



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 21.09 March 5, 2017

Join us March 5th at 10:30 a.m. for *Gifts of Women Sunday*!

March 5th Communion offering is for Miriam's Hope. Miriam's Hope will provide housing, mentoring, counseling and instruction in God's Word as well as employment and life skills training, ranging from nutritional, parenting and financial classes to addiction counseling, career planning and tutoring for children. Each family will stay in the program for 12 to 18 months, before transitioning to an out-patient program that will continue offering all of the classes on an ongoing basis.

March 5th Communion Servers: Martha Boyd, Katharine Davis, Bonnie Grams, Susan Hoff, Lynette Krieger, Dixie McDonald, Kathleen Nelson, Kym Warner, Kili Wenburg.

March 5th Ushers: Linda Donohue, Chanda Essink, Carla Fike, Hannah Hafer, Lois Hafer, Jessica Meeske, Flossie Sanderson, Alice Throckmorton, Carol Wheeler, May Wierenga

March Ushers (serving all other Sundays except March 5th): LaVern Franzen, Chuck Hastings – Captain, Jim Hoffman, Roger Sunderman

March 5 Suitcase Drive

Along with the communion offering, the Mission Committee is holding a "suitcase drive" on March 5. Please bring your donations of new or used luggage bags (suitcases, duffle bags, gym bags, back packs) to the cart in the Memorial Room. The bags will be given to children being removed from their homes and placed in foster care. Often lacking proper bags, children's things are thrown into a garbage bag as they are taken from their homes. Sharing your extra suitcases, etc., will provide a measure of dignity for children going through a very tough transition.

United Harvest distributed 30,000 lbs. of food, serving more than 330 households on February 25!

"We want to send a letter to **thank you** for your generous donations of 5 bags = 30 items of food given to the Hastings Food Pantry. What a wonderful donation! So many people will be blessed with this gift! This is going to such a wonderful cause as it will be feeding hungry people in our community! It is only because of the donations of caring people like you that we are able to meet the needs of the hungry in our community. God bless in all you do!! – Hastings Food Pantry, Board of Directors"

"Our delicious **Cafe Justo** is now available in the church office Monday through Friday — buy a pound or two and you directly support a partner coffee grower in Chiapas and help support projects of the Mission Committee here at our church. Supply and variety may vary depending on demand — know we are trying to meet your needs... thanks! -- The Mission Committee."

Cooks needed!

If you are willing to provide all or part of a meal for the new college discernment group (around 12 people), which meets after worship on Sundays, please contact Kili at 402-462-5147 or kili@fpchastings.org.

Thank you for your support of this new college outreach ministry!

MINUTE FOR MISSION

“Is this not the fast I choose?”

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING HELPS US ANSWER GOD’S CALL

The Christian season of Lent is historically marked with fasting, a traditional practice of giving up food and devoting yourself to prayer.

But this isn’t the only type of fasting the Bible talks about. Isaiah 58 describes a new kind of fast, not to give up bread but to share it. Isaiah calls us to “loose the bonds of injustice,” to “let the oppressed go free,” to “share bread with the hungry” and to “invite the homeless poor into our homes.” We are called to offer help to those in need and restoration to those who have been broken down. One way we answer this call is through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Our gifts to this Offering helped “loose the bonds of injustice” for Olga Pedraza and others like her who received support in accessing a job after a prison sentence and beating drug addiction. Self-Development of People invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, and injustice, and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills. By investing in those like Olga who have reformed their lives after prison, we help reduce the number of people who end up back in prison.

Our gifts helped alpaca farmers in Peru whose livelihoods were threatened by the poisoning of their water sources. What began as an apparent need for assistance with irrigation grew into a partnership between these farmers and the Presbyterian Hunger Program to support a host of environmental initiatives. Environmental degradation and climate change are primary threats to the world’s hungry and vulnerable, and the Hunger Program’s work is part of our response.

Gifts to the Offering also rebuilt 40 apartments and houses destroyed during the Syrian civil war, so that those made homeless by its violence could return to a home of their own. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has provided essential support to refugees throughout this crisis, including education for refugee children, emergency supplies for refugees journeying to new lands, and assistance for US congregations receiving refugees into their communities.

Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing will do much more than these few examples. They will join congregations all over the country as we seek to answer God’s call and make a difference in the lives of many more people. As we respond through our sharing, Isaiah 58 also provides a promise. As we respond to injustice, feed those who are hungry, and provide places for those without homes, our “light will break forth,” and we shall be called “repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in.”

Please give generously.

Let us Pray: *God, your call to us is both great and challenging. May the gifts we share bring justice and help to those in need, and may your light break forth in our lives and in the lives of those served through our shared ministry. Amen.*

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering will be collected on Easter.

