

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS, NE

2021 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 in the heart of Hastings since 1873

Head of Church: Jesus Christ
Senior Pastor: Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett
Director of Children & Family
Ministries: Rose Koepf
Organist and Music Coordinator: Linda Vollweiler
Calvin/Westminster Choir Director: Linda Johnson
Praise/Alleluia Choir Directors: Teresa & Tim 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
Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger
Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Robin Koozer
Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster
Bells Director: Dr. Byron Jensen
Church Office Administrator: Sarah Allen
Facilities Manager: Tony Calhoun
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 30, 2022

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 31, 2021 (See pg. 30)

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

2021 CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2021 (Class of 2024) – Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

| Deacons (5) | Session (4) | Trustees (3) |
|---|---|--------------|
| Daveta Brader | Steve Illingworth | Erik Nielsen |
| Lisa Unger | William Oliver | Mary Creigh |
| Sally Hatcher | Dave Cooke | Kevin Turner |
| Lois Hafer | Richard Johnson | |
| Julie Thomsen | Class of 2023: Brian Johnson (fill out remainder of term) | |
| Class of 2022: Dick Brader (fill out remainder of term) | | |

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

At-Large Members:

2022

Mary Plock

Sandra Wimer

2023

Teresa Luther

Brian Johnson

2024 (Proposed)

Vonda Essex

Jessica Meeske

OTHER BUSINESS

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

TERMS OF CALL

Annual Report 2021

TERMS OF CALL FOR REV. GREG ALLEN-PICKETT

TITLE: Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

| | |
|---|----------|
| Head of Staff - Salary | \$62,483 |
| Head of Staff - Housing | \$30,554 |
| Head of Staff - Pens/Med Ins | \$35,250 |
| Head of Staff - Travel, Prof. Expenses, Continuing Ed | \$5,000 |

TERMS OF CALL FOR REV. DAMEN HEITMANN

TITLE: Associate Pastor

| | |
|--|----------|
| Associate Pastor - Salary | \$41,730 |
| Associate Pastor - Housing | \$14,338 |
| Associate Pastor - Pension/Medical Insurance | \$12,510 |
| Associate Pastor - Travel, Prof. Expenses, Continuing Ed | \$2,000 |

ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Annual Report 2021

As I reflect back on 2021 I find myself being appreciative of the opportunity to continue to gather with so many genuine and authentic people of faith. I am thankful to be able to work closely with youths, elders, and everyone in between. This church and the people who call it home have provided wonderful moments of faith throughout the year and I am thankful to have been a part of them.

In my official capacity as Associate Pastor, I continue to serve in a variety of roles. I serve as the staff liaison to both the Congregational Life and Global Mission and Local Social Witness Committees. I have also been responsible for preaching on a regular basis and assisting in worship leadership every Sunday. I have led funerals, weddings, provided home communion and pastoral care, led bible study, book groups, and coordinated numerous adult enrichment opportunities.

I also have the good fortune of working with our Senior High youth. I lead our fellowship on Wednesday evenings during which we study the bible, play silly games, and generally share life with one another. On Wednesday evenings I also get to spend time assisting as a table parent and filling in in other little ways to assist our ministry programs for younger children. I will also teach the occasional Sunday School class for our Senior High and coordinate other teachers for those mornings. I also now teach confirmation which I have been enjoying.

While there has been a lot going on and plenty of things that I could talk about I would like to mention three special projects in particular. The was the opportunity to create a Lenten workbook with Kili Wenburg. The development, creation, and ultimate use by the congregation of "That They May All Be One: The First Stitches" was a significant spiritual and professional accomplishment for me. Working with Kili is, of course, a joy and I am hopeful that we can engage in such processes in the future. However, what most captured my imagination about the work was the sense that we were working to create something that could be used in people's everyday lives and would speak directly to the spiritual challenges of our day and age. The project was created in order to challenge a fractured and polarized world. It was intended to help people move towards those they considered to be their enemies. Each day in the workbook built upon what had come before it and presented an entirely different structure than anything we had created for a Lenten devotional in the past. I am thankful also to the congregation who so willingly attempted and cherished the work that the guide laid out. May we never think of false dichotomies the same way again.

During the summer of 2021 my heart was made light as we Go & Serve returned after a forced hiatus due to COVID-19 the previous summer. It was, yet again, an honor to travel with a group of high school students to Biloxi, MS for no other reason than to attempt to do good in the world. That's it. That was the whole reason for the trip. A group of people, traveling through the world, spending their days trying to do right by others. That's the faith right there. That is what God calls to.

To be perfectly honest, when I look around the world I don't see a whole lot of reason to be hopeful. I see folks acting with blatant disregard for the common good. I see corporations run amuck. I see people operating plainly and clearly out of a sense of hate and fear of others. I see a

whole culture built upon the notion that the individual is entitled to get whatever they want whenever they want. And I get discouraged to put it lightly.

And then I get to come here. Or I get to embark to Mississippi in van full of teenagers. Either way I get to surround myself with people who still believe in something beyond themselves; with folks still willing to hold a candle in front of their faces and declare their intention not to live by the ways of the world but by the ways of God. I get to come on Sunday mornings, and Tuesday nights, and Wednesday afternoons, and all the other times and be in the presence of faithful pilgrims; dedicated to the service of God, one another, and to the world. I get to be among those who choose to live, as best they are able, by the principles of peace, hope, and love. And in those moments my own faith gets restored.

As I look forward to the year ahead, I offer my thanks to First Presbyterian Church for the year that was.

Peace and all good,
Damen Jensen-Heitmann

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & YOUTH Rose Koepp

Annual Report 2021

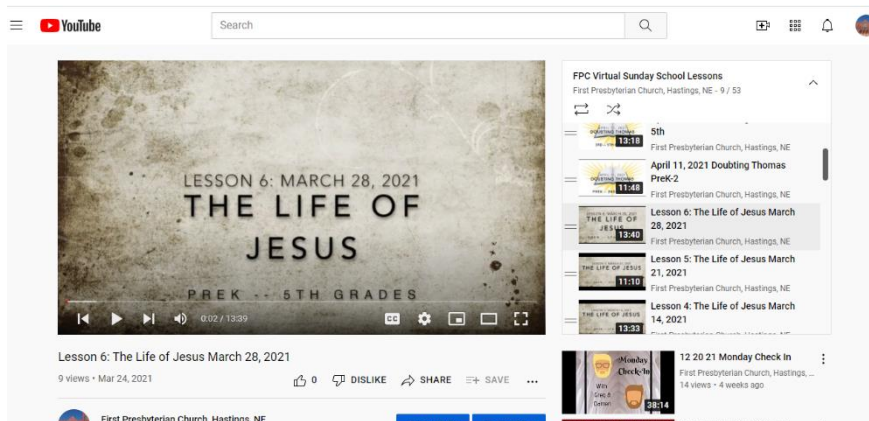
In October of 2021, our beloved Director of Christian Education, Steph Brader, transitioned to another job. So, the first half of this report was written by Pastor Greg and the second half was written by our new amazing Director of Christian Education, Rose Koepp.

From Pastor Greg:

2021 was a year full of challenges, changes, and blessings for our Christian Education programs for children and youth. From January-May, all of our Sunday School and Wednesday Night

Christian Education were remote for our children. This meant that Steph Brader recorded and edited two videos per week for our kiddos and their families, and packets were sent home every month to provide materials. Steph and the Christian Ed committee did amazing work to keep this ministry of Christian Education going and we are deeply grateful. If you want to watch any of those videos, they can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/FPCHVSS>



Screenshot of one of the Christian Ed Videos made for virtual Sunday



Confirmands joining the church on May 2,

We adapted our Confirmation Curriculum to be taught in a condensed format and held classes on Wednesday evenings from February through April. This worked well and we confirmed six of our eighth graders as new members of the church on May 2. It was a joyful celebration! Thank you to our confirmation teachers and sponsors, and to our confirmands and your families for your flexibility. It was inspirational to work with these young people and hear them profess and share their faith.

