



# The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 19.46 December 13, 2015

---

## ***Upcoming Events***

### **Sunday, December 13**

**Celebrate Service** at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

**Special Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. featuring the Children Youth Christmas Program.** After the service, enjoy holiday treats provided by the Christian Education committee.

Last day of **Bid Board**. Show your support for the Go & Serve youth trip by placing your bids by noon.

**Churchwide Christmas Caroling.** All are welcome to gather at 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to assemble cookie gift plates and divide into caroling teams, caroling for an hour or so, then return for soup and fellowship. (Please call Kili at the church office if you can donate cookies, soup, or bread for the event.)

### **Sunday, December 20**

**Good-bye reception for Pastor Charlie** during the Sunday school hour (9:15-10:15) in Fellowship Hall. *Refreshments will be served beginning at 9:15, and there will be a program at 9:45.* All members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend!

### **Thursday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve Services.** Family service will be at 5:30 p.m., and Christmas Eve Service with Communion at 7:30 p.m. (Taize service will not be held).

### **Sunday, December 27**

**Celebrate Service** at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Ruth Nielsen will be guest speaker.

Traditional Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, featuring a message by Adam White. Adam grew up at Hastings First Presbyterian and currently serves as campus pastor of UN-L's Nebraska Lutheran Center.

*Dear Fellow Companions of the Way,*

**“A Christmas Prayer for Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Beyond...”**

Again, this Christmas 2015, the town of Bethlehem is under an intolerant military occupation as it has been for decades. As world peace is largely dependent on the search for peace between Palestine and Israel, Palestinian Christians released a statement “A Moment of Truth” six years ago this month (December 11, 2009) popularly referred to as the “**The Kairos Palestine Document.**” I was privileged to lead a discussion of the document at the gathering of the “Covenanting for Justice Work Group of the World Alliance (now Communion) of Reformed Churches, Caribbean and North American Region” in January 2010. It is an inspiring statement from brothers and sisters in Christ in the Holy Land. I commend it to you as a Christmas prayer. “A Moment of Truth” may be found under Documents at <http://www.kairospalestine.ps/>.

Salaam/shalom/peace!

*Charlie*

**Charles Marshall Webster**

*The Giving Tree*

The tags are now on the Giving Tree! The Giving Tree in the Memorial Room supports clients of Assertive Community Treatments, people with severe and persistent mental illness and living in our community. Most are without family support and live on disability or nothing.

Please help support these people by taking a tag from the tree and returning gifts to the tree by Sunday, December 20. The gifts should be wrapped and the tag placed back on them. Monetary donations may also be given.

Sponsored by the Mission Committee.

**Prayer Vigil for PNC**

Our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is undertaking the challenging and monumental task of finding our next called pastor, and our role is to support their work with patience and prayer. To that end, a prayer vigil is being organized. Participants are asked to commit to praying once a week--on a particular day of the week--from now until the time our next pastor is called. We need at least 7 participants (one committed to each day of the week), but more would be better! As a prayer vigil participant, you can pray from wherever you are, for as long or as briefly as you wish. To find out more or to sign up, call or email Kili. *Even if you don't wish to be a part of the vigil, please pray for the PNC as you are able!*

**On-line Advent Devotional**

If you're looking for a daily devotional to keep your spirit focused on the true meaning of the season, check out [d365.org](http://d365.org). If you enter your email address in the "Subscribe" window, each morning you'll receive an email with a link to d365's daily devotion. The devotions are written by a group of authors and sponsored ecumenically by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and the Episcopal Church.

**December 13 Adult Sunday School Class**

*The Purpose of Christmas.* Don't miss the final installment of this three-part DVD series taught by renowned author of *The Purpose-Driven Life*, Rick Warren. At 9:15 in Anderson Conference Room. **No Forum/Conversations that Matter class on Dec 13.**

~~~~~

**BID BOARD CLOSES SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**  
**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY STOPPING IN THE PARLOR**  
**DONATIONS ARE STILL BEING ACCEPTED**  
**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 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!**



Financial Corner - Donations submitted this week is as follows: \$70 **CROP Walk** and \$66.08 **UNICEF** for Oct/Nov collections, \$415.40 **Rite Care Speech Therapy** and \$84.30 **PC (U.S.A.) Hunger Fund** for November collections, and \$219.00 **Hastings Food Pantry** for year-to-date collections. Glory be to God!

**Congregational Lives  
December 7, 2015**

Don & Marie Rasmussen from Linden have a new great, great grandson, Raiden Amaya. Congratulations!

Betty Kooy retired from C.C.C. after 22 years.  
Jean Barber retired from Village Green after 9 years.

Darlene Payne is now the proud great-grandmother of Aiden Luke, son of Ramon & Tammy Rosario, grandson of Paul & Joan Payne.

Per Becky Spurgeon, Zach requested packages and letters not be sent as he is at a point of transition, but for the safety and security of everyone involved we are not allowed to share any more information. Zach should be home soon. Please keep him in your prayers.

*Jim and I thank you for the beautiful flowers from November 15th service. We appreciate your prayers and caring messages. – Mary Jeanne Cooke*

I am not always here in town to gather the news. Please help by sending your information via email to me, [cstrasheim@windstream.net](mailto:cstrasheim@windstream.net), or to Tarci Matthews, [tarci@fpchastings.org](mailto:tarci@fpchastings.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

**In the Hospital:** Dale Grams has been admitted to the Grand Island VA.

**POINSETTIAS**

*Poinsettias may be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one. Additional proceeds will be remitted to the Salvation Army for their Utility Assistance Program - the need is great! The cost is \$10. Please return this order form to the church office by Wednesday, December 16th.*

*Poinsettia in memory of:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Poinsettia in honor of:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Given by:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Kids Against Hunger**

**Thank you for your recent check dated 10/30/15 for \$583.18 to Kids Against Hunger of Hastings. Your gift will allow us to provide at least 2,332 meals to feed hungry people throughout the world. Your gift also enables us to provide meaningful experiences for adults and youth in our community who are interested in learning about and helping to eliminate world hunger.**

**We are happy to report that First Presbyterian Church continues to support us by providing us with our packing facility. The Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, Nebraska provides us with assistance in shipping supplies to our facility and in transporting packaged food to hungry and starving people all over the World.**

**We (also) appreciate so much the use of your facilities at the Mission Annex. –Chuck Hastings**

**Home Page**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**621 North Lincoln Avenue**  
**Hastings, NE 68901**  
**402-462-5147, fax 402-462-6818**  
**email: [fpc@fpchastings.org](mailto:fpc@fpchastings.org)**  
**website: [www.fpchastings.org](http://www.fpchastings.org)**

**Non-Profit**  
**U.S. Postage Permit 37**  
**Hastings, NE**

**Address Service Requested**

**The Home Page**

A publication of  
First Presbyterian Church  
621 North Lincoln Avenue  
Hastings, NE 68901

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.

**Home Page**

**Holiday Schedule:**

**December 20-27**

**January 3**