

**First
Presbyterian
Church**
Wayne, Nebraska

Presbytidings – October 2026

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
216 West Third Street, Wayne, Nebraska 68787
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"Our chief end is to glorify and enjoy God forever."



A BLESSING

By Kate Bowler

Bless you who notice the days growing shorter
while the afternoon still feels like summer.

May you make room for both truths;
something is ending and something is still here.

Bless the changes already underway that ask
nothing of your ambition.

The leaves turn without our help.
Perhaps some things can unfold without striving.

Bless the plans filling up your calendars.
May they never become so complete that
there is no room for the friend who calls,
the long way home, the ridiculous detour.

And bless what you cannot see coming.
May you remain available to surprise,
to the small, unnecessary delights that
make an ordinary life feel alive.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026

Sunday, October 4 is World Communion Sunday, a day when we share the Bread of life and the Cup of Salvation alongside Christians in all different traditions, around the world. The communion elder will be Suzanne Sjuts.



What does the Lord require of you? "... to do justice and to love kindness and walk humbly with your God." – Micah 6:8

World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) originated in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In 1936, for the first time, the first Sunday in October was celebrated in Presbyterian churches in the United States and overseas. From the beginning, it was planned so that other denominations could make use of it, and after a few years, the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church. The Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) was first associated with World Wide Communion Sunday in 1940 when the department's executive secretary, Jesse Bader, led in its extension to a number of churches throughout the world. (From the website of the National Council of Churches, as captured by the Wayback Machine on September 8, 2011. nccusa.org/unity/worldcommunionsunday.html.)

The PC(USA) will be changing from four to three special offerings, One Great Hour, Christmas Joy and World Communion Offerings beginning in 2026. World Communion offering at FPC will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 4th. The offering supports racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, ecumenical and interfaith relations. As part of this Offering, a grant program is being created that allows any council of the PC(USA) — session, presbytery or synod regardless of participation in the World Communion Offering — to apply for funds to support their own efforts to do ministry around these cause areas.

From the Pastor...

Recently I attended an event put on by the Great Plains Small Church Conference, held at Calvin Crest in Fremont, NE. The theme of the conference was "So We're Small. Get Over It! – Celebrating God's Abundance."

This was a small group which led to a lot of good conversation among leaders and participants. The first session started with Psalm 22, a psalm of David. David is experiencing attacks of enemies, he is lamenting and asking for God's deliverance. The psalm expresses David's pain, opening with the words; *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* The psalm expresses isolation and helplessness in verse 1-21 then beginning with verse 22, turns to praise in the remaining verses. The session leader used the psalm as a reminder to small churches and leaders that while we might lament the way things used to be, we can't stay in times of lament but must move forward. Much like we lament the death of a loved one, we must find a way to move forward rather than stay caught in grief. At the end of our session on Psalm 22 we had gone from lament, to praise, to celebration. We left the meeting room in an improvised "Second Line" parade, a New Orleans tradition. The "Second Line" parade, funeral processions are characterized by a lively atmosphere filled with music, dancing, and colorful attire are a unique way to honor and celebrate the life of someone who has passed away. It was a reminder to participants that God meets us in our struggles, our laments and can transform them into joy.

The Rev. Catherine Neelly Burton from the Presbytery of Southern Kansas, was one of the speakers. Neelly Burton is the Mission and Ministry Connector for the Presbytery of Southern Kansas where about 2/3 of the congregations have little or no paid staff. PC(USA) statistics show that about 70% of PC(USA) congregations have less than 100 members. The first step is for a congregation and its leadership is to recognize the changes in the church and the culture around them and take

responsibility. Assess what resources are available, building, people, and financial resources. Rev. Neelly Burton shared some of the creative ways these small congregations were doing worship, often led by elders and lay pastors, some used electronic or digital means to worship with other congregations. Opening their buildings to address community needs, like a regular coffee hour for senior citizens in a community without a Senior Center.

I was reminded recently that First Presbyterian Church of Wayne was chartered in 1881 with 11 members, the congregation started small, has grown and shrunk through the years. I don't think we have Mega church DNA, however, small doesn't mean insignificant, but creative, adaptive, and resourceful. Let's remember what was but not stay stuck in the past. Let us be attentive to God prompts about new opportunities and ways to serve. Let's try new things, not everything will be successful, but we can learn from everything we try. God's abundance isn't measured by size—it's measured by God's grace, which the conference theme scripture reinforced, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10). Let us celebrate what we have, let us choose joy rather than lament, let us choose life abundant!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Teresa

TELLING THE STORY OF GOD'S LOVE

The familiar hymn "I Love to Tell the Story" encompasses the work of the church by telling of "unseen things above," "of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love." Jesus was a storyteller and as a church we are to continue to tell the stories of our Triune God's love and grace, to tell of and enact Jesus' love to members and neighbors near and far.

