



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 19.47 December 20 - 27, 2015

Dear Fellow Companions of the Way,

This Sunday, December 20th, will be my last Sunday with you, as the time has come for me to say farewell. Much has been accomplished in the past 13+ months and your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is moving forward expeditiously. Outstanding new staff including Tarci Matthews, Stephanie Brader, Kili Wenburg, and Carlos Santos are now serving wonderfully. Our staff changes have reduced our expenses \$86,000. We are about to realize a new state of the art audio and visual system in the sanctuary, along with much needed repairs to buildings and grounds thanks to special gifts. The session established a new communications and technology committee this year and held "listening sessions" with the congregation. A new temporary pastor will begin here January 1st, and in the meantime I have lined up Adam White, Lee Wigert, and Bryce Weibe to be guest preachers on consecutive Sundays, beginning December 27th.

In the coming months you will be meeting your next installed pastor! Please welcome him or her personally and with prayer, patience and partnership. I hope you will welcome him/her **personally**. Find or make a nametag to wear so he/she can quickly learn your name, as he/she will have hundreds of new names to learn. You might also drop him/her a personal note of welcome. I hope you will welcome him/her **prayerfully**. The best gift you could ever give your pastor is to pray for him/her daily! I hope you will welcome him/her **patiently**. I have often heard the phrase, "when the new pastor gets here." People are ready to move on, but take some time to get to know each other, and give him/her some time to become oriented to life at First Presbyterian Church. I hope you will welcome him/her as **partner** in ministry. He/she will not be called to First Presbyterian Church, Hastings to do ministry for you, but to join you as a partner and co-laborer in ministry for God. And as you welcome him/her, remember to pray for all your church staff and officers.

In closing, Mimi joins me in expressing our deep appreciation for all your kindness during our pilgrimage with you. The relationships we have forged here have greatly enriched our lives. As we move on to our new calling in northwest Virginia, we will hold you in our best thoughts and fervent prayers.

We pray that you will continue to till and irrigate the soil of your souls so that the fruit of the Spirit may grow in great abundance in you. I leave with a deep sense of pastoral affection and love for each of you, and "I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (*Ephesians 3:18-19*)

Soli Deo Gloria!

Charlie

Charles Marshall Webster

Where do you volunteer?

The Mission Committee is currently putting together the list for 2016 communion offering recipients, and your suggestions are welcomed! Perhaps you volunteer with a worthy local organization that could use some extra funds. Perhaps you are passionate about a local service agency that our congregation needs to learn about. Communion offerings--with their attendant "Minutes for Mission"--accomplish both educational and fund-raising goals. Local organizations are preferred. Contact a Mission Committee member with your input! (Phil Odom, Susan Hoff, Cindy Strasheim, Jane Marsh, Denny & Carole Storer, Jeni Howard, Pamela Lainson, Meg Stewart-Magee, Sharon Brooks, and Kili Wenburg).

Please take a moment to confirm your information for the **2016 Member Directory**. Changes may be called into the church office or emailed to tarci@fpchastings.org.

Deadline to submit information for the **2016 Annual Report** is January 15.

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. 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.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 20

Goodbye 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. Share the joy of our candlelight Christmas Eve. Bring a friend, a loved one, an acquaintance. Share the hope and love Christ brings to the world. 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.

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Presbyterians have long celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ by giving generously to the **Christmas Joy Offering** is taken each year and divided equally between the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Through the Board of Pensions Financial Assistance Programs, the Christmas Joy Offering recognizes the faithfulness of current and retired church workers by providing funds to help them through difficult times. To help retired church workers and their surviving spouses, the board offers Income Supplements to raise incomes to a level where retirees can live modestly and

continue to maintain their independence. At the eight Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges, Christmas Joy Offering funds help with operating costs, as well as providing scholarships to deserving students.

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The Presbytery of Central Nebraska  
Invites you to the Service of Ordination  
to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament of  
Kristin Kay Hamner  
Sunday, December 27 at 3:00 p.m.  
at First Presbyterian Church  
2103 West Anna Street  
Grand Island, Nebraska 68893

Please come and help us celebrate God's Call to Kristin  
to work in the mission of the church in the Dominican Republic

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The **Go & Serve Bid Board** had another successful year by raising \$4460.50!! Thank you to all who donated the wonderful items and thank you to all for participating by bidding and purchasing items. We have a great start for the 2016 Go & Serve mission trip to Ganado.

