

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 20.31 September 18, 2016

CANADY'S CHRONICLE

How often do we use words and phrases without thinking about their literal meaning? What does it mean when we say, “going bananas?” Or why is a “grape vine” a good way to get news? Just how “fit is a fiddle,” anyway! How many people know that “good-bye” is really a shorthand way of saying, “God be with you?”

When someone sneezes, we say “God bless you!” We never say that when someone coughs, do we? When and why did people start saying that?

Some say that when someone sneezes, her or his heart stops, and saying “God bless you” means, “I’m glad your heart started again.” Another theory is that people once believed a sneeze was caused by demons leaving the body, or that a sneeze left one vulnerable for demons to enter the body. “God bless you” may have been a way to protect the sneezer from harm. The phrase was made “official” by an early pope because, during the seventh century, Europe was infested by an unidentified plague that was characterized by several sneezes followed by sudden death. The pope passed a law telling folks to ward off sneezes with a blessing – or, since they often sneezed violently and then died, people were required to bless the sneezer as a sort of last rites!

The phrase, “God bless you” is more than a substitute for “*Gesundheit!*” After 9/11 just about everyone put up an outdoor sign, “God Bless America.” Many children end their prayers at bedtime with, “God bless Mommy and Daddy.” Most every president ends a speech with, “God Bless America.” Charles Dickens’ classic, *A Christmas Carol*, ends with Tiny Tim exclaiming, “God bless us, every one!”

Nothing does more to strengthen our families than freely given expressions of love, acceptance, and appreciation. We need to find ways to bless those in our families. Our children, especially, need our blessings more than they need the material things we work so hard to provide. The word “blessing” in Latin is the word from which we get benediction - it literally means, “Speaking well or saying good things of someone.” We each need to hear good things said of us and to us – to be reminded of the good that is within us.

Blessings are to be passed on. That’s the thing about them. You are blessed. Be a blessing to others. Do it in your homes. Do it in the church family. Do it within your larger family. Do it within our community. Offer encouraging words, listening ears, helping hands, and empathetic hearts. If you do, you will be answering your own prayer. God bless you!

--Pastor Don Canady

Did You Know?

Kili Wenburg is available for one-on-one spiritual direction appointments at no cost to church members and friends. These 45-minute sessions provide the perfect space for looking more deeply and intentionally into one's life and faith journey. A spiritual director can help you identify where God is leading in your life and can make suggestions for prayer practices, spiritual disciplines, and scriptural readings tailored to each situation and need.

*This is a great way to take that "next step" in your spiritual growth!

Appointments may be scheduled during Kili's regular office hours (Mon, Tue, & Thu 10-3) or at other mutually agreed-upon times.

Sunday Morning Taize Service--September 18

If you're curious about Taize worship but have been reluctant to go to church in the evening, this is your chance to check out the Taize worship style *on a Sunday morning!*

*Taize service will be held 9:15-10:00 in the Parlor, led by Kili Wenburg, with accompaniment by Mary Plock and vocal leadership by Sarah Fruehling.

HAPPY HOUR Book Club



Combine friends, books, and a favorite beverage for a HAPPY combination!

*Welcome to the newest adult education opportunity from First Presbyterian Church!

*Books chosen for this group will draw upon and expand the topics covered in other educational venues of our church.

*First book is *Dear White Christians* by Jennifer Harvey, chosen as preparation for two special forum classes (Oct 30, Nov 6).

*Discussion led by Bob Nedderman.

*Discuss first half of book Sep 29 and second half on Oct 27.

What: Happy Hour Book Club

Where: Papa Ray's (+ others in the future)

When: Sep 29, 5:15-6:45ish
(last Thursday of each month)

"This book is for any who care about the gospel call to justice but feel stuck trying to get there."

Happy Hour Book Club-- Books Are Available Now!

In preparation for two special forum classes coming up (October 30 and November 6), the **Happy Hour Book Club** will be reading and discussing the book *Dear White Christians* by Jennifer Harvey.

--"A deeply constructive, hopeful work, *Dear White Christians* will help readers envision new racial possibilities, including concrete examples of contemporary reparations initiatives. This book is for any who care about the gospel call to justice but feel stuck trying to get there, given the ongoing prevalence of deep racial divisions in the church and society at large."

***Kili has 7 copies of the book on hand. Pick one up, and invite a friend to read it with you and join us on Sep 29!**

Forum Class on September 18 = Taize Prayer Service

It may not feel or look like a "class," but Forum participants are encouraged to attend our Sunday morning Taize experience this Sunday, 9:15-10:00.

