



# The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 19.40 October 25, 2015

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*Dear Fellow Companions of the Way,*

This week, our church session and presbytery's Committee on Ministry will be reviewing and approving the Ministry Information Form (MIF), ably put together by our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Please join with Mimi and me as we regularly pray for our PNC. And stayed tuned to this, your favorite newsletter, for updates from the PNC.

\* \* \* \* \*

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the annual General Assembly Polity Conference, in Portland, OR, the site of the upcoming 2016 General Assembly, June 18-25, where the theme will be "Hope is our calling" based on *Ephesians 1:18*. As we gathered we heard plans for the assembly including subjects that will be addressed. For the first time in recent memory, the assembly will not be hearing discussions or reports on marriage/unions or sexuality.

As an "Associate-at-large for Worship" for the General Assembly, I participated in discussions on the new *Directory of Worship* that will be presented for approval at the 2016 Assembly, and the new *Book of Common Worship*, that hopefully will be published in 2017.

You may download information about the 2016 Assembly at [www.pcusa.org/.../222nd-ga-2016-overview](http://www.pcusa.org/.../222nd-ga-2016-overview). And if you have any other questions about our national church body, please feel free to call me.

Soli Deo Gloria!

**Charlie**

Charles Marshall Webster

### **Conversations that Matter: *Love Shouldn't Hurt***

Sunday, October 25, 9:15-10:15, Parlor.

October is domestic abuse awareness month, and we at First Presbyterian care deeply about supporting victims of abuse and welcoming them into our midst. Therefore, this Sunday's *Conversations that Matter* class is jointly offered by the parish nurse, the mission committee, and adult education.

Representatives from community organizations will help us to have a conversation that does, indeed, matter deeply. Come and learn together about

- the ways the church has inadvertently contributed to the silencing of domestic abuse victims
- the connection between domestic abuse and addiction
- the legal issues that complicate a victim's ability to get away from a perpetrator
- how to prepare your kids or other youth to avoid date rape
- how you can be involved in supporting victims of abuse

\*\*See also the information below about a related event: "Get the Scoop."

### **Get the Scoop**

Thursday, October 29, 7:00 p.m., Parlor

October is domestic abuse awareness month, and you are invited to come and "get the scoop" about this important topic. Come and have a scoop of ice cream and then stick around to watch and discuss the documentary *Private Violence*.

*\*\*Please note: this documentary, while important and very informative, includes graphic images and is not suitable for children.*

### **Thank you Diakonia**

Friday evening, October 16, we were blessed to host Jan Dus, Executive Director of Diakonia, and his US associate Jeremy Ault, and learn how our denomination partners with them in social service, humanitarian aid, empowering women and agricultural development in Myanmar, Ethiopia, Syria, Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia.

#### **Finance Corner**

So far this month of October, donations to Peacemaking are \$196 and Communion \$105. Kids Against Hunger will receive 25% of the church's portion, or \$75.25. This is in addition to the \$486 collected directly for the charity. Thank you!

#### **Glory Be to God!**

"The Diakonia of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (DECCB) is a Christian non-profit-organization offering help and support for living a dignified and valuable life despite age, illness, disability, isolation, difficult social situations and other life crisis. Services of Diakonia ECCB are based on Gospel tidings of God's Love and on the example of Jesus Christ's service."

<http://www.diakonie.cz/en/content/>

Thank you to everyone who attended and a great big thank you to all who assisted in making this such an enjoyable evening. From inspiring us to host our guest speakers,

coordinating the announcements, fielding phone calls, securing the meal, setting up the room, preparing and donating luscious desserts, cleaning up afterwards; you came through, shining the light and love of Christ-thank you dear church family!

With grateful hearts,  
Mimi and Charlie Webster

#### **OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH**

ALTHOUGH PASTORS AND THEIR FAMILIES SHOULD BE APPRECIATED ALL DAYS AND MONTHS OF THE YEAR, OCTOBER IS TRADITIONALLY A TIME WE SAY THANKS. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU TOLD YOUR PASTOR YOU WERE PRAYING FOR HIM/HER? WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU EXPRESSED THANKS FOR YOUR PASTORS?

Family and friends are holding a Spaghetti Dinner / Silent Auction in honor of Renee Thomsen at the church on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. If you have an item you care to donate, please contact Julie Thomsen or leave at the church by October 26<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

As the Directory for Worship in the PC(USA) Constitution states that all music in worship is prayer, let us ponder this thoughtful writing by Brian Wren for the Children's Choir, *PAM Westminster Conference, July 1993*.

