



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 20.44 December 18, 2016

**8:30a.m. Worship Service with Celebrate Band
will be on Sunday, December 18th this month.**

Santa Shop Asks You To "Give Me Five!"

What is the "Santa Shop"? It's a new, one-time addition to the United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry. During the December 17 distribution, children in attendance will be given the opportunity to *receive* an item for themselves and also to choose an item that they can *give* to someone else. To make this happen, we're asking for your donations of new or gently used toys for the children as well as new or gently used items for adults--items that can allow the children the joy of giving Christmas gifts to their parents.

Please take a few moments this week and search your home for items that you can share with our young friends at the United Harvest distribution.

We challenge each household to find and share FIVE items in each category:

- Gifts for kids (such as toys, books, crafts)
- Gifts for moms (such as necklaces, purses, candles)
- Gifts for dads (such as billfolds, watches, pens)
- All donations can be dropped off on the cart in the common office area.

The Giving Tree

The tags are now on the Giving Tree! The Giving Tree in the Memorial Room supports clients of Assertive Community Treatments, people with severe and persistent mental illness and living in our community. Most are without family support and live on disability or nothing. Please help support these people by taking a tag from the tree and returning gifts to the tree by Sunday, December 18. The gifts should be wrapped and the tag placed back on them. Monetary donations may also be given.

Sponsored by the Mission Committee.

THANK YOU for helping to make this a joyful season of both GIVING and RECEIVING for the children in our community!!

*"Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church, The Board of Directors, the volunteers and homeowners of the Hastings Area Habitat for Humanity would like to **thank you** for your generous donation of \$526.00. Your gift goes a long way in helping to fund the building of homes that provide safe, affordable housing to families in need. Thank you for your commitment to the Habitat philosophy of eliminating poverty and homelessness from the world by making decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Thank you so very much! Sincerely, Marnie Soderquist, Board Member".*

Mission committee members delivered 71 diapers with 80 wipes to Catholic Social Services as part of the *Happy Nappy* program. **Thank you.**

Jr. High Food Pantry Scavenger Hunt



On November 16, 13 youth and 4 sponsors, embarked on city-wide Scavenger Hunt. In the short 30 minutes of time together, the group

gathered 4 large boxes of donations for the local food pantry. Fellowship and fun and helping others in need, does life get any better? Praise be to God!

A special thanks to Joe Black, Erica Brooks, and Emily Johnson for being chauffeurs and playing an important role in the ministry of our FPC youth!!



On Wednesday, December 7, the Sr. High met for fellowship and participated in a Christmas Story Devotional. The Sr. High Youth Room was decorated with a candlelit station for each part of the devotional. Glory be to God!



ATTENTION: Starting January 11, WNL will begin at 4:00pm for all Pre-K thru 5th Graders.

There will be NO nursery care on
December 25 or January 1.



Christmas Doesn't Have to be a Materialistic Holiday

The Forum class on Sunday, December 4, led by Rev. Damen Heitmann, Hastings College Chaplain, engaged the issue of STUFF. Recalling Luke 12's story of the "rich fool" who strategized how to store up his abundant material riches for himself and his future even up to the day of his death, we, as people of faith, would be wise to consider how NOT to be like "the rich fool." To guide our considerations,

Damen presented the class with the following questions, which are good for everyone to consider: *What are the values of the Kingdom of God? What are the values of consumer culture? What are my personal values? Do any of these overlap?*

How can I bring my everyday values more in line with the values of the Kingdom of God?

This Christmas, is there anything I can do to bring my holiday giving and activities more in line with the values of the Kingdom of God?

Answers to the final question suggested by the forum class include the following:

- give locally purchased or home-made gifts
- give fairly traded, sustainably produced products
- put up fewer decorations
- spread gift-giving out to avoid a gift-opening "binge" on Christmas day
- take a tag from the Giving Tree and purchase the suggested items
- give love
- give items made from wood instead of plastic
- have a "birthday party for Jesus" (with cake and ice cream!) on Christmas morning
- decorate a tree you already have (and will keep), rather than killing a tree
- find ways to re-use decorations rather than buying new each year

The Living Scrapbook Wall

Hopefully, all members of the church are enjoying the beautiful display known as the "Living Scrapbook Wall," located on the North side of the hallway connecting the Memorial Room and the Fellowship Hall. The Trustees want to express a great deal of thanks to Colleen Schukei for the creation of this display (assisted by Kili Wenburg). Additional thanks goes to Roger Schukei for installation of the display and to Krieger Electric for installation of new electrical outlets to power the TV's.

