



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 20.03 January 17, 2016

Happy (belated) New Year!

The date has moved on but the purpose of the greeting is still valid.

Happy New Year means, to me, may the year ahead be filled with great promise and joy. That is my wish for 2016 for First Presbyterians. 2015 is gone and it is time to look forward and find the best way to serve the members of the church and all of the Hastings community. The possibilities are endless. God's call to each of us is to grow in our own personal relationship with God and to search for the best way to serve other seekers. In the next few months, until our new pastor is among us, I will strive to do all I can to make that transition as smooth as possible. I ask God to walk with us through the process and to lead us with great love. ~Pastor Don Canady

The Future is Bright at First Presbyterian!

Around 100 people joined their hearts and voices together Sunday, January 10, to share, discuss and dream over the course of two "congregational conversations" facilitated by Bryce Wiebe. (Thank you, Bryce!!) Participants discussed the following (and much more):

- What brought you to 1st Presbyterian, and what keeps you here?
- What has this church done really well in the past?
- What does the church offer the community that other charitable organizations don't?
- How can we maximize collaboration, impact and authenticity in our budget, attitudes, programs, etc.?
- Knowing that "belonging" and "sense of purpose" are characteristics of successful church communities, how can we best facilitate/inspire these in our congregation?

****Your input is still welcomed! Share your responses to these questions by emailing or calling Kili****

Inspired by Bryce Wiebe's visit and ready to learn more?

Consider reading *Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diana Butler Bass.

While conventional wisdom might claim that only "non-denominational" or "mega-churches" are growing, the fact is that vital and thriving mainline Protestant churches exist as well! Bass's book describes her three-year study of 50 such churches and identifies what is "working" in these churches.

From the Introduction

"Typically, they have rediscovered the riches of the Christian past and practice simple, but profound, things like discernment, hospitality, testimony, contemplation, and justice. They reach back to ancient wisdom and reach out through a life sustained by Christian devotional and moral practices. They know the biblical story and their own story. They focus more on God's grace in the world than on the eternal state of their own souls."

****Why not read it and discuss with a friend?!**

New Year's Resolution of Spiritual Growth?

The new year is a great time to reassess and recommit to our highest priorities! If you recognize the value of spiritual growth in your life but are having a hard time making it happen on your own, consider making a spiritual direction appointment with Kili Wenburg. Spiritual direction sessions are great for providing guidance, support, and accountability for general growth, and they are also helpful if you have a particular concern or discernment issue you are facing. These 45-minute, confidential sessions are available at no cost to church members. Learn more about spiritual direction at MeaningOnTheJourney.com.

Stay up-to-date by Joining Our "Learn, Grow, Serve" Weekly Email List

Simply call the church office or email Kili (kili@fpchastings.org) and ask to join the list. Emails are sent weekly-ish and contain brief reminders about church and community opportunities that relate to opportunities for adults to learn, grow, and serve.

Financial Peace University to begin in February

Nationally, millions of people have taken and benefitted from the "Financial Peace University" courses. Now you, too, have the opportunity to learn how to get rid of debt, manage your money, save and spend wisely, and much more. Tom and Leah Ratzlaff will be facilitating this 9-session course, which will meet Tuesday nights (except Committee meeting nights), 6-7:30 p.m., beginning February 23. An investment of \$110/family will cover classes, materials, lifetime membership, and childcare (if needed). Contact Kili with questions or to sign up.

Considering signing up but not sure yet? Attend a brief preview following worship on Sunday, Feb 7, OR Sunday, Feb 14, at 10:15.

New Friday Noon Women's Group

Designed specifically for the busy schedules of working women, here is a new and fun opportunity to join together with church friends to learn and grow together! Every other Friday, women and guests of 1st Presbyterian are invited to gather for lunch, prayer, and discussion of *The Gifts of Imperfection* by Brene Brown.

First Meeting: Friday, February 12, 12:00-1:00, Kessler Room. Discussion will be led by Kili Wenburg.

Please RSVP to Kili if you plan to attend.

Heirs Apparent Class to view History Channel's Bible Mini-series

You've heard about the mini-series....maybe you've even seen an episode or two. Now is your chance to watch the series in its entirety, supplemented by group discussion, led by Curtis Reimer. **Series begins January 17**, but you can join in anytime. (Sunday mornings at 9:15, Anderson Conference Room.)

2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium will be held this year on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. The Triennium runs from July 19 through July 23. Youth entering high school through graduated seniors are eligible to attend. Deposit and Registration information is due in the office by January 20. For more information, contact Stephanie at stephanie@fpchastings.org or [402-462-5147](tel:402-462-5147).

Looking for a microwave...If you or anyone you know has a gently used microwave sitting around, your church staff would gladly accept it for use in the common office area. Thank you!

Congregational Lives

I particularly enjoyed the carolers; it was fun to see the little ones! The cookies were wonderful, and the poinsettia beautiful! Thank you! ~*Mary Lee Phelps*

Bill and Martha Boyd are first time grandparents! Mark and Kate Hinton of Denver, CO, are proud parents of Elliott James Hinton, born on Dec. 6, 2015. Congratulations to all!

Constance Malloy is currently traveling in France with a group of Hastings College students. Dave McCarthy and Sharon Brooks are also traveling with a group of Hastings College students, but in England for three weeks. Both trips are part of the J-Term experience at Hastings College.

The Prairie Dulcimer Players have been meeting in your Annex building for several months. We are all beginners and have performed 3 times thus far - at the Good Samaritan Village, the Adams County (Hastings) Senior Center, and the Sutton

Community Home; all have asked we come back! We have been blessed with an easy method of learning so we welcome anyone that wants to learn to play the dulcimer - especially if you don't know anything about music. Or just come and listen to our practice sessions. Contact Felix Aldana [402-469-9666](tel:402-469-9666) or Mary Robbins [308-627-4435](tel:308-627-4435) if interested.

**Go & Serve Soup Lunch
Fundraiser
January 31
Following 10:30am Worship
Service and Annual Meeting.
Free-will donation.**

"We want to send a special letter to thank you for your donation of 8 bags of groceries given (in December) to the Hastings Food Pantry. So many people will be blessed with your giving and we appreciate it so much! Thanks so much for thinking about us as this really helps." -*Hastings Food Pantry, Board of Directors*

"Thank you! Thank you for your prayers and your financial support of Kurt Esslinger & Hyeyoung Lee this year, and any previous year. I know you have been an encouragement to them.

My heartfelt thanks for your prayers and support of all of our Presbyterian mission co-workers. In the coming season, we will celebrate God's sending of the Christ child, the source of the good news we share. May you experience anew the hope, peace, joy, and love that are ours because the Word became flesh. ~In Christ,
Hunger Farrell, Director of World Mission.

PW Circle Meetings Weds., Jan. 20

Circle I - 9:30 in the Parlor
Circle II - 9:30 in Rogene Wenburg's home
Circle III - 1:15 in Fellowship Hall

JANUARY 3, 2016

10:30 Worship Attendance	197
General Fund	\$14,248.00
Plate Collections	\$131.00
Per Capita	\$89.60
PC(USA) Hunger Fund coins	\$31.32
Christmas Joy Offering	\$50.00
Food Pantry	\$5.00
Healthy Beginnings	\$98.00
Annex Building Use Income	\$640.00

Thanks be to God

Home Page

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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 on Monday of each week. Submissions will be edited for length and suitability. You may send articles to the church office: tarci@fpchastings.org or call 402-462-5147.

**Home Page
Assembly
is every Tuesday
at 9:00 a.m.
in the common
office area.**

**Volunteers
are always
welcome!**