

The Chimes

of First Presbyterian Church

May 2017

A monthly newsletter for friends and members of our church...



It Is In Our Nature . . .

1 Thessalonians 5:16-21

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances.....Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything."

A few weeks ago, Logan went to his school carnival and won a goldfish in one of those games. As soon as he came home, he Skyped me and showed me the fish. *He named it Bob.* I asked him why he named it Bob and he replied, "It's my friend." Then I noticed that he kept on shaking the tank and feeding the fish every 5 minutes. No other person could have contact with Bob other than Logan. A little later, Jayden sneaked in and fed the fish. Logan rushed in the room and yelled, "Don't feed Bob. He's my friend."



I told Logan if he continued to feed the fish and move the tank around, it could kill Bob. He arguably responded "No, Bob will never die." Well... I'm not a prophet, but unfortunately, the next morning, Logan found his fish dead, floating in the tank. He was sad and frustrated all day. Susan was going to buy him a new fish, but he didn't want one anymore. In case it died again, he didn't want to feel sad.

I wonder how he was so quickly attached to the fish, I mean "Bob." The fish didn't talk or respond to him in any way like a dog or cat does.

What made him bond to the fish so closely in such a short amount of time?

Child psychologists say that kids develop their own cognitive skills to react to the world. As little babies, they look around their room and are **automatically** attracted to things that are small, moving, and/or noisy. It is in their instinct and nature. By interacting with the things or animals, babies and little children learn and advance their relationship with the world. Just a little thing is a part of their larger world.

We're children of God. It is in our nature that we are **automatically attached to the Lord**, and able to learn from Him and develop our relationship with Him. We don't need to force ourselves to bond with our Lord. It is inside of us already.

That's why Paul says, "Do not quench the Spirit." *The Spirit has been bestowed upon us.* We should be able to recognize His voice through the Spirit. What Paul says is related to Jesus' statement of, *"Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."* The words "change" and "become" should not be interpreted as 'trying hard,' or 'working hard,' but **you should be who you are, and see the spirit of God inside of you.**

Jay Kim

It Takes a Lot of People

Wk	Flowers For Month	Elders/Deacons Communion Or Servers	Children's Message	Ushers For Month	Greeters	Liturgist	Prayer Team
5/7	Don and Vickie Hughart	1) J. Green 2) K. Toedtli B. Blakey S. Curtiss L. Dalbey Pastor Jay	Hannah Weisgerber	John Hansen Connie Hansen Amy Boots Bruce Dobry	Jerry and Linda Johannes	TBD	Available Prayer Team Members
5/8		Communion at Crossroads					
5/14	Open		Amanda Mittan	Same	Cliff Furrow	TBD	Available Prayer Team Members
5/21	Lloyd and Pat Howell		Manda Clarke	Same	Frank and Joann Tolstedt	TBD	Available Prayer Team Members
5/28	Larry and Lyllus Dalbey		Kim Hielscher	Same	Mary Goodell	TBD	Available Prayer Team Members

****Men's Breakfast****

Our Men's Life Group will have their next breakfast on Saturday, May 13th at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Make sure to bring a friend to breakfast!



Our congregation will be delivering Meals on Wheels in July. If you can help with this ministry,

please sign up on the calendar that is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Statement of Receipts - Fin'l Secretary - April 2017

Offerings	4/2	4/9	4/16	4/23	4/30		Monthly Total	Bal. Fwd	YTD - 2017
Pledged Offerings	3,633.00	2,288.00	1,167.00	682.00			7,770.00	36,559.78	44,329.78
Un-pledged Offerings	580.00	190.00	255.00	75.00			1,100.00	4,415.00	5,515.00
Loose Offerings	81.00	8.00	53.00	17.00			159.00	335.26	494.26
Total Offerings	\$4,294.00	\$2,486.00	\$1,475.00	\$774.00	\$0.00		\$9,029.00	\$41,310.04	\$50,339.04

- 515 Emerson Ave. - P.O. Box 396 - Alliance, NE 69301 - (308) 762-1775 - E-Mail: fpca@bbc.net -

