

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175 Vol. 26.04 Weeks of February 28 and March 7, 2021

VOTABLE NOTES

FROM PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

Session, the leadership council of the church, met on Thursday, 2/18. Following a great deal of study, spirited discussion, and prayer, we made the decision to restart in-person worship effective Sunday, 2/28. One of the primary drivers of this decision is the guidance of the South Heartland District Health Department. They have determined that the risk of community spread of COVID-19 has changed from "Elevated" to "Moderate." Another driver is the increasing availability of the vaccine in our community.

There are a still a variety of precautions we are being asked to take by the Health Department because the risk of community spread is "Moderate" including social distancing. In order to provide for social distancing as recommended by the Health Department, we can accommodate a maximum of 120 family units/individuals. For the first week, and perhaps future weeks, we are going to use a reservation system in order to ensure there is enough space to provide for *social distancing.* If you would like to come to in-person worship on Sunday, 2/28, please click on this link and register http://bit.ly/FPCH-Res28 or call the church office: 402-462-5147. If we hit the maximum capacity of 120 family units/individuals, you will be added to the reservation list for the following week.

In addition to social distancing, due to the precautions we are taking, *worship will look a lot different.* It will include wearing face masks, limiting contact, hand washing/sanitizing, no hymn singing, and no coffee or fellowship time in the memorial room or fellowship hall.

Once you arrive at church on Sunday morning, we will have volunteers who will direct you to a pew; it may not be where you and your family normally sit. We will also ask you to remain in your pew before and after worship until you are dismissed by row. Once you are dismissed, you will need to leave the church building. If the weather is nice, we will encourage fellowship outside in the parking lot, with face masks and social distancing.

We will all need to work together to follow the precautions to facilitate a safe worship experience for everyone. We will also continue our Stay-at-Home worship service for anyone who does not feel safe or comfortable coming to worship.

My beloved church family, I am grateful that we can restart in-person worship, even if it looks a little different. I look forward to seeing many of you in person on Sunday. For those who are going to continue Stay-at-Home worship, please know we consider that a faithful option as well. You are all part of the First Presbyterian Church family, whether you are able to come in person or you worship from home. Thank you for your patience, grace, and love over the past 12 months.

Your Servant in Christ, **Pastor Greg**

FPC Prayers for:

Lois Hafer Cindy Pickett Jeff Howard Gretchen Lainson Carol Medsker Jack Stinson (Julie Thomsen's dad) Connie & Tom Kubicka (Chris Junker's parents) Elaine Schumacher (Vicki Howard's mom) Melba Trehern (Lisa Unger's mom) Chris Wheeler (Carol Wheeler's son) JoAnn Williams and Family Rev. Cheryl Ann Elfond Rachael Lay Norris Swan Tommy Thomsen 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.



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

- live on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com/fpchastings</u> (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.

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 <u>https://fpchastings.org/give-online/</u>

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 March Communion Offering will go to Hastings Area Habitat for Humanity. This year habitat has 2 homes on S. Chicago street. One is already nd the second home will be

completed, and the second home will be finished this fall.

These homes are not gifts. Selected families are required to complete 300 hours of sweat equity by assisting volunteers in the building of the home. Their interest free mortgage is repaid by the homeowners over a 30-year period.

Habitat's vision is to help more families live in decent affordable homes in our community. Thank you from Hastings Area Habitat for Humanity!

Words of gratitude to all supporters of the United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry:

As I was recently reviewing the financial statement of United Harvest for the 2020 vear, I appreciated the wide support of our community in providing funding for assistance to those who are food insecure. It included faithful monthly giving. participants in "Give Hastings Day" group businesses fund raisers. local and individual organizations. donations through the local church or through the mail. etc. The donations received are an encouragement to those who volunteer to distribute food, and they are also a message of hope to those who receive the food.

Because of the caring people in this community, United Harvest has had the opportunity to make available two to three weeks of food for approximately 450 to 600 families each month. Meat has been purchased locally to supplement the shipments from Food Bank of the Heartland in Omaha. Grocery gift certificates have been purchased for use when the client numbers exceed the estimates for the distribution.

If there are specific questions about how these gifts are used or about United Harvest as a whole, please visit with a board member or do not hesitate to contact us at our email address, <u>UnitedHarvestMobileFoodPantry</u> @gmail.com.

Thank you to all who have contributed financially in the last year. Thanks also to those who have committed to contributing their time and skills towards the monthly distribution. All of our community is part of this ministry of provision, and we look forward to that time after Covid-19 when more involvement is possible.

Thanks!

Stanley Knudson United Harvest Treasurer



Notes for your Information: 1. The 2021 Offering Envelopes are in the Church Office. Stop in and pick one up!

2. The 2021 Jan/Feb/March Daily Bread Devotions have arrived; both large print and regular print.



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

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' 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.

