

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS, NE

2022 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.

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First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska
2022 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AGENDA

Sunday, January 29, 2023

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Moderator

Karen Doerr, Clerk of the Session

OPENING PRAYER – Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

MINUTES

Approval of minutes from congregational meeting held January 30, 2022 (Pages 23-25)

STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS & PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT

- Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Senior Pastor

CLERK'S REPORT – Karen Doerr, Clerk of Session (Page 9)

FINANCIAL REPORT & PRESENTATION OF BUDGET – Mary Plock, Chair of Trustees

TERMS OF CALL FOR PASTORS – Karen Doerr, Clerk of Session (Page 4)

FOUNDATION REPORT – William Hermes, Vice-Chair of Foundation (Page 15)

2022 CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT (Below)

– Mary Plock, Nominating Committee Member

ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2023 (Class of 2026) – Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

Deacons (5)	Session (4)	Trustees (3)
Katherine Davis	Justin Brader	
Milrae Korb	Dan Deffenbaugh	Ken Stein
Lois Meeske	Robin Koozer	Danna Wolford
Mary Plock	Mary Kay LaMaster	
Brady Rhodes		

ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2023 - Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

Mary Plock, Kim Creech, Carol Storer, Teresa Luther, Brian Johnson

OTHER BUSINESS

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

PASTORAL TERMS OF CALL

TERMS OF CALL FOR REV. GREG ALLEN-PICKETT

TITLE: Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

Head of Staff - Salary	\$65,000
Head of Staff - Housing Allowance	\$31,500 (this is the portion of salary that is taxed differently for pastors)
Head of Staff - Medical Insurance & Pension Payment	\$36,000
Head of Staff - Travel, Prof. Expenses, Con Ed	\$5,000

TERMS OF CALL FOR REV. DAMEN JENSEN-HEITMANN

TITLE: Associate Pastor

Associate Pastor - Salary	\$44,000
Associate Pastor - Housing Allowance	\$15,000 (this is the portion of salary that is taxed differently for pastors)
Associate Pastor – Medical Insurance and Pension Payment (half of pension is paid by PC(USA) Board of Pensions)	\$13,500
Associate Pastor Travel, Prof. Expenses, Con Ed	\$2,000

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT
Damen Jensen-Heitmann - Associate Pastor

It continues to be a pleasure to serve as the Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings. As I look back over the last year I am thankful for the opportunity to explore creative avenues, engage with others in the work of hope, and explore matters of faith with young and old alike. It is good to know a place where people take seriously the call which God has placed upon our hearts. It is even better to be able to be some small part of it.

In 2022, I continued many of the duties which I have performed over the last several years. I organized, designed, and published two separate devotionals to be used by the church. The first was a Lenten devotional which focused on discipleship and included spiritual practices for folks to engage with. The second was a daily guide for Advent which considered the meaning of the various names for Jesus. This second guide was connected to a reverse advent project that has become a tradition of love enacted by the Mission Committee and the members of this congregation.

As usual, I spent time assisting in worship which included serving as liturgist, preaching, performing weddings and funerals, writing liturgies, and other odds and ends as needed. One oddity of the 2022 calendar meant that I found myself recruiting egg-bakers and waffle fryers for a Christmas morning brunch! Assisting in worship continues to be a source of joy for me and it is a pleasure to work with so many talented and dedicated people to accomplish this task on a weekly basis.

I have also continued to work with our Senior High youth throughout the year. In 2022 that included the addition of regular meetings throughout the summer. In addition to our time spent in study and fellowship, our youth once again organized and led a thoughtful, humorous, and meaningful service for Youth Sunday last February. Due to a poorly timed outbreak of COVID-19 we were unable to go on our planned Go & Serve trip to Camp Courageous but plans are underway for a trip this summer. New to my youth related responsibilities last year was teaching Confirmation. I took over the class for Steph Brader in the early fall and met with them on Sunday mornings in preparation for their confirmation. I have continued those responsibilities into the 2022-2023 program year.

My work organizing adult Forum on Sunday mornings has continued as well. In the last year we have had the benefit of having Forum sessions which have explored ecotheology, hospice care, atonement theology, *Ted Lasso*, and quite a bit more. We have also been able to record almost all of our sessions (there's always a technology gremlin here or there) and post them to the church's YouTube page for folks to watch at their convenience.

Throughout the year there have also been a few other things which have floated across my desk. I've led Bible study, worked with PW Bible study leaders, served as staff liaison to Congregational Life, and assisted with Wednesday Night Live.

This past year has also seen the creation of a dedicated podcast studio within the church walls. I was able to work with key volunteers and donors to create a space for Greg and I to record our weekly Monday Check-Ins but that is really only the beginning of the work. Much like our ability to easily stream and broadcast our worship services, we now have a strong foundation to be able to explore other ways of providing people of faith with opportunities to explore their faith. I am particularly excited to continue to explore the ways we may use this platform to help spread the love and light of Christ.

My time within this community of faith continues to be a blessing to me and I hope that I have been a blessing to it in return.

Peace and all good,
Damen

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & YOUTH

Rose Koepp, Director of Christian Education

2022 was an exciting year for the children and youth programs here at First Presbyterian Church!

We started off the Spring semester with our regular programming: elementary students learning through SPARKhouse curriculum, Jr High students learning about the Old Testament, confirmation students diving deeper into what it means to be a member of this church, and the Sr High students digging into teachings of the Apostle Paul. The Spring semester saw the confirmation of four students, the graduation of six seniors, and the growth of all of our students.

In the summer of 2022, we put on the vacation Bible school program, “Food Truck Party” by Cokesbury. VBS was a three day program that ran for three hours each morning. We had 30 volunteers from our church and the community who helped to bring everything together. There were approximately 40 students in attendance each day. As part of this VBS program, we invited local food trucks to come and set up in our parking lot after VBS so families could have lunch together; everyone really enjoyed this! *(Picture on the right: students and helpers singing and dancing during VBS)*



Also in the summer, Damen and I offered weekly fellowship opportunities for the Jr High students. Damen met with several of the male students at the park to play ball games and have some active fellowship. I met with a couple of female students at the Blue Moon weekly where we read through a book on foundations of faith (per the request of the students). Meeting with these students was so much fun, and I hope to be able to offer this fellowship opportunity again next summer!

Over the summer months, the education committee, the pastors, and I had many conversations about changing the schedules and layout of our Wednesday Night Live (WNL) program and Youth Groups. It had come to our attention that the schedules we were following for these two programs were not working out very well for many of our families with students in said programs. After much discussion and input from parents and older students, we decided that a change was necessary. WNL is now being held on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:45 pm, and Youth Group is now being held on Sundays from 5-7 pm. This schedule was implemented at the beginning of the school year and has been working well.

Our Fall semester started out strong with our Sunday School kick-off in August. Our PreK-5th grade students are continuing to work through the curriculum from SPARKhouse. The Jr High students are learning about the Old Testament. We have seven confirmands this school year working with Damen. And our Sr High students are doing an overview of each of the Gospels this year.

