

# The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 26.03 Weeks of February 14 and February 21, 2021

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## *NOTABLE NOTES*

FROM PASTOR DAMEN AND PARISH ASSOCIATE KILI

A labor of love...

A gift from the soul...

A response to an internal nudge...

Whatever we name it, we have been working **HARD** on this year's Lenten devotional guide, and we are **EXCITED** to share it with you very soon!

No matter where we look these days, it's easy to find signs of discord, division, and polarization. It's present in the newspaper, on TV, on social media, even among friends and family members. We hear calls for unity from both sides of the aisle on the national level, but unity seems so distant, so difficult...

Nevertheless, as people of faith, we are not called to put our heads in the sand and deny the reality around us. Neither, however, should we throw up our hands in despair as though nothing can be done. Instead, we recall the wise words of Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." And, similarly, the wisdom of Mahatma Gandhi: "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

In other words, in the context of the division and polarization that we see tearing our nation apart, you and I are called to do what we can do, and what we can do is work on ourselves.

And Lent is the perfect time for that!

As you're considering what sort of spiritual practice you may want to take on during Lent, here is a suggestion: [Commit to spending 40 days working through the FPC Lenten devotional guide.](#)

This guide is not designed to advocate for any particular positions but to help us work through a process of better understanding those with whom we disagree and begin to find common ground with them.

Yes, "unity" is a distant goal, and we may never see a perfected version of it in our lifetimes, but we **CAN** take steps in the direction of unity. In fact, as people of faith, we must.

Sometime between February 11 and 17, each household should receive in the mail a copy of the FPC 2021 Lenten devotional guide called "That They May All Be One: The First Stitches." (If you don't receive a copy, contact the church office, and we will get one to you!) Please make plans to begin using it on Ash Wednesday, February 17.

This particular guide was written by Damen and Kili. It features lessons that build upon one another. In other words, users will find the greatest benefit from working through the book consistently from the first day to the last rather than jumping in here and there as time allows.

Discussion groups will be available for those who want to expand their learning by processing with others. There will be a Tuesday noon group led by Pastor Greg, a Sunday noon group led by Pastor Damen, and a Friday morning (7 AM) group led by Kili. All three groups will be available both in-person or via Zoom.

FPC-Hastings strives to be a place of hope where you will always hear a message of hope proclaimed. While we can't do everything that must be done to "fix" our nation's problems, we can find hope in the fact that we can do something. Let's do something together this Lent.

### ***FPC Prayers for:***

Lois Hafer	Jack Stinson (Julie Thomsen's dad)	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
Eleanor Oliver	Rev. Cheryl All Elfond	Mary Jeanne Cooke

***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***

- ♥ Nyla Burling, former Kenesaw resident, 103, who passed away 01/21/2021 at her home at College View in Hastings.



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

- live on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fpchastings](http://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.

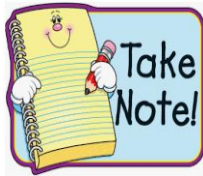
***The February Communion Offering will go to the Salvation Army.***

**Dear Friends,** What a wonderful gift you have given to Crossroads Mission Avenue! It was such an encouragement for our guests to receive your generous donation of pillows, blankets, sheets, paper towels, cleaning products, and disposable gloves! Your thoughtfulness has a direct impact on the men, women, and children who are struggling with hunger and homelessness in Hastings and Adams County.

We truly appreciate your time sacrifice by bringing the items to the shelter. Your donation shows our guests your care in a tangible way, and reminds our hurting neighbors that you're thinking of them. This builds the relationships that are so important, especially for those who have checked-out of society for a while. You are bringing new hope to their dark days, and an opportunity to hear the transforming message of God's love here at Crossroads Mission Avenue.

We cared for 430 guests in Hastings throughout 2020, and we couldn't do it without your help! Thank you for your time, generosity 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 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.

The Store will be OPEN Sunday, 03/21, and 03/28 from 1:00p-2:00p.

Covid rules will apply of masks required, 15 or fewer people with social distancing observed.



**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](http://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](mailto:ericalynn128@gmail.com).



### All I ever learned from a dog:

-Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.

-Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

-When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

When it's in your best interest, always practice obedience.

-Let others know when they've invaded your territory.

-Take naps and always stretch before rising.

-Run, romp, and play daily.

-Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.

-Be loyal.

-Never pretend to be something you're not.

-If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.
- Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
- Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.

- When you are happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
  - No matter how often you are criticized, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout. Run right back and make friends.
- ~ Anonymous

thinking  
OF YOU

### 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.



### CHURCH LIBRARY NOTES

The church library has been open and available for browsing at any time the church staff is in the building

to let you in. There were a lot of members who came to check out a book, as shown by the circulation numbers, which were higher in 2020 than in 2019.

