

# FPC CONNECTIONS

The Official Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Neola

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 3RD

### WORSHIP 10:30AM

### IN PERSON & YOUTUBE

#### Online Worship

#### YouTube Live:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE0fq93ZkAZnkLGzUPspwZQ>

- Click on the link above
- Or go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for **First Presbyterian Church Neola** or [www.fpcneola.com](http://www.fpcneola.com)
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel to find it anytime
- Watch live at 10:30am or anytime at your convenience after Worship.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Betsy	Korlys
Herb	Frank
Dave	James
Don	Mark
Teresa	Dawson
Liz	A safe harvest
Mark	

## ONLINE GIVING

If you would like to give online click [here](#) or visit our website [www.fpcneola.com](http://www.fpcneola.com). You will be asked to create a user account the first time you log in.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last week's all-church Sunday School was a hit! The weather was great, the trivia was a blast, and the company was the BEST. Thanks to all who took part!

Our yearly 2021 per capita offering will be taking place on October 10th during worship. This is the offering to pay our portions to the greater Presbyterian church in the US. For those who are willing and able, we suggest you offer the \$39.68 payment per member (or \$40 if you like to keep it easy).

Being Presbyterian means that we are connected to other Presbyterian churches in our area and across the US and even world. Most of the money stays local, and the regional and national money goes to administrative costs to keep the church running.

By giving our share, we help support local mission activities like Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for those affected by the flooding of the Missouri River. We've directly benefited from mission grants that bought the Bibles we gave out at the 4th of July parade, and went toward the new A/V system we installed last year.

We hope that you will consider participating in the per capita offering on the 10th!

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

### October 3rd

**Greeter:** Ron and Jan Elliott  
**Ushers:** Josh Able and Mike Eikenberry  
**Worship Leader:** Sarah Elliott  
**Session Leader:** Joe Munch  
**Fellowship:** Michelle Baatz  
**Communion:** Kyle Jensen

### October 10th

**Greeter:** Dawn Goodsell  
**Ushers:** Dan Elliott and Dave Hartwell  
**Worship Leader:** Shelly Sorenson  
**Session Leader:** Jessica Cook  
**Fellowship:** Brenda Eckrich

### October 17th

**Greeter:** Jerry and Cheryl Christensen  
**Ushers:** Rodney Carlson and Ron Elliott  
**Worship Leader:** Josh Able  
**Session Leader:** Renae Carlson  
**Fellowship:** Barb Farley

### October 24th

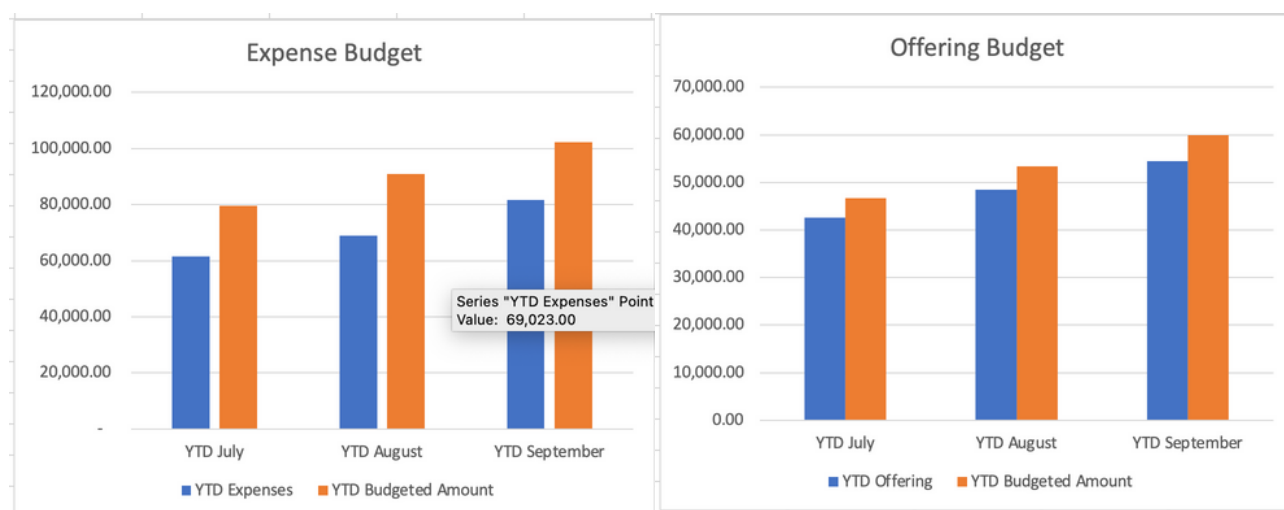
**Greeter:** Irene Lavine  
**Ushers:** Bill Ambrose  
**Worship Leader:** Chris Slocombe  
**Session Leader:** Mike Eikenberry  
**Fellowship:** Bonnie Ambrose

## CALENDAR

3	OCT, SUN	● All day	Communion First Presbyterian Church of Neola
		● 10:30 – 11:30am	Worship First Presbyterian Church of Neola
7	OCT, THU	● 9:30 – 10:30am	Morning Circle First Presbyterian Church of Neola
10	OCT, SUN	● All day	Per Capita Sunday
		● 10:30 – 11:30am	Worship
		● 10:45 – 11:30am	Children's Sunday School Ages 4-12 First Presbyterian Church of Neola
		● 11:45am – 3pm	Middle School/High School Sunday School First Presbyterian Church of Neola
13	OCT, WED	● 6:30 – 8:30pm	Session Meeting First Presbyterian Church of Neola
17	OCT, SUN	● 10:30 – 11:30am	Worship
24	OCT, SUN	● 9 – 10:15am	All-Church Sunday School and Breakfast First Presbyterian Church of Neola
		● 10:30 – 11:30am	Worship
31	OCT, SUN	● 10:30 – 11:30am	Worship
4	NOV, THU	● 9:30 – 10:30am	Morning Circle First Presbyterian Church of Neola
7	NOV, SUN	● All day	Communion First Presbyterian Church of Neola
		● All day	Pledge Dedication First Presbyterian Church of Neola
		● 10:30 – 11:30am	Worship

