



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF HASTINGS**
LIVING A LEGACY OF LOVE

Home Page Newsletter

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

We are blessed to be celebrating our 150th Anniversary this year. Our tagline for the celebration is “Living a legacy of love!” Sharing memories is an important part of any milestone celebration. In this 150th year of our beloved church, there are a wealth of stories just waiting to be told by members of our church family! Some of these memories might be shared in a few sentences; others might tell a more detailed history. You are invited to help us in assembling these personal reflections as part of our history; we would like to include some of them in our church newsletters throughout this year.

“I remember when...” welcomes reminiscences from members of all ages. So sit back and think about memories you might like to share and then pass them along to us. Please include the year or date of the event being described, your name, and any photos you may have. Memories can also be published anonymously if desired. Mary Seiler has graciously agreed to collect and help us curate these memories, so please contact her via email at marycseiler@gmail.com or give her a call.

Mary has also graciously shared the first memory to get us started. Read below as she tells the story of a mission trip to Costa Rica that the church took in 1997. We hope this story inspires you to share some of your memories too!

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Greg

Mary Seiler's Memory of the Costa Rica Mission Trip

On June 3, 1997, a team from First Presbyterian Church departed on a mission to the rural community of Betania, outside of Upala, Costa Rica near the Nicaraguan border. Our task was to assist financially and physically in the construction of an additional classroom building for the local elementary school, and to build relationships with the local community. Rev. Cheryl Elfond led the team which included Frank and Ruby Reis, May and Ira Wierenga, Sharon Christofferson, Shirley Johnston, Don Goodrich and myself. Additional members were Donna Dixon (from our Presbytery) and Robin Wilcox, a college student who was majoring in Spanish.

In preparation for our work in a Latin American community, we read and discussed *We Drink From Our Own Wells* by Peruvian theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez. The project in Costa Rica was organized with the local community by Presbyterian Mission Co-Workers, Gloria and Andrés Garcia. In Hastings, donations of school supplies, clothing and shoes for the children were collected and packed in our checked baggage. The team also assisted with the cost of supplies to complete the construction; when we arrived, only the pre-cast concrete walls were erected.

We knew we weren't in Nebraska anymore as we traveled by bus through Guanacaste province; the views out of our windows were trees laden with ripe mangoes and monkeys, and glimpses of volcanoes. Room and board was in a small local hotel in Upala, and we were transported from there to the work site each morning in a large van. Although a short distance, the trip took about 45 minutes on a rutted one-lane dirt road traveled mostly by people on foot, horseback, bicycle, an occasional motorcycle, and once, a team of oxen! We also had to cross a “bridge” consisting of two halves of a tree laid parallel across the river – no sides!

Each day at dawn, the crowing of roosters served as our alarm clock. We commuted to the school, working until we had to leave to get back to Upala before it got dark. Lunch was prepared at the construction site by the local women. The school kids and their younger siblings, curious and friendly, hung around us whenever they had

2.12.2023 & 2.19.2023/VOL.33.27

402-462-5147 www.fpchastings.org

the chance. During breaks, we played Frisbee with the kids and learned about one another with Andrés, Gloria and Robin interpreting. We returned to Upala each evening to take a (cold) shower, and to relax with an evening meal, devotions, fellowship, and singing accompanied by Andrés on his guitar.

Several of us were invited by our new friends to visit their homes; these were typically simple one-room dwellings with a hard earthen floor, surrounded by a riot of bright blossoms, fruit trees, vegetable gardens, and chickens everywhere. I had the joy of riding horseback to the home of “William the chainsaw guy” who precisely cut all the lumber for raising the roof – without ever measuring! One of the more challenging jobs I remember was working in pairs or trios, using a heavy log as a pile driver to pound the rocks into the dirt floor of the new school room.

The final evening meal, prepared by the Betania community, was a holy communion of food, flowers, speeches, singing, tears of joy and gratitude, and a fond farewell. As we drove back to San José over the next couple of days, we were treated to an eruption of the Arenal volcano as we listened to the howler monkeys outside of our cabins, and the beautiful topiary creations in Zarcero, viewed through a magical mist cloud that often shrouds the gardens.

