

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS, NE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



The Vision of First Presbyterian Church

(Our purpose)

Sharing the love of Christ from the heart of Hastings since 1873

The Mission of First Presbyterian Church

(How we attain our purpose)

Welcoming all;
Living the love of God and neighbor;
Seeking to transform ourselves, our community, and our world to be
more Christ-like through service, worship, prayer, education, and
fellowship.

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
Sharing the love of Christ from the heart of Hastings since 1873

Head of Church: Jesus Christ

Senior Pastor: Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

Director of Children & Family

Ministries: Stephanie Brader

Organist and Music Coordinator: Linda Vollweiler

Calvin/Westminster Choir Director: Linda Johnson

Praise/Alleluia Choir Directors: Tim and Teresa Canady

Praise/Alleluia Bells Choir Director: Dr. Susan Oliver

Accompanist: Mary Plock

Scholar in Residence: Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh

Ministers: Members of the Church

Associate Pastor: Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Parish Associate: Kili Wenburg

Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Robin Koozer

Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster

Bells Director: Dr. Byron Jensen

Church Office Administrator: Jean Matheny

Facilities Manager: Tony Calhoun

Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey

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First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska
2021 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AGENDA

Sunday, January 31, 2021

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Moderator

Mary Seiler, Clerk of the Session

OPENING PRAYER – Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

MINUTES

Approval of minutes from congregational meeting held January 26, 2020 (See pg. 27)

STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS & PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT

- Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Senior Pastor

CLERK'S REPORT – Mary Seiler, Clerk of Session

FINANCIAL REPORT & PRESENTATION OF BUDGET – Harvey Freetly, Chair of Trustees

TERMS OF CALL FOR PASTORS – Mary Seiler, Clerk of Session

FOUNDATION REPORT – Mike Karloff, Chair of Foundation

2020 CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

– Kay Georgiana, Nominating Committee Moderator

ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2020 (Class of 2023) – Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

Deacons (5)	Session (4)	Trustees (3)
Teresa Canady	Neil Riley	Sue Horton
Jake Stokely	Jodi Graves	Stan Essink
Ann Koozer	Ben Welch	C.L. Wimer
Linda Johnson	Kathy Amyot	
Linda Vollweiler		
Class of 2022: Rich McKinzie (fill out remainder of Joan Shaw term)		

ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2021 - Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

At-Large Members:

2021	2022	2023(Proposed)
Carol Storer	Mary Plock	Teresa Luther
Kim Creech	Sandra Wimer	Brian Johnson

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT, CLOSING PRAYER – Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann, Associate Pastor

TERMS OF CALL FOR REV. GREG ALLEN-PICKETT

TITLE: Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

Head of Staff - Salary	\$ 60,663
Head of Staff - Housing Allowance	\$ 29,664
Head of Staff - Pension/Medical Insurance	\$ 36,300
Head of Staff - Travel, Prof. Expenses, Continuing Ed	\$ 5,000

TERMS OF CALL FOR REV. DAMEN JENSEN-HEITMANN

TITLE: Associate Pastor

Associate Pastor - Salary	\$ 39,000
Associate Pastor - Housing Allowance	\$ 13,400
Associate Pastor - Pension/Medical Insurance	\$ 16,400
Associate Pastor Travel, Prof. Expenses, Continuing Ed	\$ 1,500

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Annual Report 2020

I wonder how many ways there are to say, “2020 was a strange year, wasn’t it?” Perhaps the compilation of these annual reports will give us at least some indication, as I suspect that nearly every one of these reports will begin with some variation on that phrase. During the COVID-related weirdness of 2020, my role as Associate Pastor has shifted, changed, and remained rewarding.

In my official capacity, I continue to serve as staff liaison to both the Global Mission & Local Social Witness and Congregational Life committees. Both committees have gone about their business in creative and heartfelt ways during this year, and I appreciate being able to serve with them in various capacities. Additionally, I have worked with the Adult Ed committee and have from time, to time sat in on other committees as needed or as was appropriate. I also continue to assist in leading worship and have maintained a regular preaching schedule.

Much has remained the same over the course of the year, and much has changed as well. A good portion of this year’s work has been trying to figure out new methods to deliver opportunities for spiritual growth and enrichment. For example, as we moved into the Fall of 2020, I was able to work with Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh to shift Forum (one of our regular Adult Enrichment opportunities) into an exclusively on-line format. Forum has continued, with sessions focused on a variety of topics from anti-racism to the Gospel of Matthew, as we’ve discovered new ways to be together while being apart.

Along those lines, as the pandemic set in and our isolation continued, I was able to play a role in developing new ways for our members to connect to their faith and to one another. Projects such as the Monday Check-In and Friday Features help our congregation to continue to reflect on their faith, even though we cannot gather together. Over the summer, I organized a book club that took advantage the wisdom of some of our members and new technology to engage people in continued conversation and prayer. The quick development of these ventures helped us maintain our identity as a community of faith at a time when that could have slipped out of our hands.

It seems that much of my work this year has been about finding ways to not only maintain but to also cultivate community and connection. The creation of both the Advent and Lent devotionals certainly went about that work as well. It was tremendously rewarding to pull together devotionals created by our own members and staff that we were able to use as a church family.

Also, this year I was blessed to continue to work with our Senior High youth. This is, perhaps, the area that has been and continues to be most affected by COVID. We paused Sunday school and youth group early last spring. We had to cancel our Go & Serve trip in the summer. And though we have been able to meet again this fall, it has only been on Wednesday evening and not on Sunday mornings as well. I am saddened to think of the conversations and formative experiences that we have missed by being apart. Our time together this fall has been good. We’ve studied the bible, played games, and once again made a silly number of cinnamon rolls. If you need a lesson in resiliency, I suggest you hang out with some youth sometime soon as their hopefulness and enthusiasm continue to surprise me. I wonder where they pick up such things.

Through all of the anxiety and uncertainty of 2020, as I look back, I feel as though I’ve been of use. I like that feeling. May God put all of us to use in our own time and in our own way.

Peace and all good,

Damen Jensen-Heitmann

PARISH ASSOCIATE

Annual Report 2020

Greetings from Kili Wenburg, *Parish Associate*!

Like it did with nearly everyone, 2020 threw me for a loop!

This spring, I was very sad that my beloved Retreat in the Real World group had to shift from in person to Zoom gatherings for the last ten or so of our meetings, but at least most of us were able to finish the full curriculum, and we even enjoyed a delayed “graduation” celebration in August.

My summer project involved the convening of an ad hoc committee (the Membership Rolls Update Committee), which was tasked with defining membership categories for our church (see new definitions in proposed bylaw amendment “Article II”) and then applying those definitions. This process resulted in what may feel like a “loss” for our church in that the number of “Active Members” was reduced when these new definitions were applied. I would encourage us all to see this not as a “loss,” however, but simply as a “correction,” as the updated numbers provide a more accurate accounting within our membership categories. Please note that individuals can *easily* be transferred from one category to another as their involvement evolves over time, and don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the categories in general or about your particular current designation.

This fall, with in-person offerings on hold, I’ve shifted my attention to additional administrative matters and have enjoyed working with Pastor Greg on a few new projects, such as

- Better aligning our day-to-day operations with our bylaws
- Creating a handbook featuring a churchwide calendar of tasks to guide committee work in the future
- Slightly reorganizing the committee framework to streamline lines of communication between committees and Session and to ensure even and consistent elder representation on all the church committees.

Finally, this winter I have thoroughly enjoyed creating brief weekly videos called “5-for-5’s” in which I describe a new spiritual practice in each and then challenge listeners to try it out for 5 minutes a day, 5 days a week. These practices are being offered in hopes of equipping folks with new ways of connecting with God and one another while we are unable to worship together in person.

Though things looked different in 2020, I know God was with us, loving, strengthening, and guiding us through all the challenges we faced. Praise God!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & YOUTH
Stephanie Brader

Annual Report 2020

I'll be honest; the last thing I wanted to do was sit down, think about this last year, and summarize what it entailed for the CE Programming at FPC. However, I did it. I started out like every other year. I opened up my calendar and noted some of the special events or dates. This got my memory bank fired up. Now, you can see why I really didn't want to do this! I mean really, there couldn't be all that much to write about since we couldn't gather in-person at the church. Guess what? I was wrong, and here are a few highlights!

2020 started out pretty normal with our typical Sunday School and WNL routine. Then we hit the middle of March. Due to Covid-19, the foot traffic in the church building slowed considerably; however, "being the church" continued strong as ever. A big part of "being the church" is learning more about God and making the connections that help us do that. So I put my mind to work. How can we continue learning and connecting if we are stuck at home? From this question was born our Kids' Corner for Ages 3-5th grade. From my home, I was able to record short video lessons and make them available online. These brief video lessons were posted on our website each Wednesday (April 1-May 13) along with a link that offered different crafts, puzzles, coloring pages, and other learning activities. Each of these lessons mirrored the scripture lessons for the following



Sunday. Throughout April and May, I also met with the 6th-8th Graders via Zoom each Wednesday evening. It was a wonderful hour of fellowship, learning, and praying. On May 20, we wrapped up the 2019/20 curriculum year with a "Virtual BINGO Bash" for families with children age

3 through 8th Grade.