**Special thanks** go out to Nancy Grams, Kris Horton, Sue Horton, Lois Hafer, Kelley Junker, Jill Kramer, Jeni Howard, Traci Boeve, Margaret Marsh, Irina Erickson, Mary Plock, Teresa Canady, Ashley Erich, Linda Johnson, Erik Nielsen, and Jim Lewis for their help with the Children & Youth Christmas Program on December 13. Thank you for helping bring true Christmas meaning to the hearts of our congregation-- God Bless and Merry Christmas, *Stephanie Brader.*

**January 2016 Servers**

**January 3 Communion – Team 2**

Jim Boeve, Erica Brooks, Jeff Howard, Mary Kay LaMaster, Constance Malloy, Chad Murrell, Shannon Welton, Rogene Wenburg, Dan Zabloudil

**Ushers**

Dale Behrens, matt Fong, Gaylon Hermann, Jeff Hermann, Jessica Meeske, Al Meyer, captain, Todd Pankratz, Ken Stein

**Greeters**

**Jan 3:** Neal and Susan Hoff  
**Jan 10:** Ira and May Wierenga  
**Jan 17:** Mike and Marcia Hogan  
**Jan 24:** Chuck Shoemaker and Lynne Friedewald  
**Jan 31:** Art Langvardt and Theresa Luther

**Congregational Lives**  
**December 14, 2015**

Zeppa Kreager: Thank you for joining us at the Vice President's Residence during this holiday season. It is our wish that all American families enjoy this holiday season with their loved ones. As always, our thoughts are with all of our servicemen and women, veterans, and military families whose contributions and sacrifices for our country are unparalleled.

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year! ~Jill & Joe Biden



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

Thank you to everyone who participated in the message of The Christmas Window. It was a beautiful message from the "brightest lights" of FPC as they shared the LIGHT of the WORD.

Hands Around the World thanks everyone who made the Global Market a success. Sales for the store were very close to \$1,000. Your purchase not only gives a gift to the person who receives it and the artist made it. You have made a difference in the empowerment of many lives and that makes a difference in YOUR life. All proceeds are used for our FPC Mission projects.

There is no PW meeting in January.

In the Hospital: No members this week

Congratulations to Sharon Brooks for retiring!

**Due to the Holidays:**

No Wednesday Night Live on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The last for 2015 is Weds., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>.

No Sunday school for all ages on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>

**HAPPY NAPPY**

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!

**In Loving Memoriam**

Beulah Mae Mapes

**December 19, 1919 – December 8, 2015**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

|              |                                                                                         |              |                                                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>01/01</b> | Nyareak Deng<br>Wiyual Dieth<br>Jim Duval<br>Georgie Evans                              | <b>01/15</b> | Ariah Robbins<br>Caleb Schukei                              |
| <b>01/02</b> | Gary Allison<br>George Anderson                                                         | <b>01/16</b> | Mike Karloff<br>Ann Koozer<br>Adalynn Miller<br>Teri Nguyen |
| <b>01/03</b> | Starla Rethorst                                                                         | <b>01/17</b> | Dick McKenzie                                               |
| <b>01/04</b> | Audrey Watson<br>Dan Zabloudil                                                          | <b>01/18</b> | Suellen Bruguera<br>Kathy Reimer                            |
| <b>01/05</b> | Carla Fike                                                                              | <b>01/19</b> | Kathy Illingworth                                           |
| <b>01/06</b> | Paul Krieger                                                                            | <b>01/20</b> | Joni McCoy                                                  |
| <b>01/07</b> | Robert Nedderman<br>Susan Tournor                                                       | <b>01/21</b> | Tuesday Frasier                                             |
| <b>01/08</b> | Stacey Burling<br>Jeremy Heneger                                                        | <b>01/22</b> | Nancy Grams<br>Jerry Norberg                                |
| <b>01/10</b> | Tera Nguyen                                                                             | <b>01/23</b> | Jayne Ellenwood<br>Shanda Spurgeon                          |
| <b>01/11</b> | Larry Butler<br>Robin Koozer<br>Rebeca Tut                                              | <b>01/24</b> | Kym Warner<br>Melissa Davis<br>Art Langvardt                |
| <b>01/12</b> | Terry Ross                                                                              | <b>01/25</b> | Morgan Karloff<br>Gretchen Lainson                          |
| <b>01/13</b> | Elizabeth Urrutia<br>Norris Swan                                                        | <b>01/27</b> | Leslie Christensen<br>Lulu Schmidt                          |
| <b>01/14</b> | Dale Behrens<br>Shirley Bornschlegl<br>Bob Johnson<br>Marie Rasmussen<br>Rachel Thomsen | <b>01/28</b> | Erica Brooks<br>Jessica Meeske<br>Jim Freeburger            |
|              |                                                                                         | <b>01/29</b> | Sue Armstrong                                               |
|              |                                                                                         | <b>01/30</b> | Gaylon Hermann<br>Javae Redinger                            |

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Neil & Stacy Kerr      | 01/02/1999 |
| Gaylon & Kim Hermann   | 01/17/1986 |
| John & Barb Harrington | 01/23/1993 |
| Dean & Verna Meyer     | 01/30/1954 |

**Home Page**  
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**The Home Page**

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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.

***HAVE A VERY***  
***MERRY CHRISTMAS***

***&***

***HAPPY NEW YEAR!***