The contrast could not have been greater when the Garcias took us by bus to visit Pavas, a shantytown in San José located on a former city dump, where they help to serve a congregation. The extreme poverty of these most marginalized communities in Latin America is something that most of us had not witnessed before. Even though we had a meaningful week of working with an underserved community in Betania, this environment in the shantytown was upsetting to many of us. Later we met with the president of Seminario Biblico Latinoamericano, where we were staying in the dormitory. Preparing pastors and other church leaders from countries throughout Latin America to return to work in their own communities is the historic mission of the institution. Both Andrés (from Honduras) and Gloria (from Ecuador) attended this school, and it is where they met.

First Presbyterian Church has a long tradition of mission, both locally and farther from home. This experience in Costa Rica, working together with the people of Betania, was transforming for those of us who made the journey. As we share the stories we remember in our church history of 150 years, we can also be inspired to seek future opportunities in mission to continue “Living a Legacy of Love.”



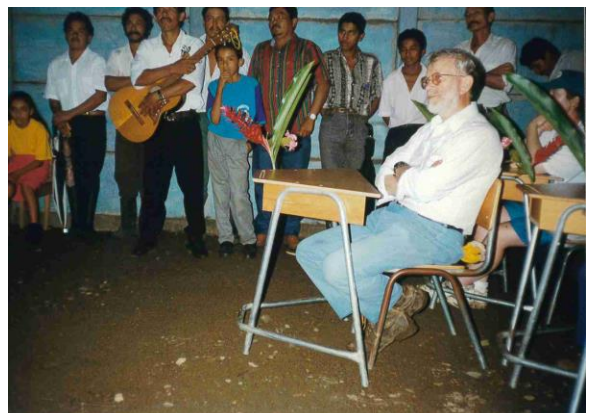
School kids, new construction, Ira Wierenga in green shirt



College Student Robin Wilcox, Frisbee was a hit!



Lunch at worksite with May Wierenga



Don Goodrich at the farewell dinner

Syria-Turkey Earthquake



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in the aftermath of the 7.8- magnitude earthquake and its aftershocks in Syria and Turkey. Thousands are reported dead and injured, numbers that will rise as search and rescue continues. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, and roads and bridges have been severely damaged, resulting in dangerous conditions for first responders. In some places, such as Aleppo, this destruction is compounding the damage of the now 11-year war in Syria.

PDA is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas. PDA will remain active throughout the recovery process, accompanying our partners as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience.

Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the "GAP" for the people affected by this catastrophic earthquake?

GIVE: PDA's emergency response and specialization in long-term recovery is fueled by your generous gifts. Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/give-STearthquake, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "DR999999-ST earthquake" written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700



PRAY: *God of mercy, we join in prayer for our siblings in Syria and Turkey, and all other regions affected. In the face of the terrible images that come to us, we ask that your Spirit, O God, once again move in the midst of chaos and destruction. May you provide protection, energy and strength through your presence.*

☐ \$500 ☐ \$125 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Congregation/PIN _____

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



February 18, 2023

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

DOCTRINAL CONFESSIONS

Dan Deffenbaugh - Lydia Room
9:15 AM - Feb. 26, Mar. 5, 19, 26, Apr. 2



The Church Office
will be closed on
Monday, February 20
in observance of
President's Day

NO Adult Forum on
Sunday, February 19
See you on the 26th!

Langenberg Lesson Applications for Spring 2023 are now available.

Parent(s) of students in grades 1-12 may apply for up to \$250 per semester to offset the cost of private music instruction. Applicable areas of study include piano, voice, guitar, or any band/orchestral instrument. Grants are limited to one per child. Parent(s) must be members of First Presbyterian Church and students must be active participants in the church choir/music program. Although grants are renewable, parents **MUST RE-APPLY EACH SEMESTER.**

Applications are available in the church office or on the church website and are **DUE APRIL 1, 2023**

Thank you for the sheets
and coat
Heather Schuler

Thank you for the towels
and socks and cat stuff
you made my day.

