

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 22.01 Weeks Of: January 7 & 14, 2018

A note from Pastor Greg:

Happy New Year to our First Presbyterian Church family! I hope that each of you had a blessed holiday season. This was my first Advent and Christmas as your Pastor, and my family and I feel incredibly blessed to be a part of this community!

As 2018 begins and we think about what this year may hold in store for us, I would like to invite you deepen your commitment to what God is doing through First Presbyterian Church. A few opportunities to do that include:

-Help run sound or cameras for our Sunday morning services. NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY! We are blessed with an incredible broadcast ministry on the radio and television as well as a great sound system that helps our church members to hear our worship. Come join the crew to help run sound or camera, we will train you! Contact Erik Nielsen or me for more information.

-Join us on a mission trip. We will be doing a hurricane relief trip to Texas, March 18-24, with Hastings College Students. Adults of all ages are welcome to join this trip for an intergenerational experience! We also need High School youth and adult volunteers to join our Go and Serve trip to Camp Courageous, working with special needs students, July 14-21. And this Fall we will take an adult mission trip to the US Mexico Border to learn more about Presbyterian Border Ministries and Café Justo. Contact Damen Heitmann or me for more information.

-Volunteer for Wednesday Night Live. Every Wednesday we serve 40-60 kids with bible study, recreation time, music, and a meal. We can use volunteers to help teach kids, cook meals, or just hang out as table parents. Again, no previous experience or expertise is necessary. Contact Stephanie Brader or me for more information.

-Sing in the choir or play hand bells. Even if you have never made music, or haven't made music in years, come join us! We have choirs and hand bell groups for all ages and experience levels. Contact Tim Canady or me for more information.

-Serve food at United Harvest. Once a month we convert the gym in the Middle School Annex into a mobile food pantry. Come help us serve the hungry and food insecure in our community. We need volunteers of all ages, mobility and skill levels to provide hospitality to our neighbors. Contact Kili Wenburg or me for more details.

-Help us dream about the future of the church. I will be starting a strategic visioning and planning process in 2018 to think about the next five years of our church as we prepare to celebrate 150 years of ministry in Hastings. If you would like to be part of the strategic planning team, come see me!

This is just a small sampling of the many ways that you can get involved in the life of the church and contribute to what God is doing through this vibrant community of faith.

My hope and prayer for each of you in this New Year is that you have the opportunity to experience where God is at work in your lives and in our community, and that you are inspired to serve and amplify the love and light of Christ!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg

Thank you for supporting future ministers of Christ's Church through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly's **Theological Education Fund (TEF)**. Your gift of \$2,000.00 received on 11/30/2017 helps safeguard the next generation called to proclaim the Word of God and lead congregations and other critical ministries. May God continue to sustain and grow your endeavors in service to the Risen Christ! With Gratitude -- *The Rev. Dr. Lee Hinson-Hasty*, Senior Director, TEF Development.

"Un-Hanging" of the Greens

We had **an amazing group** of workers turn out to "Hang the Greens," and the work went faster than ever! (THANK YOU!!) Let's see if we can get that same great turn out of workers to "un-hang the greens" so that this task can be fun and easy as well! We'll gather at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 13, and we'll celebrate the completion of our efforts with pizza, provided by the church. SEE YOU THERE!

Communion: Familiar Ritual, Mysterious Sacrament

While the familiar motions of this monthly ritual provide comfort and spiritual sustenance, how does communion "work"? This class will provide information about the theology behind the sacrament, the meaning informing various modes of serving, the specific emphases unique to different denominations, and the "rules" defining who can serve and who can receive and so on. *Additionally, there will be opportunity for discussion and sharing of freshly-baked bread!*

Sunday, January 7; class led by Pastors Greg and Damen.