Learning new forms of prayer and worship is an essential part of adult education and spiritual formation. *Don't miss this special opportunity!*

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## **A new mission connection with SASA Crisis Center**

Our local SASA (Spousal Abuse and Sexual Assault) Crisis Center has asked for our help in maintaining their newly remodeled donation room. The new space is brighter, more spacious, and provides a more distinguished "boutique" atmosphere for the women they serve. Volunteer responsibilities would include sorting through the week's donations and deciding what to keep, what to pitch, and checking the racks to maintain appropriate and seasonal inventory.

Volunteers would work in pairs for about two hours per time. First Presbyterian Church has committed to providing a pair of volunteers to work their shift at some point during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month, beginning in October. Depending on how many volunteers step forward, individuals may work only 2-3 shifts per year. All volunteers must attend a training session. Trainings are currently scheduled for Sun, Sep 18 at 1pm; Wed, Sep 21 at 10am; and Thu, Sep 29 at 2pm.

*\*\* Please contact Kili to sign up for one of the trainings.*

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Hastings Food Pantry donations are accepted throughout each month. Blue totes are now located in the Memorial Room for you to place your items in. Needs requested by the Pantry are: paper products, pastas, canned fruit, boxed meals, canned vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, and canned chicken, tuna, turkey. Thank you for helping those in need!

Deacons delivered 6 bags with 44 items to Hastings Food Pantry on September 12.

CROP HUNGER WALKS began in 1947 under the wing of Church World Services and for many years has raised funds to help provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs both locally and globally. Our local Church Women United is sponsoring the Hastings CROP Hunger Walk event. On **October 9 at 2 pm** gather at Hazelrigg Student Union (9th and Elm) at Hastings College for registration and inspiration. This is also the donation collection point, and where we will then begin our walk around Heartwell Park before returning for refreshments.

First Presbyterian Church in Hastings has a team in this event. Please join our team as you donate to this much needed fundraiser. A table is in the Memorial room each Sunday until October 9 for your donations and will provide information of the walk event. You may also donate in the church office, at the event on the day of the walk. To donate online go to www.crophungerwalk.org, find the *Hastings NE Walk*, register & join a team, First Presbyterian Church, or start your own team, or just donate. Follow the simple step-by-step instructions.

This year, 25% of our Hastings walk fundraiser will be used locally to benefit our new Hastings High Food Pantry.

Join in on the fun October 9, register before the walk, it starts at 2 pm.

Walk with us so our community will become aware of hunger locally and around the world. Thank you. For your questions or help call [402-469-2638](tel:402-469-2638).



Walk. Give. Change the world.

Hastings Crop Hunger Walk
Sunday, October 9, 2016

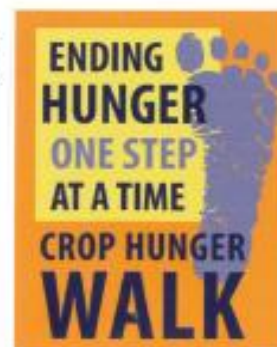
1 Mile Walk begins 2:00 pm

Meet at Hazelrigg Student Union

Check in 30 minutes before start time

To register or donate online www.cwsglobal.org

Sponsored by Church Women United



Don't Forget! THIS SUNDAY worship will be held at Hastings College

We are taking our worship service on the road on September 18!

Our regular, 10:30 Sunday morning worship service will be held in French Memorial Chapel on the Hastings College campus on September 18.

This is a new adventure for us and is the brainchild of a special summer discernment group, which focused on enhancing our college ministry efforts.

Please note: Sunday School WILL still be held on September 18 but will dismiss at 10:00 a.m. to allow time for transitioning to Hastings College for worship.

Transportation: All are encouraged to car pool as able! Additionally, "door-to-door" transportation will be available for anyone who would like it. If you would like a ride to Hastings College, please come to the Memorial Room entryway at 10:00, and a driver will be assigned to you who will drop you off at the French Chapel door.

Congregational Lives

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

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.

If you've borrowed the **large soup pots** from the kitchen, please return them.

Presbyterian Women suggest everyone **wear orange on Sunday, September 25**, in recognition of the continued problems with human trafficking.

Please include Irmise and Elmer Heeren in your **prayers**, and Sharon Steenbarger for the loss of her sister, Joyce Schiffler.

Please pray for members of our PNC: Jim Duval, Chad Murrell, Mike Karloff, Joan Shaw, Chris Junker, Pam Lay and Jeni Howard.