Andy

Thank you for the clothes
Deb



From our
giving tree recipients

Thank you so much for
the blankets and headphones
I use them daily. Much Blessings
-Elyse

thank you for the
christmas gifts!
your truly Sharon

I thank you so
much for the slippers
lotion and gift certificate

Rolyn Wattier

Thank you,

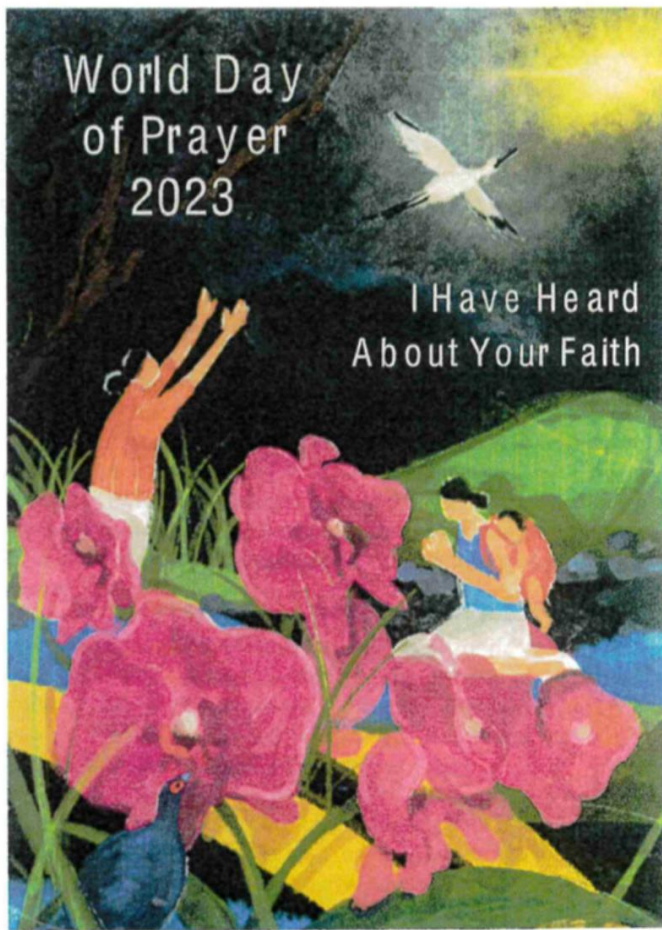
Thank you so much
for the coloring
pencils and markers
and Books they will
come in very useful
mist

I really appreciate
the gifts! My Fiance and
I both agree that the
Brush was a nice addition!
-DeLan...

I appreciate the crock pot,
I am trying to use it.
I got roast beef.
Thank you.



Lois Meeske- 1	Kirk Dielman-13
Tony Eddleman-2	Linda Donohue-15
Cheryl Lockwood-2	Jennifer Boeve-15
Joan Shaw-3	Darlene Payne-15
Kim Hermann-4	Shirley Maul-17
Peggy Thomson-5	Kathleen Nelson-18
Audrey Miller-5	Bill Boyd-19
Lesla Cropley-9	Kaela Pumroy-20
Evelyn Viglicky-9	Stephanie Adam-22
Beth Funkey-10	Dayna Grimmatt-25
Henry Black-10	Hank Little-26
Stan Essink-10	Jenni Welsch-26
Les Seiler-10	Matthew Klug-26
Justin Stein-10	Grace Canady-27
Amy Black-11	Erik Nielsen-27
Phyllis O'Dey-11	Stacey Eddleman-28
Carter Lay-12	Allison Kern-28
Danny Graves-12	Arich Fruehling-28
Maggie Nielsen-12	Maryann Shorey-31
Joshua Brooks-13	Hannah Jensen-Heitmann-31
Deb Freeburger-31	



"World Day of Prayer"

10 am, Friday, March 3 Coffee @ 9:30
First Christian Church, 1201 Sheridan Dr.

Speaker: Tammy Stuhr
Church Women United

About World Day of Prayer



Since the nineteenth century, Christian women in the United States and Canada have initiated cooperative activities in recognizing the critical role of prayer in mission work and their call to promote world peace through worldwide mission work. The first organized "day of prayer for the world" was held in Canada on January 9, 1920, the United States soon followed on February 20, 1920.

Now hundreds of thousands of women (and men, youth, and children) from around the world and in every region gather to collectively worship from around the world and in every region gather to collectively worship on the first Friday in March. Each year, a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer worship service and other materials. Women of that country's national WDP committee interpret scripture within their cultural context and prepare a worship service; women around the world lead the services.

This year, the women of the World Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan call us to worship with the words "I have heard about your faith", inspired by Ephesians (1:15-19). We are invited to learn about Taiwan's history and culture. The women share their stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions, and experiences of God's profound love.