Unfortunately, both our Traditional and Special-Needs Vacation Bible Schools scheduled for the first week in June were cancelled. However, I was able to box up the plans and materials that I had prepared and can use them for our next VBS!

During June and July, I put on my delivery hat, or should I say delivery mask, and delivered books and goodie bags (a great way to use all of the Easter Egg Hunt candy donations since we had to cancel the hunt) to all FPC children 5th grade and younger. The church purchased books that were used in the Children's Books Summer Sermon Series, and each child received one of the six books. My heart was filled with joy while visiting "my kids" and making the deliveries.

Planning for the start of the 2020/21 curriculum year was challenging and fluid. Eventually, it was decided that 5th Grade and younger children would continue to not meet in person for Sunday School



or WNL. In place of our in-person gatherings, we developed virtual lessons that were posted weekly for two age groups, PreK-2nd Grade and 3rd-5th Grade. With the help of our wonderful Sunday School and WNL Bible Study teachers, two age-appropriate, meaningful, lectionary-guided, and bible-based lessons were produced each week from September 13-November 22...that's 22 video lessons. Each FPC child received a packet of materials in the mail to use alongside the weekly lessons. A huge thank you goes out to the teachers that helped lead the lessons: Leah Ratzlaff, Traci Boeve, Kathy Reimer, Ann Koozer, Jessica Allen-Pickett, Nancy Grams, Lois Hafer, Pamela Schlichtman, Chelby Schlichtman, and Ben Welsch!

During these months, I tried to find a way for our 2019/2020 Confirmation Class to meet and finish the "confirmation process." Ultimately, we ended up gathering in person on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 for several weeks. Then on November 8, four youth affirmed their faith, and our church was blessed with four new active members: Tristan Propp, Jordan Norris, Jonah Snell, and Selah Wenburg. As for our 6th-8th Graders, the recommendation to meet in person on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 pm was approved by the Session. So we met (wearing masks and following social distancing guidelines) from September 13-November 18. The youth, leaders, and I had such a great time together...learning about our faith, praying for and looking out for each other, spending time discerning what some of the bible stories mean to us and how they relate to

us in this day and time. Unfortunately, after Thanksgiving, the in-person gatherings had to come to a halt. However, we continue to look in on one another and look forward to gathering again, whether in-person or virtually, in January.



With the arrival of the Season of Advent, I switched gears a bit and decided to create only one lesson video each week for children ages 3 through 5th Grade. First, the children were encouraged to participate in the devotions and prayers with their families using the Devotional Guide 2020. I mailed each child a "kit" of activity supplies to use with each video lesson. Each Sunday, a short lesson video that correlated with the scripture passages in the Devotional Guide 2020 was posted on our website. The video included a brief lesson and instructions on how to create a decoration to help

reinforce the lesson and to create a way to remember these lessons from year to year. The 6th-8th Grade youth were encouraged to participate in the Advent devotionals and prayers alone or with their families throughout the Season of Advent.

Finally, I cannot end my report without a couple of shout outs. Usually, this isn't a part of my report, but it is a MUST this year! First, a big THANK YOU to the Children & Youth Christian Education Committee (Irina Belikova-Erickson, Nancy Grams, Amy Hermes, Kris Horton, Kathy Reimer, Lindsey Stout, and Harold Korb). Your continued support of the Christian Education programming at FPC is a great blessing! You've helped create and form some amazing Christian Education opportunities for our children and youth, despite the restrictions placed upon us all. You've been great in stepping up last minute to help put together learning packets to mail to children, listening to ideas, giving honest input and suggestions, and most importantly just being a great support system for me! And last but not least, thanks to the Session. I know your commitment to our church this past year has been more than you "signed up" for. I will be forever grateful for your honest, faithful, discerning, and time-consuming leadership. God has certainly found a wonderful group of shepherds for his FPC flock. THANK YOU!

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2020

“With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Christian Education Committee at First Presbyterian Church supports the Church’s Mission by providing to children, youth, and adults opportunities for spiritual formation through continuous learning and practice.”

Mission statement of the C.& Y. C. E. committee.

The committee had a challenging year led by the wonderful dedication of Director of Education for Children and Youth, Stephanie Brader. We are very fortunate and grateful to have Stephanie as our Director guiding the committee, the teachers, the WNL as well as all the volunteers and of course the children in all the various programs, all while being a very active member with her entire family in the daily life of the Church.

Committee members serving in 2019 included, Stephanie Brader (Director of Education for Children and Youth), Irina Erickson, Nancy Grams, Amy Hermes, Kris Horton and Harold Korb (Session Reps.), Chris Junker, Kathy Reimer, and Lindsey Stout.

Plans were normal until March when COVID hit. This didn’t stop the many, many Christian Education opportunities. COVID did change the way we do things. For instance, we spent meeting times assembling kits for Sunday School packets for at-home learning. Steph has spent countless hours with many volunteers to record and offer Sunday School opportunities on-line. Meetings became ZOOM, and the committee adapted. I cannot emphasize enough the volunteers and countless hours Steph has put into making this possible. We were unable to have a majority of WNL and many youth gatherings in person due to COVID, so confirmation and Bible presentations became creative and socially distanced. We had to make decisions to cancel Vacation Bible School and other gatherings that would normally see great attendance, but due to safety for our church, our people, and our community, difficult choices were made.

We hope for a better 2021 with Ben Welsch joining the team. We also look to continue to serve and offer Christian education opportunities to all youth that want to participate in them.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, ADULT EDUCATION

Annual Report 2020

During the year 2020, the Adult Christian Ed Committee continued the work it had been doing and also found new ways to help members of the congregation engage in their faith.

To begin, Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh began a part-time position with the church as Scholar in Residence. In this capacity, Dan leads a weekly Bible study and discussion group, leads Forum classes on a regular basis, and is available to Pastors Greg and Damen to use as a resource in their regular study and worship prep. Dan brings a tremendous amount of passion and knowledge to share in this role.

The practice of holding regularly scheduled Forum classes has continued even amid the ongoing pandemic of 2020. Forum is an hour-long adult enrichment opportunity that focuses on a variety of topics. During this year, we have attempted to make forums tie more closely with the themes of the day's worship and sermon reflections. Topics have included Advent Prophecies, The Gospel of Matthew, Faith & Politics, Anti-Racism Work, and a Study of the God of Love, among other subjects.

Heirs Apparent, a weekly adult fellowship and study group, has also continued to meet. The group is led by Curtis Reimer and has studied a variety of topics throughout the year.

In addition to these ongoing activities, the Adult Ed has also sought out new ways to engage with the congregation during the prolonged separation brought on by the continued presence of COVID-19. To that end, a number of virtual book clubs were held over the summer. Using literature experts within the congregation, folks were invited to read *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. They were then invited to participate in discussions led by our local experts as well as Pastors Greg and Damen.

Along those lines, the congregation was also invited to partake in conversations and readings related to anti-racism over the course of the summer. The study included viewing movies, reading books, and participating on conversation via Zoom and other means.

The creation of the *Monday Check-In* podcast is another new way we have sought to engage the congregation in the study of their faith. Each Monday, Pastors Greg and Damen record themselves having a mini-bible study and conversation. They then make that recording available to the congregation. It is a simple but effective way to encourage folks to interact with scripture in their weekly and daily routine.

As we move into the year 2021, we hope to continue the practices that work while seeking new and creative ways of helping our congregants to study and develop their own faith.

Respectfully submitted,
The Adult Enrichment Committee

Members:

Grant Hunter, Sharon Brooks, Will Locke, Lavern Franzen, Anne Bohlke, Curtis Reimer,
Dan Deffenbaugh, Linda Cooke

REPORT OF CLERK OF SESSION
Mary Seiler

Annual Report 2020

The following congregational data provides a brief snapshot of First Presbyterian Church in 2020:

Membership, December 31, 2019	695
Received during 2019:	
Profession of faith, reaffirmation, restoration	7
Certificate of transfer	9
Confirmation	4
Losses 2019:	
Certificate	0
Death	11
Membership, December 31, 2020	443 active, 210 friends*

Youth/Young Adult/Adult Baptisms	0
Infant Baptisms	1
Weddings	2
Funerals	13

Average worship attendance:	
8:30 Taizé service (January-March 15, in person)	20
10:30 service (January – March 15, in person)	212
10:30 service, online (March 22- December 27)	256
Worship in the Park (August – October, in person)	83

Active Officers;	
Elders	13
Deacons	15
Trustees	9

*During 2020, the Membership Rolls Update Committee worked to define membership categories for our church and then apply those new definitions. “Active members” of First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, now include those who are baptized, have made a profession of faith, have been accepted into membership of the Church, and who participate in the life of the church in at least two ongoing ways, such as attending worship or receiving communion at least once per year, contributing to the finances of the church in an amount equal to or greater than apportionment, serving on a board or committee, praying for the church, and so on. “Friends of the Church” include those individuals who may not be active members as defined above but still wish to be affiliated with First Presbyterian Church.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2020

Congregational Life Mission Statement: Congregational Life provides hospitality, fellowship programs, and events that draw people together for recognition, celebration, encouragement, and enjoyment of the church family. The committee develops and oversees evangelism and renewal efforts, membership recruitment, new member integration, and church marketing.

