

The Chimes

of First Presbyterian Church

September 2016

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



Reason to be Quiet Before God...

Luke 5:15 "Yet the news about Him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."

One Friday, I had to be in two different places; one was in the morning at a divorce court for my good friend, and the other was a wedding in the afternoon. The divorce court was somewhat full of unwelcome spirits. I felt the sense of tension, frustration, and even sadness. Then at the wedding, the place was full of happiness and excitement. All the people looked light-hearted and were delighted with the newlyweds. My heart also cheered for this couple.

But, to be honest, at the wedding I was still in the mood of the divorce court. The gloomy faces of the husband and wife were still swimming in my head. I had to put on a good face. My emotions had to extremely change from this end to that end. Was I faking? Pretending? Should I have said to the new couple, "I am not in the mood of celebrating your new life?" I know it would have been awkward if I said that. My emotions swung on both sides of the fence.

Later that afternoon when coming back to my place, I couldn't focus on my sermon. Setting my mind into the scriptural context was hard, as well as finding a practical application. I noticed that my emotions were still swayed by the two events and my heart was heavily distracted.

Then, later that night, while alone in my room I set aside all the things that happened to me during the day. I truly focused on me, then discovered my own emotions. I found the sense of who I truly am, and who I truly should be. Then the accounts of the Scripture came to me in a real setting. The stories in the Bible became my stories.

That's why we need to be alone before God every day in our lives, to find who we truly are, and see who God wants us to be. We lay down all those moments that we have to put on different faces in this society, and come to God, who knows our deepest hearts, and searches for our sincerity. We won't have to go beyond the boundary of who we truly need to be. Then we can hear God whisper in our ears, the smallest sound.

Jay Kim



It Takes a Lot of People

Wk	Flowers For Month	Elders Communion	Deacons	Ushers For Month	Greeters	Liturgist	Prayer Team	Children's Message
9/4	Open	1) T. Tolsted 2) K. Toedtli J. Butzine	K. Essex G. Redecker S. Nelson	M. Goodell A. Hughart V. Hughart B. Dobry	Larry and Lyllus Dalbey		B. Kendle K. Toedtli	Hannah Weisgerber
9/5	Communion Highland & Crossroads							
9/11	Carolyn Krause			Same	Marty and Carolyn Jones		S. Kammerer P. Dobry	Amanda Mittan
9/18	Marty and Carolyn Jones			Same	Al and Georgia Heckman		K. Hielscher P. Dobry	Manda Clarke
9/25	Open			Same	Howard and Shirley Watson		B. Kendle K. Toedtli	Kim Hielscher

Men's Breakfast

Vacation is over! Our Men's Life Group will have their next breakfast on Saturday, September 10th. We hope that you enjoyed your summer men of the church!

Make sure to bring a friend to breakfast.



September Sunday School Schedule

September finds us returning to our Fall Schedule for Sunday School. Morning Star Bible Study returns at 8:00 a.m. in the Tower Room, and Adult Bible Study returns to the 9:00 a.m. hour in the Fellowship Hall. Children will again meet during church time.



Statement of Receipts - Fin'l Secretary - August 2016

Offerings	8/7	8/14	8/21	8/28		Monthly Total	Bal. Fwd	YTD - 2016
Pledged Offerings	6,277.50	2,337.50	889.50			9,504.50	60,330.12	69,834.62
Un-pledged Offerings	1,340.00	90.00	300.00			1,730.00	14,385.00	16,115.00
Loose Offerings	48.05	34.25	43.00			125.30	966.12	1,091.42
Total Offerings	\$7,665.55	\$2,461.75	\$1,232.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,359.80	\$75,681.24	\$87,041.04

October Soup Festival

Attention all of you chefs! Have you been trying soup recipes so you will have something to share for **Soup Festival 2016** coming in October? Remember, it should be something soothing for the stomach as well as the soul, and should be a type of soup that freezes well. The challenge is on! Who will make the soup that gets top votes? More info will be available soon!!



United Methodist Women Luncheon

The women of 1st Presbyterian Church are invited to attend the United Methodist Women Luncheon.