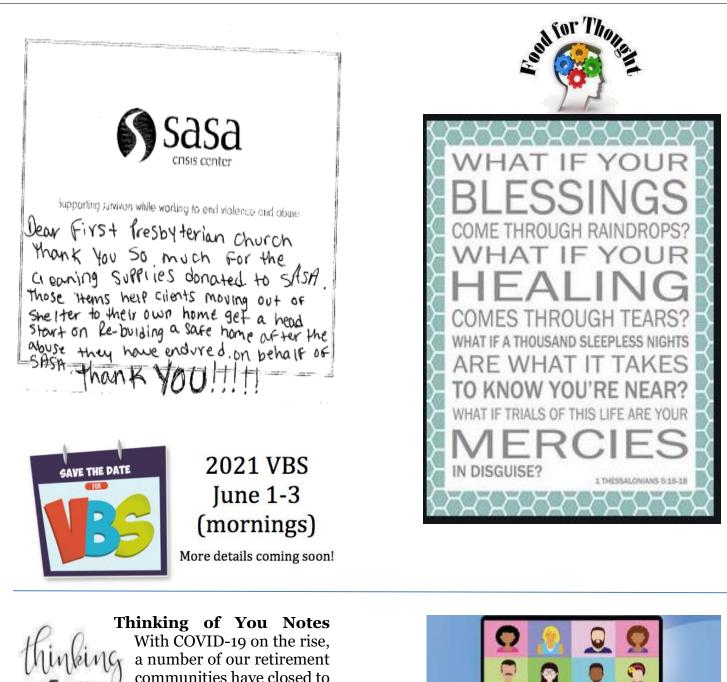
Check out our Amazon wish list under Brooks' Bookshelf and other places to donate on our website at <u>brookssbookshelf.org</u>

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 <u>ericalynn128@gmail.com</u>.



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.



FPC Virtual Choir Early in the new year, at our first Tuesday morning FPC Staff ZOOM meeting, we were discussing what Lent might look like at FPC. Although this is not an exact quote, Greg's response went something like this:

Jesus shows us how counter-cultural selfsacrifice is and calls us to live that way. Lent has become a vain ritual where Christians make small sacrifices. But what if Lent could be more radical and transformative? I see a series exploring the tangible ways that Jesus demonstrated sacrificial living and the powerful ramifications that his sacrificial life had on society. It will encourage us to reflect on our call to engage in the same selfsacrificial love of Jesus during this season of Lent.

Along those same lines, we are doing a church-wide Lenten study that Kili and Damen have written that is focused on Christian Unity. We are fractured and polarized as a nation, and the study calls us back to our shared unity in Christ. We will be encouraging people to give up things that divide us and focus on that which unites us. The theme for that study is a patchwork quilt.

Following our meeting, a rather serendipitous event occurred when I checked the emails I had received while with the staff. The first was from a fellow choir director friend sharing a famous quote of Beatle Paul McCartney:

"I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity to see the faces of real people devoting themselves to a piece of music. I like the teamwork. It makes me feel optimistic about the human race when I see them cooperating like that."

At that moment, I knew I wanted to contribute to the FPC patchwork quilt through music. Many of you may know my favorite hymn tune is ORA LABORA ("Come, Labor On"). Another friend, Jeremy Bankson, has recently published a wonderful choral anthem using that hymn. With permission from the composer and his publisher, I have written five new verses applicable to our Lenten journey for a special musical project in our church and our community.

Unlike our previous "virtual" choir productions of "Be Thou My Vision" and "Silent Night," I am asking

EVERYONE in our congregation to participate...this means **NOT ONLY THE CHANCEL CHOIR, BUT YOU!**

In fact, encourage your non-Presbyterian friends! Nothing speaks to unity more profoundly than singing in a choir! If you attend our service on February 28 (in person or view online), you will receive the details for the project. ---Robin Koozer



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.

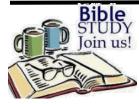
As always, I welcome your suggestions for books to add to the collection. Please let me know if there is something that you think would be suitable for the church library. You can leave a note on the library desk (please sign your name) or drop me an email at s.medsker.nedderman@gmail.com.

~Sue Medsker, church librarian



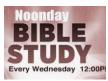
Presbyterian Women PW will not meet until further notice. This means there will be no Circle meetings and no monthly Luncheons.





Heirs Apparent Adult Sunday School, with Curtis Reimer leading, meets via Zoom most Sunday mornings at 9:15am. We began the current study on 02/21/2021 of the book *Visioneering* by Andy Stanley, which is based on the book of Nehemiah in the Old Testament. We will continue meeting via zoom. To join this study, please email Curtis at teece4@gmail.com or call the church office to get the Zoom link.

Bible at Breakfast has a new time and name! Join us for Noonday Bible Study



via ZOOM at noon with Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh as the leader. We will be looking at the Book of Revelation using the text *Revelation & the End*

of All Things by Craig R. Koester. To join the study, contact <u>sbbrooks52@gmail.com</u>. 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.