The Congregational Life committee members gathered together on January 14, 2020, in earnest to make 2020 a year for the congregation to remember. Well, none of us will ever forget it. Instead of rejoicing in life together in fellowship with one another in the grace and love of God, two thirds of the year was spent separated physically from one another due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our strong faith in God persevered and pulled us through.

It is our hope and prayer that in early 2021, science can defeat this terrible disease that has inflected so much pain and death. Once the physical battle is won, God can once again draw us together and help us to heal mentally, with one another and with the Lord himself.

Our first order of business was to give a well-deserved, heartfelt thank you to Jessica Meeske for serving as moderator in 2019. Brian W. Johnson served as moderator in 2020. Pastor Damen served as our staff liaison and secretary. Other members of the committee included Joe Black, Daveta Brader, Katharine Davis, Tarah Davis, Lanae Hall, Laurie Johnson, Stacy Kerr, Mary Kay LaMaster, Cheryl Lockwood, Lois Meeske, Scott Shardelow, and Julie Thomsen.

Removal and storage of the Christmas Greens was completed on a cold Saturday on January 11th by eleven volunteers. (Less than twenty volunteers, working in shifts, hung limited greens in the fall of 2020). In later January, the committee placed a thank you in the “Home Page” along with a request for all to consider serving the Church on a committee.

On February 8th, around forty enjoyed a “Guys Night Out” at a Hastings College basketball game. Later in February, the committee, with help from Harold and Milrae Korb, served supper to a class of nine new members. Also in February, the committee mailed a personal letter to the 34 members that have joined FPC since Pastor Greg was installed. This letter in general welcomed them and asked for their perspective of the life of the Church and their relationship to it.

In February, the committee focused on the “Strategic Planning” of FPC: specifically, two pages of the areas where C.L. is involved. It was asked that all members focus on this material and in the next few months get these specific strategic initiatives moved into action items and completed. We did not get far with this and decided to delay till the pandemic was past.

Two exciting proposals were approved to proceed: “Living Church History Night” and “Repurposing Church Treasures.” Jessica Meeske will head up two specific teams. Jessica formed the teams, and discussion ensued leading to the beginnings of two great events. Many meetings and reports were given, but all came to a stop due to the pandemic. We are eager to get back to these projects and share the advancements to all when the congregation is back together in person.

The moderator of C.L. reminded us that minutes of scheduled meetings need to be recorded in detail as they are the only written record.

C.L. was glad to share in the investment of the Lenten devotional and gifts.

Early March brought plans for a “skate night” for the youth, Easter egg hunt, Easter sunrise service at H.C., Sod Busters baseball game, Navel Ammunition Depot tours, fellowship cookies and pot-luck dinners. As you know, this was all cancelled for the year on March 17th due to COVID-19.

By this time, C.L. ordered new linen napkins for our potlucks and other events. They are stored away, waiting for us. In April, we optimistically started to plan on “Presfest” to be held in September. By May we were meeting via “Zoom.”

In April, C.L. established a team to define the role of a FPC member as this was our duty in the Strategic Plan. Kili Wenburg was asked to head up this team, which includes Lynne Friedewald, Brian W. Johnson, Ann Koozer, Susan Medsker-Nedderman, Scott Shardelow, and Doug Soderquist. Within a few weeks, this definition was approved by the Session, and work commenced on bringing the “rolls” up to date. A big thank you is owed to Kili for this terrific task. She did an awesome job.



When Sunday Worship services began to be held in the park, several of the C.L. women made and prepackaged cookies to hand out. Presfest was held in the park on September 13th with two bagpipers from Omaha leading a procession of flags to start the service. It was a beautiful day with a wonderful worship. As these “park” services progressed, C.L. members helped pass out bulletins and collected attendance slips.

In October, C.L. was asked, as all committees were, to create rosters for the coming year. This task was completed for the next three years. Recruitment of new committee members is ongoing. Clergy appreciation was Sunday October 11th. C.L. submitted a notice in the “Home Page,” sent cards to all Clergy staff, spoke from the pulpit, and held a dinner for the Pastors and

their families that evening at FPC. Damen and Hannah were called out of town, so the Allen-Pickett’s dined with their cooks and servers.

With the dedicated aid of Bonnie Grams, the committee took on the task of hanging the greens with success gained from many faithful, servants of the Lord. At the time of this writing, we are looking forward to the opportunity to serve as support staff for a “drive-in” Christmas Eve service at Hastings College. Even during a pandemic, we fully realize the importance of fellowship and being together, in person, in our worship of our Lord.

It has been my pleasure to serve on the Congregational Life committee, especially in 2020 as moderator. It is because of the dedicated people serving as members of the committee in the love they have of their Church (you) that all things are possible in congregational life.

Brian W. Johnson,
2020 moderator of the Congregational Life committee



BOARD OF DEACONS

Annual Report 2020

The office of Deacon is a ministry of caring, a ministry of love, and a ministry of compassion, and a ministry of prayer. Deacons are people persons whose heart go out to those in distress, are in the hospital, to new members who need a word of welcome, members living in retirement centers, and much more.

Our church congregation is divided into 15 parishes. Each deacon is assigned a parish. Other responsibilities are to deliver the flowers from the service to someone of their choice, help to deliver communion to residents in retirement centers, help with funeral luncheons, and provide transportation to anyone needing a ride to church. They are also assigned a VIP. This is usually a shut in or someone in a retirement center.

This has not been a typical year for our deacons. The current pandemic has altered what we are able to do. We were able to meet only by zoom meetings rather than the in-person meetings that we were used to. Retirement centers have been closed to the public so our visits to our VIP's were limited as was communion. Funerals had a new look and no luncheons. Hospital visits were not allowed. Church was done only on Facebook, so transportation was not needed.

Deacons were paired with Mission Committee volunteers to create "care teams" during the early portion of the pandemic. Each team checked in with members of our church to help prevent social isolation and identify needs of individuals. Several of our members then took on these extra tasks, such as weekly grocery shopping, to help where we could.

We are hoping that our lives can get back to a more normal state for 2021. We are anxious for in-person worship once again and being able to see one another, taking communion to the nursing homes, and visiting our VIP's.

Joan Shaw

Deacon Moderator 2020

2020 BUDGET & ACTUAL Expenses and 2021 BUDGET

2020 Budget & Actual Expenses and 2021 Budget for First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

Offerings and Income	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021
General Fund estimates - Current yr	\$ 635,000	\$ 619,817	\$ 641,350
Other Income	\$ 26,200	\$ 25,890	\$ 30,600
Per capita receipts	\$ 4,500	\$ 6,947	\$ 6,000
Annex Rental/Building Use	\$ 16,750	\$ 8,872	\$ 7,500
Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Grant	\$ -	\$ 73,706	
Total Offerings and Income	\$ 682,450	\$ 735,232	\$ 685,450
The Mission - Local and Global Community Outreach			
Mission Co-workers	\$5,000.00	\$4,530.00	\$5,000.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Hastings College	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Adult Mission	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Open Table	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
OPSF-Kessler Scholarship	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Mission Outreach			\$10,251.00
Local Mission - Discretionary	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
Youth outreach	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
Pooh Corner Utilities	\$ 10,250	\$ 7,637	\$ -
Subtotal-Community Outreach	\$ 24,050	\$ 19,967	\$ 24,051
Gathering to Worship	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021
Chancel Choir Director - Stipend	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,500
Calvin/Westminster Choir Director - Stipend	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,500
Chancel and Cal/West Bell Director - Stipend	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,500
Children's Bell Choir Director - Stipend	\$ 6,300	-	\$ 6,500
Children's Choir Director - Stipend	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,500
Organist	\$ 14,250	\$ 14,250	\$ 14,700
Music Coordinator	\$ 6,150	\$ 6,150	\$ 6,500
Accompanists - Stipends	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,399	\$ 3,400
Sound Technician	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Pulpit Supply	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 300
Special Worship Services	\$ 350	\$ -	\$ 350
Communion Supplies	\$ 250	\$ 41	\$ 250
Seasonal/Liturgical Décor	\$ 200	\$ 1,053	\$ 200
Copyright License Fees	\$ 1,500		\$ 1,500
Worship Enhancement - Flowers	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,843	\$ 2,500
Worship Services - Radio Broadcast	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,380	\$ 3,000
Worship Services - Video Supplies	\$ 100	\$ 24	\$ 1,300
Books/Subscriptions - Worship & Music	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
Misc Committee Expense - Wor & Music	\$ 750	\$ 636	\$ 250
Subtotal - Gathering to Worship	\$ 68,850	\$ 61,476	\$ 71,350

