

1 The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 26.02 Weeks of January 31 and February 7, 2021

NOTABLE NOTES

FROM PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

Thank you for all the ways that you contributed to the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings in 2020! Once again, it is time for our Annual Report, which has been posted on the Church Website. I invite you to take some time to read through this report and learn about the ways that God has been at work through this family of faith over the last year.

2020 was the most peculiar year I have ever experienced in church ministry. However, even in the midst of the grief, isolation, and suffering brought on by the pandemic, God was still at work through First Presbyterian Church of Hastings! As you read through the pages of the Annual Report, you will encounter stories of hope, stories of connection, and an overarching narrative of God's creative love at work. Read about how God continued to work through our music ministries. Read about God helping us find new and innovative ways to worship. Read about God inspiring the ministries of compassion as we reached out to our members and our community through care teams and grocery deliveries. Read about God pointing us to new ways of ministry and mission and reminding us that we are called to be God's hands and feet, particularly when the world feels like it is turned upside down.

While 2020 was full of challenges, it was also full of God's redeeming love and grace. We hope that this Annual Report will remind you of that as you learn about and reflect on all of the remarkable ministry that God did through First Presbyterian Church of Hastings this year.

Due to COVID-19, our Annual Congregational Meeting was held remotely this year on Sunday 1/31/21 immediately following the Stay-at-Home worship service. It looked a bit different than other years, but due to some creativity on the part of church staff and the wonders of technology, we were able to accomplish everything that needed to happen.

Once again, thank you for your steadfast support of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings. I hope you enjoy reading through this year's Annual Report and reflecting on the ways that God is at work through our beloved church.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

FPC Prayers for:

Lois Hafer	Eleanor Oliver	Henry Black
Cindy Pickett	Connie & Tom Kubicka (Chris Junker's parents)	Rachael Lay
Jeff Howard	Elaine Schumacher (Vicki Howard's mom)	Norris Swan and family
Gretchen Lainson	Melba Trehern (Lisa Unger's mom)	Tommy Thomsen
Carol Medsker	Chris Wheeler (Carol Wheeler's son)	Craig and JoAnn Williams
Pastor Greg and family	The family of Rev. Roger Williams, (Colleen Schukei's dad)	Paul Nuss and family

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

- ♥ Luella Hunzeker, who passed away 01/01/2021. Luella is the mother of Paul Nuss.



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. Thank you for your continued support and provision in this time.

The February Communion Offering will go to the Salvation Army.

Dear Friends, It is our pleasure to acknowledge your gift to The Theological Education Fund of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Your generosity, together with the investment management provided by the Presbyterian Foundation, continue to safeguard those whom God and the Church call as our next generation of ministers.

Thank you for supporting future ministers of Christ's Church. To learn more about the impact of your gift, feel free to reach out to me by phone or email, or visit www.presbyterianfoundation.org/tef. ~Sincerely, The Rev. Dr.

Lee Hinson-Hasty, Senior Director, Theological Education Funds Development

Dear Friends, Thank you for your charitable gift to Healthy Beginnings at Mary Lanning Healthcare. Your gift will assist in the continuation of providing help and encouragement to parents and families in the region. ~Sherrie Hollister, Mary Lanning Healthcare Foundation

Dear Friends, What a wonderful gift you have given to Crossroads Mission Avenue! Thank you for your recent contribution, which will be used toward the on-going needs of our guests in this New Year. We can't tell you how much we appreciate your support for our life-changing work with some of Hastings' most forgotten individuals: the homeless.

2020 has been a hard year for all of us, but at Crossroads we see daily how our community is pulling together, sharing our resources and making sure that needs are met. Your generosity is providing for the emergency needs of our guests, and we are so grateful for your partnership that enables us to step in and help when our hurting neighbors are at their lowest. The holidays are often difficult, and your contribution lets our guests know that someone in their community cares enough to make sure they can enjoy good food and a warm bed during the holiday season. But your donation goes so much farther than that, and allows us to provide a 4-Phase Recovery Program, transitional housing, and personalized case management, which will equip our guests for successful living after their time at Crossroads. Most importantly, you are bringing our guests the opportunity to hear the transforming message of God's love, which can bring true change to every life.

Thank you for your generous donation and commitment to improving the lives of many hurting, homeless guests here at Crossroads. You are making a difference that cannot be measured. ~God Bless You, Daniel Buller, Executive Dir.

