



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 21.10 March 12, 2017

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

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HC + FPC = Family

Twenty-four people enjoyed dinner together last Wednesday evening as members of First Presbyterian met and got to know the Hastings College students they would be "adopting" for the remainder of the semester. It was a warm and festive atmosphere. Thanks to all who participated!

Suitcase Drive Continues Through March

The Mission Committee is holding a "suitcase drive" and requests your donations of new or used luggage bags (suitcases, duffle bags, gym bags, back packs). Items may be deposited on the table 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.

Notes of thanks for Pastor Don will be received in the church office and collected into a scrapbook for Don. Feel free to drop off your special message through **March 19**. You may write your note on the special paper available in the church office, or you may use your own paper.

February's Souper Bowl Sunday communion offering for Hastings High School Food Pantry raised \$911!

Prayer focus for March: Miriam's Hope (family residential program aimed at keeping kids out of foster care)

Register NOW for 2017 Summer Camp—Something for everyone!

Benefits of Christian Camping...

- Campers can grow in their spiritual development in a fun, positive environment.
- Camp is an extension of your local church ministry program.
- Campers engage with others—building on the connectional strength of the reformed tradition.
- Child development experts believe that residential camp experiences help children and youth mature socially, emotionally, intellectually, morally and physically. This is supported by research conducted by the American Camp Association.

Camp Calvin Crest and Highlands Summer Camp brochures are now available on the Child & Youth Announcements Bulletin Board near the church offices. Scholarship Applications are also available.

Please contact Stephanie at stephanie@fpchastings.org with any questions.

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.

ATTENTION: No adult Sunday School classes on March 12.

Ash Wednesday (March 1) was 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! Pick up a flyer 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).

Happy Hour Book Club Begins This Thursday!

What prompts people to immigrate to the U.S.? What is the journey like? Is it worth it?

All are welcome (whether you've read the book or not) to join in the discussion of Enrique's Journey, which shares the real-life answers to these questions and more.

Thursday, March 9, 5:30 p.m., WineStyles

Upcoming Special Guest Forum Speaker

A family-law attorney and mother of three, Joni Stacy will join us on **March 19 at 9:15 a.m.** to tell us about her experience parenting a child through gender transition. We know we are called to love and welcome all of our neighbors, yet we have little experience interacting with and understanding those with transgender identity. Join us on the 19th with curiosity and love.

**Sunday,
March 12, 2017**
8:30 a.m. Worship,
With Celebrate Band
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
(no adult classes)
10:30 a.m. Worship,
Message by Greg Allen-Pickett

Presbyterian Women – Schedule of Events

- 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.

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 (Chuck Bauer's father), Celia Ganow, Darleen Howard, Roberta Lloyd, Lavera Meyer (Al Meyer's mother), Larry Nowka, and families.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Flower Memorial Dates

The following are open dates for flower memorials: 4th Sunday in March; 3rd 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.

At its meeting on February 23, 2017, the Session approved **the baptism of Clarence Mads Anderson III**, son of Mads and Sarah Anderson to be held on March 11, 2017. The Rev. Bill Nottage-Tacey will officiate. Grandparents are Gary and Mari Anderson. In keeping with the Book of Order, Mary Olsen will represent the congregation. Prayers of thanksgiving from other members are also welcomed.

MINUTES OF A STATED MEETING OF SESSION FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HASTINGS, NEBRASKA February 23, 2017

Members of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska, held their regular meeting on February 23, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Anderson Conference Room.

Elders in attendance: P= Present E=Excused A=Absent

Class of 2017

P - Chris Junker

P - Erik Nielsen

P - Tim Redline

P - Mary Olsen

P - Clerk: Karen Doerr

Class of 2018

P- Sharon Brooks

E - Kay Georgiana

P - Harold Korb

P - Kraig Lofquist

Class of 2019

E - Chuck Bauer

E - Anne Bohlke

P - Mary Fisk

E - Jessica Meeske

Moderator was Rev. Don Canady. Guests included Ted Schroeder representing the Trustees. Mary Olsen opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

Consent Agenda: Motion and a second to approve the Consent Agenda with corrections to the minutes of the January 19th meeting and the Congregational Meeting on January 29. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.

Board Reports:

Deacons: No action items to bring forward. Communion was provided at College View on Feb. 7th and at the Kensington and Perkins Pavilion on Feb. 9th.

Trustees: No action items to bring forward. Ted provided an update on building and grounds.

Foundation: No action items to bring forward.

Personnel: Did not meet in February.

Clerk's Report: Request for funds to support the American Legion baseball dinner. Upon a voice vote, motion failed. Letter referred to Mission for follow-up. Request from Hastings College to use the sanctuary for Hastings College Sunday on October 1, 2017. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.

Reports from Committees of Session:

Christian Education: Request to have Session exam the members of the confirmation class on May 3rd at 6:00 pm with confirmation to be held on Sunday, May 7th during worship. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.

Communication/Technology: Did not meet.

Congregational Life: No action items to bring forward. Recommended that the committee develop a plan of following up with visitors as well as those whose attendance has declined.

Global Mission/Social Witness: Request to support a Hastings College student mission trip to Nashville with funds from the Hastings College Chaplain Fund (5.01.1026) in the amount of \$2500. Upon a voice vote, motion carried. Mission Committee is looking for "pen pals" for our mission workers. United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry will be on site March 25th.

Memorial: No meeting.

Worship, Arts & Music: Recommend that Clarence Mads Anderson, III, son of Mads and Sarah Anderson be baptized by Rev. Bill Nottage-Tacey in the chapel on March 11, 2017 at 10:00am and that Mary Olsen attend as a representative of the congregation. Upon a voice vote, motion carried. It was suggested that WAM work with Roger Schukei on the placement of the Easter cross.

Scholarship: Did not meet.

Annex sub-committee: No report.

Moderator's Report: Communion was provided to the Congregation on February 6, 2017 at the 10:30 AM worship service.

Request received to allow the Rev Greg Miller to baptize his granddaughter, Kipton Miller, daughter of Justin and Nikki Miller at First Presbyterian Church – Hastings; date to be determined. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Session will hold its next stated meeting on March 23, 2017 beginning at 5:30 PM in the Anderson Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen G. Doerr, Clerk of Session

"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
First Presbyterian Church
621 North Lincoln Avenue
Hastings, NE 68901
402-462-5147, fax 402-462-6818
Email: fpc@fpchastings.org
Website: www.fpchastings.org

Address Service Requested

The Home Page

A publication of
First Presbyterian Church
621 N. Lincoln Ave.
Hastings, NE 68901

Pastor: Greg Allen-Pickett

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 26, 2017

8:30a.m. Worship Attendance	36
10:30a.m. Worship Attendance	165
General Fund (2017)	\$5,680.35
Plate Collections	\$90.00
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$32.93
Christian Ed Sunday School	\$1.75
Food Pantry	\$8.00
WNL	\$16.00
Coffee Donations	\$7.86

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