- Website: www.alliancefpc.com - Reverend Jay Kim, Pastor -

May Anniversaries

- 16 Steve and Gayle Redecker
- 18 Damian and Kelle Haller
- 22 Tanner and Hannah Weisgerber
- 23 Lloyd and Pat Howell
- 26 Gary and Margaret Wichman
- 27 Jim and Jacci Irwin
- 27 Lyle and Diane Lurz
- 29 Larry and Lyllus Dalbey
- 29 Sean and Misty Nollette



May Birthdays

- 4 Lori Redecker
- 4 Caeson Clarke
- 5 Gary Leever
- 5 Sandra Shanks
- 6 Sean Nollette
- 6 Norm McConnell
- 6 Jackson Minnick
- 8 Joyce Lawrence
- 9 Leslie Reeh
- 9 Katy Dobry
- 11 Bob Kammerer
- 16 Alexander (A.J.) Bedient
- 16 Susan Kim
- 16 Landon Hickman
- 20 Mike Mees
- 22 Lauren Haller
- 25 Robert Boots
- 28 Sheila Walker
- 30 Kay Wallace
- 30 Roxanne Foster



The family of Brenda Rowley would like to offer their sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped in any way with Brenda's service. "We were strangers and you provided for us as if we were your own family." You will never know how much we appreciated your kindness and love. God Bless You All.

Mike, Bob, Shannon, Betty and
Brenda's Extended Family



Circle Meetings

Good Morning Circle

Good Morning Circle will be meeting Wednesday, May 3rd at 9:00 a.m. at the Church. Lyllus Dalbey and Belva Krejci will be the Hostesses.

Serendipity Circle.

Serendipity Circle will be meeting Wednesday, May 3rd at 12:30 p.m. at the church for their Annual Salad Luncheon.

C.T. Board

C.T. Board will be meeting on Wednesday, May 17th at 9:00 a.m. at the Church. Hostess will be Norma Green.

Ephesians 4

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ...

The P.W. would like to thank everyone who helped with the Spring Rummage Sale. Your assistance made it possible to accomplish a big job. We appreciate all of you!



Children and Youth News — May 2017

May is the last month of Sunday School until September. THANK YOU to the faithful volunteers who taught Sunday School for the children this year. Hannah Weisgerber instructed the children in the Elementary Classroom in April and Helen McConnell will teach that class in May.



May 21 will be the last day of Sunday School until September.

Palm Sunday, April 9, concluded the "Lenten Secret Pal" ministry for six of the children in the church. The ministry ended with a luncheon after church where the children discovered who their "secret pals" were.

Easter morning was beautiful this year. Hannah gave the Easter message to the children with a set of Resurrection Eggs, while the Teen Class hid the Easter eggs on the church lawn. After the lesson was completed, the ten children put their names on their collection bags before going outside for the "hunt". A good time was had by all!



There is an arrangement of this year's summer camp information on the library table in the Parlor. Please look the information over if you have a child/children of camping age and get your registrations into the church office ASAP. The church is providing a \$100, scholarship to each child who registers for camp this summer.

The last Sunday in April, Will Nollette, our only third grader this year, will be presented with his new Bible by Helen McConnell.

The first Sunday in May will be Senior Recognition Sunday. A cake reception is planned following worship. Mothers Day and Teacher Recognition Sunday will be celebrated on May 14th.

Looking forward to summer don't forget that there will be a VBS for the children of the church July 23-July 26. At this time, there are about ten children planning to attend. Volunteers to help will be needed.



The CYM Team will meet next, as part of Spiritual Formation and Outreach on Sunday, May 7th, in the Conference Room after Worship and Fellowship. As always, please feel free to join us.

Barb Kendle, CYM Moderator

The young families of the Church will be having a Young Family Picnic (BBQ & Games) on June 25th, at 11:30 am at the Alliance City Park Shelter House.

There is also a Young Family Retreat planned for July 28th to 30th at Lake McConaughy.

Both of these events are planned to encourage our young families to get to know each other better and to experience fellowship in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. We are

hoping that all of our young families will be able to attend, and we ask that you would please pray for and support these upcoming events.



Save The Dates!

