



# The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 20.19 May 22, 2016

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It's a big bad world out there and problems can be so difficult. Think for a minute of the world's trouble spots. You have seen them on the news and you have read about them in the papers. A person can get discouraged. What can one person do? We may confess that God has called us, but on a day-to-day basis, do you believe you can make a difference?

Those of us who show up for worship know we have plenty of inadequacies when it comes to being instruments of God's peace. How can we save a part of our world when we have trouble deciding what color the carpet should be or the color of the new pew cushions, or who is considered a "good" Christian?

Remember the story of the Apostle Paul. He was a persecutor of the church. Before his conversion, he had worked to eliminate this upstart faith, not enhance it. Then, one day, he has a vision and suddenly he changes. Not only does he change, but he becomes a vigorous proponent of his new "home". He did not, in embarrassment, withdraw to the edges and live out his life in anonymity. He, one man, worked to change the world.

Now, what about you, us, and our difficult times? Do we live in fear that the story will be lost? If we are honest with ourselves, then yes. We do. But need we? Honestly? No!

For the story is ours. We have been adopted. In our yearning to be God's own, our spirit joins God's yearning for us, and we have the witnesses necessary to make the adoption "legal". It is done. Already. We have a place, a name, a history, and a future.

-Pastor Don Canady

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According to Jody Stutsman, program coordinator for Proteus, there is still a great need for long sleeve work shirts for migrant workers this summer. These shirts protect the workers from the sun and exposure to agricultural chemicals. While you are doing your spring cleaning, if you find long sleeve shirts you are no longer using, please bring them and place them in the specially marked tub outside the *Hands Around the World Store*. If you would like to participate in the distribution of the shirts to the workers in early July, please email Denny Storer ([cdstorer@inebraska.com](mailto:cdstorer@inebraska.com)) for details. Then feel free to browse the fine selection of fair trade coffee, chocolate, textiles and jewelry in the *Hands Around the World Store*."

## **Time and Talents Inventory**

Our last "Time and Talents" inventory was distributed in 2011, so it's time to update our records! Please watch your mail for this important item, and return your family's responses as soon as possible to aid in our planning for the future. THANK YOU!!

## **2016 PRESBYTERIAN SUMMER BOOK CLUB**

As the Wednesday morning and evening Bible studies conclude for the semester, a new adult education opportunity arises. Invite a friend and make plans now to read and discuss *Islam without Extremes: A Muslim Case For Liberty* by Mustafa Arkyol.

For many Americans and Christians, there may be no topic that we talk about more and know about less than the religion of Islam. This summer's book club promises to be a fascinating six-session adventure through the world of Islam, learning about its origins and key values, reviewing the religion's historical impact and contributions, and discussing how it stands to evolve into the future.

Is Islam the religious seedbed of world terrorism? Has Islam been hi-jacked by extremists more concerned with violent political agendas than honoring and living theological truths? Should Christianity, a sister faith to both Islam and Judaism, play an active role in countering and disarming "Islamophobia"?

Join us to consider these important questions and many more each Wednesday at noon, June 8-July 13, Anderson conference room. Feel free to bring a sack lunch. Please read the book's introduction and Chapter 1 for the first session.

## **These programs have concluded for the summer but will resume in the fall:**

Sunday School (all ages: children-adults)

Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday evening Bible study

Wednesday evening informal book discussion group

All choirs: children/youth/adults--vocal and bells

Taize worship services

8:30 worship services on Sunday mornings

Soup Group

PW luncheons and Circle meetings

\*Wednesday morning Bible study's final session is May 18

## **Thank You Christian Education Volunteers!!**

If you volunteered with either children/youth or adult education this year, THANK YOU!! If you were the beneficiary of one or more of these volunteers, please consider finding a way to thank them for their time. (A list of all the volunteers is available in the church office.)

God perfectly designed the Body of Christ such that each member is equipped with special skills and interests, so when we each offer our own gifts, all tasks are accounted for and burnout is minimized.

If you have given of yourself before, thank you! If you receive a request to serve in the future, please consider saying yes.

*"As the Holy Spirit says, 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.'" -Hebrews 3:7-8*

## **Summer Schedule Change for Kili**

What a fun and challenging experience it has been to join the FPC staff this year! I have spent my contracted 20 hours/week working with the CE and Mission Committees, planning adult Sunday School opportunities, leading Taize worship, offering PW leader trainings, starting some new small groups, and facilitating other special projects and events. As summer draws near, our church schedule slows drastically, and my time on staff pauses. God willing, I plan to re-join the staff again in the fall, but will (as agreed upon at the time of my hiring) take the summer off, beginning May 16.

## Congregational Lives

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

**Need a ride to church on Sundays?** Request a ride by calling the church office or Deacon Moderator Jan Ham at 402-301-9081.

### Matching-Challenge Fundraiser for the Meyer Family

Mike and Becky Meyer and their daughters, Lydia and Nina, are members of FPC. Nina has Muscular Dystrophy. In March of 2016, Nina required surgery on her spine to insert a rod that would enable her to maintain better posture, which among other things improves her respiratory function. Nina was hospitalized for two weeks in Denver, CO, and is now recovering at home.

The Meyer family needs to purchase a van to transport Nina. Mike and Becky have a standard van, from which they carry Nina to and from her seat, and also the wheelchair to and from the back. After the surgery, carrying Nina now causes her pain so they need to purchase a wheelchair accessible van for transport.

Nina is a past Ambassador for MDA Nebraska and continues to advocate for the organization through her participation in fundraising and speaking engagements, including Community Health Charities of Nebraska.

**FPC is excited to offer a matching challenge fundraiser to help the Meyer family. All donations sent to the church (or made to their 'Go Fund Me' account) will be matched dollar per dollar by FPC up to \$25,000!**

Checks made payable to Mike or Becky Meyer may be mailed c/o FPC at 621 N. Lincoln Ave., Hastings, NE, 68901. (This is not a church donation). Or if you prefer, their 'Go Fund Me' account (established by Keith Napier) is online at: <https://www.gofundme.com/225bbgk>. Please do what you can to help them achieve this goal!

**In the Hospital:** Geraldine Shuman

**Synod School 2016: *Connecting with Jesus in an Over- Connected World.*** July 24-29 @ Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa. **\*\*IT'S LIKE FAMILY CHURCH CAMP!\*\*** Informational booklets are available in the Church office.

**Sunday,  
May 22, 2016**

**10:30** Worship  
Pastor Don Canady

Deadline to submit your request for Spring 2016 Langenberg Scholarship is approaching quickly! (May 31st is the last day). Applications are available online or on the glass shelves in front of the office. Please return to Tim Canady or the office.

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**As a reminder,  
church financial and budget information  
is available in the office.  
Contact Tarci to review.**

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**Today we give thanks!**

**May 8, 2016**

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 8:30 Worship Attendance  | 79         |
| 10:30 Worship Attendance | 191        |
| General Fund             | \$7,833.00 |
| Plate Collections        | \$93.00    |
| Sunday School            | \$57.20    |
| Go & Serve Stock Sales   | \$820.00   |
| Hunger Fund              | \$29.54    |
| Playground Maintenance   | \$500.00   |
| Memorial                 | \$50.00    |
| Pentecost                | \$5.00     |
| Disaster Relief          | \$100.00   |
| Food Pantry              | \$5.00     |
| WNL                      | \$15.00    |
| Annex Bldg. Use          | \$100.00   |

**Thanks be to God!**

## 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 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.

## Hands

**Around the World**

**Store**

**Open every Sunday**

**9am – 12noon**