

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 25.25 Weeks of December 6 and December 13, 2020

NOTABLE NOTES

FROM PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

I am writing with another update regarding COVID-19. Session, the leadership council of the church, met last week to discuss the safety of meeting in person. Given the significant spike in COVID-19 diagnoses and hospitalizations over the last few weeks, and the fact that our local South Heartland District Health Department has moved the risk dial needle into the red "Severe" risk zone for spread of the disease Session voted on the following:

- Suspend in-person worship until our meeting on January 21st.
- Provide Zoom meetings for all church-related groups, and limit meetings in the building to 5 people or less with masks and social distancing required.
- Suspend Middle School and High School youth groups meeting in the building until January.
- Close the church building and the PEACE Center to all non-church related groups.

Pastor Damen and I spoke at length about these decisions during our worship service on Sunday 11/22. I provided an update on the rationale behind our decision that you can watch here:

<https://youtu.be/AyNTFJxjw4s>

Pastor Damen preached a thoughtful and faithful sermon on Matthew 25, our call to care for the vulnerable, and how that drives our response to COVID-19 that you can watch here:

<https://youtu.be/OASrHpMzneo>

We recognize how hard this decision is for all of you, it was a very difficult decision for us. The good news is that your church staff and many volunteers are working diligently to provide opportunities for us to connect as a family of faith during Advent and Christmas. A few of those opportunities include:

- An advent devotional guide, written by church members and staff, which was mailed to every home. The guide includes a reverse advent calendar to collect items for our ministry partners.
- Continued remote Christian Education opportunities for all ages include weekly videos and activities for PreK-5th graders and an abundance of Adult Education opportunities.
- Continued Stay-at-Home worship services broadcast on Facebook Live, 1550 AM Radio and television.
- A weekly Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday in Advent at 12noon.
- Weekly broadcasts of previously recorded Choral Cantatas sung by our Chancel Choir every Sunday at 2pm.
- A Drive-In Christmas Eve Service in the Hastings College Football Stadium parking lot at 5:30pm on December 24th. It will include hymns, a special activity for children and candlelit Silent Night.
- A special Christmas Eve evening prayer service broadcast on Facebook Live at 11pm for the night owls.

Please stay tuned for more details on all of these opportunities to celebrate the Advent and Christmas season as a family of faith, even in these strange times. While we deeply lament the lost opportunities to gather in-person in this season, we are seeking to protect the health and safety of our church family and our community and we are grateful for these ways to stay connected in this time.

Your Servants in Christ,

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett and the Session of First Presbyterian Church

Mary Seiler, Brian Johnson, Kay Georgiana, Mary Fisk, Pat Kern, Kris Horton, Bev Rader, Erik Nielsen, Harold Korb, Joe Black, Neil Riley, Scott Shardelow, Cheryl Lockwood

FPC Prayers for:

Cindy Pickett	Family of Erlene Gessford (Gayle Fandry's sister)	Family of Karen Huber
Everly Hogan	Family of Kristine Cook (Katharine Davis' sister)	Norris Swan and family
Jeff Howard	Connie & Tom Kubicka (Chris Junker's parents)	Barry Thomson
Gretchen Lainson	Elaine Schumacher (Vicki Howard's mom)	Carol Medsker
Pastor Greg and family	Melba Trehern (Lisa Unger's mom)	Tommy Thomsen
	Chris Wheeler (Carol Wheeler's son)	Family of Vern Kooy
	Family of Jim Specht (Elaine Specht's son)	Craig and JoAnn Williams

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.

In Memory Of

- ♥ Erlene Gessford, who passed away 11/05/2020. Private grave side services were held at Park View Cemetery. Erlene is Gayle Fandry's sister. Memorials may be given to the Hastings Food Pantry, 918 W 4th Street, Hastings, NE 68901 or the Epilepsy Foundation Nebraska, 108 N 49th St, Ste 210 Omaha, NE 68132.
- ♥ Karen Huber, who passed away 11/18/2020. Services will be held at a later date.



