

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 25.26 Weeks of December 20 and December 27, 2020

NOTABLE NOTES

FROM PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

We recognize that the practicing of our faith, particularly during the season of Advent and Christmas, is so often tied to in-person gatherings. Because of COVID-19, our opportunities for in-person gatherings have been limited for the last nine months. I miss those gatherings and the opportunity to connect with God, and I am hearing from church members that you feel the same way.

I was talking to Kili Wenburg, our Parish Associate about this. She had a great idea: Let's offer a weekly spiritual practice to help us connect with God and grow in our faith in this strange pandemic time. Kili wrote this introduction for this new practice:

For many of us, attending church on Sunday mornings is our primary, if not only, means of connecting with our church family and with God. We give thanks for the technology and hard work of staff and volunteers who make it possible every week for us to worship "together apart," but it's not quite the same. Additionally, the uncertainty, isolation, stress, losses, and grief associated with living through a pandemic have created an increased need for the hope and security which can only be found in God. Because our familiar way of connecting with God (in-person worship) is not currently available, and because we all have more open calendars than ever before, this is the perfect time to learn new spiritual practices! God is just as present and available to us as ever before; it's just that we may need to learn new ways of seeking and finding God's presence in these new times. To that end, I will be creating short videos (90 seconds or so) each week, each of which will introduce a simple spiritual practice. Try these new practices for just 5 minutes a day, 5 days a week--5 for 5--and watch as your heart learns to recognize God in events, people, feelings, etc. as never before!

All of the practices for December are based on the Advent Devotional guide our church published, which we mailed to every home. If you need a new copy, please reach out to the church office, or you can access a digital version on our website: [https://fpchastings.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-Advent-Devotional Indwelling-of-God.pdf](https://fpchastings.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-Advent-Devotional%20Indwelling-of-God.pdf)

Each Sunday in worship, we will introduce a new practice and then post the video links so that you can revisit the practices.

Here is a link to a video of the first practice: <https://youtu.be/UpnyrDRpe4o>

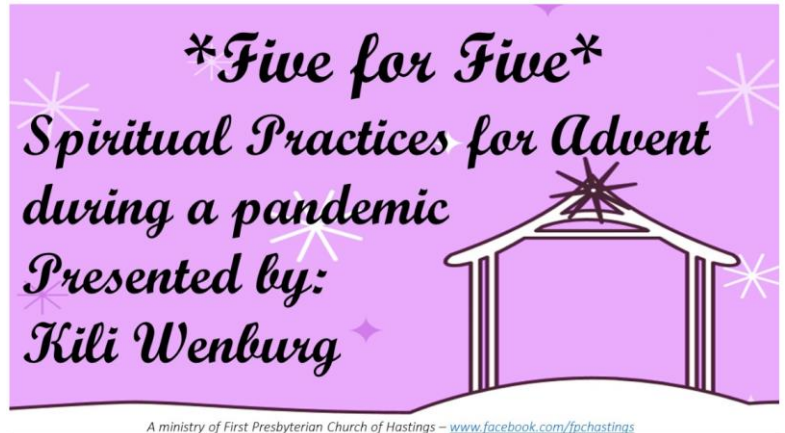
Here is a link to a video of the second practice: <https://youtu.be/k920F5BqJkg>

Here is a link to a video of the third practice: <https://youtu.be/PMaQcO-S8cc>

My prayer is that these spiritual practices will help you stay connected to God and grow in your faith in this time. Stay tuned as we post more videos in the coming weeks and have a blessed Advent season!

Your Servants in Christ,

Pastor Greg and Kili



FPC Prayers for:

Cindy Pickett	Family of Erlene Gessford (Gayle Fandry's sister)	Family of Karen Huber
Jeff Howard	Family of Norma Cropley	Norris Swan and family
Gretchen Lainson	Family of Burdetta Fricke	Barry Thomson
Carol Medsker	Connie & Tom Kubicka (Chris Junker's parents)	Tommy Thomsen
Pastor Greg and family	Elaine Schumacher (Vicki Howard's mom)	Family of Vern Kooy
	Melba Trehern (Lisa Unger's mom)	Craig and JoAnn Williams
	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.

In Memory Of

- ♥ Erlene Gessford, who passed away 11/05/2020. Erlene is Gayle Fandry's sister.
- ♥ Karen Huber, who passed away 11/18/2020. Services will be held at a later date.
- ♥ Norma Cropley, who passed away 11/19/2020. Norma is Steve Cropley's Mom.
- ♥ Burdetta Fricke, who passed away 12/02/2020. Burdetta is Cindy Frickie's Mom.



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.

Dear church members,

My family and I wish to thank the many church members for the cards and prayers for us after the death of our Lyn. She was a compassionate and loving person whom we will greatly miss. Again, thank you for caring.

- Alice Throckmorton

Notes for your Information:

1. The 2021 Offering Envelopes are in the Church Office, stop in and pick one up!
2. The 2021 Jan/Feb/March Daily Bread Devotions have arrived; both large print and regular print.



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 Sunday, Dec. 20, from 1:00 – 2:00p. We will follow COVID rules of no more than 5 people at a time with masks required.



Brooks's 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.



What If God Had an Answering Machine?

Imagine praying and hearing this:

"Thank you for calling My Father's House. Please select one of the following four options:"

- * Press 1 for requests.
- * Press 2 for thanksgiving.
- * Press 3 for complaints.
- * For all other inquiries, Press 4.

