



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 20.36 October 23, 2016

CANADY'S CHRONICLE

Just one more debate and that part of the presidential election will be over. What wonderful debates they were--or were they? What did they say? What did we learn? I for one did not learn anything about their positions on issues. All I heard was how bad the other candidate was. Neither one of the candidates let us know where they stood on the issues; they just threw mud at their opponent. More people watched the first two debates than in the past because we wanted to know where they stood. We had questions we wanted answered. Important questions about our future and the future of our country.

This reminds me of a question that was put to Jesus in Matthew's gospel, "Which is the greatest commandment?" The Pharisees and the Sadducees were plotting together on how to get Jesus to trap himself into saying something or doing something that would place him in violation of Hebrew law and get him arrested. Again, I am reminded of the debates. People watched because there were things we needed or at least wanted to know. For some I imagine their mind was made up as to who they would vote for. And yet there may be that one answer that would make certain their decision was correct.

Jesus also knew that he was being put to the test. He knew that the question was to place him in an awkward position. "If I say this commandment is the most important, then some will question why I didn't choose another commandment. No matter which one I chose, someone will question my answer." So Jesus gave them the answer that could not be offensive to anyone: "Love God above everything else," and "love your neighbor as yourself." We read these verses so often that in their familiarity they lose power. But these answers Jesus gave were not wimpy little sound bites about "God is love." These were life-and-death times for Jesus. Each question, each sparring with the religious political machine was a type of trap. The questions put to Jesus were intended to disarm and do harm.

In our presidential debates, accusations have been made about how bad the opponent is, which never gets to the heart of what matters. All we have been hearing are words--words of hate and slander. Jesus' response to the religious leaders stated the facts that words are not enough. Actions of love are what is needed. Love God. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. These are actions' words.

In the book, *The Prophet*, Kahil Gibran puts a twist to this idea: "When you love you should not say, 'God is in my heart' but rather, 'I am in the heart of God.'" To love God above everything else and to love my neighbor as I love myself is to exist within the heart of God. I think this is precisely what Jesus wanted for us - not to win a debate on religious practices, not to become the leader of a religious movement, but to touch people with the love of God.

--Pastor Don Canady



“Hi. My name is Linda Vollweiler. I am your new organist.

I was born in Hastings and grew up here. My first experience as organist was when I was 11 years old and played for the New York Avenue Congregational Church. I graduated from Hastings High School and Hastings College with degrees in Organ, Church Music and Music Education.

I moved to Alliance, Nebraska, in 1975 and taught K-5 vocal music for the Alliance Public Schools for 29 years, served as organist for the United Methodist Church, and gave private piano and organ lessons.

I enjoy traveling, cooking, and attending concerts and plays. I have spent many vacations in the Black Hill of South Dakota, Estes Park, Colorado, and the Wisconsin Dells area.

I am an only child. I have wonderful visits with my cousins, Pat and Jan, who live in Colorado.

It is great to be back in Hastings! I’m looking forward to being on the staff of First Presbyterian Church.

“Dear Church Members & Staff, Thank you so much for your monetary donations to the crop walk. 25% of the funds raised will be donated to the Hastings High Food Pantry. We are very grateful for your support for our students. You are all making a huge difference in our community. Thanks Again!” --HHS Food Pantry

FPC remitted \$123.84 to the PC(USA) Hunger Fund. Glory be to God!

Mission committee team members delivered 62 diapers to Catholic Social Service.

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**American Red Cross**

The October 13 Red Cross blood drive was a success! We exceeded our goal with 28 units donated. Thank you to our volunteers and donors for your time!

The next blood drive is January 3, 2017. If you are interested in donating or volunteering contact Erica Brooks at [ericalynn128@gmail.com](mailto:ericalynn128@gmail.com) or [402-469-9285](tel:402-469-9285).

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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!

Upcoming Forum Classes

"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 Melissa Kometscher will lead the class. Sue will share knowledge she gained from a California conference on the topic, and Melissa, as Nebraska Safe-T Human Trafficking Specialist with Salvation Army in Grand Island, will update us on local efforts to end this horrific practice.

Oct. 23, 9:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall

"How Do Christians Engage the Concept of White Privilege?"

White privilege is a delicate subject, but one which cannot be ignored in our current cultural context. With open minds and open hearts, we will discuss ways that Christians can engage this timely topic. Led by Bob Nedderman.

Oct. 30, 9:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Did the Civil Rights Movement Work?

While major advancements in racial equality were made in the 1960's, the reality is that "the 11:00 hour on Sunday morning is [still] the most segregated hour in America." What is happening--or not happening--in our churches such that Martin Luther King, Jr.'s observation (as quoted above) from 50 years ago continues to apply today?

We will address this question and more at the **Happy Hour Book Club!

* Thursday, October 27, 5:15 p.m., Blue Moon Coffee Shop.

* Discussion based on the book *Dear White Christians* (copies available through Kili)

* All are welcome, even if you haven't read the book.

**Trick
or
Treat!**

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you. Deuteronomy 16:17

This year the children of First Presbyterian Church will be continuing the tradition of helping other children around the world by participating in the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF campaign. The annual tradition has helped provide countless children around the world with clean water, nutrition, medicine, immunizations and education. You can visit trickortreatforunicef.org to learn more. Last year, our children raised \$116.08. Let's try to top that amount this year!!