Bible Studies and Times:

Sunday—Morning Star—8:00 a.m. (Agents of Babylon)

Sunday—Adult Sunday School —9:00 a.m. (Living With Confidence in a Chaotic World)

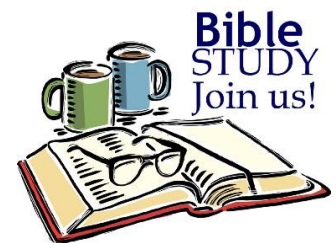
Tuesday—Early Morning Bible Study—6:30 a.m. (Escape the Coming Night)

Tuesday—EWG Bible Study—9:00 a.m. (Encounter With God)

Wednesday—Young Family Bible Study—6:30 p.m. (Esther—It's Tough Being a Woman)

Thursday—Women of Faith—9:00 a.m. (Also beginning Esther—It's Tough Being a Woman)

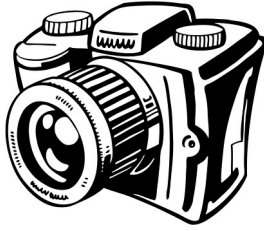
Thursday—Living Stones—2:00 p.m. (War Room)



This and That . . .

A NOTE FROM OUTREACH . . .

Take a stroll past the water fountain to see the bulletin board featuring our members and friends. Our aim is to help old, (dare I say "vintage") and new members of the church with putting names with faces. Outreach will change photos every month on the date of our meetings. We invite you to join our team if you have an interest and willingness to serve. We meet along with the Children and Youth Ministry and Spiritual Formation Teams the first Sunday of every month following Worship.



Moderator, Diane Lurz would like to remind the members of the Memorial Team that you will be meeting again on Thursday, May 4th at 11:00 a.m. at the Church. Please contact her if you have any questions.

My Offering

Where your treasury is there will be your treasure. (Matt. 6:21)

Name: _____
Address: _____
Amount: _____

Beginning in 2018 the church will no longer provide offering envelopes. The smallest number of boxes that we can order is 30, and there are always eight or nine boxes left over. We will continue to supply the generic envelopes from Hubbard Press in the pews as long as supplies last, or any regular envelopes that you might have at home will also work to put in the offering plate.

The important thing to remember would be to make sure that if your offering is for anything other than the General Fund...to indicate that on the memo portion of your check.

Stewardship Corner - Pennies From Heaven

Suppose you're the priest of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and an elderly church member tells you he wants to donate his coin collection to the church. What would you expect?

The Reverend Bob Hazel expected a few binders with carefully stored coins. Something to take to a coin shop or an online auction.

Except the donor, Melvin Doyle, wasn't exactly a collector in the sense that he traded a few rare coins. He was more of a "hang on to every coin that comes along" kind of collector. And he had been since 1918.

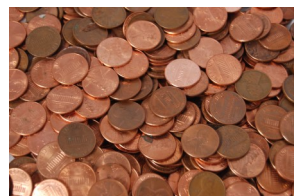
Doyle's stack of coins took three pick-up trucks to haul away.

True, there was a pretty good bunch of silver dollars and gold pieces, but there were also 1,340 pounds of pennies to sort through. Doyle's donation promised to be somewhere in the \$75,000 range once the rare coins were sold at auction and the rest processed by a bank. The donation would be used to help remodel St. Joseph's. **SOURCE: Star Tribune**

Here's what we don't know about Melvin Doyle: We don't know if he was a regular giver at St. Joseph's. We don't know if he tithed. All we know is that every 70 years or so he gave his loose change to the church.

And if that's all he did, that falls a bit short of what we'd normally call "stewardship."

Stewardship is using the resources God has given you to do His will and serve Him. And here's the catch: **Everything** you have is a resource God has given you. It's all His. Here's the challenge—be a good steward of what belongs to the Lord...use His resources as God directs you to use them. You will be blessed for it. Amen.



Support Address
New Life % Lana Sakos
2407 Minnewasta Road
Rapid City, SD 57702

Gomez Ministries

The Vander Schaaf's



John 14:11-13

Dear Friends and Family,

Joseph said, "But as for you, you thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." Genesis 50:20

What a great description of what God is doing in our lives. In late February, Wayne and I had the opportunity to attend a missionary retreat in Panajachel. At the time we didn't know what to expect, but as we were leaving for the conference, Erin prayed, "God surprise us." The blessings of the trip are still surprising us. The book man, who always attends and provides books for the missionaries, gave us some great books to read and some Bibles. Wayne and I are reading the book, "Healed Without Scars", by David G. Evans. The truth of the author's words is bringing healing and



peace. I recommend it to all who have been wounded. Then in early March, we received a call from a missionary we visited with at the conference. She works with the ROMP Organization here in Zacapa. She helps people who are in need of prostheses. Some friends of hers were coming down from the states to build tables for the facility. They needed a table saw. To Wayne and I, it was a confirmation of God's perfect will. It is the only larger tool God has led us to replace. Some great, godly men arrived the following Sunday. They were able to use the shop to build the tables. They had a great time working together and their stories of faith encouraged both Wayne and I.

