

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 21.03 January 22, 2017

January 10, 2017

Greetings and shalom from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in northeast Iowa where Rev. Dr. Silas Kessler met Ruth and where Si received his Master of Divinity degree a few decades ago. Zach Spurgeon, Logan Ellis and I are enjoying a class together on Young Adult Spiritual Formation during this two week “intensive” session which includes two weeks before and two weeks after our classes in Dubuque with online study assignments, interactive discussions, lectures, papers, readings, etc.

Zach and Logan are residential students and I am a distance online student which has allowed me to continue to serve the Harvard United Church of Christ as their solo pastor since April of 2009. The Spirit continues exciting work in Harvard, such as preparations for our 9th Annual Harvard UCC “Reach Out: Dare to Care” Youth Mission Trip to Camp Courageous this June just 45 minutes southwest of Dubuque. Many of the new spiritual activities that happen these days within the life and fellowship of Harvard UCC emanated via First Presbyterian, so thank you for your inspiration!

The emphasis of UDTS on spiritual formation, mission, evangelism and staying connected to Christ through daily worship, spiritual disciplines and class cohorts for distance students is beneficial to our development as pastors. This intensive will be my last one in Dubuque, so mixed, heartfelt emotions are certainly overflowing. After completing online classes this spring, there will be only one credit hour remaining before completion of the M.Div. degree, Supervised Practice Ministry (SPM), which I hope to complete through First Presbyterian, perhaps with a new called pastor as supervisor.

All PC(USA) candidates for ordination are also required to pass five ordination exams: Bible Content, Church Polity, Bible Exegesis, Worship and Sacraments and Theological Competence. So far I am four for four with only the Theology exam remaining this summer. The excellent pedagogy of Rev. Dr. David McCarthy and Rev. Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh during the completion of Lay Pastor requirements at Hastings College during the 2007-2008 school year has certainly enhanced the journey through UDTS. Special thanks also to Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey and Kili Wenburg for their spiritual direction. More of you are encouraged to set up an appointment with Kili for spiritual direction and utilize the many other opportunities to grow closer to our Redeemer offered at First Presbyterian these days! Your prayers, encouragement and financial support are all very much appreciated.

Shalom in Christ,
Dave Johnson

Dear FPC, Session, and Trustees,

Thank you very much for renovating our Youth Room. We love the new fridge the couches, and the cross. We are grateful that the congregation has invested in our spiritual development.

The bright colors and the new floors make for a 'enjoyable learning environment. Thank you once again for the new room.

We look forward to many years of enjoying the new room and learning about God.

Love,
the 6th and 7th
grade Sunday
School classes

*“Just wanted to share with you...I used the cabbage, potatoes, onions, and canned veggies with 2 pounds of hamburger, and made vegetable soup today that I got Saturday from the food truck. I froze 2 gallon bags of apples for pie or apple crisp at some point, All this is SO appreciated! Your church and you people are a blessing. This food helps so much, I had gotten a turkey at Christmas from there and bought another, had the kids and the grandkids over for Christmas dinner. I ended up with leftovers of course (as I had planned for) and have 10 TV dinners in the freezer from Christmas. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!** Please share with your parishioner if you like.”*

I received this message from a retiree who got groceries from us. I wanted to share this with our congregation. --Jane Marsh”

*“Dear First Presbyterian Church, I am writing on behalf of Foundation for Peace to **thank you** for your kind support and your donation in support of FFP programs. Your financial gift (of \$1,000) gives hope, transforms communities and brings a brighter, healthier future to many. It also allows us to continue our vial work and expand our outreach in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Kenya! We know that these efforts are only possible because of the contributions received from generous donors like you. Thank you again for supporting the FFP. Sincerely, --Kenneth W. Culver M.D., Executive Director, Foundation for Peace (FFP)”*

*“**Thank you** for your generous donation of \$260.00 raised through your Poinsettia program to help with utilities assistance during these cold winter months. We value your generous gift and promise to use it with the utmost of stewardship, maximizing its yield in aiding local families. May God richly bless you this day and forever! In CHRIST’s Service, --Dale L. Brandenburg, Major, The Salvation Army”*

*“We want to send a letter to **thank you** for your donation of 3 bags of groceries = 32 items given to the Hastings Food Pantry. What a wonderful donation! So many people will be blessed with this gift! God bless in all you do!! –Hastings Food Pantry, Board of Directors”*

First Sunday of the Month is **Food Pantry Sunday**. Bring your Food Pantry donation(s) and place in the blue totes in the Memorial Room. Non-perishable needs requested by the Pantry are: paper products, pastas, canned fruit, boxed meals, canned vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, and canned chicken, tuna, turkey. Every bit helps!

