

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 19.22 May 31, 2015

Dear Fellow Companions of the Way,

At the outset, I share with you that our session, on May 21st, moved forward in faith with two major actions. First, the session approved the personnel board's selection of Tarsala "Tarci" Matthews to be our Administration Specialist, effective May 26th (more information on page 2). Second, the session authorized the church nominating committee (names found on page 2) to pursue eight members for the pastor nominating committee to be elected by the congregation.

My thanks to Sandy Siemoneit for her ministry in the church office this past month and to all the church member volunteers for their efforts. I trust you will join me in thanks to Sandy and a warm welcome to Tarci Matthews.

In a recent newsletter (May 17th) I included some readings. I was introduced to one of those books, *Journey in the Wilderness: New Life for the Mainline Churches* by Gil Rendle, Abingdon Press (and Kindle), 2010, at a Montreat Conference for Transitional Church Executives. Here is the opening paragraph of Rendle's reflection on mainline churches today:

"People no longer join congregations because they want relationships or because they want to 'belong.' As far as relationships that serve as social friendships, increasingly people already have as many as their time and lifestyle allow. Rather than simply seeking social relationships for which there is less room in a harried contemporary lifestyle, people now come to congregations because they want a purposeful relationship with others who are seeking a purpose and meaning in response to the questions they feel in their lives. For many the function of relationships in congregations has now shifted from being only social to being also purposeful. This shift that removes the congregation from its position as a central institution that provides friendships out of which members then shape a personal identity is difficult news to many congregations, which continue to think of their only strength as being warm and friendly relationship providers."

I believe the simple idea presented here is stunning if we ponder what Rendle is saying. Are churches today still motivated by the desire to be friendly and attractive while not truly being about a "purposeful relationship" with Christ? What is our purpose? Is that clear when people walk in the door? Are we excited about that purpose? These are hard questions. They are difficult questions. But our answers to these questions may very well define us in this wilderness time.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Charlie

Charles Marshall Webster

WELCOME TARCI



Hello! My name is Tarci Matthews. I recently relocated to Hastings with my two sons from Tulsa, Oklahoma; we originated from the small, rural farming community Minneapolis, Kansas. We are thankful to be here, and as the new Administrative Specialist I am excited and blessed for the opportunity to serve the Church, the family of members and the Hastings community. In God's love I look forward to meeting and working with you.

Church Nominating Committee

Karen Doerr (Moderator)	Doug Soderquist
Sharon Brooks	Martha Boyd
Richard Johnson	Morgan Karloff
Al Meyer	Danna Wolford
Jon Bohlke	Charlie Webster

TRANSITIONAL NOTES, No. 13

Transitional ministry is a time to move from one place to another. We move (as Walter Brueggemann puts it in *The Psalms and the Life of Faith*) from orientation to disorientation. The *Psalms* are wonderful to read in times of transition because that is their pattern, describing life's movements. Hegel said the great philosophical movement is dynamic: from thesis to antithesis to synthesis.

We may want to stop the process of moving from orientation to disorientation. We may want to keep all our "theses" in place. We may have decided that the little security we have is like the bed we sleep in. It may not be the greatest mattress, but it is the one we have and we will keep, thank you. But if we stop these processes, we also stop the adventure. We stop the promises of God in their tracks. The cross of Jesus is followed by "My Lord, what a morning," the process of change.

Douglas John Hall summed up Christianity as "the permission and the commandment to enter difficulty with hope." That one sentence takes us a long way to understanding the gain that comes with loss. As participants in the process of change, we can be grateful for each stage. For the first stage of simple security; for the middle stages of transition and confusion and grief; for the final stage, deepened security, what some might even call "salvation".