In our last letter, we had asked for prayers for Wayne. We are grateful for your prayers. We are glad to report that after he started taking the warfarin again, the pain in his legs quickly went away. He was able to make the tables for his friends for the Sunday School Class without any problems. They were happy to get them.



I have shared with you before about my friend Berta whose daughter was suffering from malnutrition. Her little girl is doing very well. However, I ask for prayer for her again. Her brother was killed two weeks ago. Wayne and I helped with the funeral. We learned that his wife has seven children to care for. She will need lots of support and prayer. The good news is she prayed the prayer of salvation.

Last month, Wayne and I also had the opportunity to see Juan's mother baptized. He is the little boy who lost his father two years ago. It is so awesome to see what God is doing for this family. The Lord provided a great piece of land for them. Now we are praying God provides the funds to build a new house. All the children in Juan's family are attending the school. I wish I could send a picture that would capture the joy I see in them. God is doing a great work. I only pray we can help more children be able to attend the school.



We ask that you continue to pray for the school. It continues to grow in numbers, and it is outgrowing the area that Erin and Javier are renting. We are asking that God would surprise Erin and Javier with the funds for a new school for three reasons. They are outgrowing the school facility they are currently in, financially they are pouring money into something that isn't theirs to have in the years to come, and, because the lives of many children are being changed through the ministry. Daily I have the opportunity to pray for a child or share God's love through a hug or a word of encouragement.

Continued on next page...

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Wayne and I are also happy to share that the pastor at the church at the river found a new Sunday School Teacher. In December while we were gone they stopped having classes, but the first of March we started again. Not only do we have a new teacher, we have a new helper too. He has been a blessing. He came to our door asking if he could have English Classes on Saturday. I asked him if he would help with Sunday School. I said I would give him English Class for free. Come to find out he speaks English very well, and just needs to practice. He is a great help at Sunday School too. The Bibles we received at the conference are coming in handy. The kids now have Bibles to read.

The Lord has blessed us with the friendship of a great Christian young man named William. He has helped us out many times with legal issues. We are blessed to have him as a friend. His family's house was in need of some repair. The whole dirt wall was falling in. It would have collapsed in on the family during the rainy season. We felt led to provide some financial support to build the new wall. The wall was repaired this month and it looks great.

Wayne and William have been approached by the director of a school to help build an open-ended roof structure over the school's playground and court. It would be a big project, but it would be a blessing for the children at the school. It is in one of the poor areas of Zacapa, Barrio Mitch. It is called Mitch because many of the families that live there lost their homes when hurricane Mitch hit Central America. Still praying about taking on the project.

Easter break is in a few weeks. We have a week off from school and we are looking forward to the break. Our church, Ciudad de Paz, is having a retreat. We are praying for a revival in Guatemala. I am sure many of you have heard about the terrible events that occurred at a Guatemalan orphanage in Guatemala City. We need God's intervention to help restore this nation.

Many of the children who were at the orphanage in the city have been moved to a different orphanage. Thirty-seven children were sent to Hogar Temporal here in Zacapa. Javier has gotten permission for us to go and minister at the orphanage. I believe we will be going every Monday. Please pray that through our love and God's grace these wounded children will be restored.

"Let us not grow weary in well doing, for in time you will reap a harvest.

God Bless You,

Wayne and Valerie Vander Schaaf

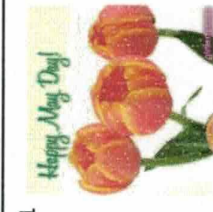
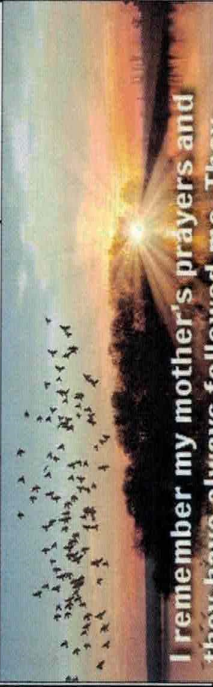
C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity...