Christian Education - Teaching the Word to our children, youth and adults	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021
Director of Child & Youth Education	\$ 27,800	\$ 21,595	\$ 28,634
Parish Associate	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,540	\$ 10,300
Dir. Of Child and Youth Education - Cont Ed	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Christian Ed Helper			\$ 2,500
Curriculum and Supplies	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,794	\$ 7,500
Background Checks	\$ 250	\$ 225	\$ 250
Middle School and High School Youth Group	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,365	\$ 2,500
Wednesday Night Live	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,361	\$ 4,000
Library Books, Subscriptions and Supplies	\$ 1,300	\$ 638	\$ 1,300
Nursery Workers	\$ 1,700	\$ 2,790	\$ 1,700
Campus Ministry	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
Church Officer Training	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 800
Adult Education Materials and Speakers	\$ 1,000	\$ 322	\$ 1,000
Subtotal - Teaching the Word	\$ 58,050	\$ 38,630	\$ 61,684
Caring for our Congregation	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021
Deacon's Fund	\$ 300	\$ 77	\$ 300
Deacon's Card/Postage Fund	\$ 100	\$ 26	\$ 100
Parish Nurse expenses	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
Name Tags	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
Special Events/Membership Recognitions	\$ 2,000	\$ 434	\$ 2,000
Baptismal gifts	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
Outreach/Marketing and Welcome Brochures	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,098	\$ 1,200
Friendship Pads/Pew Cards	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 150
Subtotal - Caring for our Congregation	\$ 4,250	\$ 1,635	\$ 4,250
Stewarding Church Facilities for Mission, Ministry, Education and Worship	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021
Custodian - Salary	\$ 34,150	\$ 35,156	\$ 35,175
Custodian - Health Insurance and Retirement	\$ 11,036	\$ 11,089	\$ 11,556
Utilities - Gas, Elec., Water, PEACE Ctr. Utilities	\$ 43,000	\$ 33,363	\$ 41,000
Telephone and Internet	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,232	\$ 7,500
Maintenance & Repairs, landscaping, sprinkler	\$ 19,500	\$ 24,756	\$ 19,250
Custodial Supplies	\$ 4,500	\$ 6,682	\$ 4,500
Contract Svcs - Exterm, Trash, Lawn, etc	\$ 20,000	\$ 21,820	\$ 20,000
Kitchen supplies	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,006	\$ 3,000
Property/Liability Insurance	\$ 30,250	\$ 23,490	\$ 30,000
Copier Lease Expense	\$ 6,500	\$ 7,562	\$ 6,500
Van - Gas, Maintenance, Insur, Fees	\$ 250	\$ 80	\$ 250
PEACE Center Maint., Repair, Contract Services	\$ 12,500	\$ 10,093	\$ 11,000
Subtotal - Church Facilities	\$ 192,686	\$ 182,329	\$ 189,731

The Mission - Proclaiming the Gospel in Word and Deed	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021
Head of Staff - Salary	\$ 57,600	\$ 57,600	\$ 60,663
Head of Staff - Housing Allowance	\$ 28,800	\$ 28,800	\$ 29,664
Head of Staff - Pension/Medical Insurance	\$ 35,240	\$ 35,266	\$ 36,300
Head of Staff - Travel, Prof. Expenses, Con Ed	\$ 5,400	\$ 1,151	\$ 5,000
Associate Pastor - Salary	\$ 37,750	\$ 37,750	\$ 39,000
Associate Pastor - Housing Allowance	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,400
Associate Pastor - Pension/Medical Insurance	\$ 13,812	\$ 11,101	\$ 16,400
Associate Pastor Travel, Prof. Expenses, Con Ed	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500
Subtotal - Proclaiming the Gospel	\$ 192,602	\$ 185,668	\$ 201,927
Congregational Administration for the ministry and mission of the church	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021
Administrative Specialist - Salary	\$ 33,600	\$ 33,911	\$ 34,608
Admin Specialist - Pension/Health Ins	\$ 11,019	\$ 11,028	\$ 11,556
Office Staff Professional Development	\$ 500	\$ 750	\$ 500
Stewardship Expenses	\$ 750	\$ 649	\$ 750
Office supplies	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,838	\$ 5,000
Computer software/support	\$ 2,500	\$ 4,765	\$ 2,500
Office New Equipment	\$ 500	\$ 3,195	\$ 500
Postage - Gen & Admin and Newsletter	\$ 2,650	\$ 2,024	\$ 2,400
Office Expense - Fees, etc.	\$ 200	\$ 233	\$ 200
Online Payment Fees	\$ 100	\$ 1,173	\$ 5,000
Professional Services - Audit	\$ -	\$ 1,990	\$ -
Federal withholdings matching/SECA	\$ 22,138	\$ 22,138	\$ 22,803
Website Maintenance	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ 1,200
Subtotal - Congregational Administration	\$ 80,157	\$ 88,694	\$ 87,017
Mission - Supporting the mission work of the Presbyterian Church	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021
PC(USA) Per Capita	\$ 21,775	\$ 21,775	\$ 15,075
Synod Benevolence	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Presbytery Benevolence	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Theological Education Fund (PCUSA)	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Subtotal - Mission support	\$ 52,775	\$ 50,775	\$ 46,075
	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021
Total Expenses	\$ 693,445	\$ 638,485	\$ 696,142
Total Offerings and Income	\$ 682,450	\$ 735,232	\$ 685,450
Difference	\$ (10,995)	\$ 96,747	\$ (10,692)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS FOUNDATION
ACTIVITY REPORT

Annual Report 2020

Balances in the 6 endowed funds managed by the foundation as of December 31, 2020:

Essex Scholarship Fund	\$1,688
Music Fund	1,784,281
Property Development Fund	487,945
Christian Education Fund	353,914
Scholarship Fund	297,384
Irva Smith Endowment	66,980
Designated Uses	63,003
Total	\$3,055,195

These funds earned 15.52% for the year before fees of \$12,128.81 (40 basis points.)

The Foundation distributed \$92,700 in March, 2020. This was a 4% distribution from the fund's activity in 2019.

At its January 19, 2021 quarterly meeting, the Foundation Board members finalized the distribution to the church's 2021 operating fund based on the 2020 results. Based on the 4% distribution formula used, a total of \$99,500 would be distributed for 2020 from the above endowed accounts to the church. (Music, \$71,000; Christian Education, \$14,000; Scholarships, \$12,000; Designated Uses, \$2,500.)

The Foundation paid \$385 for the preparation of its 990 Tax Form to the IRS.

The Foundation also manages on an Agency basis funds for the Session/Trustees. The December 31, 2020 balance in that account was: \$1,109,895. This fund earned 3.38% for the year before fees of \$4,844 (44 basis points.)

Mike Karloff, Moderator

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS ENDOWMENT FUND
ACTIVITY REPORT

Annual Report 2020

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GLOBAL MISSION & LOCAL WITNESS COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2020

Mission Statement

The Global Mission and Local Witness Committee is following our call to love and care for our neighbors by serving, supporting, and developing relationships within our church, community, country, and world.

This unprecedented global pandemic with all of the associated loss, illness, safety measures, fears and needs, combined with political division and unrest over racial inequalities, have made 2020 an extremely challenging year. However, this provided new opportunities and ways to understand, serve, grow, love, and care for each other.

Building Connections/Relationships/Partnerships Through Offerings:

This committee selects monthly communion offerings to be given to community partners. The committee also helps coordinate four national offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace and Global Witness, Pentecost, and Joy.

- The communion offerings completed in 2020:
 - January: Sunflower Project (Respite and other support for caregivers)
 - February: Scouts
 - March: Middle School Community Garden
 - April: Maryland Center
 - (The monthly communion offerings and national communion offerings were temporarily suspended from May to September as we responded to immediate needs related to the pandemic)
- October: Pastor discretionary fund
- November: Crossroads Shelter
- December: FPC-USA Joy Offering, as well as Reverse Advent Donations. As part of advent the congregation donated requested items to four local agencies: Catholic Social Services, Crossroads, Hastings High School Food Pantry, SASA. Our committee organized and distributed donations.

