



# The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 19.43 November 15, 2015

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## *First Presbyterian Church will be getting a new audio-visual system this month!*

We will be replacing our ancient sound system that is more than 25 years old.

**Sound system improvements include:** 1) Sound Desk - Located in the sanctuary so the operator is part of the service and can get a more accurate sound balance; 2) Speakers - Two speakers in the Sanctuary, two in the Balcony, and two in the Memorial Room to help improve sound coverage and quality in all seats; 3) Microphones- Two handhelds, three headset, one solo, and two choir microphones to help with clarity and quality of pickup; 4) Digital Snake - A method of cabling that will allow connecting a multitude of equipment at the front of the sanctuary with a simple single connection; and 5) Hearing Loop - Telecoil enabled hearing aids will be able to hear the audio on the ground floor of the sanctuary automatically.

(Hearing Loop installation is scheduled for a later date next year.) **Video improvements include:** 1) Hi-Def Cameras - Two cameras under balcony, one in front to allow recording and projecting images from multiple angles; and 2) Televisions- Two screens at the front facing the congregation. One screen will be on the balcony facing the choir and pastor. This will give FPC an additional tool to help present the Message of God in new ways. Additional information may be found online at:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/19Dm27Ku3Y04dfueYvS0Kh5Xyq3omxjQ8yw691v2NFM/export/pdf>.

Special thanks to the groups and committees involved in the process of this project from start to finish. This project also involved the approval, funding, and hard work from the following groups: Session, Trustees, Worship, Arts and Music Committee, and Memorial Committee. Glory Be to God!

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### THANKSGIVING HARVEST DINNER Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 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 in the office thru Friday, November 13th. Adults: \$10, Kids 6-12: \$7. Hope to see you there!



## *Dear Fellow Companions of the Way,*

*“Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights.” – Habakkuk 3:17-19a*

Perhaps this is an odd text to place in our newsletter the week before we celebrate Thanksgiving. I happen to think it is, in its own way, appropriate. The Old Testament prophet also lived in a time of dislocation and loss. Yet the vision that he received from God, and his attitude of gratitude, went far beyond clichés about God’s blessings. When people suffer, God is always there. This was what Habakkuk discovered, and it formed the center of his message. As the Pilgrims celebrated a day of Thanksgiving after their first harvest in 1621, they remembered that a majority from the Mayflower had perished in the winter of 1620 from lack of provisions. The apostle Paul wrote for us *“to give thanks in all circumstances.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:18) Note, not for all things, but in all circumstances. We give thanks, not only because of what we have, but because God is always with us and inspires us to care for one another. And following Thanksgiving, we look forward to the season of Advent, when we celebrate the three-fold coming of Christ: future, past, and present.

Soli Deo Gloria!

**Charlie**

Charles Marshall Webster

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### **Adult Sunday Morning Class: *Christian History* with Rob Kerr**

Don't miss your last chance to be a part of this popular three-part series! First Presbyterian's very own Rob Kerr, Social Studies department chair for Hastings High School, concludes his adult Sunday School series on Christian History, 9:15-10:15, Nov 15, in the Anderson Conference Room.

### **Adult Sunday School Change**

Please note that the previously scheduled **Conversations that Matter: *Syrian Refugee Crisis*** class has been postponed. Please watch the *Home Page* for updates. There will be no Conversations that Matter class on November 15.

### **Committee Spotlight: *Global Mission and Local Social Witness Committee***

Charged with the challenging task of "informing and enabling the congregation to continue Jesus' ministry on Earth," the Mission Committee is understandably a wide-reaching group of hard-working individuals. Formally known as the "Global Mission and Local Social Witness Committee," you know them as simply "the Mission Committee." Meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30, this committee oversees the four annual denominational offerings as well as the monthly communion offerings; they stock, staff, and oversee the Hands Around the World Store; they organize and mobilize our annual Open Table Sack Lunch packing project; and continuously engage, support, and advocate for many mission-oriented individuals and

organizations--both locally and beyond. If you have a heart for serving others, please consider joining this committee, currently composed of Phil Odom, moderator, Susan Hoff, Cindy Strasheim, Jane Marsh, Denny & Carole Storer, Jeni Howard, Pamela Lainson, Meg Stewart-Magee, and Sharon Brooks.

Are you currently attending a college or university OR do you plan on enrolling in a post secondary opportunity?

**First Presbyterian Church is proud to offer a new scholarship opportunity for the Spring 2016 term. Chip Essex Memorial Scholarship**

Applications are available in the church office or by emailing Traci Boeve. [tboeve@hastings.edu](mailto:tboeve@hastings.edu)  
Deadline is November 30, 2015

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More than 90% of adults in the United States feel that registering, as an organ donor is the right thing to do, yet 52% of adults have yet to register. **November 13-15, 2015 is National Donor Sabbath Weekend**, and the perfect time to take action and sign up on the Nebraska Donor Registry at [www.donatelifenebraska.com](http://www.donatelifenebraska.com). It's fast. It's easy. It saves lives!  
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**Church Mice** are now recruiting walkers & volunteers! Meet Mon-Thurs. @ 8:15am in the Annex Gym to walk, then enjoy coffee and conversation around a table. On Thurs., following coffee, Church Mice volunteer organizing pews and picking up the Sanctuary as needed. This is a time of fellowship. All are welcome to join! Contact Jan Ham at 402-301-9081.

**From Adams County Senior Services: Open Enrollment for Prescription Drug Insurance takes place**

**October 15<sup>th</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Nebraska SHIP Volunteers are available at Adams County Senior Services between 8:45 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The following dates still open to make an appointment are November 3-7, November 10-14, November 17-21, November 24-26, and December 1-5. Appointments are required to review Part D Plans. Please call Kathy at 402-463-4439 to make your appointment.**  
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### **GO AND SERVE BID BOARD**

Supporting the Go and Serve Mission Trip for June 2016. An essential part of the Bid Board process is the generous donations and support from YOU, the congregation. If you would like to donate an item or service for the 2016 Bid Board fundraiser, complete the following form (or pick one up in the office) and return it with the item to the church office.

**I am donating the following items:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Donated by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please be sure items are in new to like-new condition.  
The Bid Board will be open November 29 – December 13, 2015.  
**Your contributions are greatly appreciated!**

**Home Page**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
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**402-462-5147, fax 402-462-6818**  
**email: [fpc@fpchastings.org](mailto:fpc@fpchastings.org)**  
**website: [www.fpchastings.org](http://www.fpchastings.org)**

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**The Home Page**

A publication of  
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.

**Home Page**  
**Holiday Schedule:**

**November 22-29**

**December 6**

**December 13**

**December 20-27**