



THE HERALD

ISSUE 6 • JUNE 2026

2000 D STREET • LINCOLN, NE 68502 • 402.476.7565 • FIRSTPLYMOUTH.ORG



Blessing of the Animals Sunday, June 7, 11:57am worship

All well-behaved leashed or crated pets are welcome to our sanctuary service at 11:57. Following the service, our ministers will individually bless animals at stations in the courtyard. You and your pets are welcome again even if they have been blessed before. Photos of pets not present, as well as a child's favorite stuffed animal, will also be blessed. A free-will offering will be collected to help various community organizations serving animals. Hosted by the First-Plymouth Animal Ministry.

FP Presents Meet Rev. Katie Miller First-Plymouth's new associate minister



Sunday, June 7, 6:00-7:30pm at Screamers Restaurant (803 Q St)

Join us for a special evening to welcome and get to know Rev. Katie Miller, First-Plymouth's new Associate Minister! Hear about her journey in ministry, the experiences that have shaped her calling, and a few fun facts that will help you get to know her beyond the pulpit. Plus, enjoy live music by Orion Walsh.

Grab dinner (Build-a-burger or Chicken sandwich and salad bar) available for purchase. Parking garage across the street.

Star City Pride Parade & Festival

First-Plymouth is sponsoring the Pride parade and festival! Support the festival festivities and parade – stop by the Plymouth Pride booth on Fri June 12, at Woods Park or walk with First-Plymouth in the Pride parade on Sat June 13, 10:00am. Festival details at starcityprideevents.org.

Need a FP Pride t-shirt? A limited amount of shirts are still available for a donation of \$5. Limited sizes, so call the office (402-476-7565) before you stop by.



Join us in the Parade!

We invite all LGBTQ friends and allies of all ages to walk with First-Plymouth in the Pride parade. The parade route is twice around the State Capitol.

**SIGN-UP
Today!**



Get to Know Rev. Katie Miller

Our new Associate Minister

We caught up with a Q and A to help us all get to know her better.

Favorite foods:

Reese's peanut butter cups and anything made out of a potato

Favorite place traveled:

Switzerland

Early riser or night owl?

Night owl!!!

The last thing that made her laugh:

A funny meme a minute ago (I laugh easily)

First job:

Summer Tourism Aide at the Neligh Mills State Historical Site

Nickname:

... Katie?

Enneagram number:

4w5

Phone app she uses the most:

TikTok, unfortunately

Favorite movie:

You've Got Mail

Favorite book:


Garden Spells, by Sarah Addison Allen

Favorite way to spend a day off:

Napping! Or hiking a trail somewhere

A hidden talent:

slightly above average juggling skills



When Life Changes

Pastor KJ Langlais

Life's milestones—such as your child walking across a graduation stage, a highly anticipated wedding day, or a family member excitedly accepting their dream job across the country are moments we often anticipate with joy. And yet, when they finally arrive, many of us are caught off guard by a swirl of unexpected emotions: pride mixed with sadness, excitement shadowed by a quiet sense of loss, or simply a feeling that life as we knew it has shifted beneath our feet. These feelings are real and normal, but they can leave us feeling unsteady.

That's why Stephen Ministers are here for every season of life, listening without judgment, and offering support with complete confidentiality. If life feels different lately, even in ways that are hard to explain, you don't have to navigate it alone. Please consider reaching out to Pastor KJ at kj@firstplymouth.org to request a Stephen Minister. We would be honored to listen.



Compline

Sunday, June 14

7:00-7:30pm, Sanctuary

Ancient Worship for the modern soul

Into the Stillness Yoga

June 14, 6:00-7:00pm, Chapel. Led by Maggie Pleskac, Milkweed Yoga. Free.

This series combines yoga and worship, guiding participants through breath and movement to a place of stillness at the center of their being – the space that connects us with the Divine within. At 7:00pm, following the yoga session, all are invited to the sanctuary to experience Compline, a time of deep inner peace.



Donuts for Dads

Sunday, June 21

Enjoy donuts in honor of all fathers after services at First-Plymouth and FP South.

MUSIC + MESSAGE

SUMMER

COURTYARD SERIES

6:00-7:30PM – FP COURTYARD

LIVE MUSIC & A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTORS

FREE ice cream treats | FREE balloon animals | FREE face painting
Bring your lawn chairs and picnic baskets!



FREE FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGES!

In the event of rain or high temperatures, the event will be relocated to Pilgrim Hall.





Hope House Navigator Leaders:
Susie Blue, Nancy Gerard, Juan Carlos Huertas, Janet Olsen

Hope House: Navigating the 'System' with Our Neighbors

After decades of quiet years, the small red brick house on the north side of our church bustles with neighbors.

The Hope House opened last July as a presence of hospitality and service. A few dozen FP members trained as Navigators: they welcome neighbors, learn their stories and guide them to appropriate resources that already exist in our community. The first job of a Hope House Navigator is to SEE and HEAR the person who has taken the step to walk in the door or make a call to get help.