Reverse Advent Donations



Developing Relationships and Partnerships Through Ongoing and New Service Projects in Response to the Pandemic:

- The donation station, set up in Fellowship Hall, continues to receive donations for selected programs that are either ongoing or seasonal such as Proteus (shirts/hats for migrant workers), annual coat drive, Brooks's Bookshelf, SASA, Happy Nappies, Pine Ridge, and Hastings Food Pantry. Information on these collections is available via the church office.
- With significant safety modifications relating to Covid-19, we continued our partnership with First United Methodist Church to coordinate the United Harvest monthly food distributions at our First Presbyterian Peace Center. In November, we served a record 670 families safely by putting the boxes of food in the trunks of cars. Each month many

members of our two churches along with individuals, organizations, and other churches join to help set up and distribute the food.

- In response to the additional food insecurity connected to effects of Covid 19 in our community, our church again joined members of First United Methodist Church to be a weekly USDA food distribution point from our First Presbyterian Peace Center. Each week, we receive boxes of food such as fresh produce, frozen meats, cheese, and milk to hand out or deliver to 40 families.
- In late March, when we first had to discontinue in-person worship services due to Covid 19, our committee members teamed up with the deacons to form care teams. The care teams were formed to reach out to church members in order to stay connected with them while we are unable to attend church in person and to keep them informed about church opportunities, virtual services, and programs. It also was an attempt to prevent social isolation and provide a way for us to identify needs we could respond to as the church.
- In addition to providing care teams within our church, we joined an ecumenical group in Hastings to respond to community needs, such as grocery delivery services or other requested services.
 - In addition, Constance Malloy, through personal connections, discovered other people needing help with groceries or household items. An account was created to meet those needs.

Weekly Food Distribution



- For the past 16 years during the month of July, our congregation has prepared sack lunches and special meals for the Open Table community sack lunch program. This year, we found a way to continue to safely prepare the lunches in small groups with strict safety measures in place.
- Pamela Lainson manages the Hands Around the World Store in the memorial room. The fair-trade store benefits artisans and farmers from around the world. Even though the store couldn't be open on a regular basis since March due to the pandemic, Café Justo continued to be sold from the church office. A basket with items from the store was donated to the Relay for Life silent auction from the First Presbyterian team. Even with this year's limitations, the Hands Around the World Store contributed \$100 a month to the United Harvest Food Distribution.
- When allowed to meet in person, our committee sponsors two regular activities in our PEACE center fostering ongoing relationships with our Latino community: free Spanish classes led by Bertha Garcia and a Latino dance class led by Maria Rubalcava. Unfortunately, the classes have been interrupted by Covid-19 restrictions. However, the relationships are ongoing and have continued whenever possible following health and safety precautions.

Open Table



- Committee members partnered with Aida and Mark Evens in preparing a welcome meal in July for about 140 migrant farm workers from Mexico who are employed seasonally in our community. This year, the food was prepared and delivered, but we were unable to gather together for a picnic.
- For the third year, Julie Thomsen has taken the lead in organizing a coat drive and distribution. About 40 coats were also donated to Pine Ridge residents.
- A giving tree was placed in Fellowship Hall of our church to support clients of Assertive Community Treatments, people with severe and persistent mental illness living in our community.

Building Connections and Relationships with International Mission Partners

Although we couldn't meet in person this year, our committee continues a commitment to form an interactive relationship with two of our International Mission Partners.

- **Frontera de Cristo.** We have continued a very meaningful relationship with this bi-national border ministry over the past five years. Although we didn't get to meet in person this year due to the pandemic, we continued connections through emails and Facebook. We also continued to sell Café Justo in our Hands Around the World Store and send financial support for their ministry.
- **Foundation for Peace in the Dominican Republic.** Kristin Hamner, a Grand Island native, ended up staying in Nebraska for an extended time during the pandemic. She met with our mission group virtually to share information about how the pandemic is affecting people and projects in the Dominican Republic. She also shared information about Stories of Hope Meetings that are offered by via Zoom. We continue to support this ministry through financial donations.
- Following the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, our mission committee made a financial donation to International Mission Partners, Reverend Scott Parker and Reverend Elmarie Parker. They had presented a program to our church in March of 2019 about what their ministry is doing in the Middle East.

Although 2020 has brought sadness, challenges, and cancellations, we are adapting and continuing to find ways to serve others, build relationships, and share Christ's love both inside and outside the walls of our church building. We continue to be grateful for the generosity, creativity, kindness and genuine witness to Christ's love from our congregation and staff.

Jeni Howard, Moderator

Sharon Brooks, Constance Malloy, Meg Stewart-Magee, Denny Storer, Mary Fisk, Jan Ham, Julie Thomsen, Pamela Lainson, Pam Lay, Jane Marsh, Neil Riley, Beverly Rader, Erica Brooks, Paula Crozier, Damen Jensen-Heitmann

GO & SERVE

Annual Report 2020

I don't care what COVID says. Go & Serve had a great year in 2020! Did we cancel our planned trip to Montana in June because of the continued presence of COVID? Yes, we did. But we had plenty of fun up until then taking pictures of ourselves in the t-shirts we ordered for the trip! Those t-shirts are now incredibly valuable collector items, so if you can find one at a reasonable price, I suggest you gobble it up!

The truth, of course, is that COVID did alter our Go & Serve experience in rather dramatic ways last year. Though we did cancel our trip, we were still able to create a spirit of community among those who would have been our participants through smaller service opportunities and through their participation in fundraisers, such as cinnamon roll sales and the creation of the stock sale letter. A full review of our financials is included in the financial reports.

We are currently hard at work planning and organizing our trip for the summer of 2021, and we offer our thanks and appreciation to all of the congregation for continuing to support this critical endeavor. Since we don't have a lot of great pictures to share with you from this year allow us please to make up for it next year by including double our allotment in the 2021 annual report.

With thanks and appreciation,

The Go & Serve Committee

Amy Black, Teresa Canady, Deb Johnson, Abigail Kerr, Tammie Nowka, and Damen Jensen-Heitmann (staff liaison)

HEARTS & HANDS AGAINST HUNGER

Annual Report 2020

We are living through difficult times, with the coronavirus affecting all of our lives. Hearts & Hands Against Hunger of Hastings stopped holding packing events in March to protect volunteers. Sadly, the need for food has doubled around the world since the pandemic began.

Orphan Grain Train, the organization that ships the food we pack, recently reported that before COVID-19, 65% of the population in Guatemala were chronically malnourished, with 59% of children under five years of age underweight. Now, many children and families are starving there.

From January 1st thru March 8th, we packed 285,000 meals with the help of over 1000 volunteers. Because of the pandemic, we canceled many packing events but will reschedule these events at a later time when health conditions allow us to do so.

The support First Presbyterian Church has given Hearts & Hands Against Hunger has made it possible for us to continue our mission of feeding starving children and their families. We thank you for allowing us to use the PEACE Center, for your monetary donations, and for volunteering at packing events. Thanks to your help, we packed close to seven million meals during the last twelve years.

Jeanne Hastings, HHAH Committee Member

Groups that packed meals at Hearts & Hands Against Hunger Jan. 1st -March 8th, 2020

St Cecilia High School 9-11th – 107*

Hastings High School National Honor Society -36

Martin Luther King Day Community Packing Event - 79

YWCA AmeriCorps, Senior Action, Community Action RSVP,
Hastings College J Team, City Employees,
Animal Research Center Employees, DAR, Hastings Literacy,
Channel 4 News employees,

St Michael 3rd, 4th & 5th Graders Hastings Catholic Schools —80

Adams Central 11th & 12th Grade Students —136

Mary Lanning Hospital Hispanic Diabetes Education Group -28

Webster County Junior Leaders = 31

Westminster Presbyterian Youth/Campbell Youth - 10

Lone Tree 4-H – 39

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Minden Youth - 31

Hastings Middle School 8th graders – 282

St. Paul Lutheran-Holstein & Zion Lutheran Wanda Township-Juniata - 19

Hastings High School Honor Society



Hastings Middle School



LIBRARY YEAR END

Annual Report 2020

The First Presbyterian Church library has over 3,000 volumes of fiction and nonfiction. These include major holdings in religion and theology, as well as collections of fiction, biography, large print, and juvenile titles. In 2020, circulation was 305 items, up from 286 in 2019. Even during this time that the church building was not open, people are still using the library for reading material. Suggestions for increasing the usage of the library and for additions to the collection are always welcome.

Ninety-five books were added to the collection in 2020. Of these, 22 were gifts, and the rest were purchased with income from the Ann Binfield and C. G. & Idilla Jeffrey Wallace memorial funds. Of the 95 books, 23 were fiction, 52 were nonfiction, and 20 were children's books.

The library also subscribes to 4 journals. They are *Christian Century*, *Horizons Magazine*, *Presbyterian Outlook*, and *Presbyterians Today*. Back issues are kept for 2 years.

Library use is open to all church members and friends and is on the honors system. The checkout period is two weeks, and books are always due on a Sunday, since that is the day the majority of members come to the church. Fines are not collected for overdue books. However, if you fail to return a book in a timely fashion, you will receive a notice.

Donations of items to the library are always accepted, with the understanding that if the librarian deems that they are not useful or appropriate for our library, they will be donated to the Hastings Public Library book sale or somewhere else. Suggestions of items for purchase are always welcome.

We are slowly getting the library ready to automate. I went through the collection and took out all the books that hadn't been checked out for 5 years or longer. Then someone else looked through those to see if there were any that should be retained, and several were returned to the collection. The remainder of the books that were weeded out are being donated to Susan's Books in Aurora. Several volunteers are removing these books' cards from the card catalog and accession list. The current card catalog will be available until the switch to an online catalog is complete, although newer acquisitions may not have cards in the catalog. Volunteers will be needed to input the data on the remaining books in the library collection. The computer on which to store the catalog has been purchased, so we will begin inputting the data on the collection in the near future. If you would like to volunteer to help with this, please contact me.

Sue Medsker-Nedderman
Librarian

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2020

In spite of the challenges First Presbyterian Church has had this year, the Memorials and Gifts Committee has continued to operate by email in order to approve any requests received.

The following requests were approved:

“The Last Supper” – an olive wood sculpture (purchased in Israel) and an acrylic display box
Communion Table for the Chapel – made by Jack Sandeen
Permanent donation station – located in Fellowship Hall
Roses for newborns

Monies from the following memorial funds were used for the approved requests:

Waunita Butler	Eunice Langvardt	Interest fund
Lois Hahne	Joyce Ohlsen	
Shirley Johnston	Jack Osborne	
Art Langvardt	Pamela Osborne	
Art Langvardt, Jr.	Betty Payne	

The yearend total for the memorial funds is \$76,455.94. A total of \$23,363.50 was received and a total of \$9,687.57 was expensed. \$350.00 from the Darrel Lloyd fund was transferred out to Hastings College designated for scholarships and \$1,800.00 from the Ben Ore fund was transferred out to the Langenberg fund in the Foundation.

The committee gratefully acknowledges gifts received in loving memory of the following:

Alta Cates	Darrel Lloyd
Jim Cooke	Georga Ochsner
Celia Ganow	Ben Ore
Harold Gleason	Jack Osborne
Jane Horton	Dean Pickett
Margaret Koontz	Jim Specht
Vernon Kooy	Lyn Throckmorton
Irene Lindau	Robert VanBuskirk

Throughout the year, memorials and gifts are thankfully accepted for designated or undesignated areas.

Moderator: Mary L. Olsen

Session Representative: Kay Georgiana

Trustee Representative: Stephanie Bliss

Andy Barrows

Jane Johnson

Tammie Nowka

Wihlma Price

Kathy Utter

MINUTES OF A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
First Presbyterian Church
Hastings, Nebraska
January 26, 2020

The meeting was opened immediately following the 10:30 am Worship Service in the sanctuary with greetings of welcome and prayer by Reverend Greg Allen-Pickett, Senior Pastor.

A quorum was declared by Brian W. Johnson, Clerk of Session, Pro Tem.

Minutes:

The minutes of a Congregational Meeting held March 24, 2019 were presented by Moderator Greg Allen-Pickett. After review, a motion was made to accept the minutes as presented; motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

State of the Church Address and Presentation of Annual Report:

Pastor Greg gave an uplifting report with the positive dynamic actions of the Church. The report opened with attention to a report from Associate Pastor Damen Heitmann. This fact-filled report ends with Pastor Damen proclaiming, "It was again a pleasure to be a part of community that so clearly and consistently believes that God calls us to lives lived for others."

Pastor Greg proceeded to address every Committee of the Church, explaining their hopes and works explicitly. Special attention was given to the Boards of Deacons and Trustees in their respective reports.

Other reports accounted for and interpreted included Presbyterian Women and the new special mission of "Food from the Heart," Go & Serve Mission youth programs, Hearts & Hands Against Hunger mission work, Music programs of the Church, the Church Library, United Food Harvest, and the flood relief administered through First Presbyterian Church.

Special mention was made of the Strategic Plan that is in process and how it encompasses all aspects of the Church.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as presented. Carried upon voice vote.

Clerk's Report:

Brian W. Johnson, clerk *pro tem*, presented a more detailed look at the Church statistics of 2019 that Pastor Greg touched on in his State of the Church Address.

Membership, 12/31,2018 685

Received during 2019:

Profession of faith, reaffirmation, restoration 12

Certificate of transfer 7

Confirmation 5

Losses 2019:

Certificate 1

Death 13

Membership, 12/31/2019 695

Youth/Young Adult/Adult Baptisms 8

Infant Baptisms 10

Weddings 3

Funerals 13

Average worship attendance:

8:30 Taizé service 29 (34 Sundays)

10:30 service 209 (52 Sundays)

Active Officers:

Elders 13

Deacons 15

Trustees 9

It was noted that because of our Facebook connections as well as our radio and television broadcasts, we are reaching a very large number of people.

The moderator called for a motion to accept the report as presented; this was made, seconded and carried by voice vote.

Financial Report and Presentation of the Budget:

Ken Stein, Chair of the Trustees, presented the Session-approved 2020 budget. A motion was made to accept the report as presented and seconded, carried by voice vote.

Terms of Call for Pastors:

Brian W. Johnson, Clerk *pro tem*, began the report by mentioning that Pastor Greg's sermon of "God's Promise of Ministry" was aptly given on this very day. It was pointed out that every week in the worship bulletin, there is a listing of the positions of the Church, beginning with the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ. In the center of the list is "Ministers: Members of the Church." All present were reminded that they are indeed the Ministers of the Church.

Both Pastors were excused and secluded from the sanctuary.

The Clerk led the congregation in prayer to reflect on the serious business of the terms of call for the Pastors and for how God is leading us. There was also a time of silence for personal reflection, discernment and comprehension of members' own thoughts.

The congregation was directed to the top of page 16 of the report, The Mission: Proclaiming the Gospel in Word and Deed. At this point, the four lines pertaining to the Associate Pastor were outlined. The part-time position of the 2019 budget was listed as well as the actual expenditures of 2019. It was noted that in July, Pastor Damen began full time and assumed many more duties and continues to do so. The 2020 budget reflected this with a monetary raise in salary and housing. The congregation was asked if there were any questions, concerns or discussion. None were offered.

At that point, focus was given to Head of Staff. Differences in the 2019 to 2020 budget line items Salary, Housing, Pension and Professional Expenses, including Travel and Continuing Education were explained. It was noted that the salary and housing reflected a 3% increase.

The floor was opened to discussion. A motion to adjust the 3% increase to 4.5% was made. This was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

At that time, a request was made to increase the Associate Pastor's salary package to reflect the same 4.5% increase. This was seconded and passed by voice vote.

There were questions as to whether this covered pension breakdowns per salary figures. It was stated that the approved motions would be under the direction of the Session to have the financial officers of the Church apply the 4.5% increase to adhere to taxation and labor laws.

In essence, Head of Staff, Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett, would have an increase in his salary package of \$1,296.00, and the Associate Pastor, Damen Heitmann, would see the same increase reflected in his salary by \$750.00.

A motion to approve the Terms of Call of the Pastors as amended by the two separate motions and unanimous votes were seconded and passed by voice vote.

The Pastors were escorted back into the room with applause.

Foundation Report:

Mike Karloff presented the report, and with no questions asked, a motion was made to approve the report as presented. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

2019 Congregational Nominating Committee Report:

Pastor Greg presented the report by stating that the committee will be comprised of the following: Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett, Sally Smith, Vonda Essex, Kim Creech, Tammie Nowka, and Carole Storer. As per the by-laws, one member of the Trustees, one Deacon member, and two Elders (one serving as moderator) will be named. A motion to approve the report as stated was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Election of Church Officers:

Pastor Greg presented the following names for position of Deacon: Joan Shaw, Sandra Wimer, Jan Bolliger, Andy Barrows, and Frank Georgiana. He presented the following names for position of Elder: Mary Fisk, Beverly Rader, Joe Black, and Cheryl Lockwood. He presented these names for position of Trustee: Kaela Pumroy, Chuck Bauer, and Mary Plock.

A motion was made to accept the slate of nominees as presented. Motion was seconded and carried by a voice vote.

Adjournment:

With no other business brought forward, a motion to adjourn was seconded and passed.

Adjournment:

Associate Pastor, Reverend Damen Heitmann closed the meeting with a song of prayer, "We Are the Church," in unison with the congregation.

Respectfully submitted

Brian W. Johnson

Clerk *pro tem*

MUSIC

Annual Report 2020

The arrival of the pandemic in March created a challenging 9 months in the life of the FPC music department. However, our wonderful pastors, Greg Allen-Pickett and Damen Jensen-Heitmann, along with our talented choir directors, were “thinking outside the box” and coming up with brilliant ideas that glorified God and used our musicians in ways that touched many hearts.