Wednesday Night Live (WNL) this fall has been very exciting! Thanks to the help of some excellent volunteers, we are able to offer a program for Preschool and Kindergarten students in addition to our usual elementary program. This program runs parallel to WNL; they are in a self-contained classroom with a leader and several Jr High helpers. The PreK/K students are learning with a new curriculum called “Frolic,” which is put out by SPARKhouse. These students participate in the family meal with all of the other students. Our elementary students continue to participate in Bell and Vocal Choirs, which help to lead worship several Sundays a semester. The elementary students are also continuing to work through the curriculum from SPARKhouse during WNL. The slightly shortened WNL schedule has proven to work well, and we will continue to use



this schedule for the foreseeable future. *(Photo above, from left to right: Vivian Fong, Molly Gosda, Meredith Oliver, Wilson Welsch, Raegan Welsch, Emery Braun, and Maddie Graves sing a Christmas carol at WNL dinner.)*

This fall, the Christian Education Committee (for children and youth) and the Congregational Life Committee joined forces to put on the first annual Christmas Craft Make-and-Take Event. This event took place at the church on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. We had a handful of delightful volunteers who helped make the event possible. The hope for this event was to create a space where children could come and create a craft that they would then give as a Christmas gift to someone they love. We didn't know quite what to expect, but we had 15 visitors come through to make crafts and enjoy the hot cocoa bar. It was a lot of fun, and we learned a lot. We're looking forward to doing this event next



year! *(Photo on right: Deb Jensen, Ben and Wilson Welsch making a craft and enjoying hot chocolate)*

In December, the elementary and Jr High students led worship through the Christmas program “Angels Aware” –written by J. McMahan-Wilson and Kathie Hill. The students began working on the music back in September during their regular choir rehearsals. We had about 40 students, five college students, and ten adult volunteers all work together to help make this program a success. *(Photo on left: All of the students who participated in Angels Aware.)*



Looking ahead to this next year, we have some really exciting things planned for students of all ages! I cannot wait to see what 2023 brings for the children and youth of FPC!

-Rosalie Koepp

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, ADULT EDUCATION

Damen Jensen-Heitmann, Associate Pastor

In the year 2022 First Presbyterian Church has continued to offer engaging, thought-provoking, and faith-filled opportunities for adult faith enrichment. Here is a brief synopsis of our offerings over the past year.

Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh served another year as our Scholar in Residence. In this role Dan provides a weekly book study and also leads multiple Forum series. The weekly book study continues to meet via Zoom and studies a variety of contemporary religious scholars and thinkers. The group ranges from 8-12 people in attendance and is always happy to welcome new thinkers and questioners. These sessions are recorded and posted to the church's YouTube page. Dan's Forum subjects will be covered later in the report.

2022 saw the return of the *ReBookulously Good Reads Book Club*. The group met on Thursdays in the fall to read through *Lila* by Marilynne Robinson. Using a unique format which combines pre-recorded and live conversations the group of 6-10 people engaged in conversations related to salvation, pre-destination, forgiveness, heartache, loneliness, contentment, trust, and pretty much everything else. These conversations are also available via the Church's YouTube page.

Heirs Apparent, a fellowship group focusing on issues of contemporary faithful living, continues to meet during the Sunday School hour.

Pastors Greg and Damen continue to offer a Bible Study on Tuesdays at noon. The study focuses on examining the scripture that will be used for the upcoming Sunday. This pairs nicely with the *Monday Check-In* which is a recorded conversation between Pastors Greg and Damen and features their initial thoughts and questions of the text to be used for the week. These conversations are now recorded in the church's new podcast recording studio.

Speaking of, we now have a podcast recording studio! Thanks to generous donations the church has been able to gather equipment and set up dedicated space within the church walls to record a variety of conversations and studies. Plans are currently under development to greatly enhance the church outreach via new forms of media. This would include the creation of a dedicated website to host all our enrichment recordings and well as new programs to present to the congregation and beyond. I am very much looking forward to being able to dive more deeply into this project in the year ahead.

Among the various things we record and post to our YouTube page is Forum. Forum meets during the Sunday School hour and features a variety of presenters covering a variety of subjects.

2022 Forum Speakers and Subjects

- Andy Springer, Hospice Choir – “Thoughts from a Hospice Chaplain”
- Dustin Bower, Kristen Eckhardt – “Interrupting Violence”
- Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh – “Entering the Passion of Jesus”, “Who Can Be Saved?”
- Dr. Dorothy Dean – “Ecotheology”
- Rev. Doodle Harris – “Holy Humor: Faith and *Ted Lasso*”
- Rev. Polly Deppen-Williams, Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Rev. Shelli Latham – “The Once & Future Church”
- Cathedral Brass – “’Tis the Season”

I am pleased to work with so many wonderful people in order to provide opportunities for continued growth and faith development among our disciples.

Respectfully Submitted,
Damen Jensen-Heitmann

REPORT OF CLERK OF SESSION

Karen Doerr, Clerk of Session

The following congregational data provides a brief snapshot of First Presbyterian Church in 2022:

Membership, December 31, 2021	455 active, 210 friends
Received during 2021:	
Profession of faith, reaffirmation, restoration	7
Certificate of transfer	0
Confirmation	4
Losses 2021:	
Certificate	0
Death	16 (11 members, 5 friends of church)
Membership, December 31, 2022	455 active, 205 friends*

Youth/Young Adult/Adult Baptisms	0
Infant Baptisms	8
Weddings	3
Funerals	14

Average worship attendance:	
(online and in-person combined)	271

Active Officers;	
Elders	13
Deacons	14
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: Joe Black

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 had a very busy 2022 as we were able to have a full slate of in-person events for the church.

Activities the year included:

- We served as greeters for the outdoor worship services in Alexander Park in the summer and fall.
- We hosted a tailgate at Harms Park and then attended the Hastings Sodbusters baseball game. We had a wonderful turn out of around 75-80 people.
- In April we were happy to be able to host the first potluck since COVID. We served over 125 people.
- CL member Mary Kay LaMaster coordinated the 4th Sunday cookie and coffee events for 2022. A rotation of church committees provided cookies after 10:30 service on the 4th Sunday of the month.
- In July the CL Committee held the first annual “Church” (Church and Brunch) at Blue Fork Kitchen around 35 attended.
- June brought a Food Truck Round Up to the Peace Center Parking Lot.
- We hosted a car show with the Melon Roasters Car Club of Hastings. Approximately 35 cars came for more than 2 hours. The CL Committee provided Root Beer floats in the Fellowship Hall for a free will offering that benefited the United Harvest Food Panty. We served just over 100 root beer floats.
- The CL Committee with the help of many non-committee members held a Living History Dinner and program in November.
- We provided dinner for the new member class participants in October.
- A new event was hosted in November aimed at families in the community. In coordination with the CE committee, an Advent Craft Afternoon was held in the Fellowship Hall.
- Hanging of the Greens was coordinated following the 10:30 service and continues to be an efficient way of decorating the church.
- Cheryl Lockwood was elected to represent the CL committee on the 150th Anniversary Committee that Session created.

Committee members: Joe Black, Mary Kay LaMaster, Tarah Davis, Cheryl Lockwood, Jessica Meeske, Julie Thomsen, Kathy Amyot, Dana Miller, Kim Day, Deb Johnson, Tim Johnson, Steve Illingworth, Pastor Damen Jensen-Heitmann-staff liaison.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Black, moderator

BOARD OF DEACONS

Co-Moderators: Jan Bolliger & Teresa Canady

The Board of Deacons represents the “presence of Christ” in our church community. This ministry focuses on the care and compassion of the members of our congregation. Naturally caring individuals that enjoy reaching out to share their kindness and love for others serve on the board consisting of 15 members and Pastor Greg Allen-Picket.