What if God used the familiar excuse:

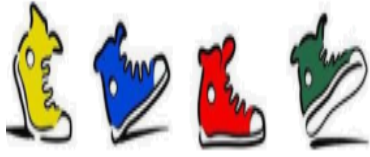
"All of the angels are helping other customers right now. Please stay on the line. Your call will be answered in the order it was received."

Can you imagine getting these kinds of responses as you call on God in prayer?

- * If you'd like to speak with Gabriel, press 1.
- * For Michael, press 2.
- * For any other angel, press 3.
- * If you want King David to sing you a psalm, press 6.
- * To find out if your relative is here, enter his/her date of death and listen for the list that follows.
- * For reservations at My Father's House, simply press the letters J-O-H-N on the keypad, followed by the number 3-1-6.
- * For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth and where Noah's ark is, wait until you get here!
- * Our computers show that you have called once today already. Please hang up immediately.
- * This office is closed for the weekend. Please call again Monday. End of message.

Thank God, you can't call Him too often!!! You only need to ring once and God hears you. Because of Jesus, you never get a busy signal. God takes each call and knows each caller personally. When you call and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help and He will say: "Here am I!"

~ 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 5).

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.

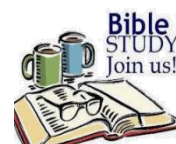
- Simply call Judy at 402-460-0832 to set up a drop off day/time. (No gifts accepted after December 20th)
- Deliver your gifts to Judy with TO/FROM sticky notes on each. She will provide the Heavy wrapping paper, beautiful custom bows, the boxes and tissue paper....all done for you. There is NO set price 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.
- 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!**



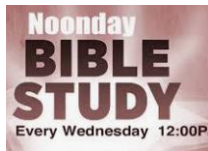
Presbyterian Women PW will NOT meet until further notice. This means there will be NO Circle meetings and no monthly Luncheons.



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 at this time.

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



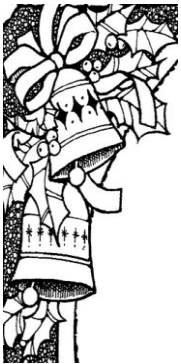
The next Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for **Monday, January 4, 2021**, from 12 noon – 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Mark

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.



Interested in volunteering at **United Harvest**? You can register on the United Harvest Facebook page. Volunteer shifts are 9:30-12:00 and 12:00-2:00.

January 16, 2021		
A, B	May park and get number starting at:	9:45 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting at:	10:00 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting at:	10:15 AM
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting at:	10:30 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting at:	10:45 AM
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting at:	11:00 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting at:	11:15 AM
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting at:	11:30 AM



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.

- ♥ **Christmas Caroling** – A weekly Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday of Advent at 12noon.
- ♥ **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 (PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE EARLIER THAN 5:00) 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 is all decorated and beautiful. 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 are interested in, please call the office or click on the link below to schedule a time. Please call the office to make arrangements to get into the church after office hours.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nythntUcRVzSPr1nQAg_7Z6Le2LBXpePtmLkyYS8Hc/edit#gid=0

POINSETTAS



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 20 – January 3, 2021

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 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
Mon, Dec 21	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
		"Monday Check-in" Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Dec 22	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
Wed, Dec 23	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
	12:00 1:00p	Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
Thurs, Dec 24	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
	5:30p	DRIVE-UP CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT HC
	11:00p	FACEBOOK LIVE FROM THE CHAPEL
Fri, Dec 25	OFFICE CLOSED	CHRISTMAS DAY
Sun, Dec 27	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 28	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
	OFFICE CLOSED	CHRISTMAS BREAK
		"Monday Check-in" Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Dec 29	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
	OFFICE CLOSED	CHRISTMAS BREAK
Wed, Dec 30	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
	OFFICE CLOSED	CHRISTMAS BREAK
Thurs, Dec 31	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
	OFFICE CLOSED	CHRISTMAS BREAK
Fri, Jan 1, 2021	OFFICE CLOSED	NEW YEAR'S DAY
Sun, Jan 3	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

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 |

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patti Deveny



Amanda & Kevin Turner family



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

1/1	Nyareak Deng	1/11	Robin Koozer	1/20	Joni McCoy
	Jim Duval	1/13	Norris Swan	1/22	Nancy Grams
	Georgie Evans		Carlee Wissing		Barry Thomson
	Cole Wissing	1/14	Dale Behrens	1/23	Maisey Olson
1/4	Duane Ochsner		Erin Gastmann		Shanda Spurgeon
	Audrey Watson		Bob Johnson	1/24	Melissa Davis
	Dan Zabloudil		Maddux Pumroy	1/25	Morgan Karloff
1/5	Carla Fike		Marie Rasmussen		Gretchen Lainson
1/6	Linda Carllson	1/15	Caleb Schukei	1/26	Laura Little
	Paul Krieger		Kristen Schwarz	1/27	Leslie Christensen
	June Nielsen	1/16	LaVern Davis		Lulu Schmidt
	Brady Rhodes		Mike Karloff	1/28	Erica Brooks
1/7	Robert Nedderman		Ann Koozer		Jim Freeburger
1/9	Harper Launchbaugh	1/17	Rich McKenzie		Jessica Meeske
1/11	Larry Butler	1/18	Kathy Reimer	1/29	Sue Armstrong
	Dora Horsley	1/19	Kathy Illingworth	1/30	Gaylon Hermann
					Javae Redinger

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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.



Joy
TO THE
WORLD
THE
LORD
HAS
come