...the rule for all of us is perfectly simple. Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less. There is, indeed, one exception. If you do him a good turn, not to please God and obey the law of charity, but to show him what a fine forgiving chap you are, and to put him in your debt, and then sit down to wait for his 'gratitude,' you will probably be disappointed. (People are not fools: they have a very quick eye for anything like showing off, or patronage.) But whenever we do good to another self, just because it is a self, made (like us) by God, and desiring its own happiness as we desire ours, we shall have learned to love it a little more or, at least, to dislike it less.



May 2017



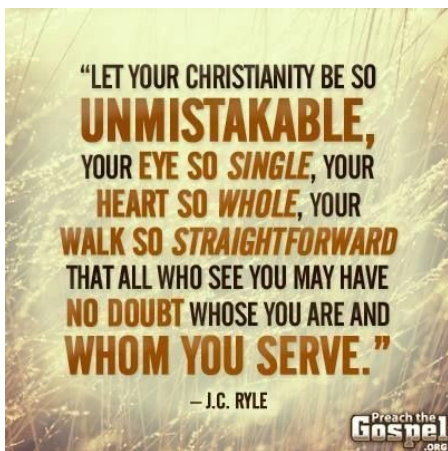
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  Happy May Day!	2 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 Missions Meeting -9:00 EWG at Crossroads	3 -9:00 Good Morning Circle—Hostesses: L. Dalbey/B. Krejci -12:30p Serendipity Circle—Annual Salad Lunch -6:30p Family Bible Study	4 -9:00 Women of Faith -11:00 Memorial Team Meeting -2:00p Living Stones	5	6 Presbytery Meeting Ft. Collins
7 -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship, Communion -Senior Recognition Sunday -11:45 CYM, SPF, Outreach Mtg	8 12:45p Communion at Crossroads -7:00p Session Meeting	9 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads -6:30p Trustees Meeting	10 -6:30p Family Bible Study	11 -9:00 Women of Faith -2:00p Living Stones	12	13 -8:00 Men's Life Breakfast
14 Mothers Day/DOVES Sunday -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship -Teacher Recognition Sunday --Bring Prayers to Microphone	15	16 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads	17 -C.T. Meeting —Hostess: Norma Green -6:30p Family Bible Study	18 -9:00 NO Women of Faith -2:00p Living Stones	19	20 Panhandle Quilt Guild in the Fellowship Hall
21 -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship -11:45 Deacons Meeting (Last day of Children's Sunday School until September.)	22 -7:30p Prayer and Worship Mtg.	23 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads Chimes Deadline	24 -6:30p Family Bible Study	25 -9:00 Women of Faith (Check With Lylsus) -2:00p Living Stones (Summer Schedule—now...1st Thursday of the month only until September.)	26	27
28 -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship (Last day of Morning Star Bible Study until September.)	29 MEMORIAL DAY Church Office Closed No Women's Luncheon	30 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads	31 -6:30p Family Bible Study			

First Presbyterian Church

515 Emerson Avenue

P.O. Box 396

Alliance, NE 69301



May 2017

Thoughts for the Journey—THE REMEDY OF REVIVAL . . .

The church around the world is growing at an unprecedented rate. Yet we take a good hard look at our own Christian nation and see nothing but opposition to God's Law, rejection of His Grace, and ridicule of His people. Our natural response is grief, even despair. It's tempting to think that things have never been this bad, that the church is dying, that God has abandoned us. That nothing can be done about it.

And yet, it is in the dark ground of apostasy that the seed of revival takes root.

The Bible testifies to God's tendency to keep His promises and preserve a remnant of the faithful. Even after He allowed His chosen people to be taken captive and removed from the Promised Land, He laid the foundation for revival. He raised up kings and prophets, called His people to repentance, and blessed them with peace and prosperity.

American history is rife with examples of the same mercies. The First and Second Great Awakenings, the sending of the first American missionaries, the founding of universities, the stirring of abolitionism, the flood of humanitarian causes, the launch of youth organizations—all have come as the result of revival that began even as doubters were pounding nails into the coffin of the church.

Excerpt from, "Is This the End", by Dr. David Jeremiah