



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

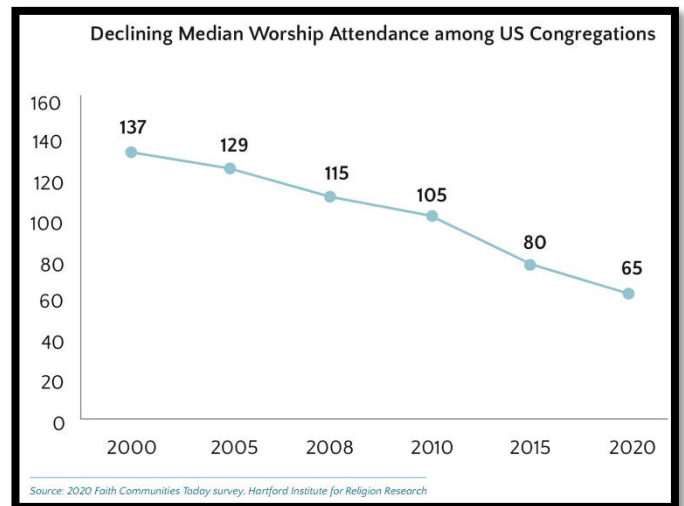
Home Page Newsletter

Keeping track of the health and vitality of our church

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

As we close the books on 2023, I want to share some exciting numbers with you that point to the health and vitality of our church. I don't spend a lot of time talking about numbers, because ministry is ultimately about people and our journey as disciples of Jesus Christ. However, it is often said, "what we actually count truly counts," so it is important to reflect on how we are doing as a church, and statistics are one way that we can track that. Here are two important statistics for our congregation:

Our average worship attendance in 2023, including in-person and on-line, was 288 people per Sunday. That is an increase from 270 people per Sunday in 2022 and 262 people per Sunday in 2021. **This shows approximately 5% growth year over year.** Attendance is one trackable metric to reflect on how a church is doing. This is in contrast to national trends, as you can see in this graph from the Hartford Institute for Religious Research:



Another trackable metric is giving. Our total giving in 2023 (outside of the capital campaign) was \$690,000. This grew from \$660,000 in 2022 and \$630,000 in 2021. This amounts to almost 5% growth in giving year over year for the last three years. We are blessed with an incredibly generous congregation, THANK YOU!

Those are two tangible metrics that we can track, and it is important to pay attention to attendance and contributions as ways to measure how we are doing as a church. However, as a counterpoint to my earlier quote, Einstein said, "Not everything that counts can be counted." So, let's look at some intangible metrics that we can use to reflect on the health and vitality of our church:

There is a spirit of compassion in our church that is seen through people caring for one another and our community, volunteering their time, and seeking to be the hands and feet of Christ. There is a sense of authentic fellowship and joy as we gather together for worship, or Wednesday night activities, or potlucks, or other events; I know our congregational life committee has a full schedule because people want to come together as a family of faith. People are volunteering to serve on boards and committees to help our church thrive and be a source of love and light in the lives of our members and in our community. I could go on and on thinking about all of the intangible ways that we can see our church thriving.

Continued

It is a joy to be the pastor of such a healthy and vital church! Thank you for all that you do to make First Presbyterian Church of Hastings a community of hope, where we always proclaim a message of hope. The source of our hope is Jesus Christ, and so I pray as we begin 2024, we can continue to grow in our discipleship as individuals and as a congregation, that we can grow closer together as a family of faith, and that our numbers continue to grow as a church so that we can share the love and light of Christ with our community and the world!

Your Servant in Christ,

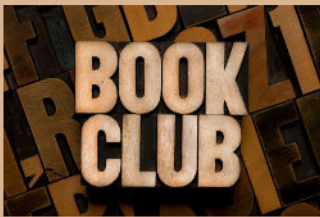
Pastor Greg

January Ushers and Greeters

January Ushers (Team #5) Captain – Ken Stein, Matt Fong, Julie Thomsen

January Greeters

JANUARY	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX
21	Karen & Roger Doerr	Andrew Barrows
28	Linda & Richard Johnson	Jan Bolliger



Harrington Noonday Book Club Group

The focus for the Harrington Noonday Book Group conversations will be *The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord’s Prayer* by John Dominic Crossan. We will resume our weekly meetings on Wednesday, January 17, with an introductory discussion of prayer in first-century Judaism and what Jesus would have known growing up.