Sunday's 10:30 "Stay at Home" Worship Service is broadcast

- live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings (You don't need to have an account to watch.)
- on the radio during Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. on KICS 1550 AM.
- 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." - 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!

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).

Birth Announcements If you would like a rose on the pulpit to celebrate the birth of a new child in your family, please notify the office.



Looking for a way to give during our time of "Stay at Home" Church?

The church counts on your giving to carry on its work. As you participate in "Stay at Home" Worship, please

take time to

1. mail your donation in,
2. drop by the church and leave your offering in the locked "tithing box" located on the second brick column under the portico.
3. sign up for electronic fund transfers,
4. or give on-line at <https://fpchastings.org/give-online/>

In the days and weeks to come, the church will continue to play a vital role in responding to this virus, just as we did with the flood relief efforts in Nebraska last year. Thank you for your continued support and provision in this time.



The Hands Around the World Store has ordered more coffee. Stop by the church office to re-stock your supply at only \$10 per bag.

PLUS, the store will be OPEN on Sunday, Dec 6 from 1:00 – 2:00p. We will follow COVID rules of no more than 5 people at a time and masks will be required.



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, on compassion, and on individuals with unique differences. Books to range from picture/baby up to early readers.

Every story and every person are 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' Bookshelf and other places to donate on our website at brookssbookshelf.org

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

-Kindly, Brooks Borrell & Family



FPC has a medical equipment library from which members can borrow equipment that they need on a temporary basis. These items will include walkers, bath chair,

crutches, toilet riser, knee scooter, etc. If you have any equipment cluttering your basement that you would like to donate or if you have a temporary need for such an item, please contact Erica Brooks at ericalynn128@gmail.com.



God's Under the Bed

My brother Kevin thinks God lives under his bed.

At least that's what I heard him say one night. He was praying out loud in his dark bedroom, and I stopped outside his closed door to listen. "Are you there, God?" he said. "Where are you? Oh, I see. Under the bed." I giggled softly and tiptoed off to my own room.

Kevin's unique perspectives are often a source of amusement. But that night something else lingered long after the humor. I realized for the first time the very different world Kevin lives in. He was born 30 years ago, mentally disabled as a result of difficulties during labor. Apart from his size (he's 6'2"), there are few ways in which he is an adult. He reasons and communicates with the capabilities of a 7 year old, and he always will. He will probably always believe that God lives under his bed, that Santa Claus is the one who fills the space under our tree every Christmas, and that airplanes stay up in the sky because angels carry them.

I remember wondering if Kevin realizes he is different. Is he ever dissatisfied with his monotonous life? Up before dawn each day, off to work at a workshop for the disabled, home to walk our cocker spaniel, returning to eat his favorite macaroni-and-cheese for dinner, and later to bed. The only variation in the entire scheme are laundry days, when he hovers excitedly over the washing machine like a mother with her newborn child.

He does not seem dissatisfied. He lopes out to the bus every morning at 7:05 eager for a day of simple work. He wrings his hands excitedly while the water boils on the stove before dinner, and he stays up late twice a week to gather our dirty laundry for his next day's laundry chores. And Saturdays -- oh, the bliss of Saturdays! That's the day my dad takes Kevin to the airport to have a soft drink, watch the planes land, and speculate loudly on the destination of each passenger inside. "That one's goin' to Chi-car-go!" Kevin shouts as he claps his hands. His anticipation is so great he can hardly sleep on Friday nights.

I don't think Kevin knows anything exists outside his world of daily rituals and weekend field trips. He doesn't know what it means to be discontent. His life is simple. He will never know the entanglements of wealth or power, and he does not care what brand of clothing he wears or what kind of food he eats. He recognizes no differences in people, treating each person as an equal and a friend. His needs have always been met, and he never worries that one day they may not be.

His hands are diligent. Kevin is never so happy as when he is working. When he unloads the dishwasher or vacuums the carpet, his heart is completely in it. He does not shrink from a job when it is begun, and he does not leave a job until it is finished. But when his tasks are done, Kevin knows how to relax. He is not obsessed with his work or the work of others.