While we didn't hold Wednesday Night Live in the Spring, we did hold our end of the school year barbeque in Libs Park in May for all of our children, youth, and volunteers. It was wonderful to gather together, share a meal, play games, and have fellowship in-person!

We did a joint Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year with First United Methodist Church. The theme was "Adventure Island." For COVID precautions, the whole VBS was held outdoors on the green lawn north of the Masonic Center. (Thanks again to the Masonic Center for their collaboration.) Between the participants and the volunteers, more than 120 people participated in this incredible three day event! It was wonderful to work together with the Methodist Church and a delight to be able to hold VBS this year after we had cancelled it in 2020 due to COVID-19.

We hope to continue this tradition of collaborating with other churches in our VBS programming.



(Above) 3 of our many volunteers
(Left) VBS Kiddos and Volunteers singing



During the Summer, Session voted to restart in-person Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live programming with COVID-19 precautions in place. We purchased picnic tables to be able to share our meals outdoors when the weather allowed. Our Praise/Alleluia Children's Choir and Calvin/Westminster Youth Choir were flexible and rehearsed outdoors through mid-October as well.

(Left) Outdoor Choir rehearsal
(Right) Sunday School In-Person



Steph Brader shared the news of her transition in September and worked hard with us to make that transition smooth. I worked with the Personnel Committee and the Christian Ed Committee, and we were able to hire Rose Koepp by late September. Rose hit the ground running and had two weeks of overlap with Steph Brader. I will turn the rest of this report over to Rose...

From Rose Koepp:

During the fall of 2021, our ministries included children and youth Sunday School classes for ages 3-18, and Wednesday Night Live (WNL) for ages 6-18. We were very excited to be able to offer these ministries in-person this fall!

Our Sunday classes are working through a curriculum called SPARK, which corresponds to the Revised Common Lectionary each week. The hope is that this helps the children better understand the scripture being heard during worship.

On Wednesdays, the elementary age program is held from 4:00 pm-6:45 pm and includes recreation, vocal & bell choir, Bible study (also utilizing the SPARK curriculum), and a family-time meal. Our 6th-12th grade youth meet for the family-time meal, vocal & bell choir rehearsals, and fellowship time from 6:00 pm -8:15 pm each Wednesday night. The consistent attendance and growth of our WNL program has been a wonderful gift to us all.

As a way of supporting the faith formation of the FPC newborn children through the age of 3, each of the children are mailed a monthly newsletter titled “Splash”. Each month, the newsletter provides age-specific fun, and easy ideas for bringing faith into everyday life of infants and their families. The church continues to offer nursery care for children under the age of 5 on Sunday mornings during the Christian Education hour and the 10:30 am worship service.

Stephanie was so organized and thorough that the transition into the role of Director of Children and Youth Christian Education was incredibly smooth and mostly seamless. I have been overwhelmed with the open arms with which I have been welcomed into this role, and even more so, with how my family has been welcomed into this church. I am having so much fun serving and working with the children and youth of this congregation. I cannot wait to see what next year holds!

Your continued prayers for the children and youth programs are so appreciated. Our children and youth ministry here at First Presbyterian Church is alive and growing. Thanks be to God!

-Rosalie Koepp

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, ADULT EDUCATION
Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Annual Report 2021

The practice of building up faithful disciples through study and reflection continued in 2021 as the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church were presented with several opportunities to strengthen and enhance their faith through adult education opportunities.

Our Scholar in Residence, Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh, continued to be blessing to our congregation through several different endeavors. Dan thoughtfully leads a weekly study group that focuses on a variety of topics. In the past year this group, which meets via Zoom at noon on Wednesdays, studied The Book of Revelation and began an examination of the book, *Dangerous Religious Ideas* by Rachel S. Mikva.

In addition to leading this group on a weekly basis, Dan led two separate Forum series last year. These series were intentionally aligned with the themes presented in worship and offered a wonderful opportunity for folks to more fully engage with the scriptures for the day. The two series Dan led were “The Isenheim Altarpiece: On the Meaning of Crucifixion” and “Wisdom Literature: Understanding The Other Writings.” We continue to be blessed by Dan’s heartfelt and enthusiastic teaching.

Speaking of Forum, Lindsey Kluver led the group in an artistic journey through the season of Advent. Under Lindsey’s tutelage, the group learned about the history of artistic interpretations of Advent, studied particular pieces of art, and even expressed their own spirituality through the creation of their own pieces of artwork. We look forward to the next time Lindsey is willing to join us. Also, Lanae Hall led our group in a conversation that was focused on Transgender and what it means to love our neighbors even if we don’t fully understand what they are going through. We are thankful as well for Lanae and the compassion that they helped us to know and understand.

The Tuesday afternoon bible study (led by Pastor Greg) continues to offer reflection on the weekly scriptural passages. And the ReBookulously Good Reads groups (originally started in 2020) resumed their activities by reading through another novel by Marilynne Robinson, titled *Home*. The group is enjoying the fellowship and spiritual conversations that arise from their conversations.

Also, we have continued the work of making many of our offerings available on-line via our churches YouTube and Soundcloud pages. Recorded sessions of book groups, classes, and forum series are available for folks to look through at any time.

Which brings us around to “The Monday Check-In” and some future plans for Adult Enrichment through First Presbyterian Church. Pastors Damen and Greg have continued to record their weekly bible study/conversation known as the “The Monday Check-In.” The conversation is recorded in a podcast style and made available via multiple digital platform. In the next year we plan to enhance our recording capabilities and explore more fully the possibility of creating resources that could be used by other Presbyterian churches. First Pres is blessed with a font of wonderful resources and we would like to be able to share those things with others. As 2021 drew to a close we were actively making plans to create a dedicated recording space and the

rough outlines of the type of content that could be generated and be useful to the wider church body.

It continues to be a pleasure to be among pilgrims committed to exploring their faith.

Peace and all good,
Damen Jensen-Heitmann

REPORT OF CLERK OF SESSION

Clerk of Session: Mary Seiler

Annual Report 2021

The following congregational data provides a brief snapshot of First Presbyterian Church in 2021:

Membership, December 31, 2020 443 active, 210 friends

Received during 2021:

Profession of faith, reaffirmation, restoration 8

Certificate of transfer 5

Confirmation 6

Losses 2021:

Certificate 1

Death 6

Membership, December 31, 2021 455 active, 210 friends*

Youth/Young Adult/Adult Baptisms 0

Infant Baptisms 7

Weddings 3

Funerals 6

Average worship attendance:

January 3-February 21, online only 260

February 28 – December 26 (online and in-person combined) 262

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: attend worship or receive communion at least once per year, contribute to the finances of the church in an amount equal to or greater than apportionment, serve on a board or committee, pray 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

Moderator: Mary Kay LaMaster

Annual Report 2021

Congregational Life provides hospitality, fellowship programs and events which 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.

Congregational Life tried to make the most of our opportunities to facilitate social events for 2021.

Advent and Christmas decorations were put away for the season by small groups.

Congregational Life supplied greeters for our Easter service held at Hastings College. We also served as greeters for the outdoor worship services in Alexander Park and the 8:30 service when it was not longer feasible to hold worship outdoors.