Email sbbrooks52@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 AT 11:30AM, FPC SANCTUARY

Annual Congregational Meeting

ANYONE CAN ATTEND, ALL MEMBERS CAN VOTE



January 20, 2024

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

United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry is a joint ministry with First Presbyterian Church & First United Methodist Church. We provide a food distribution to 400+ families.

- If you need food, please come at the time indicated based on the first letter of your last name.
- If you would like to volunteer for this distribution, please come to the church at 9:30am to help us with the distribution.

Please pray for

Brad Davis	Pam Canady
Elaine Schumacher	Ashley Ibach
Dave Schawang	Reta & Lowell Johnson
Renee Miller	Carl Utley
John Northrop	Barry Thomson
Shirley Gass	Stephen Gass
Audre Zaroban	Greg Howard
Carter Johnson	Ken Fisk
Scott Johnson	Everest Beacon (Zabloudil)
Tarah Davis & family	Jim Boeve
Matt Campbell	family of Joyce Mefford
June Nielsen	Paul Nuss
Vernon Groves	Vicki (Fisk) Nieves
Carol Medsker	Dana Odom
Frances Kamler	family of Roberta Lloyd
John Carlsson	Melissa Davis & family
	Jan Bolliger

In memory of

Roberta Lloyd, who passed
away on 12/8/23

January Communion Offering



We are a nonprofit organization providing new clothing and necessities to youth in crisis.

Threads of Grace provides brand new outfits and other necessities such as socks, shoes, underwear, outerwear, and other items that children may need when moving to a new foster home or going into a shelter.

Calendar of Events

January 16, 2024-January 20, 2024

Tuesday 1/16	10:15am	Staff Meeting	in-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
Wednesday 1/17	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5-7:15pm	WNL PreK-12 th Grade	Various
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
Thursday 1/18	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 1/19	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Saturday 1/20		United Harvest	



Dear First Presbyterian Church,

The SCBS Assertive Community Treatment staff and clients wish to thank you for your exceptional generosity this Christmas. Having the opportunity to hand out these gifts to clients creates a great feeling; knowing we are able to come together to help and support the clients that would have gone without. Words cannot express the appreciation we have for your care and generosity.

Thank You,

Andrea Rutt

Calendar of Events

January 21, 2024-January 28, 2024

Sunday 1/21	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, Radio, Facebook
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
Monday 1/22	8am-7pm	Hastings College Honor Choir and Band	Memorial Room, Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall
	1-3pm	1 st Pres Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30-3:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5:30pm	Foundation Board Meeting	Anderson Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tuesday 1/23	10:15am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	11:45am	Habitat for Humanity Board	Parlor
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Session Meets	Anderson Room
Wednesday 1/24	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5-7:15pm	WNL PreK-12 th Grade	Various
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
Thursday 1/25	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 1/26	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Sunday 1/28	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, Radio
	11:30am	Annual Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex

AT THE MIGHTY AUSTIN ORGAN
First Presbyterian Church
Presents

Dr. Stephen Hamilton

Dr. Stephen Hamilton is a touring concert organist and much sought-after virtuoso. His international touring includes concerts in Paris, London, Oxford, Edinburgh, Regensburg and Rome. He also has presented numerous recitals throughout the United States. Hamilton is Minister of Music Emeritus at Church of the Holy Trinity in New York City. He currently makes his home in Minneapolis where he serves as Director of Music and Organist at Olivet Congregational Church in St. Paul.



This organ concert is made possible through the generosity of the late Luella Langenberg. In 2001, through her bequest, Mrs. Langenberg established a fund to support the special music ministries of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings. We are grateful for Luella Langenberg's enduring legacy.

Sunday,
February 11, 2024
3 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
621 N. Lincoln Ave.
Hastings, NE

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