



# The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 20.09 March 06, 2016

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*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing: it is a gift of God.”*

Over the years I have stopped many a time in a convenience store to purchase a Diet Pepsi that would keep me going for a little while longer. There was a time when Pepsi ran a contest in which prizes could be won. Winning or not was announced under the cap. Turn it over and find the announcement, “You are not a winner, try again.”

How did they know I was not a winner? According to our society being a winner means accumulation of stuff or the big prizes like Powerball. As Christians we know that winning is not about worldly life but having a true relationship with God.

It is Paul who reminds us that the relationship that God has given us does not come from any contest or competition on our part. Rather, he said, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is a gift of God.”

This is powerful stuff. This is great news. This is the stuff we can tell the contest companies and people who run the Powerball. We have been given something that they can never promise us. We are God’s children, God’s created people through faith. We hear in Paul’s words that we have been given this promise and it is the very grace of God that has made us one with God.

Life is a gift! When we realize this we can treat one another as gifts as well. We can begin to look at people not as our antagonists, but as our allies. What would happen in our lives if we treated one another that way? What would happen if the nations of the world treated one another that way? Time itself is a gift, given to us by the benevolent hand of God who helps us see the time is not wasted; it is not to be killed. Rather, time is to be used for our benefit and for God’s glory.

For we have great news that the Powerball can never give us. We have the best news that the world can never give us. We have the best news that the

world cannot help us achieve. We have been made winners by Christ so we might have life and live it abundantly.

People of God, our slates have been wiped clean. God had given us the gift of salvation by grace through faith and God will help us give the news to all people. Life is not a contest or struggle, but a gift to be celebrated through Jesus Christ our Lord.

~Pastor Don Canady

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**New Bible Study Opportunity!**

All are welcome to join in a new Bible Study every *other* Wednesday evening, 5:30-6:45 in the Kessler Room. Dinner included (\$2 suggested donation). Next session: March 9.

**Soup Group Meets This Friday**

Women and friends of First Presbyterian are invited to join together in the Fellowship Hall at noon Friday, March 18, for a soup lunch and discussion of the book *The Gifts of Imperfection*.

**Ongoing Adult Study and Fellowship Opportunities**

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Every Wednesday morning in the Parlor at 7:00 a.m. Currently studying the book *Speaking Christian* by Marcus Borg. Includes breakfast.

Heirs Apparent Sunday School Class: Every Sunday morning at 9:15 in the Anderson Conference Room. Currently watching and discussing *The Bible*, a mini-series originally aired on the History Channel.

PW Circles and Luncheons: Luncheon on first Wednesday of each month; small group ("Circle") meetings (with Bible study) on third Wednesday of each month. Contact Rogene Wenburg for more information (308-962-0187).

Spiritual Direction: Confidential, 45-minute, one-on-one sessions available by appointment at no cost to church members. Contact Kili (402-462-5147) for appointment.

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*Thank you for your check dated 12/31/2015 for \$121.00 to Kids Against Hunger of Hastings. Your gift will allow us to provide at least 526 meals to feed hungry people throughout the world. Your continued support of our efforts is greatly appreciated. –Charles W. Hastings*

**2016 Greeter, Usher  
and Communion  
Server schedules are  
now available online at  
[www.fpchastings.org](http://www.fpchastings.org),  
and in the office if  
you'd like a hard copy.**

**Check out the "Children & Youth" section of FPC  
website ([www.fpchastings.org](http://www.fpchastings.org)) and see what Steph is  
creating!**

***Congregational Lives***

Congratulations to Carter Wenburg for qualifying for the State Geography Bee. He will compete in Omaha on April 1.

### **Fish banks are not just for kids!**

This year, both children and adults are encouraged to pick up a fish bank and giving calendar (both available in the Memorial Room) with which to set aside money for the [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) (OGHS) offering, to be received on Easter. OGHS is an ecumenical project that began during WWII to provide relief for war-torn countries, and which continues today, providing disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid, and more.

### **Register NOW for 2016 Summer Camp—Something for everyone!**

#### **Benefits of Christian Camping...**

- Campers can grow in their spiritual development in a fun, positive environment.
- Camp is an extension of your local church ministry program.
- Campers engage with others—building on the connectional strength of the reformed tradition.

Child development experts believe that residential camp experiences help children and youth mature socially, emotionally, intellectually, morally and physically. This is supported by research conducted by the American Camp Association.

Camp Calvin Crest and Highlands Summer Camp brochures are now available on the glass shelves near the church office door. Scholarship applications are also available. **\*\*\*Camp Calvin Crest has an Early Bird Discount for registrations received by March 15.\*\*\***

**2016 Directory is available in the office as a Picture Directory insert and a bound guide. Contact the office if you would like a copy mailed.**

**Sunday,  
March 13, 2016**

**8:30 Worship**

**Music:** Calvin/Westminster  
Handbells

**9:15 Sunday School**

**Adult Forum, Hannah Jensen**

**10:30 Worship;**  
**Message by Pastor Don Canady**

**Music:** Chancel Choir  
& Chancel Bells

Please contact Stephanie at [stephanie@fpchastings.org](mailto:stephanie@fpchastings.org) with any questions.

#### **Hands Around the World Store**

Spring is coming! Many items are now marked down to help make room for all of the new items coming in!  
Open every Sunday, 9am – 12 noon.

#### **FEBRUARY 21, 2016**

10:30 Worship Attendance	191
General Fund	\$2,886.00
Plate Collections	\$60.00
PC(USA) Hunger Fund coins	\$33.86
Food Pantry	\$7.00
Go & Serve donation	\$20.00
Food 4 Thought	\$35.00

**Thanks be to God!**

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**The Home Page**

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621 North Lincoln Avenue  
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Temporary Supply Pastor  
Don Canady

**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 by Friday of each week. Submissions may 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.