There are still books on their sides on some of the shelves, waiting to be removed from the collection. They haven't been removed from the collection yet, though, so there is still time to look to see if your perfect book is waiting to be rescued from removal.

Each year, Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Central Nebraska compiles a list of books for women to read. Here is this year's list:

- Bergner, Daniel *Sing for Your Life: A Story of Race, Music, and Family*

- Brown, Margaret Wise *Runaway Bunny*
- Bryson, Bill *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail*
- Bush, Barbara *Pearls of Wisdom: Little Pieces of Advice (That Go a Long Way)*
- Cather, Willa *One of Ours*
- Coble, Colleen *Alaska Twilight*
- Erdrich, Louise *The Birchbark House*
- Ingram, Chip *The Real Heaven: What the Bible Actually Says*
- Kraus, Jim *The Cat That God Sent*
- Larson, Erik *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, & Defiance During the Blitz*
- Macomber, Debbie *Twenty Wishes*
- Miller, BJ and Berger, Shoshana *A Beginner's Guide to the End: Practical Advice for Living Life and Facing Death*
- Moore, Beth *The Undoing of Saint Silvanus*
- Murphy, Nora *White Birch, Red Hawthorn: A Memoir*
- Obama, Michelle *Becoming*
- Panagore, Peter Baldwin *Heaven is Beautiful: How Dying Taught Me that Death Is Just the Beginning*
- Rivers, Francine *Bridge to Haven*
- Rupp, Joyce *Prayer Seeds: A Gathering of Blessings, Reflections, and Poems for Spiritual Growth*
- Taylor, Barbara Brown *Always a Guest: Speaking of Faith Far from Home*
- Wall, Cara *The Dearly Beloved*

These books are available for anyone to check out, not just PW circle members. You will find them on top of the free-standing shelves that

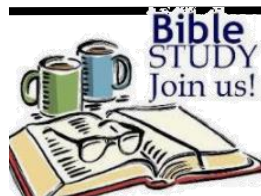
house the fiction and biographies. They will be ready to be checked out by the first of February. PW circle members will be getting a copy of the list in their February circle packets.

As always, I welcome your suggestions for books to add to the collection. Please let me know if there is something that you think would be suitable for the church library. You can leave a note on the library desk (please sign your name) or drop me an email at [s.medsker.nedderman@gmail.com](mailto:s.medsker.nedderman@gmail.com).

~Sue Medsker, church librarian



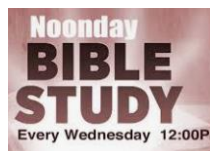
**Presbyterian Women** PW will not meet until further notice. This means there will be no Circle meetings and no monthly Luncheons.



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 PreK-5<sup>th</sup> 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:** We will be hosting in-person 6th-8th Grade Youth Group on Wednesday evenings beginning on **February 3**. We'll plan to meet in the church basement youth room from **7pm-8pm**. All participants are asked to **wear a facemask**, and we will maintain proper distance from one another. We'll do our usual games, bible study, and fellowship sorts of things.

**9th-12th Grades:** We will be hosting in-person 9th-12th Grade Youth Group on Wednesday evenings beginning on **February 3**. We'll plan to meet in the PEACE Center youth room from **7pm-8pm**. All participants are asked to **wear a facemask**, and we will maintain proper distance from one another. We'll do our usual games, bible study, and fellowship sorts of things.

**In-Person Confirmation Class** for the current 8th Graders will be on Wednesday evenings beginning on **February 3**, from 5:00pm to 7:00 pm at the church confirmation room. Dinner will be served and provided by one of the participating youth's family. All participants are asked to **wear a facemask** when not eating, and we will maintain proper distance from one another.

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](http://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.



**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.**

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

Check the calendar on the church website for the most accurate list of activities. [www.fpchastings.org](http://www.fpchastings.org)

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

- ✓ 10:30 a.m. on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fpchastings](http://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 --- February 14 – February 28, 2021**

*Session has voted that all in-person meetings must follow the following guidelines through March 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.*