Ash Wednesday (March 1) is the beginning of Lent.

• The Bible's "Top 40"

During Lent, it is a common practice to give up something. Adding something can be just as spiritually fruitful, however! If you'd like to add Bible reading to your life, adding this habit during the 40 days of Lent will get you off to a great start! Use the flyer included in this *Home Page* (or pick one up in the Memorial Room) to guide you through the Bible's "Top 40" passages!

• Other Lenten Resources

*The church library has purchased nine new lenten devotional books (each with a different focus or theme) available to assist your journey through this sacred church season.

*If you enjoyed the Advent devotional booklets that were distributed in the Memorial Room last fall/winter, the same author also has an on-line lenten devotional available at WaterFromRock.org under the "blog" tab.

• Bible Study on the Gospel of John

All are welcome to join in this study of "the gospel of light and life"! Sunday mornings, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Anderson Conference Room, throughout Lent (except March 12, due to Open House for Pastor Greg).

The Bible's "Top Forty"

The following list is a compilation of 40 core passages from the Bible. This list was taken from the book, *The Disciple Making Church*, by Rev. Glen McDonald. If you read one of the selections each day during Lent (excluding Sundays), then by the time Easter comes you will have experienced a good overview of the Bible. Following are some tips to keep you consistent:

- 1) Set your Bible and this list out in a prominent place so you will see it each day and be reminded to read.
- 2) Create a routine by reading at the same time and place each day.
- 3) Never make an exception! Do whatever it takes not to miss your reading.
- 4) If you miss reading don't try to play catch up just start where you left off and keep moving. Pick-up a missed reading on a Sunday or one of the lighter days of reading.

1. Creation, Eden and the Fall (Genesis 1-3)
2. Noah and the Ark (Genesis 6-8)
3. Abraham and the Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22)
4. The Story of Joseph and His Brothers (Genesis 37-45)
5. Moses in the Nile and at the Burning Bush (Exodus 1-4)
6. The Ten Plagues, Passover and the Red Sea (Exodus 7-14)
7. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)
8. Joshua Confronts the Walls of Jericho (Joshua 1-6)
9. The Misadventures of Samson (Judges 13-16)
10. The Love Story of Ruth (Ruth 1-4)
11. David vs. Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
12. Job's Plight and God's Response (Job 1-3, 38-42)
13. The Shepherd's Psalm (Psalm 23)
14. David's Personal Confession (Psalm 51)
15. Psalms of Worship and Praise (Psalm 93-100)
16. God's Intimate Love and Care (Psalm 139)

17. Soaring on Wings like Eagles (Isaiah 40)
18. The Messiah as Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53)
19. The New Covenant is Predicted (Jeremiah 31)
20. Three Men in the Oven (Daniel 3)
21. Daniel and the Lion's Den (Daniel 6)
22. The Story of Jonah the Reluctant Preacher (Jonah 1-4)
23. The Christmas Story (Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2)
24. The Word Became Flesh in Jesus (John 1)
25. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)
26. Jesus Feeds 5000 and Walk on Water (Mark 4)
27. Jesus Talks to Nicodemus (John 3)
28. Parables of the Good Samaritan & Lost Son (Luke 10,15)
29. Jesus' Prediction of the End of the World (Matthew 24)
30. Palm Sunday, Last Supper, Trial and Crucifixion (Mark 11-15)
31. Jesus Rises from the Dead (Luke 24, John 20)
32. The Holy Spirit Arrives on Pentecost (Acts 2)
33. Paul Meets Jesus on the Road to Damascus (Acts 9)
34. Nothing Can Separate Us From God's Love (Romans 8)
35. Love is the Greatest Quality (1 Corinthians 13)
36. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5)
37. Rejoice in the Lord Always (Philippians 4)
38. The Hall of Fame of Faith (Hebrews 11)
39. Because God is Love, We should Love Each Other (1 John 3-4)
40. Our Future in Heaven (Revelation 21-22)

Tips for succeeding in Bible reading!

- Set a time and place where you will do your reading.
- Place your Bible some place visible as a reminder. For example, if you are going to read in the morning, put it in front of your coffee pot. Or if you are a night reader, place it on your pillow in the morning, so it is waiting for you when you go to bed.
- Track your progress by marking off readings as you complete them on the chart provided.
- Make no exceptions! Vow to do it no matter what.
- If you blow the last tip, then just start over from where you left off. Don't worry about what you missed. Pick it up on a light day or on a Sunday. Most people allow catching up to be an obstacle to just getting back on track.
- Think of this as a gift to God. Have fun giving it and share your story with someone else. Your accomplishment may inspire them.

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HAPPY HOUR

Book Club



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

Who: Anyone (not just Presbyterians)! Bring a friend!

