits of the Spirit". Sunday school is offered to pre-school through 4th grade or older siblings of elementary age children. Please bring your children or grandchildren to church. We can always use helpers to assist during Sunday school.

We are starting to plan our annual Vacation Bible School to teach about "God's Galaxy." It will be out of this world! So watch for more details in the coming newsletters. Don't forget about summer camps. The flyers for the Summer Camps are available in the Fellowship Room.

Kids from 5th grade through High School are encouraged to try our Youth Group on Sunday evenings from 5:30 to 7pm. We begin with a meal and then an activity of some kind and then the Bible lesson for the day. Thanks for supporting our children, youth and the young at heart.

MAY ADULT CLASSES WITH PASTOR MATT

Probably every single one of us prays even as there might be a part of us wondering what exactly it is we are doing or asking or seeking. If you'd like to be part of a group of people who are/may be asking some of the same questions you do about prayer, then join us on Wednesdays in the month of May as we spend some time with Max Lucado and his video series entitled "Before Amen: The Power of a Simple Prayer." In this video series we will learn the basics of a prayer life: praising, asking, interceding, and thanking." We will meet at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in the church library on May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. If you can be there every time, that's great. If you can't make it every time, please come when you can.

MISSION AND EVANGELISM

Coming Soon ~ Summer Picnics. Save the dates of June 6, 13, 20, 27 and July 11, 18 and 25 for this year's Summer Picnics. The task force is hard at work putting together great menus and lots of fun. We'll be looking for people to set up, greet, serve the dinner and then clean up afterwards. Summer picnics will be 6:00-7:15 p.m. each of those evenings.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Coordinator: Cheryl Henry
Treasurer: Wanda Hudson Secretary: Sherry Condit
Interpretation of Mission (FUN): Marlene Wehrbein
Opportunity Giving: Eloise Murray and Karen Berkland



1pm on May 17, in the church library.

Hostesses: Sherry Condit, Georgia McCarl, Ruth Madison, Eloise Murray

If you would like to join Circle, we welcome you!

INVITATION FROM KIRSTEN WOOD

Please join us in celebrating Kendall Wood's graduation from Plattsburgh High School on Saturday, May 20, 2017. The party is in the Plattsburgh State Bank Community Room from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR CARL ANDERSON

My heart is full! My final project, entitled *FINDING HEALTHY SYNCRETISM: HOW THE LITURGICAL YEAR PROVIDES AN IDEAL CHRISTIAN PRACTICE FOR RURAL MAINLINE CONGREGATIONS*, has been accepted and I will graduate this year with a Doctorate of Ministry, Christian Spirituality Cohort, from Fuller Theological Seminary. I wanted to share my Acknowledgement (something like a dedication) from my project:

I would like to thank First Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh for teaching me how to be a pastor. I want to share my joy and appreciation for my sojourners of Bricolage for their challenge and encouragement. I am grateful for a family who has encouraged academic pursuits as a quizzical expression of learning. Most of all, thank you to my beloved, Natalie, and our three adventures, Lainey, Halle, and CJ for letting me pursue this wild goose. Finally, thank you to the Divine who has created us with these intuitive rhythms and melodies that become beautiful harmonies when we intersect each other.

Y'all made top bill! I am so grateful for how God orchestrated our time together. Thank you for your trust and encouragement. Prayers continue for eyes to see what God is doing next... Hope all is well. Peace and blessings.

THANK YOU FROM BOB FELTHOUSEN

I want to thank all of you for your prayers, cards and calls. It meant a lot to Grace and me.

THANK YOU TO OUR CONGREGATION

I have heard that the one most important question anyone can ever ask is – “How can I help?” The people of FPC most asked this question because so many of you have reached out to us and helped us cope with the loss of our son, Curtis. It has been tough this past year and a half, but we felt your prayers every step of the way. He is in a place where there is no more pain. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. In Christian love, Truman and Karen Berkland.

A SINCERE THANK YOU FROM KATHY GORTON

Dear Church friends, I can't express how much you all mean to me. I want to thank you for all of your prayers, well-wishes, cards and calls. My recuperation is a slow process, however, I am progressing. I hope to make a full recovery so I can join you all in worship. In Christian love, Kathy

A mom once wrote an article called “Twenty Better Questions to Ask Your Child After School.” She said she had grown tired of the one-word answers to “How was your day?” and finally figured out she was the one asking the poor question. So she decided to come up with some better ones ~ “What did you learn today? What was your favorite part of the day? What part of the day wasn't so great? What was the funniest thing that happened today?” ~ I don't think any of those questions could be answered with a single word and each of them likely leads to more. If we're looking for better conversations with the people we care about, with the friends we meet, with the neighbor next door, maybe what we can do is start with better questions.

MAY 2017

Birthdays

5/2— Kelly Hadraba	5/17—Aaron Glup
5/3— Craig Schafer	5/22—Connie Diggs
5/4— Eric Murtha	5/23—Darren Eymann
5/5— Judy Eymann	5/26—Kendall Wood
5/10—Linda Berney	5/28—Arline Anderson
5/10—Stephanie Schafer	5/28—Linda Guynn
5/12—JoAnn Murtha	5/28—Susan Corbin
5/12—Mary Hammons	5/30—LaVerne Perry
5/12—Norma Hardy	5/30—Wesley Ludlow
5/13—David Sharp	5/31—Daniel Bryant
5/15—Meghan Glup	5/31—Maurice Hammons

Anniversaries

5/20/2001—Maurice & Mary Hammons
5/21/1988—Doug & Kari Wehrbein
5/23/1953—Art & Edith Tesarek
5/25/1996—Gregg & Angie Owen

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