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SUMMER BOOK CLUB

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE AND STILL BE A CHRISTIAN: STRUGGLING WITH DIVINE VIOLENCE FROM GENESIS THROUGH REVELATION,

by John Dominic Crossan

June 3 – July 8 Wednesdays at 12:00 in the Anderson Conference Room
(feel free to bring a sack lunch)

Facilitators: John Harrington and Charlie Webster

John Dominic Crossan, the acclaimed Bible scholar and author of *The Historical Jesus and God & Empire*, grapples with Scripture’s conflicting visions of Jesus and God, one of a loving God, and one of a vengeful God, and explains how Christians can better understand these passages in a way that enriches their faith.

Many portions of the New Testament, introduce a compassionate Jesus who turns the other cheek, loves his enemies, and shows grace to all. But the Jesus we find in Revelation and some portions of the Gospels leads an army of angels bent on earthly destruction. Which is the true revelation of the Messiah and how can both be in the same Bible?

Crossan explains how to navigate this debate and offers what he believes is the best central thread to what the Bible is all about. He challenges Christians to fully participate in this dialogue, thereby shaping their faith by reading deeply, reflectively, and in community with others who share their uncertainty. Only then, he advises, will Christians be able to read and understand the Bible without losing their faith.

Come join us as we explore this exciting, provocative, and inspirational book!

*NOTE -- The book can be purchased now with a 10% discount if you mention it’s for the FPC summer book club, at Prairie Books & Gifts in downtown Hastings.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

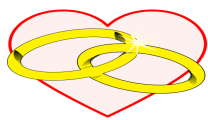
Many children in Hastings rely on the school lunch program for part of their nutrition. While public school kitchens are closed for cleaning at the beginning and end of the summer, the YWCA has served lunch at The Zone, (formerly the National Guard Armory.)

Three volunteers each day are needed to serve these meals. This can be a good family service project, and kids 4th-grade and up are welcome to volunteer if accompanied by an adult.

Volunteers are needed May 26 – 29, and from August 3 – 14, from 11:00 until 12:30.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Memorial Room.

CELEBRATION



The Rev. Dr. James P. Cooke and Mary Jeanne Cooke will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary with an OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, May 31st at the Regency Retirement Residence from 2:00 to 4:00. Their five children and thirteen grandchildren invite their friends and neighbors to this celebration.

This year our **Go and Serve** trip is to Pine Ridge, SD from June 6th returning the 13th where we will be building hard structures for the Lakota Sioux. Along the way we will stay with Westminster Presbyterian in Rapid City Saturday night, and worship with them Sunday morning. We hope to see Mount Rushmore the night before. Our commissioning will be this Sunday, the 31st of May at 10:30.

After our week of service, we plan to cool off rafting down the Niobrara River, returning late June 13th. Our service team includes Lauren Canady, Dylan Croon, Jordan Graviette, Courtney Junker, Morgan Karloff, Thomas Kerr, Katie Kingsley, Lydia Meyer, Maggie Nielsen, Sophia Pankratz, Emma Redinger, Erikka Rhodes, and Duang Tang. Our adult advisors are Rev. Berke Landrum, trip leader, Kevin Junker, Becky Meyer and Tammie Nowka.

A summer series of **GriefShare** will be held on Tuesday afternoons (2:00 p.m.) beginning June 2nd at the Community Center of Good Samaritan Village. Those who have lost a loved one are invited.



For Father's Day this year the Presbyterian Women will be taking donations In Memory of/In Honor of Father's for **Living Waters For the World**. You may make donations Sunday mornings before or after church starting May 31st OR in the church office during the week.

Website: www.livingwatersfortheworld.org



**American Cancer Society Relay For Life
of Adams County
Saturday, June 6, 4:00 – 10:30 PM
Hastings High School Track**

To Remember or Honor a Loved One

Relay For Life is the nationwide, signature event of the American Cancer Society. It is a community event in the fight against cancer, and as part of the ceremonies, volunteers and survivors line the track with luminaria (lighted candles in weighted, white bags) inscribed with an individual's name. At sunset, everyone is invited to participate in the incredibly moving Luminaria Ceremony and observe a heart-felt-moment of silence as the candles are lit. Each luminaria is lit in honor of someone who has survived cancer or in memory of someone who has lost his or her battle to cancer. Donations for luminaria are \$10 each. All money goes to the American Cancer Society mission to help others Stay Well, Get Well, Finding Cures and Fight Back.

