



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 19.42 November 8, 2015

This Sunday is Stewardship Dedication

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

This Sunday, November 8, immediately following the 10:30 worship service.

Purpose: Election of Ruling Elders, Deacons and Trustees.

Nominated Ruling Elders: Sharon Brooks, Karen Doerr, Kay Georgiana, Harold Korb, and Kraig Lofquist

Nominated for Board of Deacons: Kim Creech, Jeanne Hastings, Jeff Howard, Scott Kummer, and Katherine Sachtleben

Nominated for Board of Trustees: Dianne Christensen, Paula Crozier, and Kathy Utter

THANKSGIVING HARVEST DINNER

Sunday, November 15th, 2015

12:00 noon – Fellowship Hall

Join us for a delicious, traditional turkey dinner during our time for fellowship with the congregation and offering of thanks for the many blessings we enjoy! This meal is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Tickets may be purchased before/after service Nov. 8th, and during the week in the church office until Friday, Nov. 13th. Adults: \$10, Kids 6-12: \$7. Hope to see you there!



Dear Fellow Companions of the Way,

Mark 12:38-44 is the familiar story of the “widow’s mite.” Most of us remember the generosity of this woman, who having little gave a great gift. Jesus says she gave everything she had, a thinly veiled reference to the sacrifice he would make on the cross. This Sunday (November 8th), when we offer our stewardship pledges, we revisit the story of the widow’s offering. The story itself has two parts, the first being the contributions of those who were rich and were dropping large sums of money into the temple treasury. It was to these gifts that Jesus compared the widow’s two copper coins.

There is no getting around the fact that leading contributors each year help the church’s ministry immensely with their financial gifts. We count on the generosity of those who are able to give significant gifts. But we count also on the hope that **everyone** will contribute a proportion of his or her means, which makes the actual dollar amount of each gift relative. In this way of considering things, the \$3,000 pledge from a person whose income is \$75,000 annually is not the same as that of the person who gives \$3,000, but whose income is \$30,000. The latter is not only proportional; it is sacrificial.

No one can tell you what your pledge to the Church should be. That is a matter between God and you. What we can do **together** is remember the sacrificial way in which the widow who Jesus praised gave, and do the same. Prayerfully consider the many blessings God has showered on your life as you make your pledge for 2016. Then give as you have received. That is all God asks us to do, and what Jesus asks of his disciples.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Charlie

Charles Marshall Webster



SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2015 - Wednesday, November 18

- 9:30 Circle 1 – Bonnie Grams
- Circle 2 – Elaine Specht, meet in the Parlor
- 1:15 Circle 3 – Fellowship Hall

Adult Sunday Morning Class: *Christian History* with Rob Kerr

The rest of the article should read as follows:

Are you a history buff? Have you ever wondered how so many different Christian denominations came into being? First Presbyterian's very own Rob Kerr, Social Studies department chair for Hastings High School, continues his adult Sunday School series on Christian History, 9:15-10:15, Nov 8 and 15, in the Anderson Conference Room. These classes provide a great follow-up for those who enjoyed the *Christianity's Family Tree* series.

Conversations that Matter: *What is a Christian Response to Poverty?*

Poverty is a rampant, heart-breaking, complicated issue of our time. While there are no easy answers or solutions, our Christian faith requires an informed, prayerful, and compassionate response. Join us November 8, 9:15-10:15 for this important discussion.

"Extreme Poverty anywhere is a threat to human security everywhere."

--Kofi Annan, 7th Secretary-General of the UN

Coming soon....Conversations that Matter: *Syrian Refugee Crisis*

November 15, 9:15, Parlor. Come and fill in the gaps of your understanding with a presentation on the timeline of events leading to the crisis, and consider together ways we might respond to what is happening.

Committee Spotlight: *Congregational Life*

The Congregational Life Committee is one of four committees that answers directly to Session. Humbly self-titled "the Cooking Committee," this group of tireless volunteers works behind the scenes to foster community fellowship opportunities, usually through provision of food. Upcoming events sponsored by the Congregational Life committee include the **Harvest dinner** (Nov. 15, following worship. *Get your tickets now!*), **Committee Appreciation Night** (Nov. 10, 5:30, desserts for all church committee members provided), and **Hanging of the Greens** (Nov. 28, refreshments provided). New committee members are welcome! The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 and currently includes Patty Kingsley, moderator, Al Meyer, Daveta Brader, Mary Creigh, Kathy Davis, Linda Donohue, Jim Donohue, Bonnie Grams, Carol Grummert, Bev Stein, Shannon Welton.