Date: September 7th

Time: 12:00 Noon

Where: Alliance U.M.C., 704 Box Butte Avenue

Speaker: Edison Red Nest

We are asked to RSVP how many will be coming to Merrily Debusk at 762-5332 or 760-5332; or to Mickey Aruffo at 762-5454 or 760-2151.

Let's have a good representation from our church at this luncheon, just as these ladies support our Christmas Tea.

Circle Meetings

The first meeting in the Fall for Good Morning and Serendipity Circles will be on September 7th, at 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. respectively. Hostesses for Good Morning Circle will be Norma Green and Polly Potmesil at Norma's home...carpool at 8:30 from the church; and, for Serendipity Circle hostesses are J. Tolstedt and S. Fry.

C.T. Board be meeting on September 21st 17th at 9:00 a.m. at Norma Green's with Norma as Hostess.

September Birthdays

- 3 Vickie Hughart
- 4 Karen Debus
- 6 Vicki Freiburger
- 7 Barbara Swanson
- 8 Tim Mills
Chris Goodell
- 11 Elaine Potmesil
Kathy Myers
- 12 Bruce Dobry
- 13 Sondra Mees
- 14 Rev. Stephen Roosa
- 18 Doris Kuhn
- 19 Georgia Heckman
- 22 Evin Edwin Bedient
- 25 Syd White
- 26 Ann Lyster
- 28 Larry Holub
Devin Walker



September Anniversaries

- 8 Dennis and Sandy DeBusk
- 10 Roger and Suzanne Bedient
Duane and Vicki Bantam
- 11 George and Belva Krejci
- 15 Steve and Betty Blakey
- 16 Frank and JoAnn Tolstedt
Marty and Carolyn Jones
- 18 Floyd and Mildred Colwell
- 20 Jacob and Jessica Lux
- 21 John and Peggy Sampson
- 24 Bob and Marcia Boots
- 25 Tim and Linda Mills
Bob and Sue Kammerer





Children and Youth News — September 2016

The FIRST DAY of SUNDAY SCHOOL for the children and youth of our church will be SEPTEMBER 11th, the Sunday after Labor Day, and will begin after the Children’s Message during morning Worship.

After Worship on September 11th, the congregation is invited to join in a celebration of the beginning of Sunday School with “Cider on the Sidewalk” on the church lawn. There will be hot apple cider and apple cider donuts to enjoy as we celebrate the beginning of Sunday School with the children.

A big “THANK YOU” goes to the Sunday School teachers who volunteered to teach a month in the Elementary Classroom again for 2016-2017. Jill Green will be the teacher in September. If you agreed to volunteer as a Sunday School teacher, but have not let Barb Kendle know the month or months that would work best for you yet, please contact her as soon as possible. Also, if there is anyone else who would be willing to teach a month or be a substitute for the Elementary Classroom, please contact Barb.

FROM THE MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM

I hope you all enjoyed our reunion with the Gilmores as much as the Missions Ministry Team did. They shared their life story of listening for God to call, and then answering Him with unwavering service. What a story! They blessed us by relating their journey that is still in progress. We blessed them with \$690, to aid their ministry in spreading the Gospel to students from other nations who have different customs and beliefs. What a wonderful and caring church family you are! We are also blessed to have enjoyed a picnic meal sponsored by the Outreach committee. Also, a huge thank you to Sherrie and Larry Curtiss for hosting Jane and Tan, and Jill and Kent Green for providing a wonderful Saturday night dinner.



A Note From Tad and Jane...

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to the congregation for their incredible generosity in giving the free-will offering. We have been busy picking up 45 new students at the airport (24 runs back and forth!!). We will use the money to bless these new souls who have come to us from all over the world. Most don’t even know the name of Jesus.

We can remember when the pastor would ask us who we know who are not Christian. We could think of no one. Now they fill our day! Your church has been so significant in our lives. We can’t thank you enough for your love poured out on us.

Hugs to all,
Jane and Dr. Tad



Bible Studies and Times:

- Sunday—Morning Star—8:00 a.m. (Agents of Babylon)
- Sunday—Coffee and Conversation—9:00 a.m. (Various Topics)
- 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. (Restless—Because You Were Made for More)
- Thursday—Women of Faith—9:00 a.m. (Armor of God)
- Thursday—Living Stones—6:00 p.m. (T.B.A.)



This and That . . .