#### **WHEN CHILDREN PRAY**

Listen...Listen...Listen...

This is a poem,  
from all of us,  
to all of you...

When children pray,  
please do not say, "How nice!"

When children speak,  
please do not say, "How sweet."  
and pat us on the head.  
Remember what we've said.

And when we sing,  
please do not say, "How cute -  
it is so nice to hear  
the children do their thing."

Look in our eyes.  
We may be angels in disguise.  
Our singing voice  
may be God's choice.  
We don't want you to miss  
the Holy Spirit's kiss.

The things that children say and do  
may be God's way  
of calling you.

clothing off at the church office or call Susan Hoff 469-0985. If you prefer to help with a cash donation we will do the shopping for you. Thank you to such a loving church community. ~ Social Mission Witness team

More than 90% of adults in the United States feel that registering as an organ donor is the right thing to do, yet 52% of adults have yet to register. November 13-15, 2015 is **National Donor Sabbath Weekend**, and the perfect time to take action and sign up on the Nebraska Donor Registry at [www.donatelifenebraska.com](http://www.donatelifenebraska.com). It's fast. It's easy. It saves lives!

Connor McClenahan received his Eagle Scout award on October 5<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church in Hutchinson, KS. Connor is son of Michael and Jenny McClenahan of Hutchinson, and grandson of Richard and Connie McClenahan of Hastings. We are very proud!

#### **Congregational Lives**

**October 19, 2015**

Congratulations to Ryan Pettit and Brittany Schave who were married September 6, 2015, in Lincoln, NE. They've since moved to Vancouver, WA. Parents of the groom are Tracy and Susie Pettit.

Session will meet Tuesday, October 20 to approve the CIM submitted by the PNC. We hope you will join us in the work through prayer, attendance, voice, and volunteerism.

FPC proudly supports our Veterans. Please join us in the Veterans Parade on Saturday, November 7. We need Veterans to walk and carry large American flags or ride in the van and wave flags from the window. Families are encouraged to come and walk together in support of the heroic sacrifices made long ago and still today by the Veterans of Hastings. If you'd like to be given small flags or for additional information, please contact Cindy @ [402.469.5357](tel:402.469.5357).

We invite you to share your joys with the church family by emailing Cindy Strasheim, [cstrasheim@windstream.net](mailto:cstrasheim@windstream.net) or call the church office [402.462.5147](tel:402.462.5147).

Help us celebrate Fair Trade month - October **Hands Around the World** store is open every Sunday 9 - 12. A new shipment of fresh coffee, cocoa, and spices, has just arrived. Get started on your Christmas shopping with hand made unique gifts from around the world. Your third world purchase dollars are the perfect way to participate in the mission work of First Presbyterian Church.

Your mission team is in need of NEW or GENTLY USED winter clothes for children ages 7-17. We are looking for boys size 8/10 slim, girls size 10 slim and 12-16, and teens size 5 and 7. If you can help, please drop

Troop 200 Boy Scouts will be available the first four Sundays thru November to rake leaves at your place of business or residence. Free will donations are accepted. All proceeds will go to Healthy Beginnings to help a couple of young, struggling mothers through the holidays with care packages for mother & child(ren). If you are interested in helping the Scouts with this charitable service project, please contact Tom Kleinjan @ 402-705-0553 or email him at [scouting200hastings@gmail.com](mailto:scouting200hastings@gmail.com). Let's help them spread some cheer this season - your contribution makes the difference!

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME  
ENDS ON SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AT 2:00  
AM. DO NOT FORGET TO  
TURN YOUR CLOCK BACK  
1 HOUR.

**Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,**

***Thank you so much for your support, both financially and spiritually while I am in the Dominican Republic. I cannot express to you how grateful I am to have such generous and loving people in my church family. I have had a wonderful experience so far, and I am looking forward to my next two months here. Thank you again for all of your support, and I will write again soon!***

**Blessings,  
Hannah Jensen**

**FPC KITCHEN DOOR CODE WILL BE CHANGED THIS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> TO A NEW CODE. IF YOU NEED THE NEW CODE, PLEASE COME TO THE OFFICE DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS (8:30-4:30) TO SIGN A FORM ACKNOWLEDGING THAT FOR THE SECURITY OF THE CHURCH, THE NEW CODE IS NOT TO BE SHARED AND THE KITCHEN DOOR IS NOW TO REMAIN LOCKED AT ALL TIMES NOT IN USE (INSTEAD OF AT 4PM AS IT HAS BEEN). PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE WITH QUESTIONS. THANK YOU.**

**Interested in Joining First Presbyterian??**

Well, we'd love to have you!! Classes for those who want to join or who are considering joining will be held on Sunday, November 1. Participants will attend the adult Sunday School class on Christian History from 9:15-10:15 in the Anderson Conference Room and then will worship together in the sanctuary at 10:30. Following worship, a lunch will be provided and classes will continue into the afternoon. Childcare is available upon request. Please call the church office ([402-462-5147](tel:402-462-5147)) to RSVP for the class and/or to request childcare. New members will be formally accepted into the congregation during the November 8 worship service.

