

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 24.25, Weeks of December 22 and December 29, 2019

NOTABLE NOTES

Did you know the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" has a secret code?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church.

Here is the key to the words of the song:

1. *The partridge in a pear tree* is Jesus Christ.
2. The *two turtle doves* are the Old and New Testaments.
3. The *three French hens* stand for faith, hope, and love.
4. The *four calling birds* are the four gospels. **
5. The *five golden rings* recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament. **
6. The *six geese a-laying* stands for the six days of creation.
7. *The seven swans a-swimming* represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit. **
8. The *eight maids a-milking* are the eight beatitudes. **
9. The *nine ladies dancing* are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. **
10. The *ten lords a-leaping* are the Ten Commandments. **
11. The *eleven pipers piping* stand for the eleven faithful disciples. **
12. The *twelve drummers drumming* symbolizes the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed. **



**Can you name everything for each one? The answers can be found at the end of the newsletter.

So there is your History Lesson and Pop Quiz for today; hope you enjoyed it!

Merry Christmas from the FPC Staff

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

- The committee delivered 14 long-sleeved shirts and a few other miscellaneous items for our migrant workers to Proteus on Dec. 4th.



Hastings Food Pantry sent a thank you note "for the donation of groceries given in November. So many people will be blessed with this donation. It is going to such a wonderful cause as it is helping needy 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."

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!

November Giving Update			
Budget	General Fund Giving	PC(USA)	Communion Offering
\$47,917	\$58,713	\$154	\$685

Brooks' 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' 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 Brook's Bookshelf and other places to donate on our website at brookssbookshelf.org Follow us on Facebook & Instagram! -Kindly, Brooks Borrell & Family

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for the beautiful flowers brought to me by Deacon Sharon Brooks and for the visit from Pastor Damen. Your prayers have helped us through a difficult time because of our health problems and the recent deaths of Jim's brother and sister. We know how God keeps us in His care.

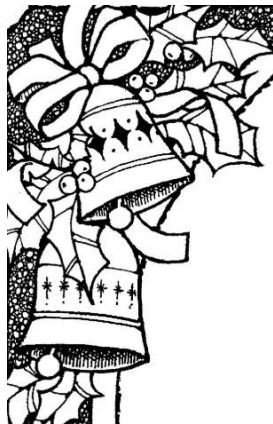
-Mary Jeanne Cooke

Dear Church Family,

Ron and I would like to thank you for the great spaghetti casserole. It was delicious. It came in handy after my recovery from my recent surgery. We appreciate you all.

-Thank you again, Ron & Shirley Maul

Looking Ahead...



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CORNER

The Christmas Season is rapidly approaching! Mark your calendar with these special church family events!

- ♥ **Fourth Sunday of Advent** - December 22
- ♥ **Christmas Eve Services** December 24th
 - 2:00pm College View Retirement Home
 - 7:30pm Traditional Service
 - 5:30pm Family Service
 - 11:00pm Evensong Service in the Chapel



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. Those interested in volunteering with the event should 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.



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.



Donation Station Has Moved Looking to donate items to Hastings Food Pantry, Happy Nappies, Pine Ridge, Brooks' 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.



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias may be purchased in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$15 each. Money raised over the cost will be donated to Salvation Army Utility Assistance Program, which provides money to individuals and families, including children and elderly, towards utilities assistance for necessary electricity, water, and gas.

As with all of The Salvation Army's programs, utilities assistance is an emergency service. To qualify, individuals and families must have received a disconnect notice and meet qualifications of need.

Your donation makes a difference. Please return your order form to the church office as soon as possible.

Poinsettia in memory of: _____

Poinsettia in honor of: _____

Given by: _____

I will take my poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve services: Yes No

I will leave my poinsettia at the church: Yes No



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

- ❖ December 8, 15, 22: Gift of Music
- ❖ January 12, 2020: Israel Trip Part 2



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. Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh will be leading a study on the "Rise of the Apocalyptic Imagination." There is no specific study book designated.

