

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS, NE  
2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF HASTINGS**

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

**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**  
**2026 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AGENDA**

Sunday, January 25, 2026

**First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary**

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Moderator

Karen Doerr, Clerk of the Session

OPENING PRAYER – Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

MINUTES – Karen Doerr, Clerk of Session

Approval of minutes from congregational meeting held January 26, 2025 (Pages 4-6)

REPORT OF THE CLERK OF SESSION – Karen Doerr, Clerk of Session (Page 7)

FINANCIAL REPORT & BUDGET PRESENTATION – Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett (Pages 8-10)

TERMS OF CALL FOR PASTORS – Karen Doerr, Clerk of Session (Page 11)

FOUNDATION REPORT – Tony Eddleman, Secretary of Foundation (Page 12)

STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS & PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 13-43)  
- Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Senior Pastor

ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2026 (Class of 2028) – Robin Koozer

<b>Deacons (5)</b>	<b>Session (4)</b>	<b>Trustees (3)</b>
Jenna Jorgensen	Justin Brader (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)	Kim Kern (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)
Becki Van Fossen	Dan Deffenbaugh (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)	Todd Pankratz (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)
Deborah Rasby	Robin Koozer (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)	Danna Wolford (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)
Merry Williams	Jody Stutzman	
Carol Kleppinger		

ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2026 - Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

Jessica Meeske, Sue Medsker, Mike Karloff, Paula Crozier

OTHER BUSINESS

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

**MINUTES OF A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Hastings, Nebraska**  
**January 26, 2025**

The annual meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, Nebraska was held on January 26, 2025 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 Karen Doerr, Clerk of Session.

**MINUTES:** *It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the Congregational Meeting held on January 29, 2024. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried.*

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

Membership, December 31, 2023	462, 201 Friends
Received during 2024:	
Profession of faith, reaffirmation, restoration	9
Certificate of Transfer	0
Confirmation	11
Losses 2024:	
Certificate or Removed from Rolls	0
Death	12
8 Members, 4 Friends	
Membership, December 31, 2024	473 Members, 197 friends
Youth/Young Adult/Adult Baptisms	0
Infant Baptisms	2
Weddings	1
Funerals	12
Average worship attendance: On-Line & In-Person:	275

Active Officers:

Elders	13
Deacons	15
Trustees	9

*Motion and a second to approve the Clerk's Report as presented. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried.*

**FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET PRESENTATION:** The Rev. Gregg Allen-Pickett presented the budget for 2025, which has been approved by the Session. It was noted that the church ended the year with a surplus of \$85,000 due to the generosity of our members, good budget management by the staff and an unexpected \$30,000 gift from outside the church. The surplus will be placed in an account to offset expected health and property insurance increases.

## **TERMS OF CALL FOR PASTORS:**

Karen Doerr, Clerk of Session, presented the following terms of call:

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

Head of Staff – Salary \$70,300

Head of Staff – Housing \$34,100

Head of Staff – Medical Insurance &  
    & Pension Payment \$43,000

Head of Staff – Travel, Prof.  
    Expenses, Con Ed \$ 5,000

*Motion and a second to approve the Terms of Call for the Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett for 2025.  
Upon a voice vote, motion carried.*

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

Associate Pastor – Salary \$47,500

Associate Pastor – Housing \$16,200

Associate Pastor – Medical Insurance  
    & Pension Payment \$27,434

Associate Pastor – Travel, Prof.  
    Expenses, Con Ed \$ 2,000

*Motion and a second to approve the Terms of Call for the Rev. Damon Jensen-Heitmann for  
2025. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.*

**FOUNDATION BOARD:** The Foundation Report is printed in its entirety in the annual meeting report booklet. Committee representative, Tony Eddleman, explained that the Foundation had a good year and voted to distribute 4.5% funding to the church.

## **STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS & PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL**

**REPORT:** The Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett first reflected on 2024 commenting on the creativity and commitments all year by staff and members indicating that FPC has come roaring back from the COVID years. For that, he gives great thanks and appreciation. He gave thanks to all for their generosity, both financially and prayerfully; for the volunteers for their time and talents; to the Session for their leadership and to the staff who helped all endeavors thrive.

By all trackable metrics, FPC continues to grow and thrive thanks to the efforts of the congregation and the staff. In the last year, 19 new members have joined the church and in the eight years he has been senior pastor, 165 new members have been added to the church.

Attendance continues to be strong averaging 275 people each Sunday in-person and online.

