

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 25.01, Weeks of January 5 and January 12, 2020

NOTABLE NOTES FROM PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

We really ended on a high note this year! The Advent season has been a blessed time of worship, reflection, anticipation, generosity, and hope:

- Our Advent Devotional and reverse Advent calendar had an incredible response. You all brought in so many donations that will greatly benefit our local ministry partners including Crossroads, SASA, and others. The Giving Tree in the Memorial Room was also a success as you took tags off the tree and brought in wrapped gifts to support people with severe and persistent mental illness living in our community. Thank you for your incredible generosity!
- The Children's Christmas Program was shared on the third Sunday of Advent, December 15, and we also celebrated a baptism that Sunday! The children shared the story of Jesus' birth and how those involved might have felt. It was a blessed Sunday of worship, and if you missed it or want to see it again, you can watch it here: <http://shorturl.at/drCT6>
- The fourth Sunday of Advent was full of joyful sacred music! We did a modified service of Lessons and Carols and were blessed by the combined Chancel Choir and Calvin/Westminster Youth choirs. They sang two beautiful anthems and led our congregation in hymn singing. In addition, the Calvin/Westminster Youth Handbell choir shared an introit and the Chancel Handbell choir played two gorgeous and fun anthems. Nathan Jensen, a child of our church who is now studying to be an opera singer, sang a deeply moving solo of "O Holy Night" as the offertory. If you missed this service or want to see it again, you can watch it here: <http://shorturl.at/juyGM>
- By the time you read this, we will have also celebrated Christmas Eve at four services, including taking our Christmas Eve service on the road to the lobby of a retirement community to reach those who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend a service.

It has been a remarkable year for First Presbyterian Church of Hastings. God is doing great things through our church and through each of you, and we are reaching more and more people every day with the Good News of God's love!

I also want to update you with some numbers that point to the health and vitality of our church. We added 25 new members and celebrated 18 baptisms this year. We are delighted by this positive growth. We also held services for 9 of our beloved members who died; we were able to celebrate their lives and proclaim the hope of the resurrection in the midst of our grief.

None of this ministry would have been possible without the steadfast support of you, our church members. So many of you offered your time, your talents, and your financial gifts. As a church, we faithfully stewarded your offerings, and God did wondrous things with them.

As this year ends on a high note for our church, I want to thank you for your generous support. I also want to encourage you to continue to support the work that God is doing through this church. The gifts of your time, your talent, and your treasure are making a difference in the lives of our members and in our community as we shine God's love and light into the world. I can't wait to see what God has in store for First Presbyterian Church of Hastings in 2020!

Your Servant in Christ, Pastor Greg

FPC Prayers for:

Jim & Mary Jeanne Cooke	Kristine Cook (Katharine Davis' sister)	Family of Al Behl
Cheryl Ann Elfond	Zachary, Noble, Cale Henderson	Family of Darrel Lloyd
Celia & Wayne Ganow	Irina Erickson's Mom	Janet Schawang
Norm Giesler	Jeff Howard	Joan Shaw and Family
Jim Hahne	Family of Lee Kreager	Alden Talbert (Bill's Dad)
Jim Harrenstein	Gretchen Lainson	
Jane Horton	Chris Wheeler (Carol Wheeler's son)	

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Need a ride to church on Sundays? Call Deacon Moderator Joan Shaw at [402-460-8195](tel:402-460-8195) 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
- on Channel 181 Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- at Good Samaritan Village, the 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

HOSPITAL REMINDER

Due to hospital privacy regulations, for 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!

Hastings Food Pantry-Donations Needed



On the first Sunday of every month, please bring items to place in the blue bins in the Donation Station located in Fellowship Hall for the

Hastings Food Pantry. Non-perishable foods and paper products are always needed to keep the Pantry resupplied. Deacons will deliver the items to the pantry supply center.

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).

Mission Committee Update

Merry Christmas to all. Each agency asked me (Denny Storer) to thank our congregation for their compassion, especially at this time of year.

The committee delivered:

- 7 shirts and 27 ball caps to Proteus for our migrant workers
- 135 diapers to Catholic Social Services
- 35 hygiene kits for newly enrolled women at SASA

Presbyterian Mission Engagement & Support, Bill McConnell Mission Engagement Advisor wrote, "Please allow me to express our appreciation to you, your pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support. Your contribution changes peoples' lives for the sake of the gospel around the world."

A note from Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation, Rev. Gary Eller, President, who wrote, "Thank you for your generous contribution to the Foundation. Your donation will go a long way to helping us provide educational and revitalization opportunities to pastors and seminarians in the coming years. We are so grateful that you continue to see OPSF's mission as worthy of your generosity."

Hastings Area Habitat for Humanity wrote, "We would like to thank you for your donation. This amazing 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 the commitment to the Habitat philosophy of eliminating poverty and homelessness from the world by making safe and decent shelter a matter of conscience and action."

January Communion Offering goes to the Sunflower Project, which was formed to inspire hope and contribute to individuals and caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Project Sunflower was established in 2019 by Kelly Bonifas, a NE native who lost her mother to early onset Alzheimer's disease. Kelly's hope is to provide education, awareness, emotional support, and funds to those individuals and caregivers fighting Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Project Sunflower assists patients and caregivers that reside in Adams County, NE. Assistance is offered through several methods, such as financial assistance for respite care, medications, medical bills, and household expenses.



FRAUD ALERT

If you receive an email or a text message that looks like it is from Pastor Greg, Pastor Damen, or one of the other church staff asking you to buy gift cards, please ignore it and report it to the church office. The phone number and email address will be incorrect.

Someone is sending these emails and text messages masquerading as Pastor Greg, stating that he is visiting someone in the ER or the hospital and needs help to order or purchase a gift card. Pastor Greg

will never ask a church member to purchase a gift card by sending you an email or text message, so please don't respond. Thank you!

Brooks's Bookshelf Our son, Brooks, was born on October 10, 2018. Three days after his birth, he was diagnosed with Trisomy 21: Down Syndrome. He is a happy, strong, loving, unique individual and a true blessing to our family. He makes our lives better every day!

Brooks's Bookshelf was created in celebration of our amazing son. He is an inspiration to anyone who is lucky enough to know him! The bookshelf is a way to share the joy of reading and also spread the awareness of Down Syndrome. Bookshelves where children are welcome to take a book home will be located throughout our community!

Each bookshelf will include books of all interests with some specific books focused on kindness, compassion and a focus on individuals with unique differences. Books to range from picture/baby up to early readers.

Every story and every person is unique and beautiful. We hope that you'll find it in your hearts to donate a book or send a monetary donation to help us in this celebration.

Check out our Amazon wish list under Brooks's Bookshelf and other places to donate on our website at brookssbookshelf.org Follow us on Facebook & Instagram! -Kindly, Brooks Borrell & Family

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for thinking of us during the Christmas Season. Your wonderful cards and yummy snacks were greatly appreciated. - Thank you again, Pastor Greg, Pastor Damen, Kili Wenburg, Stephanie Brader, Deb Hamburger, Tony Calhoun, and Jean Matheny

Looking Ahead...



The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be **Tuesday, January 6, 2020**, from 12 noon – 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendar now! To donate or volunteer your time, please call Erica Brooks, FPC Parish Nurse, at [402-469-9285](tel:402-469-9285) or sign up at www.redcrossblood.org.



Third Saturday of the Month
Annex Building
Lincoln and 7th St. Hastings

Sponsored by:
First United Methodist Church
First Presbyterian Church

A mobile pantry is a traveling food pantry that delivers food to families in need through a one day distribution. Our goal is to provide food where there is a high need, but resources are limited. The mobile food pantry is available to all free of charge. The institutions providing the food are equal opportunity providers.

January 18, 2020		
M,N,O	May park and get number starting at:	9:45 AM
P,Q,R	May park and get number starting at:	10:00 AM
S,T,U	May park and get number starting at:	10:15 AM
V,W,X,Y,Z	May park and get number starting at:	10:30 AM
A,B	May park and get number starting at:	10:45 AM
C,D,E	May park and get number starting at:	11:00 AM
F,G,H	May park and get number starting at:	11:15 AM
I,J,K,L	May park and get number starting at:	11:30 AM

Those interested in receiving food should bring boxes or bags. To volunteer, simply show up on the date of the next distribution and check in at the volunteer sign-in table. Volunteer shifts are 9:30-12:00 and 12:00-2:00. Plastic bags can be brought to the church office and donated to the cause.