Church members and “friends” of our church are divided into 15 parishes with one deacon assigned to each parish. These deacons provide a connection to church members to make sure they feel welcome through phone calls, emails or cards to celebrate special occasions or support in times of need. Deacons often assist a parish member by doing grocery runs or errands for those in need.

Deacons are assigned one or two VIPs (Very Important People). VIPs are individuals that are homebound or unable to get out easily or reside in nursing homes or residential centers. The hope is to connect with their VIP(s) at least once a month through a visit, call or card. Covid continues to affect visits.

Pastor Greg and at least one deacon administer communion the first Wednesday following the first Sunday of the month at Regency and College View. On Thursday communion is administered (as need indicates) at other residences (Perkins, Providence, Kensington) and to individuals that are unable to get to church. In December the deacons returned to serving “bread/wine” with bread provided by Andy Barrows and grape juice in the communion cups at Regency and College View. The residents requested this and have enjoyed the return to ‘normal communion’. Church members are welcome to participate.

The flowers provided for the altar each Sunday are delivered by a deacon after the service to someone that has been ill, to a family that has lost a loved one or to those with a special celebration (birthday, anniversary, graduation, retirement or special appreciation for their ‘work’ in the church). A rose is placed on the pulpit when there is a birth in our church community. The deacon delivering flowers that Sunday deliver the rose to the family.

Transportation to church is available through the deacons for individuals/family that have a one time need or ongoing basis. This is arranged through the church office and deacons. This service wasn’t used during 2022.

Donated Food Pantry items are delivered by deacons to the Food Pantry. Rich McKenzie, former deacon, volunteered to do this for the deacons for 2022 and has agreed to continue this for 2023.

The creation of the stay-at-home church service provided on Facebook is a welcome opportunity for residents at College View to gather and enjoy church services together. Deacons sign up to take large print bulletins and join in the service. Residents greatly enjoy the deacon joining them and the special ‘wave greeting’ from the church during the sign of peace.

2022 was a sad year for our church losing 11 members and 5 friends of the church. Deacons were able to reach out to families and extend their love and support through the preparation and serving a luncheon. This time of gathering is a special way to support them in the time of their loss.

The Board of Deacons shares their love of Christ by their care and compassion for others in our church community. Their willingness to call upon others and be called upon truly exemplifies the ‘hands and feet of Jesus’ here on earth.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2022 Budget & Actual Expenses and 2023 Budget for First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

Offerings and Income	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
General Fund estimates - Current yr	\$ 650,000	\$ 669,394	\$ 660,000
Other Income	\$ 34,950	\$ 41,582	\$ 41,650
Per capita receipts	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,437	\$ 5,500
Annex Rental/Building Use	\$ 10,500	\$ 6,172	\$ 8,500
Investment Losses		\$ (40,344)	
Total Offerings and Income	\$ 701,450	\$ 682,241	\$ 715,650
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	\$3,000.00
Adult Mission	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00
Open Table	\$2,500.00	\$6,861.08	\$5,000.00
OPSF-Kessler Scholarship	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Mission Outreach	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Disaster Assistance	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Local Mission - Discretionary	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
Youth outreach	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
Subtotal- Mission/Community Outreach	\$ 24,300	\$ 26,661	\$ 27,300
Gathering to Worship	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
Chancel Choir Director - Stipend	\$ 6,600	\$ 6,600	\$ 6,865
Calvin/Westminster Choir Director - Stipend	\$ 6,600	\$ 6,600	\$ 6,865
Chancel and Cal/West Bell Director - Stipend	\$ 6,600	\$ 6,600	\$ 6,865
Children's Bell Choir Director - Stipend	\$ 6,600	-	\$ 6,865
Children's Choir Director - Stipend	\$ 6,600	\$ 6,600	\$ 6,865
Organist	\$ 15,140	\$ 15,140	\$ 15,750
Music Coordinator	\$ 6,600	\$ 6,600	\$ 6,865
Accompanists - Stipends	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,200
Sound Technician/Social Media	\$ 4,500	\$ 6,030	\$ 4,500
Pulpit Supply	\$ 300	\$ 185	\$ 300
Special Worship Services	\$ 350	\$ 737	\$ 800
Communion Supplies	\$ 500	\$ 1,122	\$ 1,000
Seasonal/Liturgical Décor	\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 200
Copyright License Fees	\$ 1,500	\$ 505	\$ 1,500
Worship Enhancement - Flowers	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,228	\$ 2,500
Worship Services - Radio Broadcast	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,801	\$ 3,500
Worship Services - Video	\$ 1,300	\$ 24	\$ 1,300
Misc Committee Expense - Wor & Music	\$ 250	\$ 199	\$ 250
Subtotal - Gathering to Worship	\$ 73,640	\$ 68,071	\$ 77,990

Christian Education - Teaching the Word to our children, youth, and adults	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
Director of Child & Youth Education	\$ 24,380	\$ 23,172	\$ 25,358
Dir. Of Child and Youth Education - Cont Ed	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Christian Ed Helper	\$ 2,500	\$ 218	\$ -
Curriculum and Supplies	\$ 5,750	\$ 4,042	\$ 5,750
Background Checks	\$ 250	\$ 168	\$ 200
Middle School and High School Youth Group	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,227	\$ 2,500
Wednesday Night Live	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,564	\$ 4,000
Library Books, Subscriptions and Supplies	\$ 1,400	\$ 738	\$ 1,400
Nursery Workers	\$ -	\$ 1,576	\$ 1,700
Campus Ministry	\$ 200	\$ 43	\$ 200
Church Officer Training	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 500
Adult Education Materials and Speakers	\$ 1,000	\$ 697	\$ 1,000
Scholar in Residence	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Subtotal - Teaching the Word	\$ 45,780	\$ 38,245	\$ 45,608
Caring for our Congregation	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
Deacon's Fund	\$ 300	\$ 295	\$ 300
Deacon's Card/Postage Fund	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
Parish Nurse expenses	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
Name Tags	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
Special Events/Membership Recognitions	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,456	\$ 4,500
Baptismal gifts	\$ 200	\$ 56	\$ 200
Outreach/Marketing and Welcome Brochures	\$ 1,200	\$ 393	\$ 1,500
Friendship Pads/Pew Cards	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 150
Subtotal - Caring for our Congregation	\$ 4,250	\$ 3,200	\$ 7,050
Stewarding Church Facilities for Mission, Ministry, Education and Worship	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
Facilities Manager - Salary	\$ 39,335	\$ 39,850	\$ 39,335
Facilities M. - Health Insurance and Retirement	\$ 16,530	\$ 15,331	\$ 16,788
Utilities - Gas, Elec., Water, PEACE Ctr. Utilities	\$ 46,500	\$ 39,171	\$ 47,000
Telephone and Internet	\$ 7,050	\$ 6,947	\$ 7,050
Maintenance & Repairs, landscaping, sprinkler	\$ 24,150	\$ 28,801	\$ 24,150
Custodial Supplies	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,205	\$ 4,500
Contract Svcs - Exterm, Trash, Lawn, etc	\$ 22,000	\$ 20,988	\$ 22,000
Kitchen supplies	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,134	\$ 2,500
Property/Liability Insurance	\$ 39,215	\$ 32,543	\$ 39,215
Copier Lease Expense	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,685	\$ 9,000
Van - Gas, Maintenance, Insur, Fees	\$ 250	\$ 252	\$ 250
PEACE Center Maint., Repair, Contract Services	\$ 14,000	\$ 52,693	\$ 14,000
Subtotal - Church Facilities	\$ 225,030	\$ 252,600	\$ 225,788