We handed out chocolates on Mother's Day and Father's Day.

July 18, 2021 we hosted a tailgate at Harms Park and then attended the Hastings Sodbusters baseball game. We had a wonderful turn out and ran out of food!

We provided treats for the new member class participants in October.

Hanging of the Greens happened on Nov. 21, 2021 following the 10:30 service. We had tremendous group and the church was ready for Advent in less than 2 hours! Pizza was donated to thank those who stayed to help.

Committee members: Joe Black, Tarah Davis, Stacy Kerr, Cheryl Lockwood, Jessica Meeske, Scott Shardelow, Julie Thomsen, Kathy Amyot, Dana Miller, Kim Day, Deb Johnson, Tim Johnson, Pastor Damen Jensen-Heitmann-staff liaison.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kay LaMaster, moderator

BOARD OF DEACONS
Moderator: Kathy Reimer

Annual Report 2021

The Board of Deacons is a ministry within our church that provides care and compassion to the members of our congregation. The individuals who serve in this position tend to be naturally caring people who enjoy reaching out to others and spreading kindness and love. They truly are called to be “the heart of the church.” The board is comprised of 15 Deacons and Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett.

Active members and “friends” of our church are divided into parishes, with one Deacon assigned to each parish. The goal of each Deacon is to ensure the folks within his/her parish stay connected with the church and feel welcomed. Some responsibilities of our Deacons include delivering communion to residents in retirement centers, helping with funeral luncheons, delivering altar flowers, and providing transportation to anyone needing a ride to church. Each Deacon is also assigned to one or two members called VIPs (Very Important People). These are members who are homebound, reside in a retirement center or nursing home or are unable to get out easily. The hope is to connect at least once a month through a visit, phone call or card. Roles of our Deacons continued to be unique this year due to the ongoing pandemic. At times the individuals we were trying to interact with resided in centers that were closed to the public or had very guarded visitations. The key word for the year was flexibility. Our role as friend and comforter became all the more important when individuals had isolation for days or weeks, sometimes not being able to leave their own room. Frequent phone calls and notes helped with loneliness. It was such a delight as most facilities reopened for in-person visits, granted sometimes that meant only being able to meet outside, and masks became the norm.



Communion in retirement centers resumed but would have hiccups here and there due to outbreaks that caused closures to the community. Once in-person church returned, transportation became an opportunity, but few opted for help due to the fabulous stay-at-home Facebook service. Delivery of altar flowers continued strong with plenty of opportunities to recognize celebrations and at times sorrows. Funeral luncheons resumed late in the year with some modifications. We were honored to assist these families in their time of need. Being able to reach out to the family and extend our heartfelt sympathy in the loss of their loved one was a beautiful way to connect with those grieving.

A new adventure that started this year was the viewing of our 10:30 Facebook service with members who reside at College View Assisted Living. One or two Deacons attended each week to deliver bulletins and watch the service on a large television with some of our members (and a few non-members) in the theater room. We were able to follow along and share in our own small community of faith. It has been quite delightful!



Finally, we still have a couple of members helping with grocery runs and errands for folks in need. The Board of Deacons shares the love of Christ with compassion, empathy, and service to the church and the community. As we continue our journey (with Covid alongside), our service of love is a major gift we enjoy sharing with our beloved congregation.

Kathy Reimer
Deacon Moderator 2021

2021 BUDGET & ACTUAL Expenses and 2022 BUDGET

| Offerings and Income | Budget 2021 | Actual 2021 | Budget 2022 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund estimates - Current yr | \$ 641,350 | \$ 628,106 | \$ 650,000 |
| Other Income | \$ 30,600 | \$ 23,114 | \$ 34,950 |
| Per capita receipts | \$ 6,000 | \$ 4,979 | \$ 6,000 |
| Annex Rental/Building Use | \$ 7,500 | \$ 6,937 | \$ 10,500 |
| Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Grant | | \$ 73,706 | |
| Total Offerings and Income | \$ 685,450 | \$ 736,842 | \$ 701,450 |
| | | | |
| The Mission - Local and Global Community Outreach | | | |
| Mission Co-workers | \$5,000.00 | \$5,000.00 | \$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 | \$2,061.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| Open Table | \$2,500.00 | \$4,459.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| OPSF-Kessler Scholarship | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | \$200.00 |
| Mission Outreach | \$10,251.00 | \$10,251.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| Disaster Assistance | | | \$500.00 |
| Local Mission - Discretionary | \$700.00 | \$702.00 | \$700.00 |
| Youth outreach | \$700.00 | \$699.00 | \$700.00 |
| Subtotal- Mission/Community Outreach | \$ 24,051 | \$ 26,072 | \$ 24,300 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Gathering to Worship | | | |
| Chancel Choir Director - Stipend | \$ 6,500 | \$ 6,500 | \$ 6,600 |
| Calvin/Westminster Choir Director - Stipend | \$ 6,500 | \$ 6,500 | \$ 6,600 |
| Chancel and Cal/West Bell Director - Stipend | \$ 6,500 | \$ 6,500 | \$ 6,600 |
| Children's Bell Choir Director - Stipend | \$ 6,500 | - | \$ 6,600 |
| Children's Choir Director - Stipend | \$ 6,500 | \$ 6,500 | \$ 6,600 |
| Organist | \$ 14,700 | \$ 14,700 | \$ 15,140 |
| Music Coordinator | \$ 6,500 | \$ 6,500 | \$ 6,600 |
| Accompanists - Stipends | \$ 3,400 | \$ 3,399 | \$ 4,000 |
| Sound Technician/Social Media | \$ 4,500 | \$ 7,672 | \$ 4,500 |
| Pulpit Supply | \$ 300 | \$ - | \$ 300 |
| Special Worship Services | \$ 350 | \$ 179 | \$ 350 |
| Communion Supplies | \$ 250 | \$ 371 | \$ 500 |
| Seasonal/Liturgical Décor | \$ 200 | \$ 629 | \$ 200 |
| Copyright License Fees | \$ 1,500 | \$ 505 | \$ 1,500 |
| Worship Enhancement - Flowers | \$ 2,500 | \$ 2,632 | \$ 2,500 |
| Worship Services - Radio Broadcast | \$ 3,000 | \$ 3,495 | \$ 3,500 |
| Worship Services - Video | \$ 1,300 | \$ - | \$ 1,300 |
| Misc Committee Expense - Wor & Music | \$ 250 | \$ 78 | \$ 250 |
| Subtotal - Gathering to Worship | \$ 71,250 | \$ 66,160 | \$ 73,640 |

| | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Christian Education - Teaching the Word to our children, youth, and adults | Budget 2021 | Actual 2021 | Budget 2022 |
| Director of Child & Youth Education | \$ 28,634 | \$ 23,233 | \$ 24,380 |
| Parish Associate | \$ 10,300 | \$ 3,225 | \$ - |
| Dir. Of Child and Youth Education - Cont Ed | \$ 1,000 | \$ - | \$ 1,000 |
| Christian Ed Helper | \$ 2,500 | \$ 218 | \$ 2,500 |
| Curriculum and Supplies | \$ 6,750 | \$ 3,203 | \$ 5,750 |
| Background Checks | \$ 250 | \$ 55 | \$ 250 |
| Middle School and High School Youth Group | \$ 2,500 | \$ 919 | \$ 2,500 |
| Wednesday Night Live | \$ 4,000 | \$ 1,210 | \$ 4,000 |
| Library Books, Subscriptions and Supplies | \$ 1,300 | \$ 484 | \$ 1,300 |
| Nursery Workers | \$ 1,700 | \$ 520 | \$ 1,700 |
| Campus Ministry | \$ 200 | \$ - | \$ 200 |
| Church Officer Training | \$ 800 | \$ 32 | \$ 800 |
| Adult Education Materials and Speakers | \$ 1,000 | \$ 554 | \$ 1,000 |
| Scholar in Residence | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 2,000 |
| Subtotal - Teaching the Word | \$ 60,934 | \$ 33,653 | \$ 47,380 |
| | | | |
| Caring for our Congregation | Budget 2021 | Actual 2021 | Budget 2022 |
| Deacon's Fund | \$ 300 | \$ - | \$ 300 |
| Deacon's Card/Postage Fund | \$ 100 | \$ - | \$ 100 |
| Parish Nurse expenses | \$ 200 | \$ - | \$ 200 |
| Name Tags | \$ 100 | \$ - | \$ 100 |
| Special Events/Membership Recognitions | \$ 2,000 | \$ 274 | \$ 2,000 |
| Baptismal gifts | \$ 200 | \$ - | \$ 200 |
| Outreach/Marketing and Welcome Brochures | \$ 1,200 | \$ 50 | \$ 1,200 |
| Friendship Pads/Pew Cards | \$ 150 | \$ - | \$ 150 |
| Subtotal - Caring for our Congregation | \$ 4,250 | \$ 324 | \$ 4,250 |
| | | | |
| Stewarding Church Facilities for Mission, Ministry, Education and Worship | Budget 2021 | Actual 2021 | Budget 2022 |
| Facilities Manager - Salary | \$ 35,175 | \$ 34,634 | \$ 39,335 |
| Facilities M. - Health Insurance and Retirement | \$ 11,556 | \$ 11,101 | \$ 16,530 |
| Utilities - Gas, Elec., Water, PEACE Ctr. Utilities | \$ 41,000 | \$ 42,235 | \$ 46,500 |
| Telephone and Internet | \$ 7,500 | \$ 6,909 | \$ 7,050 |
| Maintenance & Repairs, landscaping, sprinkler | \$ 19,250 | \$ 28,801 | \$ 24,150 |
| Custodial Supplies | \$ 4,500 | \$ 5,273 | \$ 4,500 |
| Contract Svcs - Exterm, Trash, Lawn, etc | \$ 20,000 | \$ 26,088 | \$ 22,000 |
| Kitchen supplies | \$ 3,000 | \$ 658 | \$ 2,500 |
| Property/Liability Insurance | \$ 30,000 | \$ 38,889 | \$ 39,215 |
| Copier Lease Expense | \$ 6,500 | \$ 9,830 | \$ 9,000 |
| Van - Gas, Maintenance, Insur, Fees | \$ 250 | \$ 163 | \$ 250 |
| PEACE Center Maint., Repair, Contract Services | \$ 11,000 | \$ 9,727 | \$ 14,000 |
| Subtotal - Church Facilities | \$ 189,731 | \$ 214,308 | \$ 225,030 |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| The Mission - Proclaiming the Gospel in Word and Deed, Teaching, Preaching, Leading | Budget 2021 | Actual 2021 | Budget 2022 |
| Head of Staff - Salary | \$ 60,663 | \$ 60,663 | \$ 62,483 |
| Head of Staff - Housing Allowance | \$ 29,664 | \$ 29,664 | \$ 30,554 |
| Head of Staff - Pension/Medical Insurance | \$ 36,300 | \$ 35,267 | \$ 35,250 |
| Head of Staff - Travel, Prof. Expenses, Con Ed | \$ 5,000 | \$ 1,314 | \$ 5,000 |
| Associate Pastor - Salary | \$ 39,000 | \$ 39,000 | \$ 41,730 |
| Associate Pastor - Housing Allowance | \$ 13,400 | \$ 13,400 | \$ 14,338 |
| Associate Pastor - Pension/Medical Insurance | \$ 16,400 | \$ 12,267 | \$ 12,510 |
| Associate Pastor Travel, Prof. Expenses, Con Ed | \$ 1,500 | \$ 383 | \$ 2,000 |
| Subtotal - Proclaiming the Gospel | \$ 201,927 | \$ 191,958 | \$ 203,865 |
| | | | |
| Congregational Administration for the ministry and mission of the church | Budget 2021 | Actual 2021 | Budget 2022 |
| Administrative Specialist - Salary | \$ 34,608 | \$ 34,494 | \$ 33,800 |
| Admin Specialist - Pension/Health Ins | \$ 11,556 | \$ 10,516 | \$ 11,149 |
| Finance Director | \$ 12,875 | \$ 12,428 | \$ 13,250 |
| Office Staff Professional Development | \$ 500 | \$ 27 | \$ 500 |
| Stewardship Expenses | \$ 750 | \$ 720 | \$ 750 |
| Office supplies | \$ 5,000 | \$ 4,166 | \$ 5,000 |
| Computer software/support | \$ 2,500 | \$ 5,074 | \$ 2,500 |
| Office New Equipment | \$ 500 | \$ - | \$ 500 |
| Postage - Gen & Admin and Newsletter | \$ 2,400 | \$ 2,609 | \$ 2,400 |
| Office Expense - Fees, etc. | \$ 200 | \$ 270 | \$ 200 |
| Online Payment Fees | \$ 500 | \$ 1,588 | \$ 500 |
| Professional Services - Audit | \$ - | \$ 3,895 | \$ 3,895 |
| Federal withholdings matching/SECA | \$ 22,803 | \$ 22,138 | \$ 23,461 |
| Website Maintenance | \$ 1,200 | \$ 1,200 | \$ 1,200 |
| Subtotal - Congregational Administration | \$ 95,392 | \$ 99,125 | \$ 99,105 |
| | | | |
| Mission - Supporting the mission work of the Presbyterian Church | Budget 2021 | Actual 2021 | Budget 2022 |
| PC(USA) Per Capita | \$ 15,075 | \$ 15,075 | \$ 15,410 |
| 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 | \$ 46,075 | \$ 44,075 | \$ 46,410 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | Budget 2021 | Actual 2021 | Budget 2022 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 696,142 | \$ 699,932 | \$ 722,785 |
| | | | |
| Total Offerings and Income | \$ 685,450 | \$ 736,842 | \$ 701,450 |
| | | | |
| Difference | \$ (10,692) | \$ 36,910 | \$ (21,335) |

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS FOUNDATION & ENDOWMENT
ACTIVITY REPORT
Moderator: Mike Karloff

Annual Report 2021

This page has intentionally been left blank.
The Foundation Committee is processing all final
year-end numbers.

GLOBAL MISSION & LOCAL WITNESS COMMITTEE
Moderator: Jeni Howard

Annual Report 2021

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.

In 2021, new Covid 19 variants, as well as swings in numbers of cases, required continued creativity and flexibility as we strived to understand, serve, 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 2021:
 - January: One Great Hour of Sharing and the Harvard People's Project
 - February: Salvation Army
 - March: Habitat for Humanity
 - April: EnCourage (formerly SASA)
 - May: Open Table
 - June: National Pentecost Offering split with CASA
 - July: PHC2 (People Helping Communities)
 - August: Our Place After School Program
 - September: Special Scoops
 - October: National Peace and Global Witness Offering split with Pine Ridge
 - November: Revive Ministries Recovery and Counseling Services
 - December: FPC-USA Joy Offering; as well as Reverse Advent Donations. As part of advent, the congregation generously donated requested items to four local agencies: Catholic Social Services, Crossroads, High School Food Pantry, EnCourage. Our committee organized and distributed donations.