When viewing intangible metrics related to church viability, one can sense that people are feeling proud and engaged. There is a positive feeling and a deeper sense of engagement both inside the church and within the greater community. It is evident that this church is living out the vision of sharing the love of Christ from the heart of Hastings and embraces our mission of welcoming all, living love and transforming lives.

Additional slides highlighted by Pastor Gregg included the reports of Associate Pastor Damen Jensen-Heitmann, Christian Education Coordinator for Youth and Children, Rose Koepp and Music Coordinator, Linda Vollweiler. Reports of Committees and Boards were included in the printed Annual Report and summarized in the slide show.

## **ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2025 (CLASS OF 2027)**

In his report for the Nominating Committee, Robin Koozer stated that of the 14 officers eligible to serve a second term, nine agreed to do so. The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate:

For Session: Steve Illingworth (2<sup>nd</sup> Term), Richard Johnson (2<sup>nd</sup> Term), Sue Medske (1<sup>st</sup> Full Term), William Oliver (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)

For Deacon: Lisa Unger (2<sup>nd</sup> Term), Betty Smith (1<sup>st</sup> Term), Melissa Karloff (1<sup>st</sup> Term), Neil Kerr (1<sup>st</sup> Term), Janet Brandt (1<sup>st</sup> Term), Lois Hafer (2nd Term, 1year term, filling vacancy)

For Trustees: John Nelson (2<sup>nd</sup> Term), Erik Nielsen (2<sup>nd</sup> Term), Kevin Turner (2<sup>nd</sup> Term), Todd Pankratz (1 year term, filling vacancy)

*Motion and second made that the entire slate be accepted unanimously. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.*

## **ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2024:**

Rev. Gregg Allen-Pickett presented the following slate for the 2025 Nominating Committee: Jessica Meeske, Sue Medske, Mike Karloff and Paula Crosier.

*Motion and second made that the entire slate be accepted unanimously. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.*

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no further business brought before the meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Pastor Damen Jensen- Heitmann closed the meeting with prayer and the song, “We are the Church.”

Respectfully submitted

Karen G. Doerr

Clerk of Session

## REPORT OF CLERK OF SESSION

Karen Doerr, Clerk of Session

The following congregational data provides a brief snapshot of First Presbyterian Church in 2024:

### **Membership on December 31, 2024**

473 members, 197 friends\*

Received during 2025:

Profession of faith, reaffirmation, restoration	7
Certificate of transfer	3
Confirmation	3

Losses 2023:

Certificate	0
Death	8 (5 members, 3 friends of the church)

### **Membership on December 31, 2025**

481 members, 194 friends\*

\*\*\*\*\*

Children/Youth//Adult Baptisms	2
Infant Baptisms	5
Weddings	2
Funerals	8

Average worship attendance:

(online and in-person combined) 260

\*\*\*\*\*

Active Officers;

Elders	13
Deacons	15
Trustees	9

\*During 2020, the Membership Rolls Update Committee worked to define membership categories for our church, and then apply those new definitions. “Active members” of First Presbyterian Church, Hastings now include those who are baptized, have made a profession of faith, have been accepted into membership of the Church, and who participate in the life of the church in at least two ongoing ways, such as: attend worship or receive communion at least once per year, contribute to the finances of the church in an amount equal to or greater than apportionment, serve on a board or committee, pray for the church, and so on. “Friends of the Church” include those individuals who may not be active members as defined above, but still wish to be affiliated with First Presbyterian Church.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### **2025 Budget & Actual Expenses and 2026 Budget for First Presbyterian Church of Hastings**