FPC --- December 22, 2019 – January 4, 2020

Sun, Dec 22	8:30a-9:30a 9:15a-10:15a 9:15a-10:15a 10:30a	Lessons & Carols Worship in the Chapel NO Sunday School Children and Youth Adult Sunday School Traditional Worship 4th Sunday of Advent
Mon, Dec 23	8:15a-9:15p 1:00p-3:00p 6:00p-8:00p 7:00p-8:00p 7:30p-8:30p	Walkers in PEACE Center Pickle Ball in PEACE Center Gym Mexican Dance Troupe in PEACE Center Scout Troop 200-Boys/Girls Chorus of the Plains
Tues, Dec 24	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 7:00p-8:30p 7:30p-8:30p 11:00p-12:00a	CHRISTMAS EVE DAY Walkers in PEACE Center Staff Meeting NO-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 FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE NO-Knit Wits in the Parlor TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE EVENSONG CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL
Wed, Dec 25	8:15a-9:15a 7:00a-8:00a 9:30a-10:10a 4:00p-8:15p 7:00a-8:00a	CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NO-Walkers in PEACE Center NO-Bible @ Breakfast in the Parlor NO-HC Chapel at French Memorial Chapel NO-WNL Activities
Thurs, Dec 26	8:15a-9:15a 5:30p-8:30p 6:00p-8:00p 6:00p-7:00p	NO-Retreat in the Real World in Adult Ed Classroom CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Walkers in PEACE Center Pickle Ball in PEACE in Center Gym Mexican Dance Troupe in PEACE Center NE Classroom Spanish Class in PEACE Center NW Classroom
Fri, Dec 27	10:00a-12:00p	Mahjong Ladies in the Youth Room CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Sun, Dec 29	8:30a-9:15a 9:00a-9:45a 10:30a	NO-Taizé Contemplative-Style Worship in the Chapel NO-Sunday School All Ages Traditional Worship Service
Mon, Dec 30	8:15a-9:15a 1:00p-3:00p 2:00p-4:00 6:00p-8:00p 7:00p-9:00p 7:30p-9:30p	Walkers in PEACE Center Pickle Ball in PEACE Center Gym Food from the Heart Prep in the Kitchen Mexican Dance Troupe in PEACE Center Scout Troop 200-Boys/Girls Chorus of the Plains
Tues, Dec 31	8:15a-9:15a 10:30a-11:30a 12:00p-1:00p 1:30p-4:00p 5:30p-8:00p	Walkers in PEACE Center NO-Staff Meeting Bible Study in Anderson Room Quilters meet in P.E.A.C.E. Center Pickle Ball in P.E.A.C.E. Center Gym
Wed, Jan 1		NEW YEAR'S DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NO-Bible @ Breakfast in the Parlor NO-Walkers in PEACE Center NO-HC Chapel at French Memorial Chapel NO WNL Activities
Thurs, Jan 2	7:00a-8:00a 8:15a-9:15a 9:30a-10:10a 4:00p-8:15p 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 3	10:00a-12:00p	Mahjong Ladies in the Youth Room



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

← NOTABLE NOTES - ANSWERS →

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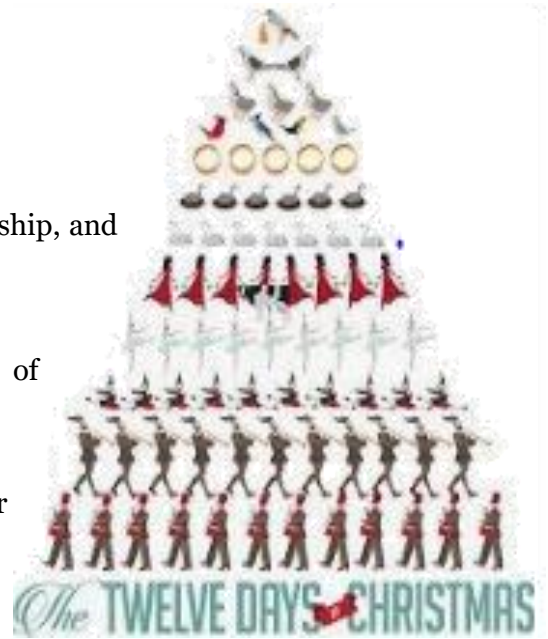
4 Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

5 Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

7 Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy

8

- 1) Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven
- 2) Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- 3) Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
- 4) Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
- 5) Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- 6) Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
- 7) Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- 8) Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



9 Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control

10

- 1) I am the Lord your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
- 2) You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
- 3) Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
- 4) Honor your father and your mother.
- 5) You shall not kill.
- 6) You shall not commit adultery.
- 7) You shall not steal.
- 8) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 9) You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
- 10) You shall not covet ...anything that belongs to your neighbor.

11 Andrew, Bartholomew, James (Son of Zebedee), James (Son of Alphaeus), John, Jude, Matthew, Simon Peter, Philip, Simon the Zealot, and Thomas

12

- 1) I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
- 2) And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.
- 3) Who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
- 4) He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
- 5) He descended into hell. The third day he arose again from the dead.
- 6) He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty.
- 7) He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- 8) I believe in the Holy Spirit,
- 9) The holy catholic Church, the Communion of Saints,
- 10) The forgiveness of sins,
- 11) The resurrection of the body,
- 12) And in life everlasting.

Happy Anniversary

01/02/1999 Neil & Stacy Kerr
01/03/1953 Paul & Ruth Caldwell
01/17/1986 Gaylon & Kim Hermann
01/30/1954 Dean & Verna Meyer



Happy Birthday

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

First Presbyterian Church
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Address Service Requested

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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.

She will give birth to a son,
and you are to give him the name Jesus
because he will save his people
from their sins.

Matthew 1:21