Developing Relationships and Partnerships Through Ongoing and New Service Projects:

- 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), coat drives, Brooks's Bookshelf, EnCourage, Happy Nappies, Pine Ridge and Hastings Food Pantry. Information on these collections is available via the church office.
- With ongoing safety modifications relating to Covid-19, we continued our partnership with First United Methodist Church to coordinate the United Harvest food distributions on the third Saturday of each month at our First Presbyterian Peace Center. Each month many members of our two churches along with other organizations, churches and independent volunteers joined to help set up and distribute the food.

- In response to ongoing food insecurity in our community, church members continued to hand out weekly food boxes to 40 families at our First Presbyterian Peace Center. Each week we distributed 40 boxes of fresh produce. The United Harvest team also donated 160 pounds each month to be distributed with the produce boxes.
- For the past 17 years during the month of July our congregation has prepared sack lunches and special meals for the Open Table community sack lunch program. In July of 2021, Covid numbers had dropped in our community. Members who were fully vaccinated or wearing masks were able to joyfully gather for three Sundays in Fellowship Hall to pack 3,000 sack lunches and make 200 chef salads which were then delivered to Catholic Social Services for distribution.
- 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. The store reopened after both church services for the second half of 2021. Café Justo continued to be sold from the church office. Even with this year's continued limitations due to Covid 19, the Hands Around the World Store contributed \$100 each month to the United Harvest Food Distribution.
- Our committee sponsored two activities in our PEACE center fostering ongoing relationships with our Latino community. Maria Rubalcava teaches a weekly dance class, Raíces de Mi Pueblo. Bertha Garcia teaches Spanish Class.
- Committee members once again partnered with Aida and Mark Evens in preparing a welcome meal in July for over 100 migrant farm workers from Mexico who are employed seasonally in our community. In 2021, members of the committee assisted in preparing and serving food for a picnic at Hastings Lake.
- In January, 40 coats left over from the coat drive in 2020 were donated to Pine Ridge. Rather than sponsoring a coat drive this year, coats donated or left over from the previous drives were placed in the church office to give out if requested.
- Following recommendations by Mission Committee and approval of Session and Trustees, a donation dropbox for Crossroads was set up in our Peace Center parking lot. Crossroads is responsible for maintaining and emptying the box.
- A giving tree was placed in Memorial Room to support clients of Assertive Community Treatments; people with severe and persistent mental illness living in our community. All tags were fulfilled by our congregation.
- Mission donated \$10,000 that had previously been earmarked for Pooh Corner to C4K to help develop quality daycare programs/training, and to provide scholarships for families who need support. The \$10,000 yearly donation will continue for the next five years, and will be reviewed after the five years.
- \$30,000 of a surplus from the 2021 budget was assigned to the Mission Committee to be used to support projects in our community. The committee reached out to the congregation for new project ideas or existing programs that would significantly benefit from extra financial support. A community support application was introduced in church, sent out in our newsletter, and handed out at church. The applications were screened and presented at our Mission meeting. Each applicant received all, or at least a portion of the support requested. Following approval by Session, the following programs or projects received financial support:
 - Central Community College Food and Hygiene Pantry
 - Revive Recovery and Counseling Services (remodeling men's housing)

- Medication Assistance Program at Mary Lanning Healthcare
- Compassionate Transportation Project at Mary Lanning Healthcare
- Sunny “D’s” Peer Education Group (costs of training materials, presentations, events, etc)
- Hastings Evening Lions (financial aid for sight screening, exams, and glasses)
- Raíces de Mi Pueblo (help with cost of costumes and other materials, gas costs for performances)
- Hastings Community Music Academy (scholarship support, instruments for group classes)
- Financial support for mental health care (Administered through United Way)
- Financial support for gas vouchers, transportation costs, minor repairs (Administered through United Way)

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 six years. Although we didn’t get to meet in person this year, 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 shared information with our committee through emails and phone calls. We also stay in contact through her Facebook page. We continue to support this ministry through financial donations.

Although 2021 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.

2021 Mission Committee Members

Sharon Brooks, Constance Malloy, Meg Stewart-Magee, Denny Storer, Jan Ham, Julie Thomsen, Pamela Lainson, Jane Marsh, Beverly Rader, Erica Brooks, Paula Crozier, Vonda Essex, Harold Korb, Jodi Graves, Lanae Hall, Jeni Howard, Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Respectfully submitted,
Jeni Howard



Welcome Picnic for Seasonal Workers



Reverse Advent Donations

GO & SERVE
Staff Liaison: Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Annual Report 2021

In June of 2021 an intrepid group of nine (9) disciples piled into a van and made their way to Biloxi, Mississippi. The group consisted of seven senior high youth and two chaperones. The students were Avery Essink, Hannah Hafer, Chudier Duang, Eric Brader, Abigail Kerr, Shannon Canady, and Jackson Graves. The chaperones were Jennifer Boeve and Damen Jensen-Heitmann.

After an inauspicious start to the trip, which involved Pastor Damen setting the church's alarm system as well as one student setting their alarm for p.m. instead of a.m. the group of happy travelers piled themselves, and the aforementioned supplies, into a mechanically aspirated, 9.34 quart, tri-quad valved, dooly mounted, (or something like that) Ford Transit. It was a big van. Its sound system went up to 30! But 22-25 seemed to be enough to drown out any conversations you didn't want to hear. Not to mention being the ideal volume for having a dance party to "It's Raining Men." Eventually, the group found their way to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS.



Because you will ask; it was hot in MS. Because you'll also want to know: it was very humid. And because you won't be able to help yourselves: It was like being in a sauna only all the time and also the lights in the sauna are literally trying to fry your skin. It was not always pleasant. It was, at times, oppressive. Sounds fun, right? Now imagine that you're homeless. And maybe you sleep in a tent but there's a good chance you don't. And you walk everywhere you go. And the distance from where you can shower to where you can get lunch is a mile and a half. And you carry all your possessions with you if they haven't been stolen from you. And who knows how far it is to whatever shelter or camp you've found to stay in?

It is this population, those who are homeless or without adequate housing, that Back Bay Mission has sought to serve for over 90 years. In the 1920s the mission began by offering Sunday School as well as clothing, shoes, and medicine to children of the area. In the 1940s a clinic was established which included two physicians, a dentist, and a technician. In the 1960s the mission and members of its staff became involved in integration efforts in Biloxi and the

surrounding area. And at various times in the last 50 years the mission has hosted or created ministries focused women, those living with HIV/AIDS, veterans, and essentially anyone else who found themselves in need of help.



Today Back Bay Mission focuses on meeting immediate needs as well as helping folks to access more structured resources and relationships which will hopefully help them find their way out of poverty. Back Bay currently facilitates the only client-choice food pantry in MS. They also operate a day shelter known as the Micah Day Center. The Micah Day center is open, as you may guess, during the day. Guests are able to take a shower and also have laundry done while they are there. The center also provides an opportunity for folks to take a break from the conditions of the day. But that is not all that happens there because Back Bay Mission also employs a number of case workers who spend their time getting to know the guests who come in, assess their needs, and work with them so that they can find firm footing and begin to move out of homelessness. These case workers might do anything from providing assistance in retrieving birth records or identification. They may connect a guest with employment resources and assist in putting together a resume or offer coaching on interview skills. They may help a guest access health care or set up a bank account. They'll seek out affordable housing options and essentially do whatever they can to help their neighbors in need. We heard stories of case workers making their way to homeless camps, caring for people's pets, and even being at their side while they died.