The Mission - Proclaiming the Gospel in Word and Deed, Teaching, Preaching, Leading	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
Head of Staff - Salary	\$ 62,483	\$ 62,843	\$ 65,000
Head of Staff - Housing Allowance	\$ 30,554	\$ 30,554	\$ 31,500
Head of Staff - Pension/Medical Insurance	\$ 35,250	\$ 35,266	\$ 36,000
Head of Staff - Travel, Prof. Expenses, Con Ed	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,960	\$ 5,000
Associate Pastor - Salary	\$ 41,730	\$ 41,730	\$ 44,000
Associate Pastor - Housing Allowance	\$ 14,338	\$ 14,338	\$ 15,000
Associate Pastor - Pension/Medical Insurance	\$ 12,510	\$ 12,266	\$ 13,500
Associate Pastor Travel, Prof. Expenses, Con Ed	\$ 2,000	\$ 855	\$ 2,000
Subtotal - Proclaiming the Gospel	\$ 203,865	\$ 201,812	\$ 212,000
Congregational Administration for the ministry and mission of the church	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
Administrative Specialist - Salary	\$ 33,800	\$ 32,926	\$ 33,800
Admin Specialist - Pension/Health Ins	\$ 11,149	\$ 9,937	\$ 11,072
Finance Director	\$ 13,250	\$ 13,197	\$ 13,780
Office Staff Professional Development	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
Stewardship Expenses	\$ 750	\$ 575	\$ 500
Office supplies	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,813	\$ 4,000
Computer software/support	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,039	\$ 3,000
Office New Equipment	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Postage - Gen & Admin and Newsletter	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,119	\$ 2,400
Office Expense - Fees, etc.	\$ 200	\$ 370	\$ 400
Online Payment Fees	\$ 500	\$ 1,406	\$ 400
Professional Services - Audit	\$ 3,895	\$ 2,585	\$ 2,500
Federal withholdings matching/SECA	\$ 23,461	\$ 19,620	\$ 24,399
Website Maintenance	\$ 1,200	\$ 144	\$ 1,200
Subtotal - Congregational Administration	\$ 99,105	\$ 91,731	\$ 98,951
Mission - Supporting the mission work of the Presbyterian Church	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
PC(USA) Per Capita	\$ 15,410	\$ 15,410	\$ 16,100
Synod Benevolence	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000
Presbytery Benevolence	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Theological Education Fund (PCUSA)	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
Subtotal - Mission support	\$ 46,410	\$ 45,410	\$ 46,100
	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
Total Expenses	\$ 722,785	\$ 740,264	\$ 742,833
Total Offerings and Income	\$ 701,450	\$ 682,241	\$ 715,650
Difference	\$ (21,335)	\$ (58,023)	\$ (27,183)

The \$58,023 difference between income and expense in 2022 stems from:

-\$40,344 of investment losses due to the stock markets

-\$38,693 in unanticipated PEACE Center maintenance expense

FOUNDATION & ENDOWMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Moderator: Mike Karloff

Balances in the 7 endowed funds managed by the Foundation as of December 31, 2022:

Essex Scholarship Fund	\$1,633
Music Fund	1,590,741
Property Development Fund	374,499
Christian Education Fund	315,597
Scholarship Fund	273,044
Irva Smith Endowment	64,844
Designated Uses	56,181
Total	\$2,676,539

The year-to-date return was -12.66% on December 31, 2022 before fees of \$12,642.78 (47 basis points).

The Foundation distributed \$94,500 in April, 2022 and \$3,500 in May, 2022 for a total of \$98,000. This was a 4% distribution from the funds activity in 2021.

At its January 16, 2023 quarterly meeting, the Foundation Board members finalized the distribution to the church's 2023 operating fund based on the 2022 results. Based on the 3% distribution formula used, a total of \$57,300 would be distributed from the above endowed accounts to the church. (Music, \$47,800; Christian Education, \$9,500)

The Foundation paid \$395 for the preparation of its 990 Tax Form to the IRS.

GLOBAL MISSION & LOCAL WITNESS COMMITTEE

Moderator: Jeni Howard

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 2022, with caution and attention to Covid 19 variants, our committee continued to find ways to serve each other and develop meaningful relationships. We welcome any suggestions or support for new ways to make connections and serve others.

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 2022:
 - January: One Great Hour of Sharing and Hastings Salvation Army
 - February: CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children)
 - March: Meals on Wheels
 - April: YWCA Zone After School Program
 - May: Open Table
 - June: National Pentecost Offering split with Healthy Beginnings
 - July: Laundry for Love
 - August: Food 4 Thought
 - September: Our Place After School Program (For middle and high school students)
 - October: National Peace and Global Witness Offering split with ASAAP (Non-profit organization helping educate and prevent substance abuse in Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, and Webster Counties.
 - November: Teammates Mentoring Program
 - 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, and Maryland Center. 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, and Hastings Food Pantry. Information on these collections is available via the church office.
- With ongoing safety modifications relating to Covid-19 variants, we continued our partnership with First United Methodist Church to coordinate the United Harvest food distributions on the third Saturday of each month. The distributions moved to the Middle School over the summer months due to parking lot renovations but are currently back at

our First Presbyterian Peace Center. Each month many members of our two churches along with other organizations, churches and independent volunteers join to help set up and distribute the food. Our Hands Around the World Store donates \$100 monthly to United Harvest.

- In response to ongoing food insecurity in our community, church members continue to hand out food boxes to 40 families at our First Presbyterian Peace Center. On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month we distribute 40 boxes of fresh produce. The United Harvest team also donates 160 pounds of ground beef each month to be distributed with the produce boxes.
- For the past 18 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 2022, our church prepared approximately 5,000 sack lunches to distribute on Mondays through Fridays at the downtown Catholic Social Services Office. Sack lunches are prepared following church services each Sunday during the month of July.
- Our committee sponsors activities in our PEACE center which foster ongoing relationships with our Latino community. Maria Rubalcava teaches a twice weekly dance class, Raíces de Mi Pueblo. The dances taught originate from different parts of Mexico and Central America. Maria teaches these classes to promote physical fitness, confidence, pride of heritage, cultural knowledge, and relationships.
- This year the United Way of South Central Nebraska conducted an annual toy drive by distributing donated Toys for Tots from our church's Peace Center.
- Spanish classes are also taught in our Peace Center periodically, depending on interest.
- Committee members once again partnered with Aida and Mark Evans in preparing a welcome meal in July for over 100 migrant farm workers from Mexico who are employed seasonally in our community. In 2022, members of the committee assisted in preparing and serving food for a picnic at Hastings Lake.
- This year, our church has made a connection with South Heartland District Health Department. The Health Department reached out to our church because they wanted to gather and provide information for minority communities in Hastings. Our Peace Center and Church were recognized as safe and familiar places to gather. Mission Committee members sponsored these meetings where important representation and information about a variety of health issues was shared in Spanish. These meetings have been ongoing every few months and generally are held in the Peace Center or Fellowship Hall.
- In October, Julie Thomsen organized a coat drive in conjunction with United Harvest Saturday to distribute donated coats at our church. Approximately 75 coats were distributed that morning.
- 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.
- For the second year, Mission donated \$10,000 to United Way to help develop quality daycare programs/training, and to provide scholarships for families who need support. The \$10,000 yearly donation was set up for five years and will be reviewed after the five years.
- Our committee built some new relationships with Hastings College Students by supporting a Food4Thought trivia night in our Fellowship Hall. Mission Committee provided varying types of chili, cinnamon rolls, salads, and drinks before the trivia