The theme of the worship service "I Have Heard about Your Faith," based on the letter to the Ephesians, is an invitation to active listening, which is the ground of our prayers. Following the example of the letter (1:15-19), where the author praises the church for their faith in Jesus and love toward all the saints, the worship service contextualizes the witness of the saints with the stories from Taiwan.

The worship service shares the letters of encouragement sent to women who faced suffering and injustice. Their stories of faith contemplate issues that are shared by women and girls around the world and that continue to challenge us to prayerful action.

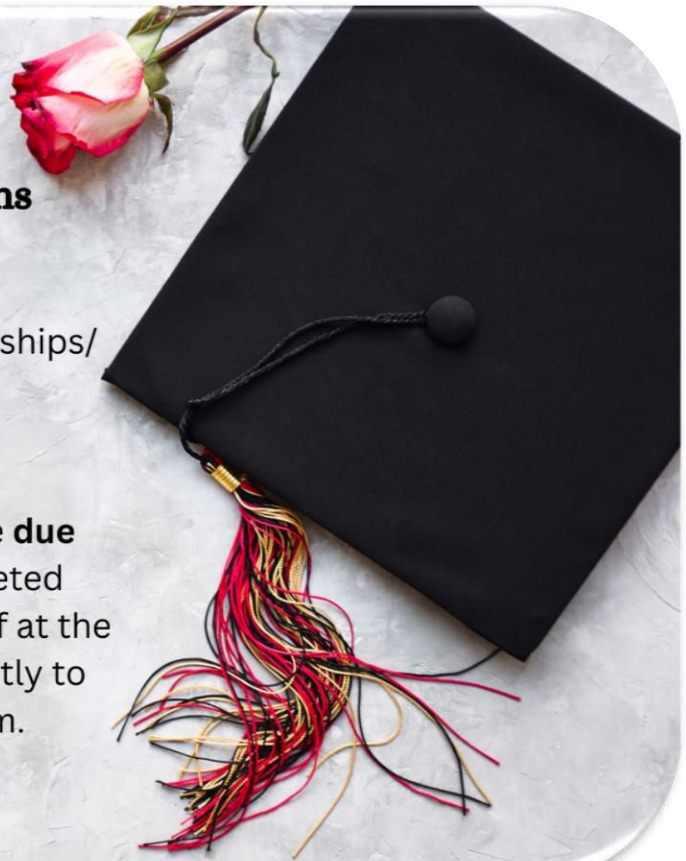


Imposition of Ashes Service
Wednesday, February 22
7pm
First Presbyterian Church
Sanctuary

**College
Scholarship Applications**

are available on
the church website at
<https://fpchastings.org/scholarships/>
or
in the Church Office

The application and essay are **due
February 28th, 2023**. Completed
applications can be dropped off at the
church office or emailed directly to
tim@redlinepharmacy.com.



chicago
folk
service
complete communion celebration

by Art Gorman



Sunday, February 19
4pm

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
1338 N Saunders Ave.

The music and liturgy was written in 1972, its purpose “to be a bridge of understanding among all generations”, “an answer for youth seeking relevance in worship.”

First Presbyterian's own Mary Plock is one of the musicians!



Prayers For

Shirley Maul
Barry Thomson
Christian Fruehling
Stephen Gass
Bev Stein
Greg Howard
Irina Belikova-Erickson
Rich Portwood
Shirley Gass
Tarah Davis & family
Cheryl Ann Elfond
Brad Davis
Roberta Lloyd and family
Nancy Grams
Amanda Turner

Reta & Lowell Johnson
Carl Utley
BJ Pumroy & family
Elaine Schumacher
Melba Trehern
Family of Michael Hahne
Dave Schawang
Katie Reynolds & family
Jenni Bauer
Sally Smith
Don Rasmussen
Freddie Petersen
Jenni Welsch
Dale Hamburger

In loving memory of

*Michael Hahne, who passed
away on 12/20/22*



March



Jeff & Ashley Hermann-3/8/2014
Cathy & Eldon Mitzelfelt-3/13/1971
George & Joy White-3/19/1972
Chris & Janna Johnson-3/19/1983