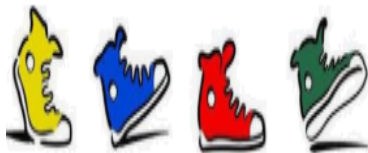
His heart is pure. He still believes everyone tells the truth, promises must be kept, and when you are wrong, you apologize instead of argue. Free from pride and unconcerned with appearances, Kevin is not afraid to cry when he is hurt, angry or sorry. He is always transparent, always sincere.

And he trusts God. Not confined by intellectual reasoning, when he comes to Christ, he comes as a child. Kevin seems to know God -- to really be friends with Him in a way that is difficult for an "educated" person to grasp. God seems like his closest companion.

In my moments of doubt and frustrations with my Christianity, I envy the security Kevin has in his simple faith. It is then that I am most willing to admit that he has some divine knowledge that rises above my mortal questions. It is then I realize that perhaps he is not the one with the handicap -- I am. My obligations, my fears, my pride, my circumstances -- they all become disabilities when I do not submit them to Christ.

Who knows if Kevin comprehends things I can never learn? After all, he has spent his whole life in that kind of innocence, praying after dark and soaking up the goodness and love of the Lord. And one day, when the mysteries of heaven are opened, and we are all amazed at how close God really is to our hearts, I'll realize that God heard the simple prayers of a boy who believed that God lived under his bed.

Kevin won't be surprised at all.
~ Author unknown.



Love to Walk?

During the spring through the early fall, we walk in the beautiful Heartwell Park,

which provides about a one-mile loop – and second loops are available at no extra charge. The Walkers are your solution for getting those daily steps in from **8:30a-9:30a** Monday through Thursday.

Afterwards, we have fabulous Café Justo and good conversation, but, hey, that's the bonus option.

The First Presbyterian Church PEACE Center gym is a great place to walk during the winter months. (Group size limited to 15).

Interested? Call or text Denny Storer at 402 460 8804 for more information on how to join the group and gain access to the PEACE Center on days the weather does not cooperate to walk outside.



Thinking of You

Notes With COVID-19 on the rise, a number of our retirement communities have closed

to visitors again, which can lead to a sense of isolation. We want our members who live in these homes to know that they have a church family that loves them and is thinking about them. One way to do that safely is to send them cards. If you have a few moments, you can drop a card or note into the mail to help them feel connected and remembered. Please contact the church office for names and addresses. Even if you don't know them personally, a card or note can provide a real pick-me-up. Please join us in this important work.



Want some help wrapping your Christmas gifts? Want to support the United Harvest ministry? Here's a way to accomplish both at the same time!!

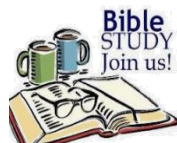
- Judy Hoch will gladly and beautifully wrap your Christmas gifts in exchange for a free will donation to United Harvest.
- Simply call Judy at 402-460-0832 to set up a drop off day/time. (No gifts accepted after December 20th)
- Deliver your gifts to Judy with TO/FROM sticky notes on each. She will provide the box, wrapping, and beautiful bows. You then pick them up and write a (tax-deductible) check to United Harvest. No set fee per box; all free will proceeds will support the great work of United Harvest!
- No matter how you do your Christmas shopping this year....I can wrap for you! Plus...**NO CONTACT drop off and pick up. Totally safe!**
- Heavy wrapping paper, beautiful custom bows, the boxes and tissue paper....all done for you. There is NO set price for wrapping 1 or 100 gifts....just be generous to the United Harvest Food Bank! (Last month alone 600+ families came through the line to receive food assistance). Your check will help to benefit many families.



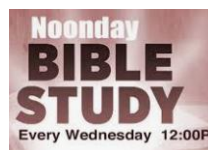
Presbyterian Women PW will NOT meet until further notice. This means there will be NO Circle meetings and no monthly Luncheons.