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Fisher, Dave & Barbara	11/04/1972
Brader, Justin & Stephanie	11/10/2001
Georgiana, Frank & Kay	11/11/1989
Whitcomb, Brad & Dawna	11/12/2011
Waltemath, Sr. Rick & Phyllis	11/14/1963
Freeburger, Jim & Deb	11/15/1974
Johnson, Tim & Deb	11/22/1974
Doerr, Roger & Karen	11/23/1979
Bliss, Mark & Stephanie	11/23/1991
Rasmussen, Don & Marie	11/25/1951
Pollak, John & Jane	11/25/1972
Onken, Ben & Armeshia	11/27/2010
Pershing, John & Cathy	11/29/1968

### **November 2015**

#### **Communion Servers - Team 4:**

Stephanie Adam, Mark Hemje, Patty Kingsley, Dwight Marsh, Mary Olsen, Cheryl Schukei, Alice Throckmorton, May Wierenga

#### **Ushers**

Dennis Asmus, captain, Dave Fisher, Neal Hoff, Susan Hoff, Ed Lockwood, Phil Odom, Rich Portwood

#### **Greeters**

**Nov 1:** Jerri & Fred Knapple  
**Nov 8:** Beth & Ron Wissing  
**Nov 15:** Martha & Bill Boyd  
**Nov 22:** Danna & Steve Wolford,  
 Cindy & Dwayne Strasheim  
**Nov 29:** Carol & Gary Grummert

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2-Nov	Grace Brader Linda Cooke	15-Nov	Sue Medsker-Nedderman
3-Nov	Megan Launchbaugh Virginia Malouf Jackie Marymee Katherine Sachtleben Flossie Sanderson Wayne Specht	17-Nov	Jane Tushaus Sherry Welton
4-Nov	Kraig Lofquist Lorie Paustian Charlie Ratzlaff	18-Nov	Mary Northrop Megan Stahr
5-Nov	Neil Jurgena Mary Kay LaMaster Monte Malouf	19-Nov	Sarah Burling Jim Hoffman Joy White
6-Nov	Lauren Bliss Troy Essex Susie Graham Betty Kooy Moses Rhodes	20-Nov	Kruzann Osborne Stuhrling Osborne Peter Ratzlaff Chuck Bauer Judy Brown Mary Parks Ethan Stout
7-Nov	Vernon Groves Stacy Kerr Tim Williams	21-Nov	Kim Graviette Melissa Karloff Roger Sunderman
8-Nov	Pat Kern Teresa Luther Eldon Mitzelfelt Sion Odom	22-Nov	Colleen Adam Bonnie Grams Rich Portwood McKain Ratzlaff Marcia Sovereign
9-Nov	Bob Baker Ken Stein Matthew Welton	23-Nov	Lois Hafer
11-Nov	Cory Telecky	24-Nov	Irmise Heeren Tess Menke Delia Miles Duang Tang Gwen Weber
12-Nov	Dennis Asmus Gary Bauer Marcia Hogan Erikka Rhodes Lori Wright	25-Nov	Thomas Freetly Willy Kummer
13-Nov	Angela Jacoby Sydney Kerr Lexi Lofquist	26-Nov	Nancy Langford Shaylee Stroyek
14-Nov	Jean Barber Lily Black Kay Robbins Sarah Snell Julie Thomsen	28-Nov	Deborah Miles
		30-Nov	Heather Behrends Eric Bishop Mark Bliss Ron Wissing

**Home Page**

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**The Home Page**

A publication of  
First Presbyterian Church  
621 North Lincoln Avenue  
Hastings, NE

Transitional Pastor  
Rev. Charles M. Webster

**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: [tarci@fpchastings.org](mailto:tarci@fpchastings.org) or call 402-462-5147.

***Volunteers  
for Tuesday morning  
9am  
Home Page  
Assembly  
are always  
welcome!***