Our young disciples spent time in the Micah Day center. They learned from these case workers and other volunteers. They greeted people when they came in. They heard their stories. They played games of UNO. They washed their clothes. They cleaned the showers. They would have made you proud.

In addition, Back Bay Mission, runs a robust housing rehabilitation program. The work of this program varies as needs arise but could be anything from remodeling houses to make them handicapped accessible, to installing a roof, or even new home construction. They work exclusively with low-income clients and rely on volunteer labor (like our own) to be able to do the good they provide. During our week we spent time helping to finish two new construction sites. Our young disciples painted, and painted, and spent some time painting. They also installed appliances, faucets, and trim.

And on one long, hot, memorable day we laid approximately 4,500 square feet of sod. Some of us more successfully than others. We had to clean our own showers after we were done using them that day.



And all along the way we spent time in reflection on the book, *The Three Questions* by Jon J. Muth. We considered Nikolai and his questions which are, “What is the best time to do things? Who is the most important one?” and “What is the right thing to do?”. We also studied Jesus and his attention to a woman who was suffering. We thought about what it means to be a good person and how the stories of others might help us find our way. Yes, we served others as best we could. But we learned from them as well. We learned what it means to be loving. We learned what it is to be resilient. We discovered new ways of understanding gratitude and redemption.

We deep thanks and appreciation for all the support of the congregation we look forward to a similar journey in the year ahead!



HEARTS & HANDS AGAINST HUNGER

Annual Report 2021



First Presbyterian Church Middle & High School Youth Groups – December 2021

Hearts & Hands Against Hunger of Hastings

Hearts & Hands Against Hunger packed over 400,000 meals for hungry and starving children last year, even though the pandemic changed how we operated. During the first part of the year, a small number of volunteers packed meals every Monday and Wednesday, and in the fall, we started having group events.

Since October, St. Cecelia High School, Silver Lake High School, FPC HS & Middle School Youth Groups, ESU Teachers, and Hastings High School Student Council have packed meals. We get many calls from groups asking to schedule packing events and hope to get back to having events as the pandemic allows. We will continue packing meals on Monday and Wednesday, from 2:00-3:30, at the Peace Center and welcome any volunteers who would like to join us. The need is great. According to the World Health Organization, there was a dramatic worsening of world hunger during the past two years, much of it related to the fallout of COVID-19. Children suffered the most.

We would like to thank First Presbyterian Church for supporting this project by making monetary donations, volunteering at events, and allowing Hearts & Hands to use the PEACE Center. We appreciate everything First Presbyterian Church does to make this mission project possible.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Hastings
HHAH Committee Member

"Truly I say to you, as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40

LIBRARY YEAR END
Librarian: Sue Medsker

Annual Report 2021

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 2021, circulation was 217 items, down from 305 in 2020. Even though during part of this time 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.

Thirty-five books were added to the collection in 2021. Eleven were gifts and the rest were purchased with income from The Ann Binfield and C. G. & Idilla Jeffrey Wallace memorial funds. Of the 35 books, 12 were fiction, 13 were nonfiction and 13 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. 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
Librarian

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS COMMITTEE
Moderator: Mary Olsen

Annual Report 2021

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT – 2021

The Memorials and Gifts Committee has been working very diligently to administer memorial monies for approved requests. The following requests were approved:

Sanctuary camera update (our committee's portion)
Roses for newborns

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

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Alta Cates | Art Langvardt, Jr. |
| Ty Chapel | Mrs. Roger McNeill |
| Bev Cooper | Betty Payne |
| Harold Gleason | Jim Specht |
| Shirley Johnston | Norris Swan |
| Tom Jorgensen | Lyn Throckmorton |
| Margaret Koontz | Interest Fund |

The year end total for the memorial funds (designated and undesignated) is \$78,129.70. A total of \$6,700.72 was received and a total of \$5,046.96 was expensed.

The committee gratefully acknowledges gifts received in moving memory of:

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Jane Asmus | Gretchen Lainson |
| Arnold Boehler | Mary Lee Phelps |
| Ruth Caldwell | Katherine Sachtleben |
| Joanne Finley | Jim Specht |
| Burdetta Fricke | Carol Wheeler |
| Joyce Harrenstein | Craig Williams |
| Irmice Heeren | |

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

Moderator: Mary L. Olsen
Session Representative: Kathy Amyot
Trustees Representative: Stephanie Bliss
Andy Barrows
Kay Georgiana
Jane Johnson
Tammie Nowka
Wihlma Price
Kathy Utter

MINUTES OF A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
First Presbyterian Church
Hastings, Nebraska
January 31, 2021

The annual meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska was held on January 31, 2021. Due to the pandemic, in-person worship had not been held in the sanctuary since March of 2020, and therefore an unprecedented meeting format was created. A detailed Annual Report was mailed to all members on January 20, and stamped postcards were included so that members could mail in their vote ahead of the meeting. The meeting was held remotely, streamed on Facebook and including two presenters via Zoom, immediately after the live-streamed Stay-at-Home worship service. Moderator, Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES: *The minutes from the Congregational Meeting on January 26, 2020 were approved unanimously from the 138 ballots received.*

STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS & PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT:

The Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett presented a state of the church address, followed by a summary of the Annual Report, highlighting the information that had been sent to every member ahead of the online meeting. Pastor Greg's enthusiastic presentation, including many photographs in the Power Point slides, gave a snapshot of the year in both words and pictures. Highlights included: State of the Church: added 20 new members in 2020, including a new member class during the pandemic.

Attendance: averaging 256 streaming worship each week on Facebook
Creative In-Person Worship: in the park, parades, Christmas Eve Drive-in and more
Pledging: 2021 pledges holding steady
Giving: finished 2020 with a surplus due to the generosity of the congregation

In 2020, even in the midst of a pandemic, First Presbyterian Church of Hastings has not just survived, but thrived! There is excitement in our community about what FPC is up to, as evidenced by several articles in the local paper and interviews on local television.

The slide show highlighted a review of the Strategic Plan and reports of Associate Pastor Damen Jensen-Heitmann, Parish Associate Kili Wenburg, and Christian Education Coordinator for Children and Youth Stephanie Brader. Detailed reports of Committees and Boards were included in the printed Annual Report mailed to all members, and summarized in the slide show.

CLERK'S REPORT: The annual report of the Clerk was presented as follows:

| | |
|---|-----|
| 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: attend worship or receive communion at least once per year, contribute to the finances of the church in an amount equal to or greater than apportionment, serve on a board or committee, pray 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF BUDGET:

Harvey Freetly, Chair of Trustees, presented highlights of the 2021 Budget, which has been approved by Session.

TERMS OF CALL FOR PASTORS:

Mary Seiler, Clerk of Session, presented the following terms of call:

Terms of Call for Senior Pastor, Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett:

| | |
|--|----------|
| 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 Associate Pastor, Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann

| | |
|---|----------|
| 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 |

A more detailed breakdown was available in the budget printed in the Annual Report. *The terms of call for both pastors were approved unanimously from the 138 ballots received.*

FOUNDATION REPORT:

Mike Karloff, Chair of Foundation, presented fund balances for the six endowed funds managed by the Foundation.

2020 CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Kay Georgiana, Nominating Committee Moderator, summarized the work of the nominating committee in securing church officers for the class of 2023 and new at-large members for the nominating committee in 2023.