Happy Nappy Diaper Collection. The fourth Sunday of each month is designated for the collection of diapers. Please bring a box and place in the basket outside of the Hands Around the World Store. They are collected and distributed to those in need in the community, currently through Catholic Social Services. The congregation is encouraged to bring diapers to help those most vulnerable.

Collecting Crosses for the Cross Wall

Do you have a cross (framed, carved, pendant...) you could share for the "cross wall" (facing the Living Scrapbook Wall)? Crosses received by the church will be considered to be on "indefinite loan" but can be returned to the giver at any time if necessary. A guide-book will be created with photos and descriptions of each cross.

Coming Soon: Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Beginning February 8, Joe Black will lead participants in a study entitled "Grace and Gratitude," an exploration of the freeing power of God's grace and the importance and power of saying "thank you." This study will be held in the Kessler Room, 5:15-6:45 p.m. every other Wednesday evening for six sessions. Study participants can enjoy a night off from cooking, as a communal meal is part of the fun! (\$2 suggested donation) Participant books are complimentary. All levels of biblical knowledge are welcome in this study, and please feel free to arrive as you are able (latecomers are welcome!).

Learning to Listen to God: Lectio Divina

Those attending the Contemplative Prayer class on January 8 were instructed in the basics of the prayer practice known as lectio divina, a wonderful way of combining scripture reading with intimate prayer. The 4-step prayer format described in the box involves choosing a scripture (Psalms and

gospels are great starting points!) and then reading it repeatedly, being attentive to the ways the passage resonates with you, personally, and what response(s) it elicits in you. Please contact Kili if you have any questions about lectio divina or if you would like help getting started using it in your own life!

The Four R's of Lectio Divina

Lectio (Reading)

Take your time and read the passage. Get a sense of what it is saying. Read the passage a second time. Listen for any words or phrases that strike you, and listen in your heart.

Meditatio (Reflecting)

Read the passage again, slowly. As you pause on the words or phrases that strike you, take time to consider what the word, phrase, or passage means, particularly in your life.

Oratio (Responding)

Read the passage again, slowly. Consider now how God has spoken to you in this passage and respond back to Him. You may want to consider how this passage is asking you to act differently.

Contemplatio (Remaining)

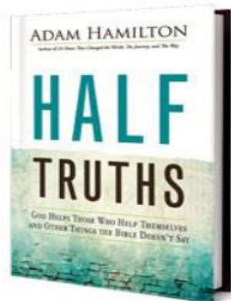
Now take some time to simply remain in the presence of God.

Adapted from the *Catholic Youth Prayer Book*, St. Mary's Press, Winona, MN, 2006.

Looking for an interesting and engaging **Bible Study**?

Then check out the new Heirs Apparent study:

Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say.



Led by Curtis Reimer, this DVD-based study will run on Sunday mornings in the Anderson Conference Room, 9:15-10:15 a.m., from January 15 through February 12.

UPCOMING FORUMS

Polarization in America: An Historian's Perspective

"What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." -Eccles. 1:9

January 22: Comparing current American polarization to that of previous generations, Michella Marino, Hastings College Assistant Professor of History, will assist us in understanding today's concerns in light of historical patterns.

The Chief Standing Bear Trail: A Cyclist's Experience

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you." -Job 12:7-8

January 29: Having biked the 600-mile Chief Standing Bear Trail, Will Locke will describe his insights into the unique sufferings of native peoples and the amazing story of Chief Standing Bear, the first Native American to be recognized as a person in federal court.

Contemplative Prayer Retreat, March 10-12

Learn to rest in and connect with God through silence.

This retreat is not led by nor exclusively open to Presbyterians. It is an inter-denominational retreat led by Fr. Thomas Leitner, administrator of the St. Benedict Center. FPC has a few spots reserved; contact Kili Wenburg to sign up. (Cost is \$192.85, and a \$50 deposit--applied toward the total cost--is required at sign up.)



**American
Red Cross**

The next **Red Cross Blood Drive** will be on Monday, April 10th, (not Tuesday, April 25th, as originally scheduled) from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

For more information, or to make an appointment, contact Erica Brooks at ericalynn128@gmail.com or 402-469-9285.

CONGREGATIONAL LIVES

Need a ride to church on Sundays? Request a ride by calling the church office at 402-462-5147.

The **radio broadcast** airs Sunday @ 10:30a.m. during service on KICS 1550 AM.