First Presbyterian Church once again will be participating this year. We were able to raise \$2,000.00 for the past 3 years and are working towards a new goal of \$3,000.00! Luminaries are available each Sunday at a table in the Memorial Room or in the church office during the week. Donations can also be made via the web site: www.RelayForLife.org.

****DEADLINE**** Sunday, May 31st will be the last day to purchase luminaria's in the Memorial Room, but, they will still be available in the church office until noon on Friday the 5th of June.

Dedicated luminaries to date through First Presbyterian Church team are:

In Memory of:			In Honor of:	
Jeanette Adrian	Philip Gilmore	Jann Meyer	Becky	Vernon Kooy
Tam Babcock	Molly Gleason	Lenora Meyer	Ann Chambers	Elaine Lamski
Jeannine Bauer	Nancy Goodrich	Andrew Murry	David Cook	Darrell Lloyd
Rosie Beyke	Paul Goodrich	Ruby Reis	Jim Cooke	Will Locke
Ardyce Bohlke	Dorothy Graham	Marilynn Sachtleben	Mary Jeanne Cooke	Dwight Marsh
Alice Braum	Mike Graham	Dan Schnackenberg	Jeanene Dodge	Fred Mattes
John Breeden	Jerry Hoff	Hazel Schukei	Polly Feis	Lola McKenzie
Ruthe Breeden	Earl Knigge	Robyn Smart	Larry Graham	Roxie McKinster
Millard Cates	Franklin Knowlton	Julie Soderquist	Becky Hamik	Mary Plock
David Cunningham	Edward H Lochwood	Dorothy Streff	Jerri Haussler	Barb Siemoneit
Jack Dodge	Mary Marsh	Winnie Vaughn	Charles Hermes	Carole Storer
Raymond Etmund	Don Maul	Janelle Wicker	Darleen Howard	Roger Sunderman
Chip Essex	Bob Mays	Edith Wilcox	Jeff Howard	Bernie Tushaus
Ralph Frasier	Toni Mays	Evelyn Wilcox	Byron Jensen	Mary Vaughn
Shirley Frasier	Ruth McKelvie	Dee Yost	Tim Johnson	Sandy Wenburg
Gladys	Nancy Melvin			

Happy Birthday!

6/1	Peter Lainson Cathy Mitzelfelt Bob Morris Joan Swan	6/17	Ty Chapel John Pollack
6/3	Liz Behrens	6/18	Eric Brader Ian Erickson
6/4	Wyatt Davis Wanda Williams		Katie Phelps Leah Ratzlaff Sally Smith
6/5	Amy Pettit Ashley Thomsen	6/21	Keira Erickson Rebecca McPherson
6/6	Pamela Lainson Bev Stein Neal Sunderman Norma Vineyard	6/22	Jon Bohlke Kaela Heneger Neil Kerr
6/8	Andrew Barrows Dave Cooke Tyson Essex Jeni Howard	6/23	Zane Baldwin Adelaide Ehrich Rachel Florek Doug Oakeson Don Whitcomb
6/9	Alexis Longshore Chris Petroff	6/24	Jan Schawang
6/10	Deb Johnson Joyce Ore Tut Ruei	6/25	Connie Hansen Tom Kreager Bree Robbins
6/11	Jesse Grimmatt Tommy Toms	6/26	Jim Boeve Carol Harrenstein Jill Kramer
6/12	Kaleena Fong		Colleen Schukei
6/13	Charles Hafer Laurie Lofquist	6/27	Bob Trenchard Jim Lewis James Miles
6/14	Dylan Croon Janna Johnson Erika Nielsen Bruce Phelps	6/28	Jodie Phelps Terra Phelps
6/15	Atticus Heneger Arlene Kort	6/29	Dianne Christensen Joe Matticks Don Reynolds
6/16	Julie Asmus Courtney Junker Nathan Kerr Lorri Oakeson Libby Smith	6/30	Karla Malouf Ruth Nielsen Gabriel Snell Andrew Spurgeon

Happy Anniversary!