The following slate of officers, class of 2023, was proposed:

Deacons: Teresa Canady, Jake Stokely, Ann Koozer, Linda Johnson, Linda Vollweiler.
(Rich McKenzie will fill out the remainder of term for a deacon in the class of 2022)

Session: Neil Riley, Jodi Graves, Ben Welsch, Kathy Amyot

Trustees: Sue Horton, Stan Essink, C.L. Wimer

The following new at-large members for the nominating committee, class of 2023, were proposed:

Teresa Luther

Brian Johnson

The election of this slate of officers and nominating committee members was approved unanimously from the 138 ballots received.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was one call into the Zoom meeting with a question about how an item in the budget was calculated. Pastor Greg supplied the explanation to the question. There were no other items of new business brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Pastor Damen Jensen-Heitmann closed the meeting with prayer and the song “We are the Church”, which has become a tradition at First Presbyterian Church in these pandemic times.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Seiler

Clerk of Session

MUSIC/WORSHIP ARTS & MUSIC
Organist/Music Coordinator: Linda Vollweiler

Annual Report 2021

Neither a second year of COVID 19 nor a second year of masks could stop the musicians at First Presbyterian from participating in worship services. During this year the congregation was required to wear masks, social distance and until recently were asked to refrain from singing. Every Sunday we had volunteers (either from the church or Hastings College) who were masked and sang the hymns and responses from a safe distance, so the congregation would be protected from any particles that might escape from the singer's mask. In the Fall, the vocal choirs rehearsed outside until it got too dark, then they moved into the Memorial Room and Fellowship Hall for rehearsals -- of course masked and social distanced. Dr. Jensen set up extra tables in the Memorial Room for rehearsals and services to allow safe distancing between bell choir members. Vocal choirs and bells participated in worship services from the Memorial Room. In September the Session allowed the Chancel and Calvin Westminster Choirs to perform their Christmas Cantata from the loft. The session also gave permission to Hastings College to use the church for their Christmas concert. It is always a treat to have our Praise Band participate in worship services giving the service a contemporary flavor. Musicians are excited to be back together playing bells and singing again.

Our outstanding music staff at First Presbyterian Church include Dr. Robin Koozer (Chancel Choir Director), Dr. Byron Jensen (Chancel Bells and Calvin/Westminster Bells Director), Linda Johnson (Calvin/Westminster Choir Director), Tim and Teresa Canady (Praise-Alleluia Choir Directors), Dr. Susan Oliver (Praise-Alleluia Bells Director) Mary Plock (Accompanist and Taize Service Coordinator) Linda Vollweiler (Organist and Music Coordinator).

This year we were able to have our Christmas Eve services back in the sanctuary (unlike last year when it was held in the arena parking lot at Hastings College). We had 3 services, 5:30, 7:30 and 11:00 p.m. We had a glorious Easter service in the arena at Hastings College. The Chancel and Calvin Westminster choirs combined to sing an anthem and The Cathedral Brass played the prelude, offertory and postlude and also accompanied the hymns.

Our 8:30 summer worship services were well attended and held in Alexander Park (weather permitting). Our wonderful pastors Greg Allen-Pickett and Damen Jensen-Heitmann are always thinking outside the box and coming up with great ideas for meaningful and fun services. As in past years, the Blessing of the Pets service held in the park was enjoyed by many – especially the variety of animals who got blessed.

Thank you to everyone who participates in a music ensemble, our pastors, and to you, the congregation who continues to support the music program.

In Christ's Love,
Linda Vollweiler
Music Coordinator

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OFFICERS/NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Kay Georgiana

Annual Report 2021

Elders:

| 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 (proposed) |
|----------------|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| Harold Korb | Mary Fisk | Neil Riley | Steve Illingworth |
| Kay Georgiana | Bev Rader | Jodi Graves | William Oliver |
| Kris Horton | Joe Black | Ben Welch / Brian Johnson | Dave Cooke |
| Scott Shardlow | Cheryl Lockwood | Kathy Amyot | Richard Johnson |

Clerk of Session: Mary Seiler

Deacons:

| 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 (Proposed) |
|---------------|---|------------------|------------------------|
| Kenton Grams | Dick McKenzie / Dick Brader | Teresa Canady | Daveta Brader |
| Steve Wolford | Sandra Wimer | Jake Stokely | Lisa Unger |
| Kathy Reimer | Jan Bolliger | Ann Koozer | Sally Hatcher |
| Peter Lainson | Andy Barrows | Linda Johnson | Lois Hafer |
| Amy Hermes | Frank Georgiana | Linda Vollweiler | Julie Thomsen |

Trustees:

| 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 (Proposed) |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Stephanie Bliss | Kaela Pumroy | Sue Horton | Erik Nielsen |
| John Northrop | Chuck Bauer | Stan Essink | Mary Creigh |
| Harvey Freetly | Mary Plock | C.L. Wimer | Kevin Turner |

Congregational Nominating Committee

2020 (Current)

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

| 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 (Proposed) |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Carol Storer | Mary Plock | Teresa Luther | Vonda Essex |
| Kim Creech | Sandra Wimer | Brian Johnson | Jessica Meeske |

Respectfully Submitted,

Kay Georgiana

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
Moderator: Rich McKenzie

Annual Report 2021

2021 has definitely been a year of change. Throughout the world, the Covid pandemic continues to cause a dramatic change in peoples' lives, and here at FPC, our church staff has undergone a noticeable change in personnel. In July, we bid farewell to Jean Matheny and welcomed Sarah Allen as Church Office Administrator, and in October, we said good-bye to Steph Brader and welcomed Rose Koepp as our new Director of Christian Education. These are ladies who have had, and are continuing to have, a very positive effect in our church lives. We are truly blessed to have them along with the rest of our staff who continue to lead us in our spiritual ways.

Much of the PC's time this year was spent helping Pastor Greg select replacements for Jean and Steph. With three of our committee members still working, we dispensed with in-person meetings and performed all of our application reviews and final selections of candidates virtually. This allowed us to move to the interview and job offer stage of hiring much, much faster; and, it also allowed ALL committee members to be involved in the process. To wind-up our year, the PC also reviewed proposed wage increases for staff in December, via e-mail, and concluded that they were well deserved.

WE HAVE AN OUTSTANDING CHURCH STAFF!

Respectfully submitted,

Rich McKenzie, Moderator

Pat Kern, Danny Graves, Chanda Essink, Mary Seiler – Clerk of Session

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Moderator: Mary Fisk

Annual Report 2021

PW, 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. Due to COVID-19, we could not meet in January thru May. Since we could not meet monthly, we delivered care packages to PW members.

In 2021, PW contributed financially to church mission projects including the PW Thank Offering, the PW Birthday Offering, the Least Coin Offering, The Bridge, Living Waters for the World, the Hunger Fund, and the CROP Walk. We donated 42 school bags, 5 hygiene kits and \$150 to help with shipping costs to PDA through their depot at the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. We also donated cookies for the UCC Bloodmobile.

Gifts of Women Sunday was March 7. Kili Wenburg gave the sermon. Members of PW read the scriptures and served as ushers and greeters. Jeni Howard was recognized and honored with a PW Honorary Life Membership for her service to the church.

Church Women United held their May Tea. Jessica Allen-Pickett was honored. Jane Marsh received the Valiant Woman Award.

PW Programs for 2021 included a presentation in October by the Holy Land Travelers, and in November Alberto Beto on his faith journey. In November, we honored the women in our church who had died during the past year. In December, Linda Vollweiler entertained us with Christmas music. It helped put us in the mood!

Circles met for Bible study each month, September through December. Damen Jensen-Heitmann met with lesson leaders each month, giving suggestions and methods for presenting the lesson.