Sunday's service will be broadcast on Channel 181 Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

For those living at Good Samaritan Village, Sunday's service will be broadcast on Channel 3 on Sunday at 12:00 noon and on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

Please pray for: Art Langvardt and Teresa Luther, Elmer and Irmise Heeren, and Phyllis Waltemath and families.

Sunday, Jan 29, 2016

9:15a.m. Sunday School

(All Ages Welcome)

10:30a.m. Worship

Message by Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

11:30a.m. Congregational Meeting

(All members are encouraged to attend)

An informal gathering providing congregation members **an opportunity to meet Rev. Greg and his wife Jessica** will be held on January 28th in the Fellowship Hall from 3-5p.m.. Greg will lead the 10:30a.m. Worship Service on January 29th followed by a congregation meeting with a vote taking place at that time. Please plan to attend these two very important events.

Langenberg Legacy Lesson Program. First Presbyterian Church is pleased to invite you to participate in a very exciting program offered by our church. Several years ago, through the generosity of the late Luella Langenberg, a program was established to encourage the children and youth of our church in their musical pursuits. Parent(s) of students in grades 1-12 may apply for up to \$250 per semester to offset the cost of private music instruction. Applicable areas of study include: piano, voice, guitar, or any band/orchestral instrument. Grants are limited to one per child. Parent(s) must be members of First Presbyterian Church and students must be active participants in the church choir/music program. Lessons are verified by Worship, Arts and Music committee members. **NOTE:** Although grants are renewable, parents **MUST RE-APPLY EACH SEMESTER.**

January Prayer Focus: Healthy Beginnings

As are all of our communion offering recipients, Healthy Beginnings is in need of not just our financial gifts but also our gifts of prayer. Please pray for the children being served, the nurses who provide care and education, and the parents who are humbly receiving these services in order to give their children a healthier beginning than they would be able to on their own.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Ministry of Music

Langenberg Legacy Lesson Program

----Application----

2017 Spring (January - May)

RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY April 1, 2017

Application Date: _____
Month Day Year

Student Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Name: _____
First Last First Last

Address: _____

Telephone: () _____ e-mail _____

Area (Circle One):

Piano Organ Voice Guitar String Instrument: _____

Wind/Percussion Instrument: _____

Name of Teacher: _____ Teacher's e-mail: _____

Teacher Address: _____

Teacher Telephone: () _____ Weekly Cost of Lessons: \$ _____

Verification of Instruction and Participation

(Near the end of May, the teacher may be notified to verify the completion of lessons)

Private Teacher's Signature _____

FPC Music Staff Signature _____

Parent Signature _____ Student Signature _____

Students must be age 6 – 18 and MUST participate in the children's/youth choir/ music program of the First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska.

Parents MUST be members of the First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, Nebraska.

-----For Office Use Only-----

Check Number _____ Date of Check _____ Amount _____ Authorized _____

As of February 1, **Annex door codes will be changed.** Renters, Walkers and Quilters will be contacted and given a new code. Anyone needing a new code, please contact Tarci in the office.

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**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF SESSION  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HASTINGS, NEBRASKA  
January 1, 2017**

Members of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska, held a special called meeting on January 1, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. in the Anderson Conference Room.

The purpose of the meeting was to establish dates for two congregational meetings.

Elders in attendance: P= Present E=Excused A=Absent

**Class of 2017**

**Class of 2018**

**Class of 2019**

P - Chris Junker

P- Sharon Brooks

P - Chuck Bauer

P - Erik Nielsen

P - Kay Georgiana

P – Anne Bohlke

P - Tim Redline

P - Harold Korb

P – Mary Fisk

P – Mary Olsen

P - Kraig Lofquist

P – Jessica Meeske

P - Clerk: Karen Doerr

Moderator was Rev. Don Canady. Rev. Canady opened the meeting with prayer.

PNC recommends Gregory Allen-Pickett as a candidate for pastor/head of staff and asks to call a congregational meeting for January 29, 2017 for the purpose of hearing and voting on the candidate. Motion and a second to accept the recommendation. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.

Recommendation by Pastor Canady that Polly-Deppen Williams, chair of Committee on Ministry moderate the congregational meeting on January 29, 2017. Motion and a second to accept the recommendation. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.

Recommendation by Pastor Canady to hold the Annual Congregational Meeting and to receive the annual reports of committees on Sunday, January 22, 2017 following worship. Motion and a second to accept the recommendation. On a voice vote, motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen G. Doerr, Clerk of Session

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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

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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.

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

-2 Corinthians 9:8