Navigators listen, then suggest short term steps to meet needs. Resources are named and a plan suggested with the highest potential of problem solving. For example, a neighbor may have housing problems, often concerned about meeting rent. Navigators list resources for which the neighbor may qualify and help make appointments, even an occasional conference call to a landlord to negotiate a plan. Seldom is a full need met by one resource. A finite amount of the FP Benevolence Fund may contribute to a package assembled by the neighbor from other sources. An individual/family may receive FP funds only once per year. A plan to avoid the problem is essential.

Most neighbors rely on outside support, and that help can take many forms—a call to an employment resource, a connection to disability services, or access to free food sites. The needs are wide-ranging and growing, especially as recent cuts to public aid have taken a toll. The Hope House helps people begin a path forward through these challenges.

We need your help! Get more information about becoming a navigator at FirstPlymouth.org/hopehouse

Become a Part of First-Plymouth

Have you been joining us for Sunday services and wondering what's next? We invite you to take the next step and make First-Plymouth your church home. Come learn more about our community, our values, and what it means to become a member. Join Dr. Keck on Wed, July 22, at 5:30pm in Calvert Parlor.



Celebrate America's 250th Birthday Sunday, June 28

Join us for this two-part evening as we celebrate 250 years of the American experiment. Come for the history, stay for the music!

July 4, 1776: The Day an Idea Changed Everything Presented by Bob Bartle in Pilgrim Hall, 6:00pm

Most nations are born out of conquered land or shifting borders. America was born out of an argument.



As we hit this historic 250-year milestone, it's time to ask the real question: What happened on the day we call our birthday? Hint: It's not what you think. This eye-opening talk dives into the revolutionary declaration that shook the world—the radical claim that a country could be built entirely on a creed of equality. Come find out how that 250-year-old experiment is holding up, and why the next chapter depends entirely on us.

250th Birthday Carillon Concert Presented by Kathie Johnson, FP Carillonneur. Courtyard. 7:00pm



Following the talk, the celebration moves outside! Keep the patriotic spirit alive with a free, family-friendly concert featuring timeless favorites like Yankee Doodle and God Bless America. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, or simply sit in your car to experience the incredible music cascading from *First-Plymouth's Singing Tower*. Bring your lawn chairs and bug spray!

FP Kids Contact shelby@firstplymouth.org

FPLittles & FPKids | Sunday Mornings in June

FP Kids and Littles start *In the Beginning*, a fun new series exploring God's amazing creation and learning how we can share His love by caring for the world and each other!

Get ready Rainforest Falls VBS

June 1-5, 9:00-Noon at FP.

Be sure to drop off children in the Sanctuary or West entrance. For the security of "Las Abejitas childcare center" avoid the East entrance."

Star City Shores Pool Party June 13, 11:00am

Kick off summer at our annual FP South Pool Party at Star City Shores! We'll have cool CYFM swag, tasty snacks, and waves of fun waiting for you. Bring a friend—the entry fee is on us, so all you need to pack is your swimsuit and good vibes!

Volunteer with FP Kids!

Looking for a way to make a difference on Sunday mornings? FP Kids needs volunteers at our Downtown Campus (9:00 & 10:30am) and South Location (9:30am).

Whether you want to cuddle babies in the nursery or discuss the Bible with elementary kiddos, there's a spot for you. There is no weekly commitment required, and you don't need to be a teacher—just a caring adult ready to support our kids.

A background check takes less than 5 minutes. Sign up today and our staff will reach out with next steps!

[VOLUNTEER SIGN UP](#)

FP Youth Contact Tori@firstplymouth.org



Congratulations to this year's Confirmation Class!

It has been a joy to watch these youth ask big questions, explore their faith, and grow together at First Plymouth. We are so proud of all they have accomplished and look forward to watching their journeys unfold.

A heartfelt thank you to our volunteers and mentors who invested their time and care into these students. We truly couldn't do this ministry without you!

Orphan Grain Train: June 13, 9:00am-Noon

We need you to help sort and pack clothing donations. OPEN TO ALL AGES

[SIGN UP](#)

Serve Dinner at Matt Talbot

June 13, 4:15-7:00pm. OPEN TO ALL AGES

[SIGN UP](#)

High School Escape Room

June 15, 6:45-8:00pm

An escape room challenge packed with twists, clues, and plenty of laughs. It's a low-pressure, high-fun way to hang out, meet new people, and see what happens when we combine our strengths. \$15 per youth.

Middle School Service Trip

Fri, Jun 26, 8:30am - Sun, Jun 28, 2:30pm

This service trip is for youth entering 6th-8th grade this fall, and it's open to all friends! Join us as we travel to Grand Island for a weekend of community service and fun. We'll spend our days working on service projects that help local organizations and residents, making a positive impact in the community. Don't miss out on this exciting and meaningful adventure!

[SIGN UP](#)

Youth Summer Party

July 1, 5:30pm, at Holmes Lake

All youth join us at Holmes Lake for our Summer Party to play sand volleyball, spike ball, and just have a great time! Bring a snack to share and let's enjoy the summer together.