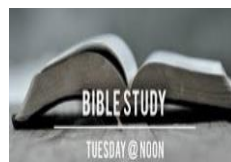
Adult Bible Studies



Heirs Apparent Adult Sunday School, with Curtis Reimer leading, has begun meeting via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:15am. They are studying an Adam Hamilton book entitled *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White* that reflects on religion, morality, and politics. If you would like to join this study, please email or call the church office to get the Zoom link.



Bible at Breakfast has a new time and name! Join us for Noonday Bible Study via ZOOM at noon with Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh as the leader. We will be looking at the Book of Revelation using the text *Revelation & the End of All Things* by Craig R. Koester. To join the study, contact sbbrooks52@gmail.com. All are welcome!



Tuesday Noon Bible Study with Pastor Greg

All are welcome to join this weekly study. The focus for the group discussion and study each week is on the verses to be used on Sunday during worship. The group gathers either by ZOOM Conferencing or in person in the Anderson Room. To join by ZOOM, contact the church office.



The Forum Our regularly scheduled Adult Enrichment hour known as Forum meets most Sundays at 9:15. We won't be meeting in person just yet, but folks can join in the conversation live via Zoom. All Forum sessions will also be recorded and posted to the church's YouTube page so you can watch the session at any time. To join in

for the discussion, please let the church office know, and we'll get you all set up!



Update on Sunday School/Youth Group

Pre K-5th Grades: Families will receive packets of materials in the mail to use as you follow along with video lessons to be posted weekly on our church website <https://fpchastings.org/children/>

6th-8th Grades & 9th to 12th Grades There will be NO Wednesday night youth group during the month of December.

There will be no Sunday morning Sunday School or current 8th Grade Confirmation Class at this time.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

COMING SOON!



Our church is moving to a new kind of church record keeping solution called REALM.

You will be receiving an email invitation sometime in the next month or so to join REALM.

The new program will allow you to

- Look up members in our church directory
- Update your personal information
- Give online – one time & recurring gifts
- View giving history & print giving statements
- Make & keep track of pledges

Why is this important to know?

- We need correct contact information: let us know when you move, change phone numbers, or emails
- You will be able to update your own information as well

- You will be able to view your giving history

Please review the most recent statement you received in the mail for accuracy. If you notice anything that needs to be changed, or if you have a question, please contact our Finance person, Deb, at deb@fpchastings.org so we can get it corrected as soon as possible.



Interested in volunteering at **United Harvest?** You can either register on Facebook or 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.

December 19, 2020		
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting	9:45 AM
A, B	May park and get number starting	10:00 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting	10:15 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting	10:30 AM
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting	10:45 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting	11:00 AM
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting	11:15 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting	11:30 AM



The next Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for **Monday, January 4, 2021**, 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.

Go & Serve Cinnamon Roll Sales

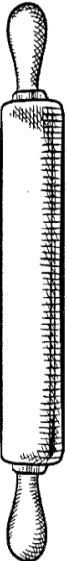


The greatest of all seasons is nearly here: chili season. Luckily, Go & Serve has you covered as we once again be embarking on our cinnamon roll fundraiser. Let your hearts and taste buds rejoice! To place an order, complete the form below and return it to the church office. As with


last year, all of the cinnamon rolls **will be frozen** so that you can bake them whenever you'd like.

Also, we'll be doing two pick-up Sundays. Please indicate on the form when you'd like to pick-up your rolls. If you'd like your rolls by **Nov. 22** then you must turn in the form by **Nov. 14**. If you'd like your rolls by **Dec 13** then you must turn the form by **Dec. 5**.

The cost of the rolls is \$12 per pan (please pay at pick-up) and they come 6 rolls to a pan. Included with each pan is a bag of frosting. With your support, Go & Serve continues to play a vital role in the faith formation of our senior high students. Thank you for all you do on behalf of our youth!