<b>Offerings and Income</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>
General Fund estimates - Current yr	\$ 692,500	\$ 731,318	\$ 700,000
Other Income	\$ 109,000	\$ 85,079	\$ 136,000
Per capita receipts	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,425	\$ 4,500
Annex Rental/Building Use	\$ 8,000	\$ 10,045	\$ 9,000
<b>Total Offerings and Income</b>	<b>\$ 814,000</b>	<b>\$ 830,867</b>	<b>\$ 849,500</b>
<b>Mission - Local and Global Community Outreach</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>
Mission Co-workers	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Hastings College	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Adult Mission	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Open Table	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$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	\$0.00	\$700.00
Youth outreach	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
<b>Subtotal- Mission/Community Outreach</b>	<b>\$ 27,300</b>	<b>\$ 24,600</b>	<b>\$ 28,300</b>
<b>Gathering to Worship</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>
Chancel Choir Director - Stipend	\$ 7,400	\$ 8,017	\$ 7,500
Calvin/Westminster Choir Director - Stipend	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,500
Chancel and Cal/West Bell Director - Stipend	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,500
Children's Bell Choir Director - Stipend	\$ 7,400	\$ -	\$ 7,500
Children's Choir Director - Stipend	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,500
Organist	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,500
Music Director	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,500
Accompanist and Music Coordinator	\$ 5,650	\$ 5,650	\$ 6,000
Pulpit Supply	\$ 300	\$ 315	\$ 300
Special Worship Services	\$ 800	\$ 268	\$ 600
Communion Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ 514	\$ 850
Seasonal/Liturgical Décor	\$ 200	\$ 188	\$ 200
Copyright License Fees	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Worship Enhancement - Flowers	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,141	\$ 1,250
Worship Services - Radio Broadcast	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,570	\$ 3,200
Worship Services - Video	\$ 1,300	\$ 190	\$ 1,200
Misc Committee Expense - Wor & Music	\$ 250	\$ 13	\$ 250
<b>Subtotal - Gathering to Worship</b>	<b>\$ 77,400</b>	<b>\$ 67,965</b>	<b>\$ 77,850</b>

<b>Christian Education - Teaching the Word to our children, youth, and adults</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>
Director of Child & Youth Education	\$ 27,400	\$ 37,908	\$ 32,000
Dir. Of Child and Youth Education - Cont Ed	\$ 1,000	\$ 972	\$ 1,000
Director of CE Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,200
Curriculum and Supplies	\$ 6,300	\$ 5,341	\$ 5,600
Background Checks	\$ 200	\$ 227	\$ 200
Middle School and High School Youth Group	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,097	\$ 2,600
Wednesday Night Live	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,465	\$ 6,000
Library Books, Subscriptions and Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ 490	\$ 1,000
Nursery Workers	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,576	\$ 1,700
Campus Ministry	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
Church Officer Training	\$ 850	\$ -	\$ 500
Adult Education Materials and Speakers	\$ 800	\$ 1,098	\$ 1,000
Scholar in Residence	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,500
<b>Subtotal - Teaching the Word</b>	<b>\$ 48,650</b>	<b>\$ 56,374</b>	<b>\$ 61,500</b>
<b>Proclaiming the Gospel in Word and Deed: Preaching, Leading, Pastoral Care</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>
Head of Staff - Salary	\$ 70,300	\$ 70,300	\$ 72,400
Head of Staff - Housing Allowance	\$ 34,100	\$ 34,100	\$ 35,120
Head of Staff - Pension/Medical Insurance	\$ 43,000	\$ 44,775	\$ 49,350
Head of Staff - Travel, Prof. Expenses, Con Ed	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,248	\$ 5,000
Associate Pastor - Salary	\$ 47,500	\$ 47,500	\$ 48,925
Associate Pastor - Housing Allowance	\$ 16,200	\$ 16,200	\$ 16,690
Associate Pastor - Pension/Medical Insurance	\$ 27,434	\$ 17,151	\$ 30,839
Associate Pastor Travel, Prof. Expenses, Con Ed	\$ 2,000	\$ 228	\$ 2,000
<b>Subtotal - Proclaiming the Gospel</b>	<b>\$ 245,534</b>	<b>\$ 234,502</b>	<b>\$ 260,324</b>
<b>Caring for our Congregation</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>
Deacon's Fund	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 300
Deacon's Card/Postage Fund	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
Parish Nurse expenses	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
Name Tags	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ 50
Special Events/Membership Recognitions	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,336	\$ 2,100
Baptismal gifts	\$ 300	\$ 369	\$ 300
Outreach/Marketing and Welcome Brochures	\$ 1,400	\$ 376	\$ 1,400
Friendship Pads/Pew Cards	\$ 150	\$ 113	\$ 150
<b>Subtotal - Caring for our Congregation</b>	<b>\$ 4,500</b>	<b>\$ 2,194</b>	<b>\$ 4,500</b>