Our mission project is “Food from the Heart”. We encourage member of the church to make casseroles and soups to be place 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fisk

PW Annual Financial Report 2021

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| General checking account | | |
| Balance forward December 31, 2020 | | <u>\$2,245.53</u> |
| Receipts: | | |
| Apportionments from circles | \$2,400.00 | |
| Birthday Offering | \$609.00 | |
| Food from the Heart | \$80.00 | |
| Least Coin | \$51.00 | |
| Postage for CWS kits | \$20.00 | |
| Collections | \$1,410.00 | |
| PCUSA Hunger Fund | \$52.30 | |
| Presbyterian Disaster Assistance | \$414.00 | |
| Cookbooks | \$5.00 | |
| Thank Offering | <u>\$375.00</u> | |
| Total income | \$5,416.30 | |
| Expenses: | | |
| Birthday Offering | 609.00 | |
| Church Women United - dues | \$40.00 | |
| Church of the Good Shepherd - CWS postage | \$150.00 | |
| Collections remitted - Mother's Day, Father's Day | \$1,410.00 | |
| FPC for postage, copies | \$100.00 | |
| Food from the Heart expenses | \$132.22 | |
| Gifts for speakers | \$64.59 | |
| Honoraria | \$235.00 | |
| Honorary memberships | \$95.00 | |
| Least Coin | \$51.00 | |
| Library books | \$100.00 | |
| Luncheon expense | \$0.00 | |
| PCUSA Hunger Fund | \$40.11 | |
| Pres. Central NE - mission pledge | \$1,500.00 | |
| Pres. Central NE - presbytery/synod support | \$225.00 | |
| Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - tornado relief | \$414.00 | |
| Horizons subscriptions | \$75.80 | |
| Thank Offering | <u>\$375.00</u> | |
| Total expenses | \$5,616.72 | |
| Balance on hand December 31, 2021 | | <u>2,045.11</u> |
| Regular savings account | 290.70 | |
| Interest | <u>0.16</u> | |
| total | 290.86 | <u>290.86</u> |
| Frances Anderson Memorial Fund | 2,769.79 | |
| Interest | <u>1.50</u> | |
| Total | 2,771.29 | <u>2,771.29</u> |
| Total assets on December 31, 2021 | | <u>5,107.26</u> |

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Moderator: Harvey Freetly

Annual Report 2021

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. We entered 2021 with a hope that we would return to normalcy, and projecting a budget for the year required some guessing and a lot of prayer. We did not return to normal. New and inventive ways to worship, teach, and do outreach were developed. The congregations support allowed First Presbyterian Church to continue to do God's work in the community and be good stewards of the gifts that we have been given.

In 2021, we fell short on budgeted income but spent less than budgeted, resulting in a net positive position at the end of the year. We also addressed several maintenance issues. At the PEACE Center, hallway floors were refinished to preserve the floors and improve safety. Central heating and air conditioning were added, allowing the steam lines that were damaging the gym floor to be decommissioned.

The Trustees worked with the city to plan the replacement of sidewalks on the east and west sides of the block under a grant, and they are working on writing a grant to plant terrace trees on the block.

In the main buildings, major renovation of the Christian Education wing occurred, allowing Sunday and Wednesday activities to be concentrated in these spaces. With a generous donation, we were able to contract for the replacement of the elevator in the building. Several roof leaks were addressed, accompanied by painting stains. Tile that had been blown off the sanctuary roof in a storm was replaced. Trees were trimmed and/or removed on the block to prevent damage to the building and improve safety.

We are blessed by the hard work and dedication of Tony Calhoun, the Facilities Manager. His professional management of the facility has ensured appropriate upkeep and has reduced the cost of operating the buildings. We are also blessed by a team of volunteers (Ken Stein, Kris Horton, and Sue Horton) who remove snow. A big thank you goes to John Northrup and Stephanie Bliss, whose terms on Trustees end this year, for their contributions the last three years.

Harvey Freetly, Moderator of Trustees

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PEACE CENTER

The PEACE Center has continued to support various groups and function as a “Community Center,” providing safe ways to gather and continue the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church while serving the larger community. The United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry ministry continued throughout 2021, 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 met in the Youth Room at the PEACE Center all year, wearing masks and practicing social distancing as necessary.

When we restarted Wednesday Night Live in the Fall of 2021, we used the PEACE Center for recreation time.

On Monday afternoons and Wednesday evenings the gym is open for church members and friends to play Pickleball.

Hannah Jensen-Heitmann moved her music studio out of the PEACE Center in 2021, it is now on the first floor of the Christian Education wing.

Central Community College continued to rent space in the PEACE Center for dog obedience classes with limited capacity and a facemask policy.

The Mexican Folkloric Dance Group Raices de mi Pueblo, continued to hold their practices in the PEACE Center on a weekly basis.

The Hastings Pickleball Club rents the gym two nights per week to play Pickleball.

The newest addition to the PEACE Center is in the parking lot. Session and Trustees voted to allow Beto's Tacos food truck to park in the PEACE Center parking lot starting in March 2021. Beto's Tacos pays a monthly fee to use the parking lot as well as storage space in the building, which provides a source of income for the church to do repairs and maintenance on the parking lot and building. Beto's Tacos has been a great addition and has furthered the mission of making the PEACE Center a hub for the community to gather and share fellowship.

In 2021, we redid all of the hallway floors in the PEACE Center with a durable epoxy coating. We took the boiler off-line and replaced it with zoned heating and added air conditioning so that the building can be used in the summer.

Ongoing Feeding Ministries at the PEACE Center

Hearts & Hands Against Hunger - Food packing (see report on page 27)

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

Hastings Food Pantry - Storage and Sorting Facility

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

HASTINGS COMMUNITY MUSIC ACADEMY
Executive Director: Hannah Jensen-Heitmann
ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The Hastings Community Music Academy, a new non-profit, took shape in the fall of 2021 with First Presbyterian Church as its home. Though all of the paperwork certifying us as an official non-profit will not be complete until early 2022, we were able to begin programming in October of 2021. The Hastings Community Music Academy strives to create a community where everyone has access to connect through collaborative musical experiences, and to give all people the opportunity to learn and grow with others, and we were very excited to act upon that vision with the start of our first programs. We began by offering a beginning and advanced handbell ensemble that involved a total of 20 community members and was directed by Dr. Byron Jensen. Both ensembles rehearsed once a week for six weeks and performed for their families at the final rehearsal. We also offered a four-week beginning guitar class for middle school students that involved five participants, and was taught by Colin Sandall. In December, we hosted the Talbott Brothers for an hour of songs and a question-and-answer session that brought in community members of all ages.

Before programming could begin, several meetings in the late summer months of 2021 took place with Worship Arts and Music, Trustees, Session, and a smaller committee consisting of members from all three groups. At their August meeting, the Session approved the use of two rooms in the office wing of the church where classes and programs can be held. They also approved the use of the bell choir room, and the church bells for the community handbell ensembles to ring. Then in September, five individuals made up of one Session member, one member of the church at large, and three community members were recruited to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hastings Community Music Academy.

In August, the Worship Arts and Music committee generously gave the Hastings Community Music Academy \$5,000 as seed money to help get our feet off the ground. In December, the Mission Committee also gave \$5,000 to purchase a variety of instruments that will be used for several upcoming classes.

The Hastings Community Music Academy had a busy few months in the fall of 2021, and we look forward to more classes, ensembles, and opportunities for community members to participate in for many years to come. We are incredibly thankful for the generosity of First Presbyterian Church, and appreciate all of the guidance, support, and help we have received.



*Welcoming All,
Living Love,
Transforming
Lives!*



*First Presbyterian
Church of Hastings*