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Income Statement	YTD July	YTD August	YTD September
General Offerings	42,547.29	48,527.82	54,510.86
<b>Expense Budget</b>	<b>YTD July</b>	<b>YTD August</b>	<b>YTD September</b>
YTD Expenses	61,511.00	69,023.00	81,735.00
YTD Budgeted Amount	79,584.00	90,948.00	102,322.00
<b>Over/Under Expense Budget</b>	<b>-22.71%</b>	<b>-24.11%</b>	<b>-20.12%</b>
<b>Offering Income Budget</b>	<b>YTD July</b>	<b>YTD August</b>	<b>YTD September</b>
YTD Offering	42,547.29	48,528.00	54,511.00
YTD Budgeted Amount	46,667.00	53,333.00	60,000.00
<b>Over/Under Income Budget</b>	<b>-8.83%</b>	<b>-9.01%</b>	<b>-9.15%</b>
<b>Offering Income and Expense Overview</b>			
YTD General Offering	42,547.29	48,527.82	54,510.86
YTD Expenses	61,511.00	69,023.00	81,735.00
<b>Income Deficient</b>	<b>-31%</b>	<b>-30%</b>	<b>-33%</b>



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## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARTHA

"...realize that only God in the end is the measure of our fullness." - Joan Chittister

If we really trust God, then we come to know that only one thing counts: God's measure of our fullness. The fullness in our life should be spirit-led, Christ-driven, and God-centered. Everything else is dressing. Everything else is secondary.

This is great news because it means that whatever circumstances befall you, they do nothing to your measure with God. They are simply the current circumstance you are in, which is neither good nor bad, just what is. And in that circumstance God is with you, allowing the fullness of God to enter into your life. You will be enriched and grow in the fullness of God.

You feel stuck in a rut? Okay, you're stuck in a rut. That's where you are. Ask God to be with you right there in that rut. You feel lost in grief? Okay, you're lost in grief. That's where you are. Ask God to be with you down to the depths of that grief. You feel anxious about the start of the school year? Okay, you're anxious about school. Ask God to be with you there too. Where ever you are, that's secondary to your relationship with God, so ask God to be with you. Ignore any shoulds or woulds and just ask God to bring fullness to your situation. Because ultimately, that's all that matters.

If you serve the Lord, seek your life's fullness in God alone.

Pastor Martha

## AUGUST COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Mission:** Open prayer night 8/25 from 5:00-7:00pm for those that would like a little extra church time to pray for the ones they love and those who need a little help.

**Marketing/Outreach:** If you have any pictures of recent church activities please share with me so they can be posted to website and social media.

We are looking for articles for the newspaper and blog. If you are interested in writing church content please let us know.

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**Presbytery Meeting:** The Presbytery of Missouri River Valley met on Saturday, August 14 at Camp Calvin Crest in Fremont, Nebraska. Pastor Martha was in attendance.

The most exciting (and only non-standard) business was the examination of candidate Michael Geiler. He shared his background, statement of faith and answered numerous questions posed by members of the Presbytery. He was approved for ordination and it looks like his ordination and installation will take place on the afternoon of September 26. It's a great day in the life of the church to welcome a new pastor to the fold!

A few dates to keep in mind:

October 3: Walk-a-Thon. It will be a 1 mile or 3+ mile walk, organized by FPC Omaha. Sounds like there will be some festivities, music, and a food truck! If we want to put together a team, we just need a team captain and can reach out to FPC Omaha for more info.

October 17-23: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance work week. We can join in as a church or as individuals to help people rebuild after disaster - most likely still from the flooding a few years back. I believe churches or organizations from out of the area will be joining us. Contact Sheri Sessions at [sherisessions@cox.net](mailto:sherisessions@cox.net) to sign up or to help with snacks or water for the volunteers, please contact Terri O'Brien at 402-301-9520.

## SESSION NOTES: AUGUST 18, 2021

- **Pastor Martha: Motion:** Session will create a document by Sunday 8/22/21 that shows a plan of action to update the congregation on the current state of the church, which the Session will then follow through on. **CARRIED.**  
**Rationale:** Session agreed at the last session meeting to take on this task: with all the changes the church has had to endure because of COVID, it's time to get everyone on the same page.
- **Mission: Motion:** Move to approve an open prayer night on August 25th from 5-7:00 pm **CARRIED**  
**Rationale:** We would like to consider an open prayer church night for individuals to come in and be able to take extra time to pray for those friends, relatives, our country, the world, and most important in our church family who need our extra prayers.
- **Marketing: Motion:** Move to write a response to letter received from Deb Lund signed by the Session. **Rationale:** I received a letter from Deb Lund to the session. I feel the Session needs to make an official response to Deb. **CARRIED.**

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## SESSION NOTES: SPECIAL SESSION MEETING 09/02/2021

- Motion #1: Move to bring back social distancing to every other pew in indoor worship services and indoor large group settings (weddings, funerals, all-church Sunday School).Carried.
- Motion #2: Move to bring back masks being worn in indoor worship services and indoor large group settings (weddings, funerals, all-church Sunday School).Carried.

## SESSION NOTES: SEPTEMBER 05, 2021

- NOTE: As this was an informational and planning meeting for the Session, the usual committee reports were not submitted at this time.
- MOTION: Vote to move forward as a Session to create a plan for our church for the future. CARRIED