Brooks, John & Sharon	June 1, 1980
Krieger, Paul & Lynette	June 2, 1973
Wenburg, Jim & Rogene	June 2, 1973
Essink, Stan & Chanda	June 2, 2000
Locke, Will & Ginny	June 3, 1961
Lockwood, Ed & Cheryl	June 6, 1970
Franzen, LaVern & Connie	June 7, 1964
Wunderlich, Joachim & Laura Marvel	June 7, 1998
Bishop, Eric & Laura	June 7, 2003
Anderson, Mads & Sarah	June 8, 2013
Essex, Chip & Vonda	June 10, 1966
Reimer, Curtis & Kathy	June 10, 1989
Grams, Kenton & Bonnie	June 11, 1977
Murrell, Chad & Patty Kingsley	June 11, 1994
Kerr, Rob & Michelle	June 12, 1993
Brooks, Brent & Erica	June 14, 1997
Vineyard, Francis & Norma	June 16, 1951
Spurgeon, Zach & Becky	June 16, 2012
Dieth, Wiyual & Nyabuok	June 17, 2003
Jorgenson, Tom & Eleanor	June 18, 1953
Uche, Nkuma & Chinedu	June 18, 1986
Burguera, Abdul & Suellen	June 18, 2011
Miller, Justin & Nikki	June 20, 2009
Heneger, Jeremy & Kaela	June 21, 2003
Stein, Ken & Bev	June 22, 1979
Cooke, Dave & Linda	June 23, 1984
Wimer, C.L. & Sandra	June 24, 1967
Phelps, Doug & Diane	June 24, 1978
Florek, Mike & Rachel	June 24, 1984
Lewis, Jim & Mary	June 27, 1964
Grummert, Gary & Carol	June 27, 1965
Allen, Bryant & Melissa	June 27, 2009



Belhar Confession becomes the 12th creed/confession in the *Book of Confessions* (part one of the PC(USA) constitution).

www.pcusa.org/resource/belhar-confession

This spring the presbyteries of PC(USA) overwhelmingly passed into the *Book of Confessions* the *Belhar Confession* drafted in 1982 by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church of South Africa.

The *Belhar Confession* addresses three key issues:

1. **The unity of the Church.** Unity is seen as a gift and an obligation for the Church. It is to be pursued and sought and built, becoming visible wherever and whenever possible as a witness to the working of God's Spirit for the unity manifest in the unity of the Trinity and so that the world might believe.
2. **Reconciliation.** God entrusts to the Church the message of reconciliation. The Church is called to be a peacemaker, giving witness by both word and deed. We are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Peace is the salt and the light.
3. **The justice of God.** Justice and true peace are revealed as the nature of God. God is the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged. The Church is called and therefore must stand by people in any form of suffering. The Church must stand where God stands.

The *Belhar Confession* is a gift to the whole Church. Given its genesis in the struggle in Southern Africa, it is now seen as having far wider implications beyond its original context. It is a confession for the whole Church as it seeks to be faithful to God, who stands in the midst of suffering of any and all expressions.

- CMW

Home Page

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Transitional Pastor
Rev. Charles M. Webster
Interim Associate Pastor:
Rev. Dr. Berke Landrum

Publishing Guidelines:

The *Home Page* is a weekly publication for the people and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

The newsletter seeks to inform, instruct and challenge its readers to become engaged in the ministry of FPC.

Articles will be accepted on Monday of each week. Submissions will be edited for length and suitability. You may send articles to the church office: fpc@fpchastings.org or call 402-462-5147.