Church Mice are now recruiting walkers & volunteers! Meet Mon-Thurs. @ 8:15am in the Annex Gym to walk, then enjoy coffee and conversation around a table. On Thurs., following coffee, Church Mice volunteer organizing pews and picking up the Sanctuary as needed. This is a time of fellowship. All are welcome to join!

GriefShare presents "*Surviving the Holidays*"

All who grieve are welcome to attend this video presentation, which will help individuals feel prepared to integrate joyous holiday events with grieving the loss of a loved one.

Thursday, November 12, 6:00 p.m. with lasagna supper and Saturday, November 14, 9:00 a.m. with rolls and coffee. Both sessions will be held at the Youth & Family Ministry Center: 4th Street and Lexington Avenue. Event is sponsored by First St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Livingston-Butler-Volland Funeral Home. No cost, but reservations are needed at [402-463-1329](tel:402-463-1329).

Multicultural Event at Hastings College

November 8, 1 - 3 p.m., Hastings College Physical Fitness Facility

This free, open house event featuring music and food allows participants to enjoy a (literal) taste of the many different cultures represented within the Hastings Community.

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Millions of Christians around the world will unite in an annual day of prayer this Sunday (the second Sunday in November) for the persecuted Church, remembering Christians experiencing persecution, who couple their experience with thankfulness to God for “the privilege of suffering for his name’s sake.” As Christians living in America, we can often feel sorry for believers in other countries who are not as “well off” as we are in the West. But the founder of one organization that partners with the North Korean underground church says it is the American church, not the North Korean church, for which North Koreans pray with concern.

In a media release, Eric Foley, CEO of Seoul USA, says he was surprised when he first asked members of the North Korean underground church how Americans could pray for them. “They answered, ‘You pray for us? We pray for you!’ When asked why, they responded, ‘Because Western Christians often put so much faith in their prosperity and political freedoms that they don’t know what is like to have to depend completely on God. And because of that, they do not get to know him in all the ways he invites us.’”

Foley’s hope is that Americans would not pray for persecuted Christians but with them. Foley reports that “North Korean believers always tell me not to pray that they would be removed from persecution but that they would be faithful to God in the midst of their situation, and that we be faithful to God in our situation, which is often the persecution of prosperity, that is, the ability to be insulated from suffering rather than taking up our cross daily.”

- C.M. Webster

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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!  
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HONEY SUNDAY
November 8

Honey bears are \$5 each and may be purchased in the office thru the week (from 8:30-4:30) and before and after worship service this Sunday. Proceeds go to assist the Adams-Clay county chapter of Arc, which provides programs and support for families and individuals with intellectual and develop mental disabilities. Every purchase is appreciated!



disney.co.jp

©2007 Based on the "Winnie the Pooh" works by A.A. Milne and D. Disney

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 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

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. Let's help them spread some cheer this season - your contribution makes the difference!

Go & Serve meeting for all 9th-12th graders this Sunday, November 8, from 1:00pm - 3:00pm in the Annex-Sr. High Youth room. Tammie Nowka, Go & Serve Coordinator, will be highlighting destination plans, youth commitment, and fundraising.

GO AND SERVE BID BOARD

Supporting the Go and Serve Mission Trip for June 2016. An essential part of the Bid Board process is the generous donations and support from YOU, the congregation. If you would like to donate an item or service for the 2016 Bid Board fundraiser, complete the following form and return it with the item to the church office as soon as possible.

I am donating the following items: _____

Donated by: _____ **Phone:** _____

Please be sure items are in new to like-new condition.

The Bid Board will be open November 29 – December 13, 2015.

Past donations have included: baked goods, centerpieces, lawn services, gift certificates, glass work, autographed items, quilts, note cards, candles, art work, wreathes, child care, sermons, snow removal, tutoring, babysitting, tickets to events, jewelry, bead work, et.al.

Your contributions are greatly appreciated!



HAPPY NAPPY

FPC donated 198 diapers to Catholic Social Services just last week!

The congregation is encouraged to bring diapers on the fourth Sunday of the month, and place them in the green tub next to the Hands Around the World Store in the Memorial Room. Diapers are collected and distributed to those in need in the community.

In 2014, FPC donated 3,636 diapers! Let's make that number larger in 2015!

Home Page

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The Home Page

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621 North Lincoln Avenue
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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 or call 402-462-5147.

**Home Page
Assembly
is every Tuesday
in the office at 9am.
Volunteers
are welcome!**