contest began. Approximately 65 people helped or attended, and the event raised about \$1,200 for the Food 4 Thought Program. It was a fun event that may be repeated in the future.

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. We have sent groups there, and they have sent groups here over the past seven years. Although we didn't get to meet in person this year, we continued connections through emails and Facebook. We also continue to sell Café Justo in our Hands Around the World Store and church office. We send financial support for their ministry. We encourage congregation members to learn more about them at fronteradecristo.org, justcoffee.org, or search for them on Facebook.
- **Foundation for Peace in the Dominican Republic.** Kristin Hamner, a Grand Island native, is the director of missions for this incredible program in the Dominican Republic. She has visited our church several times when she has been back in Nebraska. You can learn more on her Facebook page or on the Foundation for Peace website.
- **Ukraine.** Julie Thomsen organized a donation drive through the Orphan Food Train to provide requested items to send via their network to agencies already on the ground in Ukraine and surrounding countries. This drive was promoted to the church and community, which responded with generous donations.
- **Hands Around the World.** 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 is open before and after church services; as well as, opening for various seasonal events. Café Justo continues to be sold from the store and church office. The Hands Around the World Store contributes \$100 each month to the United Harvest Food Distribution.

In 2022, we had more opportunity to be with other people, and our committee was committed 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. Consider joining our committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeni Howard and Constance Malloy, Co-Moderators

2022 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, Jodi Graves, Lanae Hall, Richard Johnson, Chris Junker, Kim Creech, Jeni Howard, Damen Jensen-Heitmann



Ukraine Donations



Giving Tree

Mission Committee Photos



Toys for Tots at Peace Center



Welcome dinner for migrant farm workers

GO & SERVE

Staff Liaison: Damen Jensen-Heitmann

For Go & Serve 2022 plans were in place to return to one of our favorite sites: Camp Courageous in Monticello, IA. Camp Courageous is dedicated to providing camping and other experiences to people of all ages living with disabilities.

Six students originally signed up for the trip but three of them changed their plans and decided not to participate in the trip. The remaining three we prepared to carry on but two days before we were scheduled to leave one of them developed a case of COVID-19. This illness left us with a non-viable group and so we cancelled our trip. It was sad for all involved that were weren't able to have a Senior High Go & Serve Trip in the fall of 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,
Damen Jensen-Heitmann

LIBRARY UPDATE

Volunteer Librarian: Sue Medsker

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 2022, circulation was 201 items, down from 217 in 2021. Suggestions for increasing the usage of the library and for additions to the collection are always welcome.

Forty-one books were added to the collection in 2022. Eight were gifts and the rest were purchased with income from The Ann Binfield and C. G. & Idilla Jeffrey Wallace memorial funds. Of the 41 books, 10 were fiction, 18 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. If you would like to volunteer to help with this, please contact me.

Sue Medsker

Librarian

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS COMMITTEE

Moderator: Mary Olsen

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT – 2022

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

Camp Scholarships	Roses for Newborns
FPC Foundation – Langenburg account	FPC Podcast Studio
FPC Postage account	South Foyer Mirror and Cabinet
Go & Serve	

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

Irva Smith	Burdetta Fricke	Joan Swan
Ben Ore	Dixie Kerr	Frank Georgiana
O. J. McDougal	Betty Payne	Georgia Oschner

The yearend total for the memorial funds is \$77,787.26. Of that amount, \$54,031.35 is undesignated. A total of \$8780.00 was received and a total of \$8171.75.

The Committee gratefully acknowledges gifts received in memory of:

Mark Bliss	Gretchen Lainson
Anne Bohlke	Alene Ochsner Monson
Mary Jeanne Cooke	Mary Lee Phelps
Georgie Evans	Katherine Sachtleben
Frank Georgiana	Tommy Thomsen
Sharon Harvey	Dorothy VanBuskirk
Dora Horsley	Phyllis Waltemath
Connie Kubicka	

In recognition of the Church's upcoming 150th anniversary, the Committee voted unanimously to establish a permanently endowed Legacy Scholarship fund for FPC high school seniors who will be attending a non-Presbyterian college. The fund will be held in the FPC Foundation and administered by the Scholarship Committee. Distribution to the Foundation will be in March 2023.

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

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

MINUTES OF A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
First Presbyterian Church
Hastings, Nebraska
January 30, 2022

The annual meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska was held on January 30, 2022 in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett gave remarks of greeting and the opening prayer.

A quorum was declared by Mary Seiler, Clerk of Session.

MINUTES: *It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the Congregational Meeting held on January 31, 2021. The motion carried by voice vote.*

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 via email to every member ahead of the 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 19 new members in 2021

Attendance: averaging 262, online and in-person combined

Creative In-Person Worship: 15 outdoor services in the park, Easter Services at Lynn Farrell arena

Giving: finished 2021 with a surplus due to the generosity of the congregation and PPP funds, pledges up 5% over 2020

Even as the pandemic has continued in 2021, First Presbyterian Church of Hastings has not just survived, but thrived! There continues to be 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 slides highlighted reports of Associate Pastor Damen Jensen-Heitmann, and Christian Education Coordinator for Children and Youth Rose Koepp, Detailed reports of Committees and Boards were included in the printed Annual Report e-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, 2020	443 active, 210 friends
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Received during 2020:

Profession of faith, reaffirmation, restoration	8
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Certificate of transfer	5
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Confirmation	6
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Losses 2020:

Certificate	1
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Death	6
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Membership, December 31, 2021	455 active, 210 friends
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Youth/Young Adult/Adult Baptisms	0
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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

FINANCIAL REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF BUDGET:

Harvey Freetly, Chair of Trustees, presented highlights of the 2022 Budget, which has been approved by Session.

It was moved and seconded to accept the report as presented. The motion carried by a voice vote.

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	\$62,483
Head of Staff – Housing Allowance	\$30,554
Head of Staff – Pension/Medical Insurance	\$35,250
Head of Staff- Travel, Prof. Expenses, Continuing Ed	\$ 5,000

Terms of Call for Associate Pastor, Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann

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

It was noted that the Terms of Call for the Senior Pastor reflect a 3% cost of living increase from the previous year. The Terms of Call for the Associate Pastor reflect a 7% increase in order to bring the salary closer to what other pastors in the Presbytery are receiving, and to recognize his good work. This places his salary in the upper 1/3 for all pastors in our Presbytery. A more detailed breakdown was available in the budget printed in the Annual Report.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Terms of Call for Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett and Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann. The motion carried by a voice vote.