January and February were “normal” months with in-person worship and vocal and instrumentalists participating in both the 10:30 service and the Taizé service.

Several restrictions were enforced in March, causing drastic changes to be made. Masks were required. Studies were being done proving it was not safe for singing even when wearing masks. That meant no choirs.

When it was mandated that 6 feet were required between persons, our Chancel Bell Director, Dr. Byron Jensen, rearranged the bell tables to allow that distance between ringers. Unfortunately, when the pandemic spiked, rehearsals had to be suspended.

Our 10:30 service has been streamed on Facebook and heard on the local radio station. Participants include our pastors, organist, song leader, and Erik Nielsen and family. Past recordings of choirs have been used occasionally at these services. These anthems have helped to make our services very inspirational. It has been enjoyable to watch and listen to selections from past years.

Our Chancel Choir Director, Dr. Robin Koozer, and Tom Mihalik (choir director at FMC in Hastings) collaborated in doing a virtual choir. Choir members at both churches recorded their voice parts of an anthem in the comfort of their homes, sent it to Tom, who then put them together in a beautiful choral arrangement. Tom just completed an Ecumenical virtual choir singing “Silent Night.” Many of our members participated in both anthems.

Our pastors offered a second service during the summer months. They were held in Alexander Park and well attended. The weather cooperated, and we were able to continue the services into October. During the course of each week, Linda Vollweiler with tech help from Roger Schukei recorded organ and piano music for use at each service.

During the 4 weeks in Advent, many folks enjoyed a church parking lot Christmas Carol sing led by Dr. Koozer with Linda Vollweiler on the clavino. Masks and 6-foot distancing were required.

Our pastors outdid themselves when planning the Christmas Eve service. It was a drive-in service at the Hastings College Sports Arena parking lot. With the help of many volunteers, it was a glorious service with recorded music taken from past services.

The Langenberg Legacy Program reimbursed 22 students in the amount of \$250.00 per semester for private voice and instrumental lessons. Requirements are that parents are members of FPC and students are active participants in the music program. This is a wonderful way for students to have the opportunity to take lessons. These students presented special music during the summer months at the 10:30 a.m. services.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our talented music staff: Dr. Robin Koozer, Dr. Byron Jensen, Dr. Susan Oliver, Linda Johnson, Tim and Teresa Canady, Mary Plock, and Alice Throckmorton. Our pastors, song leaders, faithful volunteers and members of the congregation. Together you made the music program at FPC the outstanding program it is. I hope that with the arrival of vaccines, we will soon be back to in-person rehearsals and services. I have missed working with all of you.

In Christ,

Linda Vollweiler, Organist/Music Coordinator

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS

Annual Report 2020

Elders:

2020	2021	2022	2023 (Proposed)
Brian Johnson	Harold Korb	Mary Fisk	Neil Riley
Pat Kern	Kay Georgiana	Beverly Rader	Jodi Graves
Erik Nielsen	Kris Horton	Joe Black	Ben Welch
Neil Riley	Scott Shardlow	Cheryl Lockwood	Kathy Amyot

Clerk of Session: Mary Seiler

Deacons:

2020	2021	2022	2023 (Proposed)
Teresa Canady	Kenton Grams	Joan Shaw / Dick McKenzie	Teresa Canady
Sharon Brooks	Steve Wolford	Sandra Wimer	Jake Stokely
Marnie Soderquist	Kathy Reimer	Jan Bolliger	Ann Koozer
Peggy Thomson	Peter Lainson	Andy Barrows	Linda Johnson
Tim Johnson	Amy Hermes	Frank Georgiana	Linda Vollweiler

Trustees:

2020	2021	2022	2023 (Proposed)
Sue Horton	Stephanie Bliss	Kaela Pumroy	Sue Horton
Stan Essink	John Northrop	Chuck Bauer	Stan Essink
C. L. Wimer	Harvey Freetly	Mary Plock	C.L. Wimer

Congregational Nominating Committee

2020 (Current)

Moderator: Kay Georgiana
Trustee Rep: Mary Plock
Deacon Rep: Sandra Wimer
Session Rep: Kay Georgiana

At-Large Members

Sally Smith
Vonda Essex
Tammie Nowka
Carole Storer
Kim Creech

At-Large Members:

2021	2022	2023(Proposed)
Carole Storer	Mary Plock	Teresa Luther
Kim Creech	Sandra Wimer	Brian Johnson

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2020

The Personnel Committee met six times in 2020 with regards to staffing matters of the church. We had very few staffing issues to address this year, and that is due in large part to the leadership and management of our head of staff, Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett. All meetings and matters after the January meeting this year were held via Zoom or email due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coming into 2020, the budget was strong, and the committee was able to recommend cost-of-living increases for the staff. We also recommended adjustments and increases to other paid positions to make them more equitable. Danny Graves joined the committee for the class of 2024. We thank him for his service.

Two part-time positions were recommended by the committee and subsequently approved by Session. One was a Scholar in Residence. The Scholar in Residence serves as the resident scholar and creator of unique learning opportunities and platforms for teaching Bible, biblical/Christian history, and theology. The Scholar creates opportunities for congregational discipleship, community outreach, and for bridging church and academia to expand learning and faith. The other position was a short term, 14-week Communications Intern position to help expand the church's social media presence in light of the pandemic.

Annual staff evaluations were completed, which all went very well. The committee approved the addition of dental insurance to the benefits offered by the church for full-time staff. This is an "employee pay" option only and will not add any additional expense to the personnel budget.

Chanda Essink agreed to join the personnel committee in 2021 for a 5-year term. We thank her for her willingness to serve.

The Personnel Committee unanimously feels that our church is enormously blessed to have such a remarkable staff. Their dedication and commitment to God's work was evident throughout this unprecedented year of change and adaptation. We are grateful for all that they do.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tim Redline". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Redline, Moderator
Rich McKenzie
Pat Kern
Mary Seiler
Danny Graves

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Annual Report 2020

As it is stated in the "Presbyterian Women's Purpose," we meet to nurture our faith, to support the mission of the church worldwide, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women. All women of the church are welcomed and encouraged to participate. Presbyterian Women met the first Wednesday of February with Margaret Marsh giving the program on the census. March 11, we attended and served lunch at Sermons à la Carte. We met in Circles January-March. Due to Covid-19, those were the only times we could meet. Since we could not meet monthly, we started delivering care packages to PW members in September.

In 2020, PW contributed financially to church mission projects including the PW Thank Offering, the PW Birthday Offering, the Least Coin Offering, Bright Beginnings, Living Waters for the World, the Hunger Fund, and the CROP Walk. We also donated cookies for the UCC Bloodmobile. We donated 60 hygiene kits to PDA through their depot at the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. (See photo at right.)

Gifts of Women Sunday was March 8. Mary Cook Jorgenson gave the sermon. Members of PW read the scriptures and served as ushers and greeters. Mary Fisk was recognized and honored with a PW Life Membership for her service to the church.

March 6, Church Women United hosted the annual World Day of Prayer at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd .

In November, the packets we sent home honored the women in our church who had died during the past year.

Circles met for Bible study and fellowship each month, January through March. Kili Wenburg met with lesson leaders each month, giving suggestions and methods for presenting the lesson.

One of our mission projects is "Food from the Heart." We encourage members of the church to make casseroles and soups to be placed in the church freezers. The finished casseroles in the freezer are for anyone to take and give away to people who need a reminder they are loved.



General checking account							
Balance forward December 31, 2019							\$1,645.56
Receipts:	Apportionments from circles				\$2,400.00		
	Birthday Offering				\$454.00		
	Bible study books				\$150.00		
	Food from the Heart				\$1,009.00		
	Least Coin				\$45.86		
	Luncheon receipts				\$140.00		
	Collections				\$1,295.00		
	PCUSA Hunger Fund				\$20.76		
	Sermons a la Carte income				\$272.00		
	Cookbooks				\$20.00		
	Thank Offering				\$595.00		
	Total income				\$6,401.62		
Expenses:	Birthday Offering				454.00		
	Bible study books				\$165.00		
	Church Women United - dues				\$40.00		
	Collections remitted - Mother's Day, Father's Day				\$1,295.00		
	FPC for postage, copies				\$100.00		
	Food from the Heart expenses				\$455.26		
	Gifts for speakers				\$20.00		
	Honoraria				\$285.00		
	Honorary memberships				\$95.00		
	Least Coin				\$45.86		
	Library books				\$100.00		
	Luncheon expense				\$0.00		
	PCUSA Hunger Fund				\$20.76		
	Pres. Central NE - mission pledge				\$1,500.00		
	Pres. Central NE - presbytery/synod support				\$225.00		
	Sermons a la Carte expenses				\$181.80		
	Supplies for clean-up buckets				\$148.17		
	Thank Offering				\$595.00		
	Total expenses				\$5,725.85		
Balance on hand December 31, 2020							2,321.33
Regular savings account					290.54		
	Interest				0.16		
	total				290.70		290.70
Frances Anderson Memorial Fund					2,766.77		
	Interest				3.02		
	Total				2,769.79		2,769.79
Total assets on December 31, 2020							5,381.82

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2020

Moderator: William Oliver

The Scholarship Committee continues to award two scholarships annually: the Ann L. Binfield and Chip Essex Memorial Scholarships.