Dear Friends, We want to send a note to thank you for your generous donation given to the Hastings Food Pantry. What a wonderful donation! So many people will be blessed with

your giving. Your gift helps so much, especially during this time of pandemic.

It's only because of the donations of caring people like you that we are able to meet the needs of the hungry in our community.

Since 1982, the Hastings Food Pantry, an all-volunteer organization, has been privileged to serve Hastings and the surrounding area with emergency food. Again, we thank you for joining us in our efforts. ~God bless in all you do! Hastings Food Pantry Board of Directors

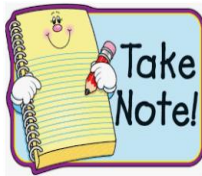
Dear Friends, The Board of Directors, the volunteers, and homeowners of the Hastings Area Habitat for Humanity would like to thank you for your generous donation during our fall campaign. This gift goes a long way in helping to fund the building of homes that provide safe, affordable housing to families in need.

We are so grateful to you for thinking of our organization and 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. Thank you so very much! ~Patty Kneale, Board Member

Dear Friends, Thank you for your gift to Hastings college! Your generosity and support during these incredibly challenging times makes a significant impact on our students, faculty, and staff. Our alumni and friends of the college have been wonderful during this most important time. We can't thank you enough for what you are doing to make this special place strong for future generations of Broncos!

We are also excited to have Dr. Lloyd serving as the President of Hastings College. His long-standing family connection and his extensive experience in higher education sets the stage for a bright future. Most recently, we have announced innovative partnerships with Bryan College of Health Science, Central Community College--Hastings, the University of NE at Omaha, and the University of NE medicine, which will create robust career pathways for our students. These partnerships along with our dedicated faculty will set the stage for a thriving campus.

Thank you again on behalf of the Hastings College Foundation and Alumni Offices! ~Gary Freeman, Executive Director.



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.
3. Stephanie Brader, Director of Education for Children and Youth, is in need of magazines with "lots" of pictures such as advertisements or in articles for use in Sunday School curriculum.



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.



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.



Looking Back, Looking Ahead

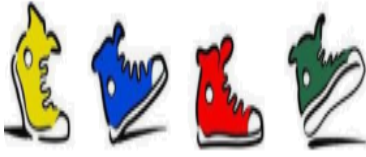
2020 is coming to an end, and some would say not a day too soon. In many very dramatic ways, the year was like none other than we have experienced before, and it was not at all what we expected for the most part.

Looking back on what has happened this year, we grieve with those who lost loved ones and lost jobs due to COVID, we thank health care workers who treated the sick and dying, we give thanks for those who have recovered from COVID. As the Bible says, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15). In addition, we sorrow over the civil unrest that occurred and pray for resolution to racial strife. As the Bible says, "Live in harmony with one another" (Romans 12:16). That should always be our goal.

Looking ahead to 2021 gives us a chance to have hope as the introduction of COVID vaccines comes to pass. We look ahead with joy as the promise of healing is on the horizon. We look ahead to peace in the days ahead now that we have celebrated that the Prince of Peace has come. The new year helps us to gain a new perspective on our lives. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, we are reminded that "if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" Every day we are made new in Christ, and that is the blessing that can carry us forward with confidence into the unknown circumstances that await us in the weeks and months ahead.

As you look back and look forward this New Year's, always remember to look up to God for the help and guidance you need each and every day. He always has his eye on you.

~ Creative Christian Perspectives, Blog by Mark Zimmermann



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.



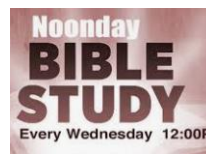
Presbyterian Women PW will not meet until further notice. This means there will be no Circle meetings and no monthly Luncheons.



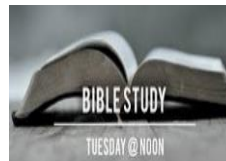
Heirs Apparent Adult Sunday School, with Curtis Reimer leading, meets via Zoom most Sunday mornings at 9:15am. Heirs Apparent

is doing study entitled *Dream Big: know what you want, why you want it, and what you're going to do about it* by Bob Goff. We will continue meeting via zoom. To join this study, please email Curtis at teece4@gmail.com 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 at any time!



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.



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! The next class begins 02/21/2021 with a 6-part study on the Isenheim Altarpiece led by Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh.

If you want to go back and watch a previous Forum, it can be found on the church YouTube page

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh5z-uePAXhoKVfay2w4g/videos>



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!