What: Reading and discussing ***Enrique's Journey*** by Sonia Nazario (nonfiction)

When/Where: Thursday, Mar 9, 5:30 p.m., WineStyles (discuss 1st half of the book)

Thursday, Apr 13, 5:30 p.m., Perkins (discuss 2nd half of the book)

*Discussion led by Denny Storer.

"Enrique's Journey recounts the quest of a Honduran boy looking for his mother, 11 years after she is forced to leave her starving family to find work in the U.S.. Braving unimaginable peril, often clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains, Enrique travels through hostile worlds full of thugs, bandits, and corrupt cops. But he pushes forward, relying on his wit, courage, hope, and the kindness of strangers."

ATTENTION: No Forum classes on March 5 nor March 12.

A candlelit evening with the One who loves you...

Candlelight. Soft music. Opening the heart.

Join us March 5 at 7 p.m. in the Parlor for a prayer service in the style of Taize--seeking peace with the world and intimacy with God.

Theme for March: Tenderness. Blessing for: Mothers.

Taize Testimonial: "The warm, soft candlelight and quietness help create an ambience both homey and reverential. I love the serenity and simplicity of the setting and the service, and the way it invites rest and awakens stillness. Both the spaces of silence and the prayerful singing evoke in me a rich awareness of the Spirit's presence and movement in me, in us, in the world."

--Lanae Hall

Come Meet and Welcome Pastor Greg!

All are invited for a festive open house as we celebrate the arrival of our new pastor! Enjoy refreshments and fellowship while welcoming and getting to know Pastor Greg, his wife Jessica, and their daughter Esther.

March 12, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Presbyterian Women – Schedule of Events

- March 5 – Women's Sunday will be celebrated. Pastor Don will be giving the sermon. Women of the church will be assisting with the service.
- March 8 - PW changed its March meeting to March 8 so that members may attend *Sermons a la carte* Lenten Services at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Members wanting to walk to St. Mark's should meet in FPC parking lot at 11:50 a.m. If you would rather meet us at St. Mark's, the service begins at 12:05 p.m. Following the service, a light lunch will be served. Cost is \$4 a plate.
- March 15 - Circles – Bible study "Who is Jesus – according to Hebrews"
 - Circle 1, hosted by Mary Jeanne Cooke, will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Community room at the Regency. May Wierenga is the study leader.
 - Circle 2 will meet at 9:30 a.m. in Mary Fisk's home. Flossie Sanderson is the study leader.
 - Circle 3, hosted by Carol Wheeler, will meet at 1:15 p.m. at the church. Jane Marsh is the study leader.

**Sunday,
March 5, 2017**

9:15 a.m. Sunday School (No Forum)

10:30 a.m. Worship,

Message by Pastor Don Canady

Gifts of Women Sunday with S.A.I. Choir
Communion with Offering to Miriam's Hope

5:00 p.m. Hastings College Spring Vespers

7:00 p.m. Taize Worship in Parlor

All women of the church are encouraged to join the Presbyterian Women at any time.

CONGREGATIONAL LIVES

Need a ride to church on Sundays? Request a ride by calling Jeanne Hastings, Deacon Moderator, at 402-462-8460 or the church office at 402-462-5147.

The **radio broadcast** airs Sunday @ 10:30 a.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.

Prayers for Lynn Barrows, Roger Bauer, Celia Ganow, Darleen Howard, Larry Nowka, and families.

Congratulations to Elmer and Irmise Heeren for 70 years of marriage! Cards and well wishes may be mailed to: 1323 N. Saunders Ave., Hastings, 68901.

2017 Directory Correction

CANADY, Pam (p.4): pamcanady@charter.net

FRUEHLING, Christian & Sarah (p.8): Remove home phone;
Christian: Update cell: 402-460-0888; update email: fruehlings@gmail.com
Sarah: Update cell: 402-469-7009; update email: sfruehling70@gmail.com

JOHNSON, Virginia (p.12): is now Virginia DAVIS

FOUNDATION (p.12) Moderator: Dave Dirks; Vice Moderator: Roger Doerr; Treasurer: Nancy Langford

CIRCLE III ROSTER (p.26) - Add: DAVIS, Katharine
1300 E. 7th St., Hastings, 68901; 402-463-2811; khdavis@charter.net

WARNER, Kym (p.28) update email to: warnerkym@yahoo.com

WHEELER, Carol (p.28) update email to: Johndeere60@charter.net

COMMITTEE NEWS

Flower Memorial Dates

The following are open dates for flower memorials: 4th Sunday in March; 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays in April; 3rd Sunday in May; 3rd and 4th Sundays in July; 3rd Sunday in August; 4th Sunday in September; 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays in November and all the Sundays in December. Please contact Mary Olsen if you would like to have one of the Sundays or if you would like to have a specific Sunday that isn't listed above. Some of the filled dates can have more than one memorial listing. Mary can be reached at 402-462-2811 or molsen@charter.net.