"Happy: What it is and How to Find it"

This is the title of the new Heirs Apparent curriculum, which will begin January 7. No matter how hard we try, happiness can seem elusive. Even as we reach our goals, we set new ones, making happiness always out of reach, but this study helps you discover that contentment isn't dependent on the "things" of life. Class meets in Anderson Conference Room at 9:15 on Sunday mornings, under the leadership of Curtis Reimer.

United Harvest is this Saturday, January 20

Here are TWO ways you can help:

Volunteer: We need many volunteers each month!! Your help is appreciated! Most volunteers should check in at the Annex gym around 9:30 a.m. If you can't come until later, that's fine; come whenever you can!

Pray: As we prepare for December's United Harvest distribution, please consider supporting this ministry through your prayers for the following:

- For those experiencing financial stress and food insecurity: that they would find some relief through United Harvest and that they would find security in the peace that passes all understanding
- For those making tough decisions about how to spend limited funds this time of year: that they would have wisdom and clarity about God's priorities for their finances
- For volunteers who may feel over-committed at this time of year: that their heart space and calendar space would be free enough to allow them to serve on Jan. 20
- For the transition from first-come, first-served to the new alphabetical system of distribution: that both volunteers and recipients would be free of anxiety; that a spirit of trust and mutual regard would prevail when the inevitable hiccups come along; that all the volunteers would be on the same page so that consistent explanations can be provided.
- For all individuals involved: that each one would open their heart to allow Jesus to be born in them this Advent season.

Hear, Share, Live the Story!

JANUARY



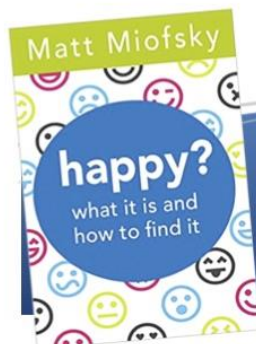
The stories of the *past*...

In January, the Forum continues to explore the annual "Hear the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story!" theme, this month featuring stories of local, national, and world history.

First, Rev. Bill Nottage-Tacey, Pastor Emeritus, will offer an historical, Biblical, and theological reflection on responses to life's disasters, with reference to local fires as well as the fire that destroyed the Jerusalem Temple and the two towers fires of 9/11.

As a follow-up to our celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we'll consider the Reformation's impact on Michelangelo, who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel just prior to Luther's hanging of the 95 Theses. Later, when the shock waves of the Reformation were being felt in Rome, Michelangelo painted the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel. Comparison of these two works shows a marked change in the mood and spirit in the Church of Rome.

Finally, in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day (January 15), we'll honor this famous preacher by exploring the role of churches in the 1960s Civil Rights movement. Churches have long felt the call to help shape a world in accordance with their understanding of God's will and to change unjust laws when they do not square with the moral universe. This talk is an historical examination of the roles churches played in the 1960s Civil Rights struggles in order to provide comparison with the role churches currently play in the context of contemporary racial inequality and unrest.



Forum Schedule

- 01-14-18 *The Phoenix Church: The Great FPC Fire of 1910 and its Aftermath*
Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey
- 01-21-18 *Impact of the Reformation on Michelangelo's Works*
Dr. Turner McGehee
- 01-28-18 *Religion, Love/Hate, and Justice: The Role of Churches in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement*
Dr. Michella Marino

Heirs Apparent Class

No matter how hard we try, happiness can seem elusive. Even as we reach our goals, we set new ones, leaving happiness always out of reach. This study helps you discover that contentment isn't dependent on the "things" of life.

Sunday mornings at 9:15, Anderson Conference Room; Curtis Reimer, leader

REMINDER:

**Wednesday Night Live (WNL) activities are scheduled during the school year.
If Adams Central or Hastings Public School classes are cancelled, so will WNL activities.**



Presbyterian Women Meet Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Circle 1 - 9:30 at the church - Bonnie Grams - hostess; Rogene Wenburg - Lesson Leader

Circle 2 - 9:30 at the home of Jane Bauer - hostess; Joy White - Lesson Leader

Circle 3 - 1:15 at the church - Nancy Grams - hostess; Sue Medsker-Nedderman - Lesson Leader

Prayers for: Arnie Boehler, Judy Brown, Lauren Canady, Karen Doerr/Mrs. Gilmore, Celia (& Wayne) Ganow, Erlene Gessford, Jan Ham, Irmise (& Elmer) Heeren, Pat Kleiber, Richard & Wanda Langer, Larry Nowka, Karla Reese, Romana Shetler, Elaine & son Jonathan Specht, Audrey Watson, Wilson, Jenni and Ben Welsch and families.