<b>Stewarding Church Facilities for Mission, Ministry, Education, and Worship</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>
Facilities Manager - Salary	\$ 42,500	\$ 46,985	\$ 49,275
Facilities M. - Health Insurance and Retirement	\$ 19,581	\$ 19,686	\$ 21,539
Utilities - Gas, Elec., Water, PEACE Ctr. Utilities	\$ 46,000	\$ 47,711	\$ 45,000
Telephone and Internet	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,374	\$ 7,050
Maintenance & Repairs, landscaping, sprinkler	\$ 28,600	\$ 15,679	\$ 22,000
Custodial Supplies	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,002	\$ 5,000
Contract Svcs - Exterm, Trash, Lawn, etc	\$ 22,200	\$ 22,552	\$ 23,000
Kitchen supplies	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,257	\$ 2,000
Property/Liability Insurance	\$ 58,300	\$ 57,074	\$ 65,000
Copier Lease Expense	\$ 9,500	\$ 5,149	\$ 6,000
Van - Gas, Maintenance, Insur, Fees	\$ 1,500	\$ 276	\$ 1,500
PEACE Center Maint., Repair, Contract Services	\$ 17,000	\$ 8,888	\$ 17,000
<b>Subtotal - Church Facilities</b>	<b>\$ 259,231</b>	<b>\$ 239,633</b>	<b>\$ 264,364</b>

<b>Congregational Administration for the ministry and mission of the church</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>
Administrative Specialist - Salary	\$ 36,565	\$ 36,686	\$ 37,660
Admin Specialist - Pension/Health Ins	\$ 12,913	\$ 14,459	\$ 14,203
Finance Director	\$ 14,935	\$ 14,305	\$ 15,380
Office Staff Professional Development	\$ 500	\$ 720	\$ 500
Stewardship Expenses	\$ 1,000	\$ 168	\$ 1,000
Office supplies and New Equipment	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,406	\$ 7,000
Computer software/support	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,714	\$ 3,000
Postage - Gen & Admin and Newsletter	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,082	\$ 2,400
Online Payment Fees and Office Fees	\$ 2,900	\$ 2,985	\$ 2,900
Professional Services - Audit	\$ 8,000	\$ 4,250	\$ 4,500
Federal withholdings matching/SECA	\$ 22,055	\$ 22,803	\$ 22,725
Website Maintenance	\$ 1,200	\$ 2,324	\$ 1,200
<b>Subtotal - Congregational Administration</b>	<b>\$ 111,468</b>	<b>\$ 112,902</b>	<b>\$ 112,468</b>

<b>Supporting the ministry of the Presbyterian Church</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>
PC(USA) Per Capita	\$ 16,100	\$ 16,100	\$ 16,100
Synod Benevolence	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Presbytery Benevolence	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500	\$ 16,100
Theological Education Fund (PCUSA)	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
<b>Subtotal - Mission support</b>	<b>\$ 38,600</b>	<b>\$ 38,600</b>	<b>\$ 37,200</b>
	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>
Total Expenses	\$ 814,000	\$ 779,531	\$ 849,500
<b>Total Offerings and Income</b>	<b>\$ 814,000</b>	<b>\$ 830,867</b>	<b>\$ 849,500</b>
Difference	\$ -	\$ 51,336	\$ -

## PASTORAL TERMS OF CALL

### TERMS OF CALL FOR REV. GREG ALLEN-PICKETT

#### TITLE: Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

Head of Staff – Salary	\$72,400
Head of Staff - Housing Allowance	\$35,120 (this is the portion of salary that is taxed differently for pastors)
Head of Staff - Medical Insurance & Pension Payment	\$49,350
Head of Staff - Travel, Prof. Expenses, Con Ed	\$5,000

### TERMS OF CALL FOR REV. DAMEN JENSEN-HEITMANN

#### TITLE: Associate Pastor

Associate Pastor – Salary	\$48,925
Associate Pastor - Housing Allowance	\$16,690 (this is the portion of salary that is taxed differently for pastors)
Associate Pastor – Medical Insurance and Pension Payment	\$30,839
Associate Pastor Travel, Prof. Expenses, Con Ed	\$2,000

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS FOUNDATION  
ACTIVITY REPORT

Annual Report 2025

Balances in the seven funds managed by the Foundation as of December 31, 2025:

Music Fund	2,074,858
Property Development Fund	606,686
Christian Education Fund	417,469
Scholarship Fund	386,499
150 <sup>th</sup> Legacy Scholarship	41,354
Adult & Youth Mission Trip Fund	95,926
Designated Uses	<u>76,901</u>
Total	\$3,699,693

The 2025 year-to-date return was 14.97% on December 31, 2025.

The Foundation distributed \$123,500 (Music, \$85,700; Christian Education, \$17,200; Designated Uses, \$3,200; Scholarship, \$16,000; 150<sup>th</sup> Legacy Scholarship, \$1,400) in April 2025.