GO & SERVE CINNAMON ROLL FUNDRAISER



Name: _____



Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Pick-Up Date (circle one): Nov. 22 must turn in form by Nov. 14
 Dec. 13 must turn in form by Dec. 5

Number of Pans: _____
 (\$12 a pan, 6 frozen rolls a pan. Please pay at pick-up)

Thank you for your support of Go & Serve!



Tags will be on the **Giving Tree November 21**. The Giving Tree in Fellowship Hall supports clients of Assertive Community Treatments, people with severe and persistent mental

illness living in our community. Most are without family support and live on disability or nothing.

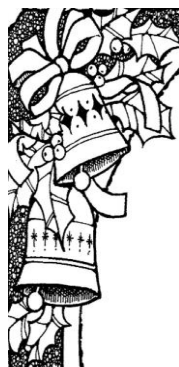
Please take a tag from the tree, choose to give one or two items suggested on the tag, wrap the gifts and place the tag back on them. Return gifts to the tree by Friday, *December 11*, so that ACT staff members have time to deliver the gifts in time for Christmas. Monetary donations may also be taken to the church office, with checks payable to ACT.



Some years, the joy of Christmas feels hard to reach. If this is that year for you, you are welcome at the **Blue Christmas**

Ecumenical Service

in Hastings. The Blue Christmas service makes space for us to recognize that melancholy or grief can feel particularly sharp during the holiday season. It will be a solemn service of reflection, scripture, and candlelight. If you or anyone you know would appreciate the time to recognize the sacred in the midst of the sadness they might be experiencing, please let them know they are welcome to attend *Thursday, December 17th, at 7:30pm via Facebook Live*. Even in our quiet or lonely times, God is with us, holding us and wrapping us in love.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CORNER

The Christmas Season is upon us! Mark your calendar with these special church family events!

♥ Church Family Advent

Devotionals mailed the week of Nov. 16. *Reverse Advent items can be delivered to the church Parlor.*

- ♥ **Hanging of the Greens** - Thank you for all who have helped with giving of yourselves and your prayers to prepare Our Church and Our Hearts for this special time. The Church is not a building. The Church is its people. – The Congregational Life Committee.

- ♥ **Christmas Caroling** – A weekly Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday of Advent at 12noon.
- ♥ **Pre-Recorded Christmas Cantata** – See Information box
- ♥ **2nd Sunday of Advent** - December 6- Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday in Advent at 12noon.
- ♥ **Third Sunday of Advent** - December 13- Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday in Advent at 12noon.
- ♥ **Blue Christmas Ecumenical Service** – December 17 at 7:30 via Facebook Live
- ♥ **Fourth Sunday of Advent** - December 20- Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday in Advent at 12noon.
- **Christmas Eve Services** December 24th
 1. A Drive-In Christmas Eve Service in the Hastings College Football Stadium parking lot at 5:30pm on December 24th. Arrival time begins at 5:00pm to allow for parking and receiving candles and bulletins. Prelude begins at 5:15pm. The service will include hymns, a special activity for children, and candlelit Silent Night.
 2. A special Christmas Eve evening prayer service broadcast on Facebook Live at 11pm for the night owls.



Family Photo Opportunity by the Big Tree

Good news, everyone! This year the Big Tree in the Memorial Room will be decorated by December 7th. Why am I telling you? Many

times in the past, families have come to the church to take their picture by the beautifully decorated tree. If this is something you would like to do, please call the office to schedule a time and make arrangements to get into the church.

First Presbyterian Church - Hastings, Nebraska

A CHRISTMAS GIFT TO OUR COMMUNITY

In hope of making your holiday season more meaningful during these challenging times, First Presbyterian Church will provide four of our previously performed Christmas Cantatas featuring our Choirs and Instrumentalists.

"The Christmas Light"

Friday, Nov. 27 - 2:00 p.m. and Sun., Nov. 29 - 7:00 p.m.

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Friday, Dec. 4 - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 6 - 7:00 p.m.

"Small, Dancing Light"

Friday, Dec. 11 - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13 - 7:00 p.m.