The display is intended to be an evolving one, with new items added from time to time. Future videos featuring weddings, baptisms, and veterans are planned, but your help is needed in securing photos for these displays! If you have photos to share (which can be scanned and returned to you), please contact Kili at the church office.

What About the Wall Facing the Living Scrapbook Wall?

Currently, the wall on the South side of the hallway connecting the Memorial Room and the Fellowship Hall is blank. Plans are underway, however, for this wall to become a display place for special crosses shared with the church by members of the congregation. The display will grow over time as people obtain and share special crosses. Do you have a cross that you would consider allowing the church to display? Perhaps one you obtained on an overseas trip, or one you received when you were confirmed, or one passed down from a grandfather who was a pastor.... The vision is to create a collection of personal mementos, each with its own story that will be shared with the

Saturday, Dec. 24, 2016

Christmas Eve

5:30p.m. Family Service

7:30p.m. Service with Communion

Sunday, Dec. 25, 2016

Christmas Day

10:30a.m. Worship

Message by Pastor Don Canady

congregation and catalogued for future reference. If you have a cross that you would like to share, please contact Kili.

Prayer Focus

Each month, we receive a "communion offering" on the first Sunday of the month. The recipients of these offerings are carefully chosen each year by the Mission Committee. Each recipient organization is

believed to be doing the work of God in our local community, and each recipient is in need of both our funds AND our prayers (and often our volunteer time as well!). Each month, let us make these communion offering recipients a focus of our personal and corporate prayers, asking God to bless their work and to guide us in how we may be of support to them. *For December, let us pray for the Maryland Living Center.*

Join us for Christmas Eve candlelight service on Saturday, December 24th at 5:30p.m. (family)and/or 7:30p.m. (with communion). Both will provide opportunity for the Christmas Joy Offering.

Christmas Joy Offering

"Advent asks us to open our hearts to God's love and grace, and you and your congregation have long responded faithfully to that call. By sharing God's love through the Christmas Joy Offering with PC(USA) church workers and racial ethnic students in need, you embody what it means to be a connectional church. We ask that you again receive the CJO this Advent season, as the ministries it supports need your help. Wishing you every blessing this Advent and Christmas, The Reverend Peter C.S. Sime, Vice President, Assistance, Funds Development & CREDO".

UPCOMING FORUMS

"Christmas Readings"

Darrel Lloyd will offer a selection of poetry and prose, specially curated to provide an entertaining and contemplative experience of the Christmas holiday.

Sun., Dec. 18, 9:15-10:15, Chapel

No Sunday School

Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

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.

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

Presbyterian Women Circle 3 will keep its meeting on December 21. Hostesses: Jane Pollak and Nancy Grams.

The Chorus of the Plains is hosting their third annual Community Christmas Sampler, a benefit concert on Saturday, December 17, at 2:00 PM at the Hastings High School auditorium. Choirs and small groups from area churches, as well as the Chorus of the Plains, will be performing, and a free will offering will be collected to benefit the charities chosen by those groups. We hope to see everyone come out to hear some quality Christmas music and to support some worthy charities. (If you have questions, please call Richard Johnson at [402-670-2495](tel:402-670-2495) or Kevin Ellerbee at [402-469-6534](tel:402-469-6534).)

COMMITTEE NEWS

The Annex Committee needs assistance in grant writing and is looking for volunteers to help write grants. Our committee feels that the building should be used for mission, and, to use it better, we need to make some upgrades. We hope to keep the cost at a minimum to the church by using grants to pay for those upgrades. If you are interested in helping in any way please call Kim Hermann at 402-461-1957 or Kay Georgiana at 402-462-6871. Thank you for your consideration.

Reminder to all committee members: Year-end reports will be due in January for the Annual Report.

*"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.

Financial Corner

December 4, 2016

10:30 Worship Attendance	221
General Fund	\$7,968.00
Plate Collections	\$54.00
Per capita (2016)	\$29.80
Per capita (2017)	\$60.50
CE Sunday School	\$3.26
Communion-Maryland Living	\$755.00
Local Mission – Santa Workshop	\$550.00
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$30.59
Memorial – Don Goodrich	\$20.00
Food Pantry	\$30.00
Library	\$100.00
Postage / Copies	\$100.00

Thanks be to God!

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