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 **Tuesday, March 30, 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.

February 20, 2021		
C, D, E	May park and get number starting at:	9:45 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting at:	10:00 AM
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting at:	10:15 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting at:	10:30 AM
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting at:	10:45 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting at:	11:00 AM
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting at:	11:15 AM
A, B	May park and get number starting at:	11:30 AM

Created Anew

A Sermon Series that highlights God's creativity, and helps us discover the creativity in ourselves, as we explore what it means to be a Christian in the world today.

Jan. 10: Genesis 1:1-5
God Created. Now what?

Jan. 17: Galat. 5:1, 13-26
Creating Christian Freedom

Jan. 24: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Creativity in Connection

Jan. 31: 1 Cor. 8:1-13
Being the Epiphany

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.



What's Happening at FPC --- January 31– February 14, 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.) 15 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 15 or fewer in attendance or continue to meet via conference call or some combination of both.

Sun, Jan 31	9:15a-10:15a 9:15a-10:15a 10:30a 11:30a	Adult Ed Forum via Zoom Conferencing Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing "Stay at Home" Worship Service Congregational Meeting
Mon, Feb 1	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM "Monday Check-in" Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Feb 2	8:30a-9:30a 10:30a-11:30a 12:00p-1:00p 5:30 p-6:30p	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing WAM via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, Feb 3	8:30a-9:30a 10:00a-11:00a 12:00 1:00p	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM PW Coordinating Team Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
Thurs, Feb 4	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM
Sun, Feb 7	9:15a-10:15a 10:30a	Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing "Stay at Home" Worship Service
Mon, Feb 8	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM "Monday Check-in" Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Feb 9	8:30a-9:30a 10:30a-11:30a 12:00p-1:00p 4:30p-5:30p 5:30p-6:30p 6:00p-7:00p	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing Mission via Zoom Conferencing Congregational Life via Zoom Conferencing Trustees via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, Feb 10	8:30a-9:30a 12:00 1:00p	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
Thurs, Feb 11	8:30a-9:30a 5:00p-6:00p	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM Personnel via Zoom Conferencing
Sun, Feb 14	10:30a	"Stay at Home" Worship Service

First Presbyterian Church
621 North Lincoln Avenue
Hastings, NE 68901
Phone: 402-462-5147, Fax 402-462-6818
Email: fpc@fpchastings.org
Website: www.fpchastings.org

Address Service Requested

The Home Page

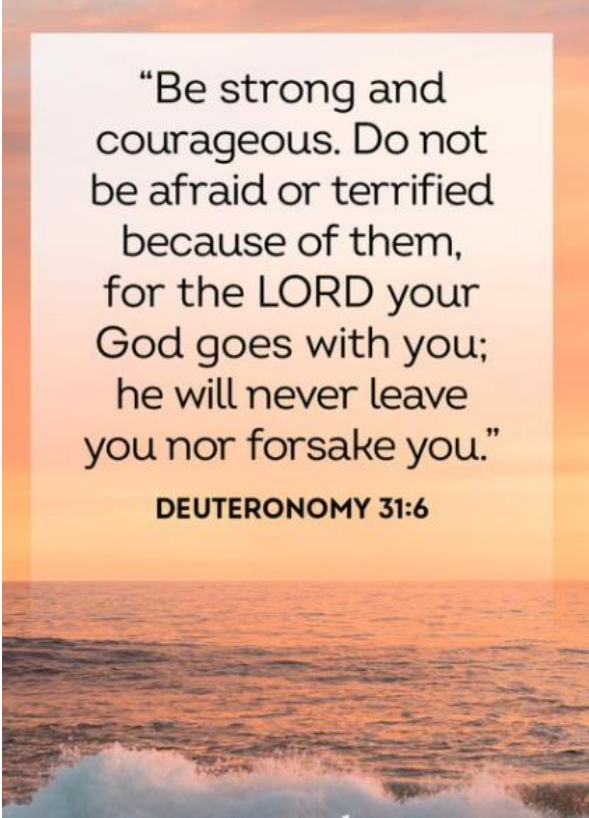
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621 N. Lincoln Ave.
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Senior Pastor: Greg Allen-Pickett

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.



“Be strong and
courageous. Do not
be afraid or terrified
because of them,
for the LORD your
God goes with you;
he will never leave
you nor forsake you.”

DEUTERONOMY 31:6