"Christmas Carol Celebration"

Friday, Dec. 18 - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 20 - 7:00 p.m.

Hastings Public Access Channel 181 (Charter) or 16 (Allo)

Available at www.facebook.com/fpchastings (anytime)

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

Check the calendar on the church website for the most accurate list of activities. www.fpchastings.org

Broadcast live "Stay at Home" Sunday Worship at 10:30

- ✓ 10:30 a.m. on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings (FB account not needed)
- ✓ 10:30 a.m. service on KICS 1550 AM
- ✓ on Channel 181 Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.
- ✓ Sunday at 9:00 a.m.



Mark Your Calendar

What's Happening at FPC --- December 6 – December 20, 2020

Session has voted that all in-person meetings must follow the following guidelines through for the safety of our congregation and staff and to comply with the State-Directed Health Measures. 1.) 5 or fewer in attendance, 2.) 1 hour or less in length, 3.) Facemasks will be required, 4.) Social distancing of 6-ft. seating. All boards and committees will have the option to meet in person with 5 or fewer in attendance or continue to meet via conference call or some combination of both.

Sun, Dec 6		2nd Sunday of Advent -Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday in Advent at 12noon.
	9:15a-10:15a	Adult Ed Forum via Zoom Conferencing
	9:15a-10:15a	Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	10:30a	"Stay at Home" Worship Service
	1:00p-2:00p	Hands Around the World Store OPEN
Mon, Dec 7	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
		"Monday Check-in" Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Dec 8	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
	10:30a-11:30a	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
	5:30p-6:30p	Congregational Life via Zoom Conferencing
	6:00p-7:00p	Trustees via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, Dec 9	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
	12:00 1:00p	Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
Thurs, Dec 10	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
	4:30p-5:30p	Mission Committee via Zoom Conferencing
	5:00p-6:00p	Personnel Committee via Zoom Conferencing
Sun, Dec 13		3rd Sunday of Advent -Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday in Advent at 12noon.
	9:15a-10:15a	Adult Ed Forum via Zoom Conferencing
	9:15a-10:15a	Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	10:30a	"Stay at Home" Worship Service
Mon, Dec 14	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
		"Monday Check-in" Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Dec 15	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
	8:30a-4:30p	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
	6:45p-7:45p	Deacons via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, Dec 16	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
	10:00a-11:00a	PW Coordinating Team via Zoom Conferencing
	12:00 1:00p	Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
Thurs, Dec 17	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
	5:30p-6:30p	Session via Zoom Conferencing
Sat, Dec 19	9:30a-2:00p	United Harvest
Sun, Dec 20		4th Sunday of Advent -Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday in Advent at 12noon.
	9:15a-10:15a	Adult Ed Forum via Zoom Conferencing
	9:15a-10:15a	Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	10:30a	"Stay at Home" Worship Service
	1:00p-2:00p	Hands Around the World Store OPEN

Register today to join a book study . . .

Beneath the Same Stars:

A novel of the 1862 U.S. – Dakota War

by Phyllis Cole-Dai



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 the synod,
via Zoom videoconferencing (using computer or phone)

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

Daytime study begins: Monday, January 18, 2021 at 1:30-2:30 PM (CST)

Evening study begins: Monday, January 18, 2021 at 6:30-7:30 PM (CST)

Groups will meet every two weeks for five sessions,
Including a session with the author, Phyllis Cole-Dai



Synopsis: *August 18, 1862.* On the Sioux reservation in southwestern Minnesota, Indians desperate for food and freedom rise up against whites in the region. Sarah Wakefield, the wife of a physician, is taken captive with her two babies. Their fate falls into the hands of the warrior Časke, with whom she has slim acquaintance. As war rages, little does she know how entwined their lives will become.

Beneath the Same Stars is the gripping story of two people, caught between worlds, who are willing to do almost anything to defend those they care about—including each other. But the drama is bigger than themselves. Tragic forces have been set in motion....



