



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 20.34 October 9, 2016

CANADY'S CHRONICLE

One of the greatest myths of the Christian life is that faithfulness to God puts us on *Easy Street*. You've heard the story: if we are obedient, do the right things, participate in the life of the church, say our prayers, pay attention to our families and spouses, do a good job at work and live a good life in other ways, things should turn out well for us. We should enjoy the blessings of prosperity and moral goodness and face no hardships or struggles.

We don't deserve hardships and struggles, but we never were promised that we would be preserved from them. As psychiatrist M. Scott Peck points out at the beginning of his best-selling work *The Road Less Traveled*, "Life is difficult." He goes on to make an observation that "most of us do not fully see this truth that life is difficult."

The truth is, life is a journey on foot, not in first class. Even if our lives are pretty easy, we may seek to take on hardship so that we can know how the other half – no, the other 90 percent – live. When we confront the truth about life and the truth about ourselves, we can move forward with Christ, who faced struggle and hardship with clarity that God would help him at his points of need.

That is the ultimate promise for Christians: that God will provide the strength, the serenity, and the reward for endurance and perseverance. We do not waste our time and energy complaining or withdrawing, but face our hardships and struggles squarely, precisely, because we know the outcome - being in the constant presence of God.

As Christians, we do not have an address on *Easy Street*, but we also do not dwell on *Hardship Road*. We find instead that there is blessing in hardship and struggle, because in it we are in the presence of God. By God's grace, we move through struggle and overcome hardship. The victory is God's. The blessings are ours – today, next week, this year, forever.

--Pastor Don Canady

Another successful United Harvest distribution...Praise God!

Despite the rain, dedicated volunteers unloaded, organized, distributed and carried food for 225 grateful families on Saturday, September 24. This represents 697 people, an increase of more than 10% in number of families served compared to the first distribution in August.



More volunteers are still needed--especially the strong ones who can carry boxes of food from the Annex to recipients' cars. Mark your calendar now to help out at the next distribution on the morning of **Saturday, October 15.**

Happy Nappies. Your Mission Committee is always collecting diapers for our "Happy Nappies" project. Place your donations in the green bin in the Memorial Room.

Mission Committee volunteers delivered 62 diapers September 29 as part of the Happy Nappy program. Thank you for helping those most vulnerable.

Hastings Food Pantry updated needs: paper products, pastas, canned fruit, instant mashed potatoes, boxed scallops, hamburger helper, stuffing mix, Jell-O, peanut butter, jelly, and canned chicken, tuna, turkey. Please refrain from donating canned vegetables at this time, especially corn and green beans, they are well overstocked. Thank you for helping those in need!

Upcoming Forum Classes

Forum next Sunday: "Protest and Resistance: From Jesus to Colin Kaepernick."

Did Jesus ever resist social/political rules? Why are the reactions to Kaepernick so strong? How should people of faith respond? Class will be led by Kili Wenburg; Dr. Gary Johnson, Hastings College Academic Dean; and Dr. Mark Zajack, Hastings College psychology professor.
Oct. 9, 9:15 in Fellowship Hall.

Fall Break: No Class on October 16

"Immigration and Human Trafficking: Hidden Connections"

A link exists between immigration and human trafficking. Learn more about this link, what is being done to protect vulnerable individuals, and how you can become an advocate. Sue Medsker-Nedderman and Kerry Huber will lead the class. Sue will share knowledge she gained from a California conference on the topic, and Kerry, as representative of the Hastings Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition, will update us on local efforts to end this horrific practice.
Oct. 23, 9:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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A Little Friendly Competition with the Methodists...

- Which church can raise the most funds (per capita) for the upcoming CROP Walk?
- Losing congregation provides donuts for volunteers at the October United Harvest distribution!

Inspired by our work on the United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry with our First United Methodist Church (FUMC) neighbors, the FPC Mission Committee issued to FUMC the challenge stated above.

The challenge has been accepted, so we have to get to work!

The real winners in this challenge will be hungry teenagers in Hastings and wounded, suffering refugees world-wide.

**Find more details about the CROP Walk elsewhere in this *Home Page*.

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Jr. & Sr High Hayrack Ride & Cookout

October 12

Jr. High 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Sr. High 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Hannon Farms

Jr. High will leave the church at 5:30pm and Sr. High will leave at 6:30pm. Special arrangements should be made with Steph if needed. Youth will NOT be permitted to drive themselves. Volunteers will be helping with transportation. The Jr. High group will return to the church by 8:30pm and the Sr. High will return by 9:30pm. Each youth may bring 1 guest. Sign up will end Sunday, October 9. Only persons who Sign-Up will be permitted to attend. Sign-up sheets are located in the youth rooms and on the Children & Youth Announcements bulletin board. We will have hot dogs, chips, fruit, drinks, and s'mores.


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**Now Available on the Church Website** ([www.fpchastings.org](http://www.fpchastings.org)) under the Children & Youth menu....