FOUNDATION REPORT:

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

2021 CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett presented the results of 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 2024, was proposed:

Deacons: Daveta Brader, Lisa Unger, Sally Hatcher, Lois Hafer, Julie Thomsen. Dick Brader will fill the remainder of the term for a member of the Class of 2022

Session: Steve Illingworth, William Oliver, Dave Cooke, Richard Johnson. Brian Johnson and Kim Creech will fill the remainder of the term for two members of the Class of 2023.

Trustees: Erik Nielsen, Mary Creigh, Kevin Turner

The following new at-large members for the nominating committee, class of 2024, were proposed:

Vonda Essex

Jessica Meeske

It was moved and seconded to accept this slate of officers and members of the nominating committee. The motion carried by a voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business brought before the meeting

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

It has been a glorious year in the life of the music department at First Presbyterian Church. Our music staff includes Robin Koozer, Byron Jensen, Linda Johnson, Teresa Canady, Susan Oliver, Mary Plock and Linda Vollweiler. We are fortunate to have a talented staff who provide wonderful leadership to our vocal and bell ensembles. A Taize service led by our senior pastor, Greg Allen Pickett is offered at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday morning in the chapel (except during the summer months when we had a service at Alexander Park). This service is followed by a traditional worship service at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Our vocal and bell choirs participate at this along with the Celebrate Band who provides a contemporary anthem several times a year. We are excited to have hired the Cathedral Brass as our Ensemble in Residence. They play one Sunday a month, Easter and Christmas Eve services, and provide a fall and spring concert which is open to the public.

We had special musical and worship events during the summer which included a Pentecost in the Park service in Brickyard Park with three other churches, Jazz Sunday with the John Mills Jazz Band, Bluegrass Sunday with the band Gracie's Uncles, and Folk Music Sunday with the band The Talbott Brothers.



The Advent and Christmas season provided an opportunity for some meaningful services. On December 11th the youth did the musical "Angels Aware". Instead of using CD accompaniment Dr. Amanda Boyd and Rev. Doodle Harris wrote an instrumental accompaniment. Everyone involved in any way needs to be commended for an outstanding performance!!

In November Dr. Robin Koozer decided after 50 years of sharing his many musical talents at FPC it was time to retire. The church had an anthem commissioned for him "Come Labor On" which was sung by the Chancel Choir and Hastings College Choir. We will miss Robin's

leadership, however, he plans to continue to play in the bell choir and sing in the choir. Here's to many wonderful retirement years, Robin!

On December 24th several church and choir members went to College View Assisted Living. Choir members led the hymns, Pastor Greg led the service and Esther Allen Picket played a piano solo. That evening our 5:30 and 7:30 services were well attended and we had a meaningful 11pm service. More than 600 people participated in our Christmas Eve services in-person and online. Since Christmas Day fell on Sunday this year, Pastor Damen Jensen-Heitmann decided to do something different. The service was held around tables in Fellowship Hall. Breakfast was served consisting of waffles, egg bakes, and coffee. Pastor Damen did an excellent job planning the service. The food and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

Money from the Langenberg Legacy Program continues to support the music program. Hastings College students serve as Langenberg Section leaders in Chancel Choir. It also supported instrumentalists for Christmas, Easter and other special services. We are fortunate to have so many musicians willing to give their time and talents to participate in these services.

The Langenberg Lesson Program also reimburses families and students \$250.00 per child per semester for private lessons. Requirements are that parents are members of FPC and students are active participants in the music program. This is a wonderful way for students to have the opportunity to take lessons. 23 students took advantage of this program.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the music directors for their hard work, all the solo and ensemble musicians, Pastors Greg Allen-Pickett and Damen Jensen-Heitmann, and the FPC members. Without all of you the music program would not be the outstanding program it is.

Linda Vollweiler, Coordinator of Music

WORSHIP, ARTS, AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Mary Fisk, Moderator

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

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

Services were arranged so there was a 10:30AM service every Sunday. The 10:30AM service remains the Traditional Service in the Sanctuary. We held 8:30 Taize Services in the chapel when it was too cold for worship in the park. The Taize Services provide an alternative to the traditional service. Worship has been in person and online. Sundays in the summer, worship in the park was offered at 8:30 for those interested. We would like to thank all the song leaders for their help during the 8:30 and 10:30 services.

March 6, we celebrated “Gifts of Women” Sunday. In the summer we had the Children’s Books Summer Sermon Series. Our pastors also led us in the “Summer Sermon Song Series”. Hastings College Sunday was celebrated September 25. World Communion Sunday was celebrated at Steinhardt Plaza, Hastings College October 3. A pet blessing service was held October 9, in Alexander Park. October 30, we celebrated All Saints Sunday. During Advent, there was a chance to gather in the church to sing our favorite Christmas carols. December 11, the children lead the Christmas pageant, “Angels Aware”. Christmas Eve, there was a 2pm service at College View, 5:30 Family Service with Cathedral Brass, 7:30 Traditional Service with Cathedral Brass, 11pm Contemplative

Several activities were partly funded by Langenberg Funds. Those funds supported Legacy Lessons. Some funds were used for needy Hastings Public School students for the summer band and orchestra program. Cathedral Brass was our Ensemble in Residence. We help support the Hastings Community Music Academy. Dallas Brass provided a concert as a thank you for the funds to help bring them to Hastings.

Sept. 25, we honored Robin Koozer for 50 years of service to the music ministry of First Presbyterian Church. The Chancel Choir and the Hastings College Choir sang a piece that had been commissioned for Dr. Koozer.

Dr Koozer announced his retirement effective at the end of 2022. We thank him for all the years he has given to the music program at our church. We welcome Brett Epperson as the new Chancel Choir director.

Members of WAM include: Moderator-Mary Fisk (Session); Session Representatives- Neil Riley and David Cooke: the Music Staff;

Members: Brett Epperson, Kay Georgiana, Neil Kerr, Becky Meyer, Dana Miller, Erik Nielsen, Eleanor Oliver, Mary Olson, Sarah Wolf, and Alice Throckmorton

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Moderator: Mary Fisk

Annual Report 2022

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.

In 2022, PW contributed financially to church mission projects including the PW Thank Offering, the PW Birthday Offering, the Least Coin Offering, Revive Ministries, Living Waters for the World, the Hunger Fund, and the CROP Walk. We donated 65 school bags, 5 hygiene kits, and \$130 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 6. Kili Wenberg gave the sermon. Members of PW read the scriptures and served as ushers and greeters. Kathy Reimer was recognized and honored with a PW Honorary Life Membership for her service to the church. Church Women United held their May Friendship Luncheon. Lois Hafer was recognized as First Presbyterian's Inspiring Woman at the event.

Our local PW hosted the Presbytery Spring Gathering on April 23. The mission project was preparing casseroles for each church to take back to their home church as a starter for their own Food from the Heart.