Need a ride to church on Sundays? Request a ride by calling the church office at 402-462-5147.

The radio broadcast airs during service at 10:30 a.m. 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 2:00 p.m.

Reminder to all committee members: Year-end reports are due by January 12, 2018 for the Annual Report.

January Communion Offerings will be collected throughout the month and donated to Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

January 7 Communion Servers (Team #3): Martha Boyd, Kay Georgiana, Susan Hoff, Harold Korb, Lynette Krieger, Paul Krieger, Kraig Lofquist, Kathleen Nelson, Chris Schukei

January Ushers (Team #1): LaVern Franzen, Chuck Hastings-Captain, Jim Hoffman, Roger Sunderman

January Greeters:

7th: Denny & Carole Storer

14th: Dick & Daveta Brader

21st: Jeff & Vicki Howard, Marilyn Nielsen

28th: Paul & Belinda Nuss, Carol Wheeler, Margaret Koontz

FPC remitted \$1,158.00 to Maryland Living Center, and \$175.00 to ARC for *Honey Sunday*.

*"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." --Dave Dirks, Moderator of the Foundation*



Caregiver Support Group in Hastings, NE

Presented by:

Alzheimer's Association

Nebraska Chapter

The 2nd Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

Mary Lanning Medical Services Building
Classroom C
715 N. St. Joseph Ave.

If you need care for your loved one with dementia in order to attend, contact Wendy at The Kensington Senior Living and Memory Care, 402.461.3149, to arrange free adult day service. For more information about support groups, call 800.272.3900.

Visit alz.org/nebraska to learn more about caregiver programs and resources. To further extend your network of support, visit alzconnected.org.

Build a support system with people who understand.

Alzheimer's Association® caregiver support groups, conducted by trained facilitators, are a safe place for caregivers, family and friends of persons with dementia to:

- Develop a support system.
- Exchange practical information on caregiving challenges and possible solutions.
- Talk through issues and ways of coping.
- Share feelings, needs and concerns.
- Learn about community resources.

Home Page

First Presbyterian Church

621 North Lincoln Avenue

Hastings, NE 68901

Phone: 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

Senior Pastor: Greg Allen-Pickett

Publishing Guidelines: The *Home Page* is a bi-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 or call 402-462-5147.

Financial Corner December 10, 2017

8:30a.m. Worship Attendance	18
10:30a.m. Worship Attendance	330
General Fund (2017 & 2018)	\$6,425.00
Plate Collections	\$51.00
Per capita (2017 & 2018)	\$151.25
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$9.30
Communion-Crossroads	\$40.00
Memorials- Mary Jo Emmons	\$45.00
Coffee	\$5.77
Food Pantry	\$15.00
Office Supplies (Disks)	\$20.00
Church Usage	\$30.00
Poinsettias	\$105.00
Pooh Corner Rent	\$500.00

December 17, 2017

8:30a.m. Worship Attendance	18
10:30a.m. Worship Attendance	259
General Fund (2017 & 2018)	\$20,289.50
Plate Collections	\$204.00
Per capita (2017 & 2018)	\$121.00
CE Sunday School	\$13.10
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$50.63
Communion-Crossroads	\$5.00
Go & Serve	\$550.00
Go & Serve Bake Sale	\$515.31
WNL	\$250.00
Memorials-Emmons/Swan	\$250.00
Flowers / Radio Fund	\$1,201.00
Poinsettias	\$185.00