Dear Wonderful Friends,
Thank you for all the rides, visits, food and love that you all provided me with while I was “out of commission.”

It was so generous of each and every one of you to take time for me.

Much love,

Joyce



New Address:

DONNA ZELLER

**150 W. 24th St., Apt.
#129**

Alliance, NE 69301

Phone—308-762-7714

(Donna’s Cell Phone is not working at the present time.)



Worship in the Park!

Dear Fellow Parishioners,



Thank you for attending the Breakfast and Worship in the Park on August 21st, 2016. The many wonderful cooks brought such delicious food. So much work was done by so many people that it made our job easy.

We had 76 people in attendance and God blessed us with a beautiful day. We are thinking of some changes for next year, so we will be asking you for your opinions in the near future about our ideas. What a blessing to fellowship and worship in the natural surroundings of God’s creation.

Appreciatively,

The Worship and Prayer Team

SHOE BOXES!!!!

It doesn’t seem possible that summer is gone and it is time to start thinking of ...CHRISTMAS! Yet, it is time to start thinking of filling Shoe Boxes again for Operation Christmas Child. Do you have some that you would donate?

Barb Kendle has taken over the coordination of this ministry and will be providing wrapped boxes for us to fill. They will soon be placed under the Library Table in the Parlor with a list of suggested gift items enclosed.



The Presbyterian Women Fall Rummage Sale will be coming

up soon! This is a good time to do some closet cleaning and put your unused items and clothing to better use. Be watching for the announcement of the date in the September CHIMES.

Time...Time...Time!

Time for what, you ask??? Time to return to our regularly scheduled time for Worship and Sunday School. On September 4th we begin meeting again at 10:30 am for Worship. There will be no Sunday School that day because of the Labor Day Weekend. Beginning September 11th Sunday School will again be meeting—Morning Star at 8:00 am and Adult Sunday School at 9:00 am. Children’s Sunday School will meet during Worship.





Faith at the Olympics—Rio’s Best Kept Secret

By: Eric Metaxas

Published: August 22, 2016 6:00 AM

We’ve all heard the story of Eric Liddell, who turned down an opportunity for Olympic gold at the Paris Games in 1924 in order to honor His Savior. It was Liddell who famously said, “God made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.”

Well, this summer in Rio de Janeiro, there’s been a whole *lot* of running, jumping, swimming, and competing by athletes seeking to honor Jesus Christ. Not that you’ve heard much about it from the “mainstream” media. I spoke about this media blackout with my friend Terry Mattingly, who’s one of today’s foremost religion journalists. Terry told me, “If these athletes make faith a part of their story, how do you leave out faith when telling their story?” Come to BreakPoint.org for a link to the podcast.

Now, I’ve already told you the story of super-swimmer Michael Phelps, who reached the pinnacle of sports and found it hollow—and then contemplated suicide. But Phelps found a reason to live when Ray Lewis gave him a copy of “The Purpose-Driven Life,” by Rick Warren. Michael’s story reminds us of the role that God’s people have as bringers of hope and agents of restoration.

There have been many such reminders in Rio. Fiji dominated Great Britain, 43-7 in rugby, earning the island country’s first-ever gold medal. Then the winning players huddled and sang, both in English and Fijian: “We have overcome / We have overcome / By the blood of the Lamb / And the Word of the Lord / We have overcome.” Then they received their medals humbly—on their knees!

In the women’s 10,000 meters race, Almaz Ayana, from Ethiopia, obliterated the previous world record by 14 seconds. Responding to unfounded rumors about cheating, Almaz retorted, “My doping is my training and my doping is Jesus. Nothing otherwise—I am crystal clear.”

American swimmer Simone Manuel set an Olympic record in the 100-meter freestyle, becoming the first African-American woman to win gold as a swimmer, the first African-American woman to win a medal in an individual swimming event, and the first American to win the 100-meter since 1984. After the race she said, with tears rolling down her cheeks, “All I can say is all glory to God.”

Then there’s another inspiring Olympian named Simone—Simone Biles, acknowledged to be the world’s greatest female gymnast—and perhaps the best ever. But what’s truly inspiring is her story—adopted at age 6 by her grandparents because of her mother’s battle with addiction. Now reconciled with her mom, Simone draws strength from her relationship with God and her faith.