Could you survive 46 days alone at sea?

Anybody, Everybody invites you to a special community event featuring history-making Nebraskan, Taryn Ann Smith. Sat July 11 (Social at 5:15pm, Talk from 5:30–6:00pm) in Mayflower Hall (lower level)

Before signing up for the “World’s Toughest Row,” Taryn had never rowed a day in her life. Three years later, she became the first American woman to solo row across the Atlantic Ocean. She’ll be sharing the raw, unfiltered reality of her 3,000-mile journey—the isolation, the wild beauty of the sea, and the sheer mental grit it took to pull through.

The program will leave you ready to tackle your own biggest dreams.

God’s Garden Returns - Sun June 7 - Oct 11

Stop by to explore a beautiful selection of fresh flowers, garden vegetables and more available throughout the summer for a small donation. If you have extra produce or flowers from your own garden to share, donations are welcome. All proceeds support the Sustainable Living Ministry at First-Plymouth Church.

Garden and Grounds Volunteers Needed

Help us keep the church grounds beautiful all summer. Contact Candy: ccrellin@neb.rr.com. Bring your own tools.

- Sat June 20, 8:30-10:30am
- Sat July 18, 8:30-10:30am
- Sat August 15, 8:30-10:30am

Join the FP Men’s Early Birds | Thursday mornings, 8:00-9:00am

Currently studying a National Geographic Documentary entitled “The Story of God with Morgan Freeman.” Men of all ages are invited to attend.

June Art featured in Pilgrim Hall

June’s artist is Dana Clements, owner of the Clements Noyes Art Gallery in the Haymarket. She earned her BA from UNL and enjoys using bright colors and whimsical creatures in her art.

Grape Expectations Church Social | Fri. June 26, 6:30-9:00pm

Hosted by Linda Jones. A great way to meet others who attend First-Plymouth. Bring an appetizer and drink to share. RSVP to lindajones3449@gmail.com

FP Singles Ministry

Join our email list for monthly events. Email addie@firstplymouth.org.

Joy & Concerns

BAPTISMS

Cienna Cove Sandifer

IN MEMORY

Vivian Gorthey, a member since 1956, died May 2

Kyle Loftis, a member since 1997, died May 6

WEDDINGS

Myah Beltran & Blake Ingamells, May 2

Denea Clark & Jack Gerhold, May 9

Haley Mazour & Brent Lucke, May 16

Jacqueline Young & Andrew DeCamp, May 23

Katelyn “Katie” Hill & William Calhoun, May 30

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Camden Ballinger | Avery Rose |
| Ezra Carlson | Leah Salmen |
| Joy Davies | Amelia Schriener |
| Helayna “Layna” DeBuhr | Wyatt Scofield |
| Violet Franz | Cheryl Stephens |
| Janet George | Kelsey Sullivan |
| Gabriella | Aubrie Thietje |
| Guardiola | Merveille Vigan |
| Paige Kelle | Christine & Andrew “Andy” Widman |
| Lucia Mues | Sue & Mike Wilkins |
| Lucas Nelson | Chloe Wolff |
| Emily Quick | |
| Greta Riehle | |



Love The Planet

Sustainable tips from First-Plymouth’s Climate Action Team and Sustainable Living Ministry Watch for the return of the monarch butterflies this month! To support the declining monarch population, consider working some butterfly-friendly plants into your garden, flowerbeds, or pots.

Drop-in Summer Choir



We will gather at 9:45 a.m. on **these Sundays** (right) over the summer for an impromptu and fun warm-up rehearsal in preparation to lead hymn singing and to offer the anthem for the 10:30 a.m. service. Everyone is welcome, even if they have never been in one of our choirs before. We will not wear robes, and there is no official dress code. No registration or rehearsal required. Please drop in and join us whenever you can, and invite family members and friends who might enjoy singing along!

June 7- I Choose Love- Mark Miller

June 14- Walk in Light- Karen Marroli (with oboe)

June 21- Lead Me, Lord- Wayne and Elizabeth Goodine (with Daniel Ikpeama, soloist)

June 28- Stillness- Mark Miller (with Trey Meyer, soloist)

July 5- My Shepherd Will Supply My Need- arr. Howard Helvey (with trombone)

July 26- Dereva ni mungu- Jake Runestad (with percussion)

August 2- Draw the Circle Wide- Mark Miller (Ariel Merivil, guest conductor)

August 16- The Storm is Passing Over- arr. Barbara Baker (with jazz combo)

August 23- Alabaré- arr. Ronald Nelson (with percussion)

August 30- And Jesus Said- Tony Alonso (with cello)



Save-the-Date
**Summer
Cook-out
July 5th**

A casual service but deeply Christian with scripture, prayer, singing and joy.

Sundays, 9:30am | Roper and Sons South Chapel,
3950 Hohensee Dr (S. 40th & Yankee Hill). Easy and Accessible Parking