As a church it is important, we continue to tell the stories of our Triune God and God's love as well as how our lives are different because of our faith. How has the church played a part in your story, how has your faith impacted your life? We are members of this community of faith, because it is important in our life story. Do you have a favorite Bible story or biblical character that speaks to you which has impacted your life and made you think in new ways? Perhaps your story is like the Apostle Paul's who had a sudden and powerful conversion experience, or like Mary, the mother of Jesus who submitted with faith and trust to God working through her or are you a Peter who loves Jesus, but makes your fair share of mistakes. The biblical story of God's love and grace, of our human mistakes, of our repentance and new beginnings is our story and one that a hurting world needs to hear.

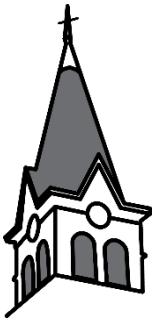
The Session asks your help to continue telling the story of God's love through the sharing of your financial resources, as well as your time and talent. With your support we can share the story through worship, supporting ministries of compassion and care such as the Food Pantry and Coat Closet, supporting our youth as they grow in faith, supporting and encouraging each other in times of grief and in times of celebration. We each have a part in the story of First Presbyterian, and your support is needed to continue sharing God's love with one another and our community.

October is Stewardship month and the Session asks you to consider your giving for the remainder of this year and for 2027. You will be receiving information from the financial secretary, and everyone is asked to prayerfully consider their circumstances and complete their 2026 pledge and determine their pledge for 2027. While you are not required to make a specific pledge, the Session appreciates members returning the Intention of Giving for budget planning purposes by October

18th to Anita Fuelberth. Your support helps First Presbyterian Church continue to tell the story of Jesus and his love.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Teresa



UPCOMING RENOVATIONS TO FPC BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The Session has approved some renovations to our church building and grounds. These include changing parking on the northwest corner of the property from street parking to off-street parking. The parking area will connect with the sidewalk, so access to the steps and ramp will be safer for members and visitors. The contractor for the parking project is Pavilk Precision Concrete. Pavilk was planning to start September 23rd, however due to the recent rains, the start of the project will be determined by the weather.

The Session has approved renovations in Fellowship Hall which include paint and new carpet. The Session asked Amy Bowers and Shari Dunklau to research and offer recommendations for Fellowship Hall. Shari and Amy presented their proposals at the September Session meeting. Their recommendation for flooring is a low pile, nylon plank-style carpet, the supplier is Flooring Solutions from Norfolk. This carpet is a 12 x 48 plank style, which allows easy replacement if one area is damaged or soiled. Other reasons for electing to go with carpet include that carpet minimizes sound and provides a non-slip surface in a high traffic area. The color of the carpet is complementary to that in the sanctuary. The carpet selected for Fellowship Hall, offices and office hallway will be on display in Fellowship Hall over the next couple of weeks. Carpet will also be replaced in the back hallway and stairs, which will be a different type of carpet, but still complimentary since it needs to wrap the stairs. The paint will be similar to what is currently in Fellowship Hall, the walls will be patched before painting. The timing of the carpet for the project will probably be mid-November or December depending on the time needed for the order to be fulfilled and work scheduled.

Our Fellowship Hall is a true multipurpose space being used for bells, coffee fellowship, CoffeeHouse style worship, funerals, as well as for celebrations and gatherings of our congregation. It is also the entry and exit point for the Wayne Food Pantry and Coat Closet. The Session will be taking time and consideration to think about how we can best use the space, which might include moving, adding, or removing items from the area to maximize the use of the space.

These changes are being made to make our spaces and property more accessible, safer, and more welcoming. As with any type of improvement project there will be a time when things are out of order and inconvenient, however the Session believes the improvements to the property will benefit members and guests alike and asks for your understanding as these projects go forward.

The Session and Pastor Teresa

FPC DEACONS TO HOST COAT GIVE-AWAY: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10



Saturday, October 10th, the First Presbyterian Church Deacons will be hosting a coat give away from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Coats for all ages will be available, the selection will be limited to stock on hand. In addition to coats, there is a limited selection of hats, scarves and gloves. Each “shopper” can select one coat and accessories; parents may select for their children. The event is open to all area individuals and families. The Deacons will be setting up on Thursday, October 8th in the afternoon with help from volunteers. On October 15th, we will return the coats to the basement. If you are able to assist, please contact Pastor Teresa.

LOADS OF LOVE



Has anyone here had to use a laundromat recently? Did you know that it costs between \$3.50 and \$5.50 per load depending on the laundromat, in contrast to being able to do laundry in your home which works out to about \$1.20 per load. In addition, there is the cost of laundry detergent and/or dryer sheets. The Wayne Ministerial Association or **WACAM** is planning for a project in October called “Loads of Love”. Each congregation is encouraged to collect laundry supplies and quarters for the first “*Loads of Love*” event on October 24th to assist area residents with their laundry.

PASTORAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES

Pastor Teresa will lead pastoral outreach services at the following locations throughout October:

- **KINSHIP POINTE CHAPEL:** Pastor Teresa will lead a chapel service at Kinship Pointe at 3:30pm on Wednesday, November 11th.
- **RADIO DEVOTIONS:** Pastor Teresa will be giving devotions on 104.9 Big Red Country KTCH the week of October 5th – October 9th at 5:40am and the week of November 23rd – 27th.
- **COUNTRYVIEW:** Sunday, November 1st at 1:30 pm.

WAYNE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

This month FPC members are asked to donate **soda crackers**. They go great with soup this time of year. A donation box is at the rear of the sanctuary.

SESSION

The next Session Meeting will be held on Monday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Meditations will be given by Mark Hammer.

COMMUNION

- World Communion Day will be held on Sunday, October 4th and Communion Elder will be Suzanne Sjuts.
- On November 1st, we will celebrate Communion with Mark Hammer, serving as the communion elder.

COFFEEHOUSE WORSHIP

- The October CoffeeHouse will be held on October 18th. A discussion leader and fellowship hosts are still needed.
- The November CoffeeHouse will be held on November 15th. Thank you to Mark Hammer for volunteering to lead the discussion. Fellowship host(s) is still needed.

COMMUNITY EVENT

- **PINK FLAMINGO NITE:** Thursday, October 22nd at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Wayne, NE from 5pm – 9 pm. Tickets are \$15 each. Together we can make a difference! Funds raised will go toward the purchase of a new MAMMOGRAPHY MACHINE. (See poster on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for more info.)

PLEASE VOLUNTEER AT FPC

- Join a friend or family member for a team approach to leading Coffeehouses worship or provide treats. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Pastor Teresa. Consider sharing the gift of hospitality.
- Greeters & lectors are needed. Please volunteer or say “yes” when asked.

THANK YOU NOTE

TO: Pastor Teresa, Members of the Session & FPC Members & Friends -

I appreciate all the kindness shown to me in my 14 years working at the First Presbyterian Church of Wayne, Nebraska. With gratitude and Love – Jenny Hammer

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

(Would you like to see your birthday listed here?)

Just contact the church office 402-375-2669 or fpcwayne@gmail.com)

5	Dale J.	18	Ron C.
8	John F.	20	Braydn McC.
10	Brook B.	21	Rob S.
14	Sydney S.		

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight saving time will end for the year at 2 a.m. local time on **Sunday, November 1st**, when we "**fall back**" and gain an extra hour of sleep. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour, or you'll have plenty of time for solitary meditation in the sanctuary!

SPECIAL DAYS/EMPHASIS SUNDAYS THROUGH OCTOBER

- [World Communion Sunday](#) (October 4, 2026)
- [Indigenous Peoples Day](#) (October 12, 2026)
- [World Food Day](#) (October 16, 2026)
- [Children's Sabbath](#); Educate a Child, Transform the World (October 18, 2026)
- [United Nations Day](#) (October 24, 2026)
- [Reformation Sunday](#) (October 25, 2026)

October 2026 – First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:00am Pealers practice World Communion Day	5 5:40am KTCH 104.9 Moment for Living Kinship Bible Study 1:15pm	6 5:40am KTCH 104.9 Moment for Living	7 5:40am KTCH 104.9 Moment for Living	8 FCCLA moves coats 3:45pm Deacons Meeting at 5:30pm	9	10 Coat Closet Coat Fair 10:00-1:00pm
11 9:00am Pealers practice	12 Kinship Bible Study 1:15pm	13 Coat Closet opens for Season	14 WACAM Mtg. 10:30am	15 FCCLA moves coats 3:45pm	16	17
18 10:00am Coffee House Worship	19 Kinship Bible Study 1:15pm Session 7:00pm	20	21	22	23	24 WACAM Loads of Love Event
25 9:00am Pealers Practice	26 Kinship Bible Study 1:15pm	27	28 Kinship Pointe Chapel 3:00pm	29	30	31 Halloween

GET OUR NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail (save a stamp, save a tree!), go to www.fpcwayne.com; on the home page, in the right-hand column, there is a widget that says, "NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION: Enter your e-mail address to receive Presbytids, our church's newsletter, by e-mail." Enter your address in the white box, and click on the button that says, "Sign me up!" You will need to confirm your subscription through an e-mail message that will be sent to your inbox; this is safe! It is designed to keep spammers out of the picture! Share our newsletter with all your friends and family. Simple!

Contact Information:

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402-375-2669

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Tuesday – Friday, 9am – 12 noon

Pastor Teresa Bartlett
402-375-2669 (office)
319-795-2911 (cell)

Websites:

Church: <https://fpcwayne.com/>

Wayne Food Pantry:

<https://fpcwayne.com/food-pantry/>

Wayne Coat Closet:

<https://fpcwayne.com/wayne-coat-closet/>



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