1. Children & Youth Calendar (<http://fpchastings.org/children-youth-calendar/>)
2. Acolyte schedule (<http://fpchastings.org/acolytes/>)
3. Youth Usher schedule (<http://fpchastings.org/youth-ushers/>),
4. WNL Theme calendar (<http://fpchastings.org/wednesday-night-live/>)



**American Red Cross**

Our next blood drive is **October 13 from noon to 6pm**. If you would like to donate or volunteer, contact Erica Brooks at [ericalynn128@gmail.com](mailto:ericalynn128@gmail.com) or [402-469-9285](tel:402-469-9285). You can also make an appointment to donate at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). Your donation makes a difference!

**Hands Around the World Store** is open Sundays, 9-noon. Feel free to browse the fine selection of fair trade coffee, chocolate, textiles and jewelry. Items come from nonprofit, fair trade organizations dedicated to lifting disadvantaged artisans and farmers and their families out of poverty. Your purchases make a difference!

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**SUNDAY IS THE LAST DAY TO DONATE FOR HASTINGS CROP HUNGER WALK**. Crop Hunger Walk is sponsored by the local Church Women United with help from Hastings College and Hastings High School. The event will start at Hazelrigg Student Union and will be in the College and Heartwell Park area Sunday October 9, 2016. Check in after 1:30 pm to walk at 2:00. Refreshments will follow the walk.

CROP Hunger Walks began in 1947 under the wing of Church World Services and for many years has raised funds to help provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs both locally and globally. 25% of our Hastings Walk fundraiser will be used locally to benefit our Hastings High School Food Pantry. First Presbyterian Church in Hastings has a team in this event. Please join our team as you donate to this much needed fundraiser. A table in in the Memorial room each Sunday until October 9 for your donations and will inform you of the event, or you can donate in the church office. To donate online go to [crophungerwalk.org](http://crophungerwalk.org), find Hastings Crop Hunger Walk, Register, Join a time, First Presbyterian Church or start your own team. Follow the simple stop-by-step instructions.

Join in on the fun! Plan to walk and donate. If you can't join us, or don't know if you are able, donations are so much appreciated! Thank you, Susie Graham [402-469-2638](tel:402-469-2638).

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**HONEY BEARS will be available in November. The Adams/Clay Arc advocates for the Rights of All Citizens with developmental disabilities and provides support for their families. The funds from the Honey Bears are used for social events, resources and information, as well as advocacy. The Bears are \$5.00 per bottle this year. Thank you for your support!**

# Congregational Lives

## **New Member/Inquirer Class to be held Sunday, October 23**

Whether you already know you want to join First Presbyterian, or whether you are simply considering it as a possibility, please make plans to attend this class that will fulfill all membership requirements. Class will begin with complimentary lunch around 11:45 and will conclude around 2:00. Please RSVP ([402-462-5147](tel:402-462-5147)) so that we have an accurate lunch count. Child care is available upon request.

## **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 pastor?

**Please pray for members of our PNC:** Jim Duval, Chad Murrell, Mike Karloff, Joan Shaw, Chris Junker, Pam Lay and Jeni Howard.

Please **keep in your prayers** Winifred Barrows, James Hahne, Dwight Marsh, Eldon Mitzelfelt and families.

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**November 5** is the **Veteran's Day Parade** at 10:00 a.m. Veterans are invited to gather at the church with family and friends @ 8:45 a.m. for coffee, tea, hot cocoa and donuts, and will be transported to the parade line by 9:30 a.m. Youth are invited to carry flags during the parade with parents/members who wish to join. This is a wonderful opportunity to show our love and support to our veterans.

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## **Committee News**

### **Last chance for FREE HUGS t-shirts!**

The order will be placed on October 12.

To request a shirt, contact Kili or sign up in the Memorial Room soon.

**Sunday,  
October 16, 2016**  
No Sunday School  
(Fall Break)  
**10:30** Worship  
Pastor Don Canady

### **Now you can watch Forum classes on-line!**

The Christian Education committee is proud to announce that equipment was purchased this summer which enables FPC to record and post Forum classes on-line. This is a great way to catch up on important topics even when you're out of town!

"When working with your attorney to update your **will and estate plan**, please consider including a gift to the First Presbyterian Church Foundation that will enhance the work of this congregation for many years to come. Our Federal Identification Number is 47-0710307."

*--Roger Doerr, Moderator of the Foundation*

**Home Page**  
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**Address Service Requested**

### **The Home Page**

A publication of  
First Presbyterian Church  
621 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Hastings, NE 68901

**Temporary Supply Pastor:** Don Canady

**Publishing Guidelines:** The *Home Page* is a weekly publication (bi-weekly June & July) 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.

### ***Financial Corner***

**September 25, 2016**

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 8:30 Worship Attendance  | 48         |
| 10:30 Worship Attendance | 175        |
| General Fund             | \$5,298.00 |
| Plate Collections        | \$78.00    |
| PC (USA) Hunger Fund     | \$36.02    |
| Sunday School            | \$5.50     |
| Habitat for Humanity     | \$55.00    |
| WNL                      | \$300.00   |
| Food Pantry              | \$55.00    |

### **Thanks be to God!**

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,  
and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?  
So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

-James 2:15-17