PW programs for 2022 included presentations about Angel Gowns, "A Change of Plans" (a faith journey told through storytelling and song), multicultural work in the area, USAME, scams and fraud, and the Middle School garden. In November, we honored the women in our church who had died during the past year. In December, Hannah Jensen-Heitmann entertained us with Christmas music. Hannah also told us about the Hastings Community Music Academy.

Circles met for Bible study and fellowship each month September through May. Damen Jensen-Heitmann met with lesson leaders each month, giving suggestions and methods for presenting the lesson. Our 2022-2023 study is "Celebrating Sabbath".

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

PW Annual Financial Report 2022

General checking account

Balance forward December 31, 2021		<u>\$2,045.11</u>
Receipts:		
Apportionments from circles	\$2,400.00	
Birthday Offering	\$417.00	
Least Coin	\$51.07	
Luncheon income	\$663.00	
Collections	\$1,118.00	
PCUSA Hunger Fund	\$125.30	
Bible Study books	\$225.00	
Cookbooks	\$5.00	
Spring Gathering registrations	\$140.00	
Thank Offering	<u>\$303.00</u>	
Total income	\$5,447.37	
Expenses:		
Bible Study books	\$261.75	
Birthday Offering	\$417.00	
Church Women United - dues	\$40.00	
Church of the Good Shepherd - CWS postage	\$130.00	
Collections remitted - Mother's Day, Father's Day	\$1,118.00	
FPC for postage, copies	\$100.00	
Food from the Heart expenses	\$129.19	
Gifts for speakers	\$239.80	
Honoraria	\$235.00	
Honorary memberships	\$95.00	
Horizons subscriptions	\$75.80	
Least Coin	\$51.07	
Library books	\$100.00	
Luncheon expense	\$121.89	
Miscellaneous	\$41.70	
Pres. Central NE - mission pledge	\$1,500.00	
Pres. Central NE - presbytery/synod support	\$225.00	
Spring Gathering	\$185.76	
Thank Offering	<u>\$303.00</u>	
Total expenses	\$5,369.96	
Balance on hand December 31, 2022		<u>\$2,122.52</u>
Regular savings account	\$290.86	
Interest	<u>\$0.22</u>	
total	\$291.08	<u>\$291.08</u>
Frances Anderson Memorial Fund	\$2,771.29	
Interest	<u>\$2.55</u>	
Total	\$2,773.84	<u>\$2,773.84</u>
Total assets on December 31, 2022		<u>\$5,187.44</u>

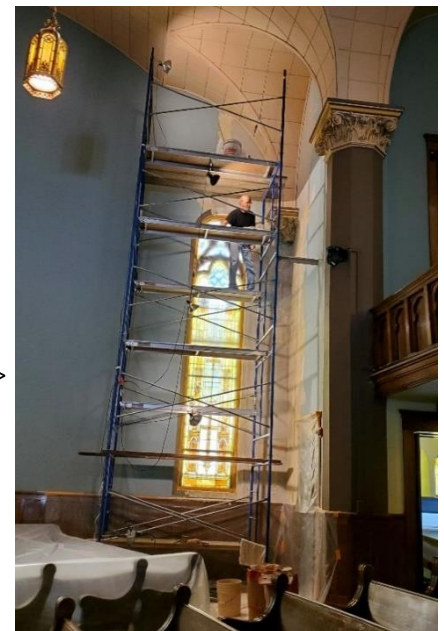
Moderator: Mary Plock

Trustees are proud of the work we have accomplished thanks to your enthusiastic support of our efforts to support the mission and people of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings.



Back row, l to r: Erik
Nielsen, Sue
Horton/secretary, Rev.
Greg Allen-Pickett (ex-
oficio), Kevin Turner, C.L.
Wimer, Kay Georgiana
(not pictured Mary Creigh)
Seated, l to r: Mary
Plock/chair, Kaela
Pumroy, Chuck Bauer/vice
chair

- Replaced the elevator (underwritten entirely by anonymous donor)
- Repaired the foundation breach that allowed water into the middle school room beneath Fellowship Hall
- Updated liability insurance
- Replaced the HVAC unit in the Chapel.
- **Completed the stucco, NE corner sanctuary>>>>>>>>>>**
- Replaced and upgraded water fountains (2)
- Replaced coffee machine with service contract
- Supported upgrades in 14 security cameras
- Refreshed black powder coating/Memorial Garden railings



PEACE Center improvements:

- New Gym floor coverings
- New Banners on outside of the building
- Replaced water pipe from building to the City line (\$27,000 unanticipated repair)

PEACE Center Parking Lot Project

For several years, trustees have repaired depressions in the asphalt parking lot created by semi-trucks delivering food to the PEACE Center for the various feeding ministries that are housed there.

When trustees learned that the City of Hastings was awarded funds from a grant to improve access to City Hall (sidewalks and curbs), we worked with **Tara Ogren**, the City engineer responsible for managing this project. We let her know that trustees wanted to replace the asphalt parking lot with concrete and she encouraged us to include a rain garden in our plans. Trustees agreed to mulch, plant and maintain a 40'x100' rain garden if the City removed asphalt and created appropriate subsoil and drainage. The city grant also paid to replace some of the sidewalks around the PEACE Center.



<<Trustees invited **Steve Wolford**/W Design Associates to design a parking lot and guide us through the project. In January 2022, Steve offered to donate his expertise and time, asking only for compensation for additional expenses. We sincerely thank Steve for his willingness to serve as project manager. Heartland Concrete, Krieger Electric and Tilley's Sprinklers were selected

to complete the project in 2022.



Tara Ogren, City of Hastings engineer, by the rain garden with **Ben Engel**, contractor of grant she administered.

Components of the project:

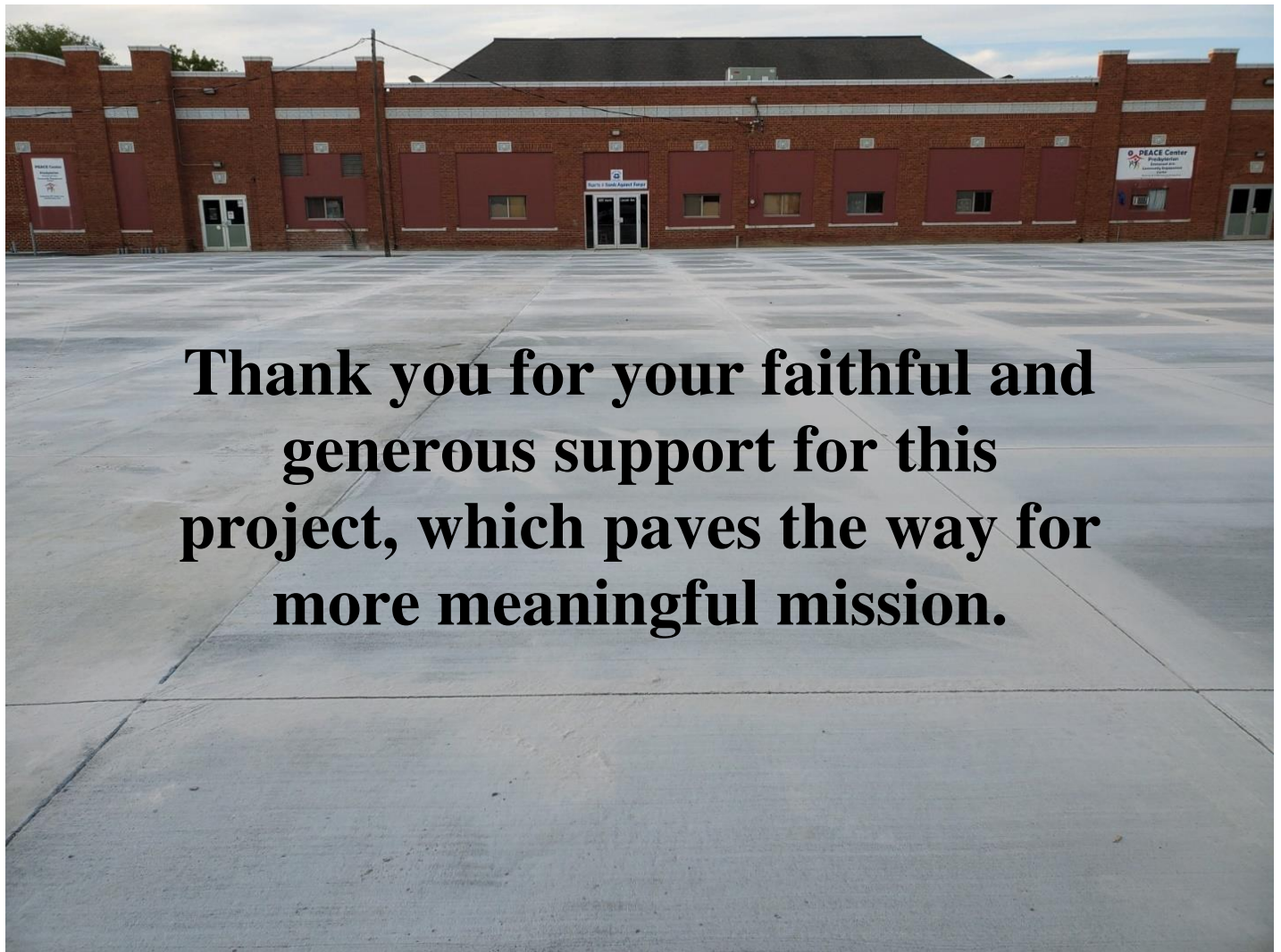
- Sealant (prevent salt/gravel damage)
- Remove/replace driveway on west side of PEACE Center
- Remove/replace broken water pipe on north side of Center
- Remove/replace concrete – front entrance to church
- LED parking light
- **Transformer relocated to SW corner of Center>>>>>>>**
- **Increase depth of concrete to 7-inches (to accommodate semi-truck traffic)**



Volunteers spread mulch in the new rain garden



New Sod and Sprinklers installed



**Thank you for your faithful and
generous support for this
project, which paves the way for
more meaningful mission.**

PEACE CENTER REPORT

The PEACE Center (old Middle School Annex) which the church purchased from Hastings Public Schools in 2009 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 continued the new food distribution system in the parking lot 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.
- Hastings Food Pantry continued to use the PEACE Center as a storage and sorting facility.
- The Senior High Youth met in the Youth Room at the PEACE Center all year.
- On Monday afternoons and Wednesday evenings the gym is open for church members and friends to play Pickleball.
- Central Community College continued to rent space in the PEACE Center for dog obedience classes.
- The Mexican Folkloric Dance Group Raices de mi Pueblo, continued to hold their practices in the PEACE Center on a weekly basis.
- Beto’s Tacos food truck continues to park in the PEACE Center parking, paying 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 2022, replaced the PEACE Center parking lot, which you can read about in the Trustee’s report.

Ongoing Feeding Ministries at the PEACE Center

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

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

Hastings Food Pantry - Storage and Sorting Facility

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

HEARTS & HANDS AGAINST HUNGER

Annual Report 2022



Family Packing Meals



Children in Zambia Receiving Food

Hearts & Hands Against Hunger of Hastings

Our work of feeding starving children and their families continues at Hearts & Hands Against Hunger of Hastings. Last year, 1500 volunteers packed over 570,000 life-saving meals at the First Presbyterian PEACE Center. These meals went to orphanages, schools, hospitals, refugee camps, feeding centers, and disaster relief centers in 19 countries, including the United States.

We know our work needs to continue as long as people suffer from hunger and malnutrition. We recently received a thank you letter from a medical clinic in Zambia. They said malnourished children and pregnant women visiting the clinic received the meals we sent, and some went to local orphanages. Many families they helped had no food at home.

It's great to be back having groups packing meals at the PEACE Center. The Hastings Middle School brought 320 students, Silver Lake 120 students, St Michael's brought 65, 4th & 5th graders, and many other church groups, service organizations, clubs, sports teams, and businesses have come during the past year. Hearts & Hands also packs meals on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:00-3:30 at the Peace Center and welcomes any volunteers who would like to join us.

We want 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

HASTINGS COMMUNITY MUSIC ACADEMY
Executive Director: Hannah Jensen-Heitmann

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

2022 was an eventful year for the Hastings Community Music Academy. In the spring, we held a six week session of beginning and advanced handbells as well as a four week session of ukulele for retirees. A Uke Jamboree was held in the summer for kids ages 9-13 for three days, followed by a performance at Flatwater Music Festival at Prairie Loft to share the songs they learned and wrote. In July, we held our first session of a Sign Language Choir, bringing in participants ages 7-70 and 65 audience members at their end of the week performance. We also set up a booth at the local Farmer's Market on a few summer Saturdays, and had a booth at the Hastings Museum Block Party. Doing this allowed us to connect with community members who may not have heard about us otherwise, and garnered some interest from a variety of people. In the fall, we hosted the Dallas Brass in partnership with Hastings College and Hastings Public Schools, had our third session of beginning and advanced handbells, a second session of ukulele for retirees, and a Holiday Sign Language Choir. This choir performed at the Celebration of Lights in Downtown Hastings, and were featured on the front page of the Hastings Tribune and in an article by KHAS Radio. We ended 2022 by hosting singer/songwriter, Christopher Williams, for an afternoon songwriting workshop and a free evening concert.

One of our most exciting accomplishments this year was being officially recognized as a nonprofit in the state of Nebraska. Though it was a long process filled with many questions and paperwork, we are excited for what we can now do, and are grateful to all who helped with the process.

By the end of 2022, we had offered classes for over 100 community members, who have varied in ages and abilities. We have a lot of new and returning classes planned for 2023, and we look forward to watching this organization grow. Our deepest and heartfelt thanks goes to First Presbyterian Church, and the generosity, support, and guidance we have received from its members.



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Moderator: William Oliver

The Scholarship Committee awarded four scholarships this year; the Ann L. Binfield, Chip Essex Memorial, Ted and Lori Schroeder, and General FPC Scholarships.

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

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

Recipients for the 2019-2020 school year: Luke Brooks (Missouri Valley College, new award)

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

Ted and Lori Schroeder Scholarship: Tanner Bauer

General FPC Scholarship recipient: Abigail Kerr

Committee members are:

Class of 2022
Richard Johnson
Chris Shukei

Class of 2023
Ginny Locke
Linda Johnson

Class of 2024
William Oliver (moderator)
Tim Redline

Session Rep: Cheryl Lockwood

Trustee Rep: Kevin Turner