To go back and watch a previous Forum, it can be found on the church YouTube page <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh5z</u> - -uePAXhoKVfay2w4g/videos



Lenten Discussion Groups

Everyone in our church family should have received a copy of the Lenten devotional entitled "That They May

All Be One: The First Stitches." This devotional will lead readers through a series of reflections and activities designed to enable them to take first steps toward living with a greater sense of unity with those around them--even those with whom they sincerely disagree! This process will be greatly enhanced by sharing and discussing with others what one is learning through this Lenten journey. Thus, you are encouraged to consider joining one of the three discussion groups that will be meeting weekly over the next six weeks. All three groups will be available both in person and via Zoom. Contact the church office to get the link for the meeting of your choice.

Fridays at 7 AM in the Lydia Room and via Zoom (led by Kili)

February 26,March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2 Sundays at 12 PM in the Lydia Room and via Zoom (led by Pastor Damen) February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28

Tuesdays at 12 PM in the Anderson Room and via Zoom (led by Pastor Greg) February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30





Update on Sunday School/Youth Group

<u>**PreK-5th Grade</u>s:** Families will receive packets of</u>

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/

<u>6th-8th Grades:</u> We will be hosting inperson 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 is being held on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner is provided. All participants are required to wear a facemask when not eating and must maintain proper social distancing guidelines.





The <u>next</u> 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 <u>402-469-9285</u> or sign up at <u>www.redcrossblood.org</u>.



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.

	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	
А, В	May park and get number starting at:	11:15 AM	
C, D, E	May park and get number starting at:	11:30 AM	

<u>Check the calendar on the church website for the most accurate list of activities. www.fpchastings.org</u> Broadcast live "Stay at Home" Sunday Worship at 10:30

- ✓ 10:30 a.m. on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com/fpchastings (FB account not needed</u>)
- ✓ 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 28 – March 14,2021

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.

Sun, Feb 28	9:15a-10:15a	Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	9:15a-10:15a	Forum Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	10:30a	"In-Person" Worship Service (Be sure to sign in your
		attendance using the link from the email)
	12:00p-1:00p	Lenten Discussion Group-Lydia Rm/Zoom
Mon, Mar 1		"Monday Check-in" Communication
-)		from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Mar 2	10:30a-11:30a	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing
,	12:00p-1:00p	Lenten Discussion Group-Lydia Rm/Zoom
	5:30p-6:30p	WAM via Zoom Conferencing
	5:30p-6:30p	United Harvest Board Meeting-NW Clsrm/PEACE Center
Wed, Mar 3	12:00 1:00p	Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
	5:00p-7:00p	Confirmation Class
	7:00p-8:00p	6 th -8 th Grade In-Person Youth Group Church youth room
	7:00p-8:00p	9 th -12 th Grade In-Person Youth Group PEACE Center
		youth room
Thurs, Mar 4	5:30p-6:30p	Christian Ed (Youth) via Zoom Conferencing
	6:00p-7:00p	Mexican Dance Class-NE Clsrm/PEACE Center
	7:00p-8:00p	Spanish Class-NW Clsrm/PEACE Center
Fri, Mar 5	7:00a-8:00a	Lenten Discussion Group Lydia Rm/ZOOM
Sun, Mar 7	9:15a-10:15a	Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	9:15a-10:15a	Forum Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	10:30a	"In-Person" Worship Service (Be sure to sign in your
		attendance using the link from the email)
	12:00p-1:00p	Lenten Discussion Group Lydia Rm/Zoom
Mon, Mar 8		"Monday Check-in" Communication
		from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Mar 9	10:30a-11:30a	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing
	12:00p-1:00p	Lenten Discussion Group-Lydia Rm/Zoom
	4:30p-5:30p	Mission-Parlor/Zoom
	5:30p-6:30p	Congregational Life-Parlor/Zoom
Mod Mondo	6:00p-7:00p	Trustees-Anderson/Zoom
Wed, Mar 10	12:00 1:00p	Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing Confirmation Class
	5:00p-7:00p	6 th -8 th Grade In-Person Youth Group Church youth room
	7:00p-8:00p	9 th -12 th Grade In-Person Youth Group PEACE Center
	7:00p-8:00p	youth room
Thurs, Mar 11	5:00p-6:00p	Personnel-Anderson/Zoom
Fri, Mar 12	7:00a-8:00a	Lenten Discussion Group Lydia Rm/ZOOM
Sun, Mar 14	9:15a-10:15a	Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	9:15a-10:15a 9:15a-10:15a	Forum Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	10:30a	<b>"In-Person" Worship Service</b> (Be sure to sign in your
		attendance using the link from the email)
	12:00p-1:00p	Lenten Discussion Group Lydia Rm/Zoom
	P	

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

**Address Service Requested** 

### **The Home Page**

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: <u>fpc@fpchastings.org</u> or call 402-462-5147.