<b>Sun, Feb 14</b>	<b>10:30a</b>	<b>"Stay at Home" Worship Service</b>
<b>Mon, Feb 15</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>8:30a-9:30a</b>	<b>PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY</b> Walkers in PEACE Center GYM <b>"Monday Check-in" Communication</b> from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
<b>Tues, Feb 16</b>	<b>10:30a-11:30a</b> <b>12:00p-1:00p</b> <b>6:45p-7:45p</b>	<b>Staff Meeting</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Bible Study</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Deacons</b> via Zoom Conferencing
<b>Wed, Feb 17</b>	<b>12:00 1:00p</b> <b>5:00p-8:00p</b> <b>7:00p-8:00p</b> <b>7:00p-8:00p</b>	<b>Noonday Bible Study</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Confirmation Class</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Grade In-Person Youth Group</b> Church youth room <b>9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grade In-Person Youth Group</b> PEACE Center youth room
<b>Thurs, Feb 18</b>	<b>5:30p-6:30p</b>	<b>Session</b> via Zoom Conferencing
<b>Sat, Feb 20</b>	<b>9:30a-2:00p</b>	<b>United Harvest</b>
<b>Sun, Feb 21</b>	<b>9:15a-10:15a</b> <b>10:30a</b>	<b>Heirs Apparent Adult S.S.</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>"Stay at Home" Worship Service</b> <b>"Monday Check-in" Communication</b> from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
<b>Mon, Feb 22</b>		
<b>Tues, Feb 23</b>	<b>10:30a-11:30a</b> <b>12:00p-1:00p</b>	<b>Staff Meeting</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Bible Study</b> via Zoom Conferencing
<b>Wed, Feb 24</b>	<b>12:00 1:00p</b> <b>5:00p-8:00p</b> <b>7:00p-8:00p</b> <b>7:00p-8:00p</b>	<b>Noonday Bible Study</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Confirmation Class</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Grade In-Person Youth Group</b> Church youth room <b>9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grade In-Person Youth Group</b> PEACE Center youth room
<b>Sun, Feb 28</b>	<b>9:15a-10:15a</b> <b>9:15a-10:15a</b> <b>10:30a</b>	<b>Heirs Apparent Adult S.S.</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Forum Adult S.S.</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>"Stay at Home" Worship Service</b>

## Happy Anniversary

3/8/2014	Ashley & Jeff Hermann	3/20/1982	Brian & Laurie Johnson
3/13/1971	Eldon & Cathy Mitzelfelt	3/22/1980	Carol & Jim Harrenstein
3/19/1983	Janna & Chris Johnson	3/30/1996	Linda & Terry Hall
3/19/1972	Joy & George White		



## Happy Birthday

3/1	Sandy Siemoneit	Phyllis O'Dey	3/22	Stephanie Adam	
	John Meeske	3/12	Carter Lay	3/25	Dayna Grimmett
	Lois Meeske		Maggie Nielsen	3/26	Hank Little
3/2	Tony Eddleman		Danny Graves		Jenni Welsh
	Cheryl Lockwood	3/13	Joshua Brooks	3/27	Grace Canady
3/3	Joan Shaw		Kirk Dielman		Erik Nielsen
3/4	Kim Hermann	3/14	Joyce Harrenstein	3/28	Arich Fruehling
3/5	Audrey Miller	3/15	Jennifer Boeve		Allison Kern
	Peggy Thomson		Linda Donohue		Stacy Eddleman
3/7	Todd Welton		Darlene Payne		Frank Georgiana
3/9	Lesla Cropley		Tommy Thomsen	3/29	Erin Runcie
	Evelyn Viglicky	3/17	Shirley Maul		Glenn Hunnicutt
3/10	Henry Black	3/18	Cole Shardelow	3/31	Hannah Jensen-
	Justin Stein		Kathleen Nelson		Heitmann
	Stan Essink	3/19	Bill Boyd		Deb Freeburger
	Beth Funkey	3/20	Delilah Turner		Maryann Shorey
	Les Seiler	3/20	Tyler Musgrave		
3/11	Amy Black		Kaela Pumroy		



*The following are thankyou's received from a few recipients of gifts from the Giving Tree program*

Thank  
you for the  
gifts! ♥

Judith M.

Thank you for your continued generosity. Our client appreciate the Christmas gifts each year. We hope you have a blessed 2021.

SCBS-AU staff  
& clients

Just a little  
line or two  
To bring my warmest  
thanks to you!

Thank you for  
the Christmas  
Gifts.

- V. H

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**621 North Lincoln Avenue**  
**Hastings, NE 68901**  
**Phone: 402-462-5147, Fax 402-462-6818**  
**Email: [fpc@fpchastings.org](mailto:fpc@fpchastings.org)**  
**Website: [www.fpchastings.org](http://www.fpchastings.org)**

**Address Service Requested**

### **The Home Page**

A publication of  
First Presbyterian Church  
621 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Hastings, NE 68901

**Senior Pastor:** Greg Allen-Pickett

**Publishing Guidelines:** The *Home Page* is a twice-monthly publication for the people and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

The newsletter seeks to inform, instruct, and challenge its readers to become engaged in the ministry of FPC.

**Articles** will be accepted by the Thursday prior to publication. Submissions may be edited for length and suitability. You may send articles to the church office: [fpc@fpchastings.org](mailto:fpc@fpchastings.org) or call 402-462-5147.

The Lord himself  
goes before you  
***and will be with you;***  
he will never leave you  
nor forsake you.  
Do not be afraid;  
**do not be discouraged.**

-Deuteronomy 31:8