Register by contacting Marilyn Stone at mmstone52@att.net

Provide the following information:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| - Email address | - Name |
| - Presbytery | - Phone # |
| | - Afternoon or evening study preference |

Trackable Metrics to gauge how we are doing after 6 months of suspended in-person worship:**Update on "Attendance" Numbers for the last 3 months:**

	2020 "Attendance" Numbers	2019 "In-Person" Numbers
23-Aug	183 + 97 Worship in the Park 280	249
30-Aug	176 + 94 Worship in the Park 270	249
6-Sep	183 + 79 Worship in the Park 262	210
13-Sep	149 + 155 Worship in the Park 304	253
20-Sep	176 + 75 Worship in the Park 251	195
27-Sep	205 + 90 Worship in the Park 295	253
4-Oct	157 + 72 Worship in the Park 229	211
11-Oct	184 + 68 Worship in the Park 252	209
18-Oct	185 + 19 Worship in the Park 204	195
25-Oct		241
1-Nov		264
8-Nov	216 + 7 in-person 223	230
15-Nov		291
22-Nov		302

In-Person Worship Engagements since suspension of worship in Sanctuary on March 22:

April 5: Palm Sunday Parade
 May 3: "Drive-In" Worship/Communion
 May 31: Pentecost Holy Spirit Parade
 June 21: Churchwide Worship in the Park
 July 19: Churchwide Worship in the Park
 August 2: 9am Worship in the Park
 August 9: 9am Worship in the Park
 August 16: 9am Worship in the Park
 August 23: 9am Worship in the Park
 August 30: 9am Worship in the Park
 Sept. 6: 9am Worship in the Park
 Sept. 13: Worship in the Park/Kick-off Sunday with bagpipes and food trucks
 Sept. 20: 9am Worship in the Park
 Sept. 27: 9am Worship in the Park/
 Blessing of the Pets
 Oct. 4: Worship in the Park
 Oct 11: Worship in the Park
 Oct. 18: Worship in the Park

Update on Engagement through our weekly touchpoints:

- Monday Check-In, Friday Feature, Remote Christian Ed: 2,132 Views on Youtube, 2,120 plays on Soundcloud

Additional Events to promote engagement:

June-July: Children's Book Sermon Series with Book Deliveries by Steph

Late June-August: Gilead Gleanings Churchwide Book Group

July-August: Movie/Book/Conversation Group on anti-racism and our faith

July: Open table food packing

July 18: United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry Distribution

July 26: Go and Serve Retrospective Service

July-August: Summer Sermon Song Series

August 15: United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry Distribution

August-October: Coat Drive

September 19: United Harvest

October 17: United Harvest and Coat Distribution

November 21: United Harvest

Update on 2020 Giving:

March: \$31,484 (people were adjusting to mailing in checks or switching to on-line giving)

April: \$67,795 (we recovered)

May: \$66,891

June: \$36,643 (we always see a drop in giving during the summer months)

July: \$40,345

August: \$39,488

September: \$35,702

October: \$54,633

YTD: \$473,260

2019 Giving:

March 2019: \$54,883

April 2019: \$39,018

May 2019: \$30,677

June 2019: \$49,335

July 2019: \$52,812

August 2019: \$52,218

Sept. 2019: \$46,923

Oct. 2019: \$39,314

YTD: \$452,746

We need *average* giving of \$53,000/month to make our budget for the year. We ordinarily see a big boost in giving in November and December, many people pay their whole pledge at once.

Update on 2020 Spending:

March: \$61,389 - April: \$48,185 - May: \$47,100 - June: \$49,955

July: \$55,205 - August: \$48,334 - Sept.: \$58,408 - Oct. \$52,792

YTD TOTAL Expense: \$532,350

YTD Budgeted Expense: \$577,870

We have underspent the budget by \$45,320 so far this year.

We also received PPP Federal Stimulus money of \$73,400, which provides us a "cushion" should giving drop off later in the year. Currently we have a \$51,539 surplus year to date from the PPP and lower expense.

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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.