Christian Education committee meetings are now the first Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the Parlor. The committee will not meet in March but will resume in April, as will the Personnel Committee.

Christian Education Minutes

2/21/17 @ 5 pm

Present: Jill Kramer, Pam Canady, Nancy Grams, Kris Horton, Chris Junker (Session Rep), Jessica Meeske (Session Rep), Kili Wenburg, Stephanie Brader
Not Present: Kathy Reimer, Laurie Lofquist, Irina Erickson, Harold Korb (Session Rep)

Kili Wenburg opened with prayer.

Minutes from previous meeting approved (Kris Horton moved, Nancy Grams seconded, motion carried).

Stephanie reported:

- She needs help on March 26th as she will be out of town – Jill Kramer to assist.

- There will not be an Easter Brunch as there is no Sunday School and no early service. (This needs to be looked at annually.)
- There will be a Sunday School Open House on April 30th from 9:45 am to 10:15 am. Jessica Meeske and Chris Junker will serve as “guides”. In addition, there will be a Sunday School Recognition during the 10:30 am service. A video will be presented. The last day of Sunday School will be May 7th.
- Senior High Graduation will be recognized on April 30th at the 10:30 am service.
- Confirmation will be May 7th and a cake reception will follow. Nancy Grams and Pam Canady will handle clean up. Stephanie Brader will set up. SESSION: can youth meet with Session on May 3 at 6 pm?
- VBS will be May 22-26 from 2-5 pm. A special needs VBS will be May 22-25 from 9-11. There will be more information coming but the cap is set at 16 persons for the special needs VBS.
- Leah Ratzlaff has approached committee to lead/produce the Christmas Program. Committee gives her our blessings.
- Stephanie requests we look at the budget each month. SESSION: can a detailed Christian Education report be printed and distributed each month to accommodate this?

Kili reported:

- There is a renewed motivation to reach out to college students with the focus being on Choir Students. They are discerning “The Big Question” and may need help with cooking for the group (approx. 12). There also was discussion around how and what the “student adoption” looks like and whether we should reach out to others not in choir? The conclusion was to reach out to them as a group and see how it goes.
- The upcoming Forums are mostly set. There was discussion regarding inviting some speakers representing LGBTQ community. This was approved. There will have to be some funds to get these individuals to present and we would want to open it up to the community. More details to come. There was also discussion surrounding the upcoming Forums on Islam and it was advised to be cautious and careful.

Our session reps are: Jessica Meeske, Harold Korb, and Chris Junker (going off soon).

Meeting dates will be the first Thursday of each month at 5 pm. (Next meeting will be April 6th at 5 pm).

The new minister will arrive to town on March 10th. They may need help with home setup and unloading the moving truck. There may be a call for volunteers to help as the date gets closer.

Chris Junker closed us in prayer.

Submitted by Kris Horton

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On February 27th, Foundation remitted the **annual interest distribution** to FPC for the following accounts:

• Christian Education	\$11,592.00
• Designated Uses (Pastor's Discretionary)	\$1,932.00
• Music Fund (Langenberg)	\$57,960.00
• Property Development	\$15,456.00
• Scholarship	<u>\$9,660.00</u> (less \$1,000 for Library books)
	\$96,600.00

Glory be to God!

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ministry of Music

Langenberg Legacy Lesson Program

----Application----

2017 Spring (January - May)

RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY April 1, 2017

Application Date: _____
Month Day Year

Student Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Name: _____
First Last First Last

Address: _____

Telephone: () _____ e-mail _____

Area (Circle One):

Piano Organ Voice Guitar String Instrument: _____

Wind/Percussion Instrument: _____

Name of Teacher: _____ Teacher's e-mail: _____

Teacher Address: _____

Teacher Telephone: () _____ Weekly Cost of Lessons: \$ _____

Verification of Instruction and Participation

(Near the end of May, the teacher may be notified to verify the completion of lessons)

Private Teacher's Signature _____

FPC Music Staff Signature _____

Parent Signature _____ Student Signature _____

Students must be age 6 – 18 and MUST participate in the children's/youth choir/ music program of the First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska.

Parents MUST be members of the First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, Nebraska.

-----For Office Use Only-----

Check Number _____ Date of Check _____ Amount _____ Authorized _____

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

February 19, 2017

10:30a.m. Worship Attendance	181
General Fund (2017)	\$14,751.24
(including donations from sale of stock)	
Plate Collections	\$95.00
Per capita (2017)	\$151.25
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$35.69
Christian Ed Sunday School	\$8.25
Communion – HHS Pantry	\$5.00
Food Pantry	\$5.00
Memorials	\$1,220.00
Utilities	\$39.50

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