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

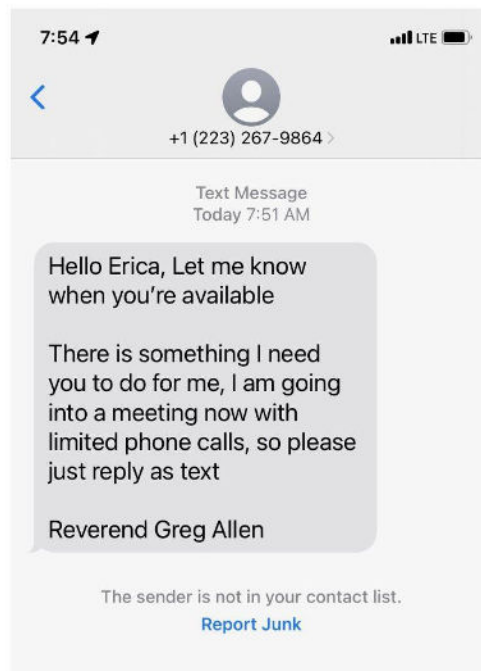
Brian & Laurie Johnson-3/20/1982
Jim & Carol Harrenstein-3/22/1980
Linda & Terry Hall-3/30/1996

Sunday 2/12	8:30am-9:15am	Taizé Service	Chapel
	9:15am-10:15am	Confirmation/Sunday School Hour	Various
	10am-10:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary/Facebook/Radio
	11:30am-12pm	HAW Store Open	Narthex
Monday 2/13	1-3pm	1 st Pres Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	5:30pm	Global Mission Committee	PEACE NW Classroom
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tuesday 2/14	10-11am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Congregational Life Meeting	Parlor
	7-8pm	Dog Obedience Class	PEACE NE Classroom
Wednesday 2/15	9:30am-10:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	Meet at Lynette Krieger's home
	11:55am	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com
	1:15pm-2:15pm	PW Circle 3	Library
	5-6:45pm	PreK-5 th WNL	Various
	5:45pm-6:45pm	Trustees Meeting	Anderson Room
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
	6:30-9pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
Thursday 2/16	5:30pm-7:30pm	Session Meeting	Anderson Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 2/17	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Room 111
Saturday 2/18		United Harvest	
Sunday 2/19	8:30am-9:15am	Taizé Service	Chapel
	9:15am-10:15am	Sunday School/Confirmation	Various
	10am-10:30am	HAW Store open	Narthex
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary/Facebook/Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store open	Narthex
	5-7pm	Jr. High/Sr. High Youth Group	Various
	6pm	Hastings College Choir Concert	Sanctuary
Monday 2/20	Church Office Closed-President's Day		
	1-3pm	First Pres Pickleball	PEACE gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tuesday 2/21	10-11am	Staff Meeting	In person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room/ZOOM
	6:45pm	Deacon's meeting	Anderson Room
	7-8pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom

Wednesday 2/22	11:55am	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com
	5-6:45pm	PreK-5 th WNL	Various
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	7pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Sanctuary
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
	6:30-9pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
Thursday 2/23	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout room
Friday 2/24	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Room 111
Sunday 2/26	8:30am-9:15am	Taizé Service	Chapel
	9:15am-10:15am	Confirmation/Sunday School	Various
	10am-10:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary/Facebook/Radio
	11:30am-12pm	HAW Store open	Narthex
	5-7pm	Jr. High/Sr. High Youth Group	various



Pastor Greg has been hacked again. If you receive a message from the number below. DO NOT RESPOND. Pastor Greg's number begins with a (470)



First Presbyterian Church

621 N. Lincoln Ave.

Hastings, NE 68901

402-462-5147

fpc@fpchastings.org

Return Service Requested

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

Head of Church: Jesus Christ
Senior Pastor: Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett
Organist and Music Director: Linda Vollweiler
Chancel Choir Director: Brett Epperson
Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster Bells Director: Dr. Byron Jensen
Calvin/Westminster Choir Director: Linda Johnson
Praise/Alleluia Choir Directors: Tim and Teresa Canady
Praise/Alleluia Bells Choir Director: Dr. Susan Oliver
Accompanist and Music Coordinator: Mary Plock

Ministers: Members of the Church
Associate Pastor: Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann
Director of Children & Family Ministries: Rose Koepp
Church Office Administrator: Melissa Davis
Facilities Manager: Tony Calhoun
Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger
Scholar in Residence: Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey