



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

# Home Page Newsletter

## A heart full of gratitude and joy!

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

On this Thanksgiving week, I am full of gratitude for each of you and our beloved church! As a church family, we have so much to be thankful for.

On Sunday, we shared an update on the capital campaign. When we started this campaign, we hired a consultant to help us, who advised us that we were one of the first churches in Nebraska undertaking a capital campaign since the pandemic, so he wasn't sure how things would go. He also said that capital campaigns for renovations should typically be no more than two times the church's annual budget. Since our annual budget is about \$750,000, he recommended we try to raise \$1.5million.

However, we had a list of prioritized projects that we wanted to accomplish that were focused on: **hospitality, accessibility, family-friendliness, and preservation/sustainability**. So, we set an ambitious goal of \$2million. Half of the money raised will go towards renovations in our church building including a kitchen remodel, new handicapped accessible restrooms off the sanctuary, a "cry room" off the sanctuary for families with small children, making our choir loft handicapped accessible, updating our church offices, and improving our Christian Education wing. The other half of the money will go towards renovations of the PEACE Center to make it more welcoming and accessible for the whole community. We came together as a church to support this important work and our church family stepped up in some very big ways.

Not only did we reach our goal, but we exceeded it! Our church members pledged or gave \$2.01million, and we received \$220,000 in grants, for a total of \$2.23million! This incredible generosity will allow us to complete every project that we proposed, and will allow us to build out a wish list of additional projects that we can do.

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed so generously to our capital campaign with your pledges and gifts, your prayers, and your support. I am overwhelmed by the response that we received and filled with gratitude for our faithful and generous church family. I am delighted that we have exceeded our goal because of your generosity, and this campaign has never been about just money but about our ability to use our facilities for mission and ministry, to share the love and light of Christ with the world. Because of your generosity, the church is set up for success in the future.

continued



Now the important work begins on our projects, starting this week! We will continue to keep you updated on progress, so stay tuned. For now, let us give thanks to God for the abundance that God has blessed us with. The success of this campaign will allow us continue "Living a Legacy of Love!"

Your Servant in Christ,

*Pastor Greg*

Pastor Greg



Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your very generous donation to Crimson Cupboard! Your donation will go towards our mission of providing resources to Hastings College Students through restocking our pantry. With people like you supporting us we continue to give back to students.

We thank you again for your support.

- Cathlynn Zwirg



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## FALL FORUM

### BEARERS OF THE DIVINE

Topic: Learn all about the original  
cantata premiering at FPC Dec. 10

Dates: Nov. 19, Dec. 3, 10

Presenter: Hannah Jensen-Heitmann

**SUNDAYS @ 9:15 A.M.**  
**LYDIA ROOM**



### POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias may be purchased in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$15 each. Money raised over the cost will be donated to the Hastings Public Schools Foundation playground improvement fund.

Your donation makes a difference. Please return your order form to the church office as soon as possible.

Poinsettia in memory of:

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Poinsettia in honor of:

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Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

How many total poinsettias are you ordering? \_\_\_\_\_

I will leave my poinsettia(s) at the church:

☐ Yes

☐ No

## November Communion Offering

The Communion Offering for the month of November is designated for the Hastings Public Schools Foundation playground improvement fund. This fund is designed to make the playgrounds safer and more accessible for kids of all ages and physical conditions. For more information, please visit the following website:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rO5YuvO3OTrbbGmI-ueMhf9ACo6RyK9o/view?usp=sharing>

### November Greeters

| NOVEMBER | MEMORIAL ROOM      | NARTHEX              |
|----------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 26       | Jane & Chuck Bauer | Erica & Brent Brooks |

### November Ushers

Team #3 – Captain- Dave Fisher  
 Andrew Barrows  
 Phil Odom  
 Doug Soderquist

### December Greeters

| DECEMBER   | MEMORIAL ROOM          | NARTHEX               | NARTHEX       |
|------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 3          | Kim Hermann            | Pat & Dick Kleiber    |               |
| 10         | Paul & Lynette Krieger | Clyde Sachtleben      | Carolyn Nowka |
| 17         | Kathy & Curtis Reimer  | Susan Hoff            | Erin Gastmann |
| 10:30am 24 |                        |                       |               |
| 5:30pm 24  |                        |                       |               |
| 7:30pm 24  |                        |                       |               |
| 31         | Milrae & Harold Korb   | Cathy & John Pershing |               |

### December Ushers

**(Team 4)**  
 Captain – George Howard  
 Susie Graham  
 Dixie McDonald  
 Gale McDonald  
 Lori Schroeder  
 Ted Schroeder





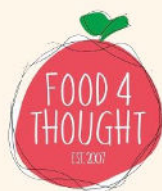
# FEAST & TRIVIA

A fundraiser aimed at aiding individuals in need of sustenance.

DECEMBER 1ST

6:00-8:00 P.M.

Meal / Trivia / Community



\$20 Adults / \$10 Students

1st Presbyterian Church  
621 N Lincoln Ave, Hastings, NE



**2024**  
**Book Discussion**  
*Group*

# JUSTICE and PEACE

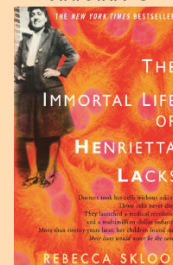
- DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM  
• The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!
- DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH  
• Read and discuss any or all books that appeal to you. Registration will be needed to join the discussion on Zoom.
- RECEIVE STUDY GUIDES TO INFORM YOUR READING  
• Questions for discussion or reflection will be sent with your registration confirmation.



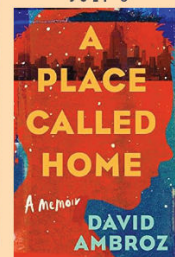
To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice).

## Reading Selections (6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Eastern Time)

JANUARY 8



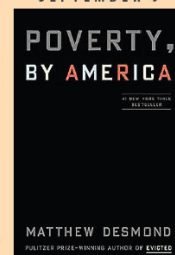
JULY 8



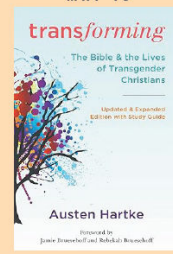
MARCH 11



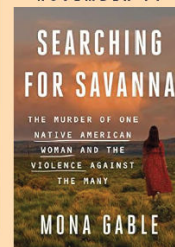
SEPTEMBER 9



MAY 13



NOVEMBER 11



Selections are recommended by the Justice & Peace Committee of PW's Board of Directors.

**To sign up or to reserve a table  
please email Doodle Harris at:  
[doodle.harris@hastings.edu](mailto:doodle.harris@hastings.edu)**

## Ushers and Greeters Needed

We are in need of ushers for the 5:30pm and 7:30pm services on Christmas Eve.

We are also in need of greeters for the 10:30am, 5:30pm, and 7:30pm services on Christmas Eve.

Please let Melissa know if you are able to help out.  
([melissa@fpchastings.org](mailto:melissa@fpchastings.org) or 402-462-5147)

Thank you!



## Please pray for



Brad Davis  
Elaine Schumacher  
Dave Schawang  
Renee Miller  
family of Rich Portwood  
Shirley Gass  
Audre Zaroban  
Carter Johnson  
Scott Johnson  
Tarah Davis & family  
Matt Campbell  
June Nielsen  
Neil Kerr and family  
Vernon Groves  
Carol Medsker  
Frances Kamler

Pam Canady  
Ashley Ibach  
Reta & Lowell Johnson  
Carl Utley  
Barry Thomson  
Stephen Gass  
Greg Howard  
Ken Fisk  
Mary Wolf  
family of Julie McDougal  
Everest Beacon (Zabloudil)  
Jacob Shin  
Jim Boeve  
family of Peter Duang  
Brett Epperson and family  
family of Joyce Mefford

Paul Nuss  
Vicki (Fisk) Nieves  
Dana Odom  
John Carllson  
Mary Giesler

## In memory of

Julie McDougal, who passed  
away on 9/27/2023  
Rich Portwood, who passed  
away on 10/5/2023  
Joyce Mefford, who passed  
away on 10/8/2023

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The high school youth Stay & Serve Great Food Challenge project was a huge success! Our goal was to collect 473 pounds of food and after 49 stops in town and a number of donations dropped off at church we collected .... drumroll... 1,208 pounds for the Hastings Food Pantry!

The North Side of town dominated.  
Thank you to everyone who donated!







# HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY



Diane Phelps-1  
Louie Eckhardt-1  
Sandra Wimer-3  
Abigail Shelter-3  
Colton Hemje-3  
Jeanne Hastings-3  
Justin Musgrave-3  
Diane Mullen-4  
Tyson Kerr-5  
Connie Franzen-6  
Gary Brandt-7  
Lynette Krieger-7  
Tanner Bauer-7  
Madilyn Graves-7  
Steve Wolford-8  
Pam Schlichtman-8  
Dave Dirks-9  
Sophia Hemje-9  
Todd Pankratz-10  
Danna Wolford-11  
Kevin Ellerbee-11  
Phyllis Salyards-11

John Brooks-12  
Traci Boeve-12  
Nyaguor Duang-13  
Mary Fisk-14  
Joyce Moore-14  
Blake Norris-15  
Pat Kleiber-15  
Kelly Barnett-15  
Marilyn Nielsen-17  
Esther Allen-Pickett-17  
Lindsey Stout-17  
Deb Jensen-18  
Wayne Ganow-18  
Shannon Welton-18  
Tom Ratzlaff-19  
Sue Bradley-19  
Kili Wenburg-19  
Skylynn Norris-19  
Donald Buhr-19  
Bill Redinger-20  
Eleanor Jorgenson-20  
Justin Osborne-21  
Barbara Sunderman-21

Briella Borrell-23  
Mari Anderson-24  
Tracy Brooks-25  
Sophia Pankratz-26  
Laura Marvel-Wunderlich-26  
Ewan Eckhardt-26  
Halligan Little-27  
Jim Wenburg-28  
Kelsey Stokely-29  
Carolyn Nowka-29  
Laura Peterson-30  
Riley Propp-30  
Levi McCoy-30  
Maliya Fitzgerald-30



|                        |            |  |  |
|------------------------|------------|--|--|
| <b>Tuesday 11/21</b>   | 10:15am    | Staff Meeting                                  | In-person  |
|                        | 12pm       | Bible Study                                    | Anderson Room  |
| <b>Wednesday 11/22</b> | 12pm       | Noonday Book Club                              | <a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a><br>for link |
|                        | 1:30pm     | Quilters                                       | PEACE Quilting Room  |
|                        |            | <b>NO WNL</b>                                  |  |
|                        |            | <b>NO Choir Practice</b>                       |  |
|                        |            | <b>NO Handbell Choir Practice</b>              |  |
|                        | 6:30pm-9pm | Woodcarvers                                    | basement   |
| <b>Thursday 11/23</b>  |            | <b>Church Office Closed-Happy Thanksgiving</b> |  |
| <b>Friday 11/24</b>    |            | <b>Church Office Closed</b>                    |  |

*December Communion Offering*  
Reverse Advent Donations and Giving Tree



The Coat Giveaway was a huge success again this year that was held November 18<sup>th</sup>. Our congregation warmed a lot of hearts and bodies for this winter. The smile on a child's face when they find a coat that is perfect for them, or a homeless man walking out wearing his new coat feeling proud of his choice. It's a wonderful experience to spread joy and warmth with the community so next year come and join us. We will collect coats in late Spring and Fall in 2024. Thank you all for making this happen!

Julie Thomsen

Mission committee



|                        |          |   |  |
|------------------------|----------|---|--|
| <b>Sunday 11/26</b>    | 8:30am   | Contemplative Worship Service               | Chapel   |
|                        |          | <b>NO Sunday School/Confirmation</b>        |  |
|                        | 10am     | HAW Store Open                              | Narthex  |
|                        | 10:30am  | Traditional Worship Service                 | Sanctuary  |
|                        | 11:30am  | HAW Store Open                              | Narthex  |
| <b>Monday 11/27</b>    | 1pm      | 1 <sup>st</sup> Pres Pickleball             | PEACE Gym  |
|                        | 1:30pm   | Quilters                                    | PEACE Quilting Room  |
|                        | 6-8pm    | Mexican Folkloric Dance                     | PEACE NE Classroom   |
|                        | 7-9pm    | Chorus of the Plains                        | Choir Room   |
| <b>Tuesday 11/28</b>   | 10:15am  | Staff Meeting                               | In-person  |
|                        | 12pm     | Bible Study                                 | Anderson Room  |
| <b>Wednesday 11/29</b> | 12pm     | Noonday Book Club                           | <a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a><br>for link |
|                        | 1:30pm   | Quilters                                    | PEACE Quilting Room  |
|                        | 5-7:15pm | PreK-5 <sup>th</sup> grade WNL              | Various  |
|                        | 6:30pm   | Woodcarvers                                 | Basement   |
|                        | 6:45pm   | Chancel Choir                               | Choir Room   |
|                        | 7:30pm   | Chancel Bells                               | Bell Room  |
| <b>Thursday 11/30</b>  | 12:30pm  | Dulcimer                                    | Lydia Room   |
|                        | 6-8pm    | Mexican Folkloric Dance                     | PEACE NE Classroom   |
|                        | 7-8pm    | Cub Scouts                                  | Scout Room   |
| <b>Friday 12/1</b>     | 10am     | Mahjong                                     | Basement Youth Room  |
|                        | 6pm-8pm  | Feast & Trivia<br>Food 4 Thought Fundraiser | Fellowship Hall  |
| <b>Saturday 12/2</b>   | 10am-1pm | Christmas Craft Make and Take<br>Event      | Fellowship Hall  |
| <b>Sunday 12/3</b>     | 8:30am   | Contemplative Worship Service               | Chapel   |
|                        | 9:15am   | Sunday School for all ages                  | Various  |
|                        | 10am     | HAW Store Open                              | Narthex  |
|                        | 10:30am  | Traditional Worship Service                 | Sanctuary, Facebook,<br>Radio  |
|                        | 11:30am  | HAW Store Open                              | Narthex  |



## Christmas with Cathedral Brass



**Sunday, December 17**  
**3:00p.m.**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Sanctuary**



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:** Dr. 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