



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 22.26, Weeks Of: December 23 and December 30, 2018

NOTABLE NOTES FROM...

PASTOR GREG

New Year's Reflections

Happy New Year! Actually I am about three weeks late to wish you a happy new year. You see, the church year starts on the first Sunday of Advent. We don't worry so much about the January 1st date, our year revolves around the seasons of Jesus Christ, just as our lives do.

Advent is a great way to start the New Year! We return our focus every year to the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Really, these are themes that should be reflected in our lives throughout the year, but Advent provides us an opportunity re-center ourselves as we prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the birth of Jesus 2000 years ago and wait with hopeful anticipation for Christ's return.

First Presbyterian Church strives to fully embrace the spirit of Advent and Christmas and we hope that you have been able to join us. If you haven't yet been swept up in the spirit of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love yet, opportunities still abound. And we would love if you would invite your neighbors and friends to join us!

Sunday, December 23

8:30am Service of Lessons and Carols. We will gather around the piano and immerse ourselves in the Advent and Christmas story once again with scripture readings and our favorite carols!

9:15am Sunday School for all ages including our tradition of Darrel Lloyd offering Christmas readings in the Chapel.

10:30am Traditional Service that will include Lessons and Carols and a short sermon on the hymn "Joy to the World."

Monday, December 24

2:00pm Christmas Eve Service at College View Retirement Community. This is a new tradition we started last year where we offer a non-denominational service to the residents. Our church members are also welcome to attend and help lead the singing of the hymns! Led by Pastor Greg and a volunteer choir (that you are welcome to join!)

5:30pm Family Service. This service is designed with children in mind, but all are welcome; sometimes we get more out of the children's message anyway, right? Led by Pastor Greg and a volunteer family choir (that you are welcome to join!)

7:30pm Traditional Service. This service will be led by Pastor Greg and a volunteer choir (that you are welcome to join!)

11:00pm Contemplative Service. This service will be led by Pastor Damen in the chapel using a beautiful Evensong liturgy.

Sunday, December 30

10:30am One Sunday morning service, no Sunday School. Our music will be led by Mary Plock and musicians who are home from college and graduate school. You won't want to miss this service!

Remember, Christmas is a 12 day season. The Christmas spirit carries us all the way through Epiphany Sunday. We hope you will be able to join us and that you will invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg

FPC Prayers for:

Judy Brown	Family of Jack Osborne	Sharon Harvey
Celia & Wayne Ganow	Elmer Heeren	Katharine Davis
Ryan Barker	Richard & Wanda Langer	Zelma Fobben
Ramona Shetler	John Harrington	Kathy (& Steve) Illingworth
Robin Koozier & Family	Georgette Smidt (Ted Schroeder's sister)	Arlene Kort
Georgie Evans	Lynn and Andy Barrows	Carolyn Nowka
Steve Thelen (Pamela Lay's brother-in law)	Brooks Borrell (infant son of Kim & Jeremy Borrell, grandson of Bev & Ken Stein)	Jeff & Ashley Hermann

Please let us know if you would like to be added to, or removed from, the prayer list by calling the church office at 402-462-5147.

Need a ride to church on Sundays? Call Deacon Moderator Dawna Whitcomb at [402-469-4805](tel:402-469-4805) or the church office at [402-462-5147](tel:402-462-5147).

The radio broadcast airs during Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. on KICS 1550 AM.

Sunday's service will be broadcast live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings and on Channel 181 Tuesday at 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.

"When working with your attorney to **update your will and estate plan**, please consider including a gift to the First Presbyterian Church Foundation.

--Dave Dirks, Moderator of the Foundation

A copy of any Sunday service is available on DVD disc upon request at no charge. Contact the church office at [402-462-5147](tel:402-462-5147).

HOSPITAL REMINDER

Due to hospital privacy regulations, if you would like the church to know that either you or a family member will be hospitalized or have been admitted, please take a moment and call the church office at 402-462-5147. Remember... we don't always know what's happening unless you tell us!

2019 Offering Envelopes are in. You may pick yours up from the glass shelf in front of the church office or on the welcome stand in the Memorial Room.

Dear Church Family: At the end of August I had open heart surgery to remove a tumor

(which was a rare occurrence, benign, and won't come back). My recovery has been excellent; my heart is back to its normal size and strength. I feel great. I am still finishing up cardiac rehab, but will have no lasting complications. I just wanted to let you all know how grateful I am for your prayers and support.

– Beth Utley

January Communion Offering goes to Healthy Beginnings

Healthy Beginnings offers help and encouragement for parents and families while lessening the opportunities for abuse and neglect.

The Mission of Healthy Beginnings is to provide a cost effective nurse home visitation program that will improve pregnancy outcomes, child health, growth and development, and self sufficiency for program eligible families. The effects of this program will benefit generations to come as these parenting skills are passed from generation to generation.

We provide weekly home visits for families prenatally and these visits continue until the youngest child in the home turns three years old. Nurses weigh the children and provide developmental screening so we can be sure that the child is developing appropriately. We provide support and role modeling to help make sure that children have the best care possible from their parents. We also provide referrals to other agencies and resources when families have need for them.

Christmas Eve Joy Offering (The following is from the PC (USA) website.)

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the perfect gift – the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. We search our memories for indications of what gift might cause the faces of our loved ones to light on Christmas morning. We scour the stores and shops, hoping to come across the thing that will communicate a depth that our words cannot.

For those of us gathered together in Advent expectation, we know that the only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ. At the Incarnation, we celebrate God who came to dwell among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God. Although we cannot give the perfect gift, we can give generously, knowing, as the New Testament letter of James says, “every generous act of giving... is from above.” And, as important as gifts to loved ones are, the Church rejoices and gives in special ways, drawing us back, again and again, to a manger scene with bowed shepherds and joyous angels, and the truth of God’s perfect gift to us.

During the Advent and Christmas season, the church’s response to God’s generosity takes on the very character of our Savior. Jesus came to lead God’s people, pointing to God through love and justice, peace and compassion, forgiveness and humility. The Presbyterian Church (USA) reflects God’s gift to us, through the Christmas Joy Offering, with generous gifts supporting church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. For church workers in need of financial help, whether due to declining health or a catastrophic event, such as the Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, Christmas Joy provides for those needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. Even as we support our current and former church leaders, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. For students receiving scholarships and support at Menaul and Presbyterian Pan American secondary schools, and Stillman College, a Historically Black college, the generosity of Presbyterians means a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.

We can never match God’s perfect gift in Jesus, but through the Christmas Joy Offering, we can testify to who we have known God to be. Our perfect gift comes from above. Our gifts reflect our generous God. Our gifts support leaders in our Church and world – past, present, and future.

Spirituality Lab

Learn and practice together a different form of prayer or meditation at each gathering. Join us to find the information and support you need for a more interesting and fruitful prayer life. *7:00 a.m., The Upper Room Classroom (upper level Memorial Room)* The next meeting will be in February, the date to be announced.



Upcoming Forum Classes

❖ December 23: *Christmas Readings (in the Chapel)*

Darrel Lloyd will read selections from multiple genres, providing the class with opportunities to laugh, reminisce, and more deeply engage with the experience of Christmas. This year’s readings will feature writers from outside the United States.

Presenter: Darrel Lloyd

Heir’s Apparent Adult Sunday School

A new six-week series starts January 6, "Creed: What Christians Believe and Why" focuses on the Apostle’s Creed. This is a study of historic Christian faith and how it matters in lives today. The study asks questions such as: How does belief affect us? What is the source of our belief?

Parenting Workshop

Saturday, January 26, 1-5 p.m.

1st Presbyterian Church, 7th and Lincoln Ave.
FREE Workshop! FREE Childcare!

Community Welcome!!



Children don't come with instruction manuals,
but help is on the way!

Workshop will provide expert advice, instruction, and encouragement from **Dr. Nancy Foster**, University of Nebraska Medical Center professor and clinician specializing in pediatric psychology.

Especially suitable for
parents with children ages 0-12.

Perfect Practice Makes Perfect: Parenting with a Purpose

Saturday, January 26, 2019

1st Presbyterian Church, Hastings

1:00-5:00 PM

Nancy Foster, PhD and Megan Schmittel, M.S.

1:00 PM	Introductions and Overview
1:05 - 2:00 PM	Part 1: <i>Why Do Children Do What They Do?</i> (Nancy) Overview of development + Formula to solve behavioral concerns
2:00 -3:00 PM	Part 2: <i>Parenting Solutions that Work</i> (Nancy) Strategies to encourage desired behavior
3:00 - 3:15 PM	Break
3:15 - 4:15 PM	Part 3: <i>Age-specific tools</i> Breakout Group 1 (Megan): Navigating the Early Years (ages 0-7) Breakout Group 2 (Nancy): Thriving in the 'Tween Years (ages 8-12)
4:15 - 5:00 PM	Part 4: <i>Putting It All Together</i> Maintaining progress + addressing future problems Wrap up / questions + answers

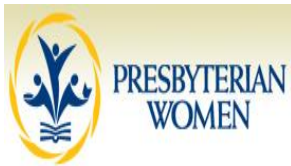
Youth Special Attendance Recognition for November

Children who routinely attend Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live will get a chance at a worship leadership role. Each month, all children preschool thru 8th grade with 100% Sunday School or Wednesday Night Live attendance will be entered into a drawing. Two children will be chosen each month. The children will get a chance to extend their faith growth to others by choosing to serve in one of the following worship roles:

- Acolyte (if under 4th grade)
- Usher
- Music soloist
- Call to Worship leader
- Prayer leader
- Children's Moment leader or helper

During the month of November, thirteen (13) children had 100% Sunday School attendance. Twenty-six (26) children had 100% Wednesday Night Live attendance. The two children whose names were drawn for November's recognition are Keira Erickson (Sunday School) and Faith Brader (WNL). Thanks be to God for our faithful attenders!

Bible @ Breakfast will resume on Wednesday, January 23 at 7 a.m. We will be starting a new series with Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh studying the development of the apocalyptic imagination in biblical history.



Presbyterian Women's (PW) luncheons. *The next meeting will be February 6.*

✓ *Circle I will meet January 16 - 9:30 (Hostess/Lesson to be announced)*

✓ *Circle II will meet on January 16 - 9:30 (Hostess-Bonnie Grams, Lesson - Joy White)*

✓ *Circle III will meet on January 16 - 1:15 pm (Hostess/Lesson to be announced)*

Mission Committee Update

- ✓ Delivered 8 bags (19 items) to the Hastings Food Pantry on November 7th.
- ✓ Delivered 215 diapers to Catholic Social Serviced on December 6th.

Soup Group Lunchtime Conversations for Women All women of the church are welcome to join in casual lunchtime conversations on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The next sessions will begin on Thursday, January 17th at noon in the Church Library.

Nominating Committee Update – Committees/Boards for 2019

Board of Deacons	Session	Trustees	Nominating Committee
Kenton Grams	Harold Korb	Stephanie Bliss	Sally Smith
Steve Wolford	Kay Georgiana	John Northrup	Vonda Essex
Kathy Reimer	2 open spaces	Harvey Freetley	Al Meyer
Peter Lainson		1 open space for a two	Kim Creech
Amy Hermes		year term	Tammy Nowka
			Carol Storer

Friendly Reminder...

- ❖ Be sure to fill out your 2019 Pledge Card and return it to the office.
- ❖ Included in this newsletter is the new version of the SHARING TIME AND TALENTS Form. Even if you filled one out last year, please take the time to fill it out again and return it to the church office. The form has changed and has new opportunities!
- ❖ The 2019 Greeter List and the 2019 Usher Team Rotation will be posted soon. (This information is taken from the Sharing Time and Talents questionnaire.)

Happy Anniversary

January 2019

01/02/1999
01/03/1953
01/17/1986
01/23/1993
01/30/1954

Neil & Stacy Kerr
Paul & Ruth Caldwell
Gaylon & Kim Hermann
John & Barb Harrington
Dean & Verna Meyer

Happy Birthday

January 2019

01/01	Nyareak Deng Wiyual Dieth Jim Duval Georgie Evans	01/11	Robin Koozer Doug Throckmorton Rebeca Tut	01/19	Leanne Meyer
01/02	Gary Allison George Anderson	01/13	Norris Swan Elizabeth Urrutia Carlee Wissing	01/20	Lance Anderson Muoch Dieth Joni McCoy
01/03	Starla Rethorst	01/14	Dale Behrens Erin Gastmann Bob Johnson Marie Rasmussen Rachel Thomsen	01/21	Tuesday Frasier
01/04	Duane Ochsner Audrey Watson Dan Zabloudil	01/15	Ariah Robbins Caleb Schukei	01/22	Nancy Grams Barry Thomson
01/05	Carla Fike	01/16	Colby Feezell Mike Karloff Ann Koozer Adalynn Miller Teri Nguyen	01/23	Jayne Ellenwood Shanda Spurgeon
01/06	Paul Krieger June Nielsen Brady Rhodes	01/17	Rich McKenzie	01/24	Melissa Davis
01/07	Robert Nedderman Susan Tournor	01/18	Suellen Bruguera Brysen Grams Kathy Reimert	01/25	Morgan Karloff Gretchen Lainson
01/08	Stacey Burling Jeremy Heneger			01/27	Leslie Christensen Madeleine Johnson Lulu Schmidt
01/09	Harper Launchbaugh			01/28	Erica Brooks Jim Freeburger Jessica Meeske
01/10	Tera Nguyen			01/29	Sue Armstrong
01/11	Larry Butler Dora Horsley			01/30	Gaylon Hermann Javae Redinger

SHARING TIME AND TALENTS

Household Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Each household member should initial where interested in serving.

Serve on Committee

- Christian Education: Youth / Adult
 Memorial Deacons
 Mission Personnel
 Worship/Arts/Music Trustees
 Scholarship Session
 Nominating Go & Serve
 Tech. & Comm. Foundation
 Congregational Life

Sunday School- Children August- May

- Teacher 9:15-10:15am
 PreK-Kindergarten
 1st-2nd Grade
 3rd-4th Grade
 5th Grade
 6th-7th Grade
 8th Grade (confirmation)
 9th-12th Grade
 Teacher Assistant
 Confirmation Mentor

Sunday School- Adult

- Forum Leader
Topic _____
 Forum Video Recording Technician
 Heirs Apparent Leader Substitute

Worship

- Usher Reg./ Substitute
 Greeter Reg./ Substitute
 Serve Communion
 Read Scriptures
 Give Reflections

Music

- Chancel Choir
 Bell Choir
 Celebrate Band Singer
 Celebrate Band Instrumentalist
Instrument _____

Wednesday Night Live August- May

- PreK-Kindergarten Teacher 5:00-6:00pm
 Elementary Teacher 4:30-5:00pm
 1st- 2nd Grade
 3rd- 4th Grade
 5th Grade
 Jr./Sr. High Teacher 7:30-8:15pm
 6th-8th Grade
 9th-12th Grade
 Teacher Assistant
 Table Parent (6:00- 6:45pm)
 Recreation Leader (3:55-4:30pm)
 Table Setter and Decorator
 Greeter (3:45-4:15pm)
 Meal Preparer/Server/Clean-Up
 Laundry

Nursery, Volunteer Care Special Events

- Daytime Evening Either

Vacation Bible School

- Teacher Helper Set- up

Technology

- Run Camera during Worship
 Run Soundboard during Worship
 Run T.V./Screens during Worship

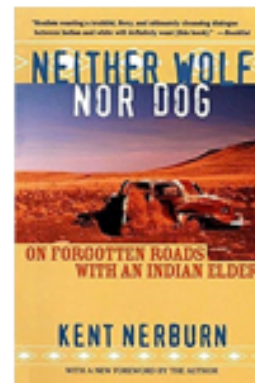
Funeral & Special Service Luncheons Set-up Bring a dish Serve Clean up**Other** Volunteer in Nursery (10:30 service) Home Page Assembly (Tuesday Mornings) Mass Mailing Prep (As Needed) Office Assist Copying Project(s) Proofreading Organize Name tags Cleaning Church Mice (Pick up and re-stock Sanctuary pews) Care for Planted Flowers in & around church during summer Receive, Arrange and Care for Poinsettias Photograph Church Events Provide Vehicle for Moving Large Items Deliver Food/Diapers to Local Missions Organize Fun Events (Sports, Potluck, Fieldtrips) Library Assistant Sew/Quilt/Knit/Crochet Prayer Chain Help to update and maintain Church Directory (calling member to verify contact info, etc.) Help to update and maintain Church Pictorial Directory (upload photos, data, etc.) Christmas Program (kids) Set-up Costumes Direct Drama Direct Music Accompany Share Art Talents Participate/Lead Small Group Bible Study**Comments:**

"Giving has always been a mark of Christian commitment and discipleship. The ways in which a believer uses God's gifts of material goods, personal abilities, and time should reflect a faithful response to God's self-giving in Jesus Christ and Christ's call to minister to and share with others in the world."

-Presbyterian Book of Order

Join a book study . . .

*NEITHER WOLF NOR DOG, on
Forgotten Roads with an Indian
Elder, written by Kent Nerburn*



This book study is sponsored by Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and led by members of the PWS Native American Concerns Committee.

It is open to interested women and men across our synod,
via Zoom (using computer) or phone.

There is no charge to participate nor to use Zoom, yet registration is requested.

Daytime study begins: Monday, January 14, 2019 at 1:00 – 1:45 PM (CST)

Evening study begins: Monday, January 14, 2019 at 6:30 – 7:15 PM (CST)

Groups will be every two weeks for seven sessions

Synopsis: The heart of the Native American experience: In this 1996 Minnesota Book Award winner, Kent Nerburn draws the reader deep into the world of an Indian elder known only as Dan. It's a world of Indian towns, white roadside cafes, and abandoned roads that swirl with the memories of the Ghost Dance and Sitting Bull. Readers meet vivid characters like Jumbo, a 400-pound mechanic, and Annie, an 80-year-old Lakota woman living in a log cabin. Threading through the book is the story of two men struggling to find a common voice. *Neither Wolf nor Dog* takes readers to the heart of the Native American experience. As the story unfolds, Dan speaks eloquently on the difference between land and property, the power of silence, and the selling of sacred ceremonies.

Questions, contact Sharon Falck at sfalck2009@gmail.com or Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net

REGISTER HERE by January 7, 2019

Please register by emailing the following information to Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net :

Name:

Email:

Phone #:

Daytime or Evening Study:|

Home Page

First Presbyterian Church

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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 the Friday prior to publication. Submissions may be edited for length and suitability. You may send articles to the church office: fpc@fpchastings.org or call 402-462-5147.

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:9-11