UNICEF boxes will be distributed to each child to enable them to collect donations. Boxes and information will be sent home a week before Halloween.

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On October 26, the FPC Jr. & Sr. High youth groups will participate in packing meals for **Hearts & Hands Against Hunger**. Our group will be packing from 7:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. during their regular youth group time. ALL are welcome to come and join our youth in this important mission.

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Presbyterian Women will meet on Wednesday, November 2, at 11:45 a.m. The Willa Cather Foundation will be presenting the program. Circle 2 is responsible for the meal. Circle 3 will set the tables and provide centerpieces, nametags, and devotions for the day. The coordinating team will meet at 11:00 in the church library. Please RSVP to your circle representative or call Tarci in the office at 402-462-5147 by November 1 if you are able to attend.

## ***Congregational Lives***

**Sunday,  
October 30, 2016**

**9:15 Sunday School**

**10:30 Worship**

Message by Pastor Don Canady

### **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.

### **Not up for joining a committee but still want to help the church?**

God may be calling you to take on a specific task in the life of our congregation!

We are currently looking for two organized volunteers who would each take on one of the following: (1) Planning and leadership of a Christmas Caroling event for our congregation (social! outreach! fun!); and (2) Planning and oversight of our annual Easter Prayer Vigil.

\*\*Contact Kili if you are interested in learning more about these opportunities.

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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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### **THANKSGIVING HARVEST DINNER**

**Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**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 Oct. 23, Oct. 30, and Nov. 6th, and during the week in the church office until Friday, Nov. 11th. Adults: \$10, Kids 6-12: \$7. We look forward to seeing you there!

### ***Committee News***

#### **Thank you from the Mission Committee!!**

Up to this point in the month, \$1,191 has been received through our October communion offering: the "Peace and Global Witness Offering." Of this, around \$300 will go to Hearts and Hands Against Hunger of Hastings, and the rest will support our national PC(USA) peace and justice ministries. **THANK YOU!!**

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES 10/11/2016 5:30 pm

|                                                                         |                                                          |                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Moderator: Al Meyer*                                                    | Session Rep: Kraig Lofquist                              | Staff Rep: Kili Wenburg *  |
| 2016<br>Linda Donohue<br>Jim Donohue<br>Bonnie Grams<br>Carol Grummert* | 2017<br>Daveta Brader*<br><br>Kathy Davis*<br>Bev Stein* | 2018<br><br><br>*- present |

Al Meyer opened the meeting with prayer.

Sat Nov 5 Vet Parade Meet at 8:45 am with the church van used to help transport veterans for the parade. Daveta will provide flags and donuts with hot drinks served before the parade. Veterans to participate will be contacted by Carol. Al has sent in registration. Youth will be encouraged to participate and carry the banner used previously.

Tue Nov 8 Committee Appreciation Desserts Committee discussed providing a tray of goodies for each committee meeting that night. Each member will bring an item that can be shared for the platters.

Sun Nov 13 Harvest Dinner Daveta provided a proposal from the caterer at 7.65/meal. The prices will be \$10/adult and \$7/child 6 to 12. Tickets will be sold on Oct 23 by Linda, Oct 30 by Daveta, and Nov 6 by Bonnie. The tickets and money bag will be picked up on Fridays. Bev will take care of pies. Daveta and Kathy will provide some alternate desserts. Kili will contact Tarci to make up the tickets and visit with Steph regarding youth assistance. Bonnie has napkins and decorations are in the basement. Rolls will need to be picked up. Setup will be on Nov 12.

Sat Nov 26 Hanging of the Greens; There is a wedding on Dec 3.

Sun Dec 25 Provide breakfast pastries for informal worship service

Sat Jan 7 Removal of the Greens

Kili mentioned there will be a new member class on Oct 23 and there were many visitors to the church last Sunday for Hastings College Day.

The committee will meet on Tues November 8 at 5:30 pm.

The meeting was closed at 6:20pm with the Lord's Prayer.

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"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**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**621 North Lincoln Avenue**  
**Hastings, NE 68901**  
**402-462-5147, fax 402-462-6818**  
**Email: fpc@fpchastings.org**  
**Website: www.fpchastings.org**

**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 or call 402-462-5147.

### **Financial Corner**

#### **October 2, 2016**

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 10:30 Worship Attendance | 190        |
| General Fund             | \$3,712.00 |
| Plate Collections        | \$2.00     |
| PC (USA) Hunger Fund     | \$34.15    |
| Communion - Peacemaking  | \$956.00   |
| Food Pantry              | \$100.00   |

#### **October 9, 2016**

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 8:30 Worship Attendance  | 76          |
| 10:30 Worship Attendance | 220         |
| General Fund             | \$14,527.00 |
| Plate Collections        | \$167.00    |
| PC (USA) Hunger Fund     | \$23.93     |
| Sunday School            | \$6.00      |
| Communion - Peacemaking  | \$235.00    |
| Annex Bldg Use           | \$100.00    |

**Thanks be to God!**