Sun, Jan 5	8:30a-9:30a 9:15a-10:15a 9:15a-10:15a 10:30a	Taizé-Style Worship in the Chapel NO Sunday School Children and Youth Adult Sunday School Traditional Worship
Mon, Jan 6	8:15a-9:15p 12:00p-6:00p 1:00p-3:00p 1:00p-4:00p 4:30p-5:30p 6:00p-8:00p 7:00p-8:00p 7:30p-8:30p	Walkers in PEACE Center Reb Cross Blood Drive Pickle Ball in PEACE Center Gym Food from the Heart Food Prep Pooch corner/FPC Liaison Meeting in Anderson Mexican Dance Troupe in PEACE Center Scout Troop 200-Boys/Girls Chorus of the Plains
Tues, Jan 7	8:15a-9:15p 10:30a-11:30a 12:00p-1:00p 1:30p-4:00p 2:00p-3:00p 5:30p-8:00p 5:30p-6:30p 5:30p-6:30p	Walkers in PEACE Center Staff Meeting Bible Study in Anderson Room Quilters meet in P.E.A.C.E. Center CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT COLLEGE VIEW Pickle Ball in P.E.A.C.E. Center Gym WAM in Anderson
Wed, Jan 8	8:15a-9:15a 7:00a-8:00a 9:30a-10:10a 4:00p-6:00p 6:00p-6:45p 6:20p-6:50p 6:30p-8:00p 6:45p-7:30p 6:50p-7:30p 7:30p-8:15p 7:30p-8:15p	United Harvest Board Meeting in Kessler Walkers in PEACE Center Bible @ Breakfast in the Parlor HC Chapel at French Memorial Chapel Pre-K thru 5th Grade Bible Study, Recreation Time, Choir/Bells (WNL) WNL Family Meal Time <i>All are welcome!</i> WNL Calvin Middle School and Westminster High School Bells Wood Carvers meet in Church Basement Chancel Choir WNL Calvin Middle School and Westminster High School Choir Chancel Bells WNL Bible Study and Fellowship: Middle School (6th – 8th) Youth Group
Thurs, Jan 9	7:00a-8:00a 8:15a-9:15a 4:30p-5:30p 5:00p-6:00p 5:30p-8:30p 6:00p-8:00p 6:00p-7:00p 7:00p-8:00p	Retreat in the Real World in Adult Ed Classroom Walkers in PEACE Center Mission Committee in Parlor Personnel Committee in Kessler Pickle Ball in PEACE in Center Gym Mexican Dance Troupe in PEACE Center NE Classroom Spanish Class in PEACE Center NW Classroom Cub Scout Den Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Fri, Jan 10	10:00a-12:00p	Mahjong Ladies in the Youth Room
Sat, Jan 11	9:00a-??	Taking Down the Greens

Sun, Jan 12	8:30a-9:15a 9:00a-9:45a 10:30a	Taizé Contemplative-Style Worship in the Chapel Sunday School All Ages Traditional Worship Service
Mon, Jan 13	8:15a-9:15a 1:00p-3:00p	Walkers in PEACE Center Pickle Ball in PEACE Center Gym
Tues, Jan 14	6:00p-8:00p 7:00p-9:00p 7:30p-9:30p 8:15a-9:15a 10:30a-11:30a 12:00p-1:00p 1:30p-4:00p 5:30p-6:30p 5:30p-8:00p 6:00p-7:00p 7:00p-8:30p	Mexican Dance Troupe in PEACE Center Scout Troop 200-Boys/Girls Chorus of the Plains Walkers in PEACE Center Staff Meeting Bible Study in Anderson Room Quilters meet in P.E.A.C.E. Center Congregational Life in Parlor Pickle Ball in P.E.A.C.E. Center Gym Trustees in Anderson Knit Wits in Parlor
Wed, Jan 15	7:00a-8:00a 8:15a-9:15a 9:30a-10:10a 9:30p-10:30p 9:30p-10:30p 1:15p-2:15 p 4:00p-6:00p 6:00p-6:45p 6:20p-6:50p 6:30p-8:00p 6:45p-7:30p 6:50p-7:30p 7:30p-8:15p 7:30p-8:15p 7:30p-8:15p	Bible @ Breakfast in the Parlor Walkers in PEACE Center HC Chapel at French Memorial Chapel Circle I Circle II Circle III Pre-K thru 5th Grade Bible Study, Recreation Time, Choir/Bells (WNL) WNL Family Meal Time <i>All are welcome!</i> WNL Calvin Middle School and Westminster High School Bells Wood Carvers meet in Church Basement Chancel Choir WNL Calvin Middle School and Westminster High School Choir Chancel Bells WNL Bible Study and Fellowship: <i>Middle School (6th – 8th) Youth Group</i> WNL Bible Study and Fellowship: <i>High School (9th - 12th) Youth Group</i>
Thurs, Jan 16	7:00a-8:00a 8:15a-9:15a 12:00p-1:00p 5:30p-7:00p 5:30p-8:00p 6:00p-8:00p 6:00p-7:00p 7:00p-8:00p	Retreat in the Real World in the Adult Ed Room Walkers in PEACE Center Soup Group in the Library Session in Anderson Pickle Ball in P.E.A.C.E. Center Gym Mexican Dance Troupe in PEACE Center Spanish Class in P.E.A.C.E. Center, NW Classroom Cub Scout Den Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Fri, Jan 17	10:00a-12:00p	Mahjong Ladies in the Youth Room
Sat, Jan 18	9:30a-2:00p	United Harvest



Taking Down the Greens

Christmas traditions are created from love and the desire to share it so all can enjoy the season. At First Presbyterian Church, our Christmas traditions take on special faith-based meanings: to celebrate the joy of the birth of our savior Jesus Christ and to prepare ourselves for his return to us.

To fully celebrate the season, we gather in one of our favorite traditions to “deck the halls” and “hang the greens.” The beauty of the Church and its people truly come alive in this festive atmosphere.

Just as important as the hanging of the greens is the task of taking them down and storing them properly. This essential service to the Church is yet another way to share your love of it. To share the joy of taking care of the precious Christmas acclamations is also a gift of love to share.

Please consider helping with this task on **Saturday January 11, 2020**. Ask a friend to join us at **9:00 am** with the work, laughter, treats, and the continued joy of Christmas.



2020 Offering Envelopes Are Now Available

They can be found on the wood shelf in the hall outside the office as well as on the Welcome Stand in the Memorial Room.

Donation Station Has Moved Looking to donate items to Hastings Food Pantry, Happy Nappies, Pine Ridge, Brooks's Bookshelf, and/or SASA? The Mission committee has moved the ongoing collection tubs for these projects into the **Fellowship Hall**. If you stop by to take a look, you'll find clearly marked bins with lists of the items for which these agencies are looking. Thank you for your continued support of these vital ministry partners.



Pickle Ball? You are invited to come to the FPC P.E.A.C.E Center located at 7th and Lincoln Ave. Pickle Ball is a fun blend of ping pong, racquetball, and tennis. It is designed for all ages as a healthy activity for young and old alike. It is lower impact than tennis but just as fun! Equipment is available; you just need to show up!



First Presbyterian Church-Hastings has an “APP” for you! Our directory of names, contact information, and corresponding family photos is ready for you to create your login at <http://instantchurchdirectory.com>. Use the email address from your 2018 listing to gain access. Only members will be able to create a login and load an app on their phones.



Food from the Heart Program The women of our church have started a mission of giving to our friends and families. Our plan is to get together on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month at 2:00pm. We will prepare the food for casseroles to be placed in the church freezers. Everything will be ready to go when volunteers arrive. It would be nice to have 5-6 people help prepare the meals. To let Nancy Grams know you are coming to help prepare the casseroles or if you have any questions, call or text at 402-705-8179. The finished casseroles in the freezer are for anyone to take and give away. Feel free to share with non-members also. We care about everyone, so enjoy.

Shop Hands Around the World for your Fair-Trade Christmas gifts.



Our products come from artisans who live in poor areas around the globe. Purchasing their goods helps them to feed their families, send their children to school, and improve their lives by becoming economically self-sufficient. Handcrafts include baskets, scarves, jewelry, woolen hats and mittens, holiday decorations, gourmet chocolates, spices, teas, coffee, and more. Purchasing products from the store also supports our local mission, United Harvest. We give \$100.00 from the store each month to this outreach, which helps to feed those in need in our community. We are open from 9:00-12:00 every Sunday.



Forum Adult Sunday School Class meets at 9:15am in the Adult Ed Room

❖ January 12, 2020: Israel Trip Part 2



Adult Classes

Heirs Apparent Adult Sunday School Class meets at 9:15am in the Anderson Room. Grab a cup of coffee and join us.



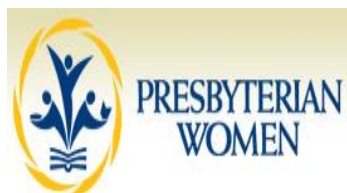
Bible @ Breakfast meets every Wednesday at 7 a.m. in the Parlor. Come join us for coffee, conversation, and study.



Soup Group for Women meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, 12:00-1:00pm in the Library. Bring a sack lunch if you wish for lunch and Fellowship.



Knit Wits. Join us for our knitting/crocheting *fellowship group*, the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, 7:00-8:00/8:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Bring whatever project you're currently working on. Join us for refreshments, fellowship, and fun!



Presbyterian Women meet for food, fellowship, and programs the first Wednesday of the month at 11:45am in Fellowship Hall.

- The next luncheon will be February 5, 2020. Please RSVP to your Circle calling chairman and to the Office by February 3, 2020
- Circle III will prepare lunch and act as kitchen helpers. Circle I will be responsible for setting tables, centerpieces, devotions, nametags, cashier, and hunger cups.

- Margaret Marsh will present the program on *The Census*.
- ✓ Circle I will meet January 15-9:30am
- ✓ Circle II will meet January 15-9:30am
- ✓ Circle III will meet January 15-1:15 pm

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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 twice-monthly 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 Thursday 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.

For He Himself has said,
“I will never leave you
nor forsake you.”

Hebrews 13:5