**Sunday,
September 25, 2016**
8:30 Worship with Celebrate Band
Guest Speaker Lindsey Stout
9:15 Sunday School (All Ages Welcome!)
10:30 Worship Pastor Don Canady
(Wear Orange)

Committee News

Report from special summer discernment group #2: *College Ministry*

Three special summer discernment groups were convened this summer, each with its own mandate. The first group's challenge was to determine the future of FPC's Taize worship services. The second group's challenge was to determine the short-term vision for FPC's college ministry. The following summary points of that vision were arrived at after hours spent in enthusiastic and creative discussion by the following dedicated individuals: *Amy Black, Damen Heitmann, Susan Meeske, Brady Rhodes, Stephanie Brader, Matt Fong, Kili Wenburg, Nathan Jensen.* Please thank them for their work!

- For this year, focus efforts on Hastings College. Hopefully expand to CCC next year.
- Hold one of our regular 10:30 worship services at Hastings College.
- Develop a mentoring program (related to but not the same as adopt-a-student).
- Be more visible on campus. This will be accomplished by: holding worship there, ordering t-shirts that people will wear on campus, encouraging members to attend sporting events and sit together to create a united "Presbyterians for the Broncos" effect, encourage members to attend chapel services and utilize the opportunity to get to know the students there, etc.
- Develop a data base of church members interested in sharing their time and talents with college students.

Hastings, Nebraska
August 26, 2016

Dear Ladies

First Presbyterian Women of Hastings cordially invite you to be our guests at our annual **Salad Luncheon on Wednesday, October 5th** at 11:45 A.M. Area Presbyterian Women have been invited, and we look forward to your joining us for good food, warm fellowship, and an interesting program.

Sue Medsker-Nedderman, our Synod's representative to the 2016 USA Mission Experience to the San Francisco Bay Area, will be our presenter. She will have just returned from California. Sue's "Experience" will be fresh in her mind, and eye-opening for her audience!

Sue's presentation on October 5th will be a great opportunity for us to learn more about the challenges in the faithful work being done by our sisters in the San Francisco and San Jose presbyteries. Sue is currently the Justice and Peace Coordinator for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. She is willing to speak to other groups about this USA Mission Experience.

By Monday, October 3rd, please let us know if you will be coming for the lunch. Contact your circle chair person or call Tarci in the Church office at 402-462-5147.

We look forward to seeing you on October 5th!

Sincerely,

Carol Grumment
PW Secretary

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) gave the following report during 10:30a.m. Worship Service:

Pastor Nominating Committee Update –

Two major steps were completed in August

- The Committee on Ministry approved our updated Ministry Information Form
- The Session approved our updated Ministry Information Form

Following The Committee on Ministry's and the Session's approval, we were able to immediately post our Ministry Information Form on the Church Leadership Connection site

This site is the Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

This posting allows Pastors interested in a call to "raise their hands", complete the Pastor Information Form to indicate their interest and to share related information to the Pastor Nominating Committee

Of course, interested Pastors also have the opportunity to learn about "us" through our Church Information Form

We continue to meet weekly and our current focus is evaluating Pastor Information Forms to find our best Pastor candidates for consideration

We continue to ask for your input. Please contact any member of the Pastor Nominating Committee anytime you might have a question, comment, or even a concern.

And, we continue to ask for your prayers of support. Will you please join me in a prayer written recently by Reverend Bill.

Holy One, by the power of your Spirit, look with favor upon these ordinary human beings who seek to find a new pastor to lead Your people. Give them keen and discerning minds so they are able to sort out the world's static from the impulses of Your Spirit. Grant to them open hearts to love Your diverse and fickle people so they find a pastor who will love them both as they are and what You would have them become. Gift them with ears to hear as Jesus has meant us to hear; give them eyes to see the ministry and Your kingdom as You see it unfolding; grant them the support of the covenant community of faith so that when the time comes to choose, the community of faith will act as one. Finally, gracious God, help them to remember they are not offering someone a job but calling someone Jesus would choose to follow Him and lead them. In His gracious name, I pray these things. Amen.

"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
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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

September 4, 2016

10:30 Worship Attendance	115
General Fund	\$5,154.00
Plate Collections	\$96.00
PC(USA) Hunger Fund	\$23.13
Open Table	\$5.00
Communion-Habitat for Humanity	\$420.00
Food Pantry	\$10.00

FPC recently remitted:

\$879.00 Wednesday Night Live!
(August Communion)
\$127.02 PC(USA) Hunger Fund

Thanks be to God!