The Chip Essex Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a member of FPC-Hastings that is attending any 2- or 4-year college. This year's recipient is Nina Meyer.

The following is the criteria used for awarding the Ann L. Binfield scholarship:

- Be an outstanding student
- Have financial need
- Active member of First Presbyterian Church, Hastings
- Attend a Presbyterian college or university

Our committee was given \$16,544 from the Foundation to award for the 2020-2021 school year.

The committee met in May to review applicants and to determine the amounts of each individual award.

Recipients for the 2019-2020 school year:

Emma Redinger (renewal) and Julia Reimer (renewal)

Committee members are the following:

Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022
William Oliver (moderator)	Richard Johnson	Ginny Locke
Tim Redline	Chris Schukei	Linda Johnson
Anne Bohlke		
Session Rep: Scott Shardelow		
Trustee Rep: John Northrop		

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Annual Report 2020

Your Trustees this year have been Chuck Bauer, Stephanie Bliss, Stan Essink, Harvey Freetly, Sue Horton, John Northrop, Mary Plock, Kaela Pumroy, and C. L Wimer. The year started in January as a “normal” year with a budget and a plan. By spring, the plan was altered by the pandemic, and a new approach was made. We been fortunate through the diligent effort of our staff to keep expenditures in 2020 under budget and finish the year below budget. Particular recognition goes to Tony Calhoun, our facilities manager, for making adjustments to the HVAC systems to match our actual usage. His proactive effort resulted in significant savings in our utilities this year. Even with the absence of in-person worship, there was a need to maintain the physical structure of the buildings.

Three major roof projects were addressed. The largest was to replace a failing roof over Fellowship Hall extending down toward the Chapel. A second was to address leaks that compromised Sunday School classrooms and the Sanctuary. The third is the replacement of tiles that were blown off the Sanctuary roof during a windstorm. Two projects were undertaken to improve safety from airborne pathogens. Shields were installed at the pulpit in the sanctuary to create a firm barrier between the pastors and the congregation, and we are currently installing a UV light to reduce contaminants in the air provided to the sanctuary.

A set of doors was installed in the education wing to create a vestibule to reduce the influence of weather in the hall of the education wing and provide a space for visitors to enter the building and be greeted by church staff inside.

An on-going project has been the retrofitting of the HVAC system that covers the sanctuary. Adjustment are being made to match a modern HVAC system to a fresh-air intake and exhaust system that were designed for an older system.

Last year, Ken Stein, Kris Horton, and Sue Horton offered to take over snow removal at the Church on a volunteer basis, resulting in a large savings to the Church. They have kindly agreed to continue this volunteer work in the winter of 2020-2021.

Trustees approved the purchase of a new software package to assist with management of record keeping and finances. The new software is projected to reduce input labor and increase record access.

The use of the Peace Center has decreased by outside groups resulting in a drop in rental revenue for the facility. However, several ministries associated with feeding people as a group have seen an increase in need, including Untied Harvest, Hearts and Hands Against Hunger, Food Bank, and USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program. To support these efforts, lighting at the Peace Center has been updated to improve light quality and efficiency.

First Presbyterian Church applied for and received a \$73,000 loan from the Paycheck Protection Program that has been converted to a grant.

For 2021, the Trustees have proposed a budget of \$685,450, which represents an 0.44% increase over 2020. In making the budget, we have assumed that operations in the first 6 months of the year will resemble those of the last half of 2020 and that the last 6 months will be similar to historical operations.

Harvey Freetly--Moderator of Trustees

WORSHIP, ARTS, AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2020

The Worship, Arts, and Music Committee is one of the main committees overseen by the session. Our duties are to watch over and direct the worship and music life of the church, in accord with the Presbyterian Directory of Worship, to maintain the instruments owned by the church, and to carefully utilize the Langenberg funds in conjunction with the Trustees and Session.

The music staff consisting of Linda Vollweiler, Music Coordinator and Church Organist; Dr Robin Koozer, Chancel Choir Director; Dr Byron Jensen, Chancel and Calvin/Westminster Hand bell Director; Linda Johnson, Calvin/Westminster Choir Director; Mary Plock, Calvin/Westminster Accompanist; Tim and Teresa Canady, Praise/Alleluia Choir Directors; Alice Throckmorton, Praise/Alleluia Accompanist; Susan Oliver, Praise/Alleluia Hand bell Director; and the Celebrate Band, work very hard to provide a year of wonderful music for First Presbyterian Church.

Services were arranged so there was an 8:30AM and a 10:30AM service most Sundays until the middle of March. The 10:30AM service remains the Traditional Service in the Sanctuary. Taizé services were held at 8:30AM, Sundays until March in the Chapel. The Taizé Services provide an alternative to the traditional service, and we would like to thank the organizers for their dedication and hard work. Beginning in March, due to Covid-19, worship became online only. There were Sundays in the summer/fall when worship in the park was offered at 9:00 for those interested in worshipping in person.



March 8, we celebrated “Gifts of Women” Sunday. March 11, Pastor Damen preached at Sermons à la Carte. New this year was the Children’s Books Summer Sermon Series. Our pastors also led us in the “Summer Sermon Song Series.” A few Sundays in Sept-Oct, small Chancel Choir ensembles led music. Bagpipes helped lead the Kickoff service September 13. A pet blessing service was held September 27, in Alexander Park. Hastings College Sunday was celebrated virtually Sept. 27. World Communion Sunday was Oct. 4, with virtual help from around the world. November 1, we celebrated All Saints Sunday. During Advent, there was a chance to gather in the church parking lot to sing our favorite Christmas carols. Christmas Eve, Pastor Greg and Linda Vollweiler celebrated a service at College View. At 5:30, we held our candlelight service in the parking lot of the college stadium, and 11:00 PM, a Contemplative Service was available virtually.

Several activities were partly funded by Langenberg Funds. Those funds supported Legacy Lessons. Some funds were used for needy Hastings Public School students for the summer band and orchestra program.

This has been a most unusual year of worship. We can’t wait to see what happens in 2021.

Members of WAM include Moderator-Mary Fisk (Session), Session Representatives-Erik Nielsen and Kay Georgiana, the Music Staff, with members Ginny Locke, Becky Meyer, Lydia Meyer, Mary Olson, Alice Throckmorton, and Kathy Utter.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PEACE CENTER

Session voted to limit the number of people gathering in our buildings starting in March.

That has impacted some of the groups that use the PEACE Center.

However, the PEACE Center has continued to support various groups and function as a "Community Center," providing socially distanced and safe ways to gather and continue the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church and serve the larger community.

The United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry ministry continued throughout the 2020, using the PEACE Center as the base of operations for a monthly food distribution. They altered how food is distributed to families in order to support the safety of volunteers and recipients but didn't miss a single month of distribution.

Hearts and Hands Against Hunger food packing ministry continued to use the PEACE Center to pack food to be sent out around the world to food-insecure countries and to natural disaster zones. They also altered how they pack food to help keep their volunteers safe.

Hastings Food Pantry continued to use the PEACE Center as a storage and sorting facility, maintaining social distancing with their volunteers who came in to store and sort food.

The Senior High Youth group suspended meeting in the spring but started back up in the fall. They met in the Youth Room at the PEACE Center, wearing masks and practicing social distancing through October. In November, when cases spiked and the Health Department moved the risk needle into the red zone, they suspended meeting.

Hannah Jensen-Heitmann ran her music studio out of the PEACE Center in 2020. When the building was closed to outside groups, Hannah taught lessons remotely via video conferencing from her studio. When it was safe to do so, she re-started in-person music lessons with proper precautions.

Central Community College cancelled their Spring classes in the PEACE Center but restarted their classes in the fall with a capacity limit and facemask policy.

It is our sincere hope to return to full operating capacity in 2021 when it is safe to do so. We look forward to welcoming back groups like the Red Tide Homeschool Basketball League, the Mexican Folkloric Dance Group Raices de mi Pueblo, the Pack 200 Cub Scouts and Troop 200 Scouts, and other ministry and community partners.

Feeding Ministries at the PEACE Center

Hearts & Hands Against Hunger - Food packing (see report on page 24)

United Harvest - Monthly Mobile food Pantry serving 500+ Families (up from last year)

Hastings Food Pantry - Storage and Sorting Facility

Farms to Families – Thursday U.S.D.A. food distribution to forty families