Katie Ledecky, who may become the greatest woman swimmer of all time—and who won the 800-meter freestyle by an amazing 11 seconds—says her faith in Christ “is part of who I am.”

I could go on and on in this Olympic hall of faith, but I’ll leave you with just one more. Champion diver David Boudia says he’s well aware of the need to represent Christ with integrity, saying, “If I represent a good God, I need to be that visual representation of him all the time, not just when I feel like it.” David tells his amazing and inspiring story from despair to discipleship in his book, “Greater Than Gold: From Olympic Heartbreak to Ultimate Redemption.”

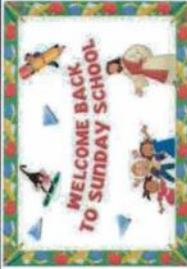
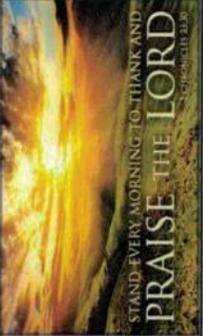
It’s great to see these “bringers of hope and agents of restoration” compete for the glory of God. But we’d miss the point if all we do is applaud them and then turn off our TVs. We are called to compete for Christ, too. As Eric Liddell also said, “It has been a wonderful experience to compete in the Olympic Games and to bring home a gold medal. But ... I have had my eyes on a different prize. ... Each one of us is in a greater race than any I have run in Paris, and this race ends when God gives out the medals.”

Amen. Now *that* is a story worth repeating!



September 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 4 -10:30 Worship, Communion -11:45 CYM, SPF, Outreach Meeting	5 Labor Day Holiday Church Office Closed	6 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads -9:00 Missions Meeting	7 -9:00 Good Morning Circle-Hostesses N. Green/P. Potmesil At Norma's Home 1:30p Serendipity Circle-Hostess J. Tolstedt/S. Fry -6:30p Family Bible Study	8 -9:00 Women of Faith -6:00p Living Stones	9	10 -8:00 Men's Life Breakfast
11 Sunday School Begins DOVES Sunday -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -10:30 Worship Cider on the Sidewalk Following Worship	12 -7:00p Session Meeting	13 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads -6:30 Trustees Meeting	14 -10:00 Crossroads Jay Presentation and Communion -6:30p Family Bible Study	15 -9:00 Women of Faith -6:00p Living Stones	16	17
18 -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -10:30 Worship -11:45 Deacons Meeting	19	20 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads CHIMES DEADLINE	21 -9:00 CT Meeting Hostess N. Green -6:30p Family Bible Study	22 -9:00 Women of Faith -6:00p Living Stones	23	24
25 -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship	26 -Ladies Lunch at Arbys -7:30p Prayer and Worship Meeting	27 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads	28 -6:30p Family Bible Study	29 -9:00 Women of Faith -6:00p Living Stones	30	

First Presbyterian Church

515 Emerson Avenue

P.O. Box 396

Alliance, NE 69301

Return Service Requested



September 2016

Thoughts for the Journey—How We Worship...

THE WORSHIP OF GOD IS THE HEART OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND CENTER OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH. The Westminster Shorter Catechism affirms that our chief end in life is “to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” This places the worship of God at the very center of what it means to be God’s people and makes worship the highest expression we can render to our God-given humanity. Christian worship is a corporate act of the people of God where we gather to realize God’s presence and respond with praise to God’s gift of love to us in Jesus Christ.

The next several months this column will focus individual acts of worship that take place each Sunday.

3. **THE WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP**—is an opportunity to welcome visitors, make necessary announcements, and bring to the attention of the membership timely events in the life of our church.
4. **THE CALL TO WORSHIP**—draws our attention from our many concerns to the primary concern of the moment. Through words drawn from Scripture, we are led toward God, and invited; “Come, let us worship.”
5. **THE HYMNS OF PRAISE**—reflects the fundamental purpose of Christian worship. Praise is the people’s joyful response to God’s gift in Jesus Christ. These hymns are chosen to be uplifting and vibrant, reflecting the praise we seek to offer to our God.

Let’s begin to approach our morning of worship as we enter the Sanctuary—directing our hearts and minds towards our gracious God in order to glorify Him and give ourselves totally to Him in praise and worship.