At the Foundation October 20, 2025, quarterly meeting, the Foundation Board members finalized the distribution to the Church. A total of \$146,400 will be distributed from the above funds (Music, \$101,300; Christian Education, \$20,400; Designated Uses, \$3,800; Scholarship, \$18,900; 150<sup>th</sup> Legacy Scholarship, \$2,000). This is a 5.0% distribution from the fund's assets in 2025.

The Foundation paid \$420 for the preparation of its 990 Tax Form.

The Foundation also manages funds for the Session/Trustees. The December 31, 2025, balance in that account was: \$1,124,890. \$200,000 was transferred to the Church in November as a loan to the Columbarium Project. The 2025 year-to-date return was 12.09% on December 31, 2025.

Neal Hoff was approved by the Foundation at the January 12, 2026, meeting to serve on Foundation.

Request a vote of the Congregation for approval of the following Foundation members: Doug Soderquist, Chuck Shoemaker, Teresa Luther, Jerry Seiler, Tony Eddleman, and Neal Hoff.

Doug Soderquist, Moderator

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann

In a recent sermon I mentioned that I enjoy being a part of this community of faith because it is compelling to be among a group of people who consistently and earnestly do their best to be the very heart of God beating in the world. 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 a part of it in some small way.

Throughout 2025 I continued many of the duties which I have performed since becoming part of the staff. My work with youth continued directly with our Senior High youth on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and through our Go & Serve trip. I assisted them as they planned Youth Sunday, Senior Recognition, and Go & Serve Sunday. I also spent a good deal of time working with our Middle School students through confirmation, special service projects, Wednesday Night Live, and summer fellowship opportunities.

I have also continued to serve as the staff liaison to the committees of Global Witness and Local Social Justice, Congregational Life, and Go & Serve. You can read about their work in their reports but it has been a pleasure to work with them to help foster a church community that lives out Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves.

My activities related to adult education this year have seen the formation of Forum topics on a wide variety of subjects, weekly pod/video casts, preparation of PW bible study leaders, assisting in leading Tuesday Noon Bible Study, and providing assistance to the Wednesday Noon Book Club. Through these conversations and more I have found myself continuing to evolve in my understanding of the faith and community around me.

Participating in and helping to lead worship continues to be a large portion of my role here at First Presbyterian church. I preach on a regular basis, assist in leading worship every week, and generally play a significant role in facilitating the more "unusual" Sunday services. Those "unusual" services are often a highlight of the year for me and this year was no different. It is a treat help our youth craft and deliver meaningful messages for Youth Sunday, Go and Serve Sunday, and confirmation.

A significant portion of my time this past year was spent on paternity leave. As you are no doubt aware, David Jensen-Heitmann was born in February and the congregation was gracious enough to grant me three months of leave. I did continue to teach Confirmation during those weeks but the time was invaluable in allowing our family to recover, adjust, prepare, and bask in the company of one another. I issue another deep word of thanks to the congregation for giving us such a wonderful gift.

Additionally, I led funerals, baptisms, home communion and hospital visits. I assisted with Vacation Bible School, parament changing, candle smithing, advent decorating, and a variety of other activities including the creation of the Advent devotional and organizing the Reverse Advent Collection.

It has been a full and good year to be a part of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings in the year 2025. It has been a blessing to me and I hope I have been a blessing to it.

Peace and all good,  
Damen

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, ADULT EDUCATION

Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann

In the year 2025 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.

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 *First Thoughts* which is a recorded conversation between Greg, Damen, and Rose that features their initial thoughts and questions of the text to be used for the week.

The word of God continues to be studied and held in high regard at First Presbyterian Church. We take seriously the call to apply God's holy word to our living and thinking through conversation and dialogue with one another.

### **2025 Forum Speakers and Subjects**

- Brady Rhodes – “Bridging Forward”
- Andy Barrows & Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh – “Bread of Life: A Study of Communion”
- Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh – “The Gospel of Luke”
- Clayton Anderson – “Faith and Science”
- John Stender & Gregory Peterson – “Conversation of Sacred Music”
- Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Rose Koepp, & Hannah Jensen-Heitmann – “Summer Recap”
- Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh – “Job’s Trials”
- Laura Boesen – “Creative Sentences”
- Dr. Wayne Riggs – “Updates from Hastings College”
- Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett – “Presbyterian 101”
- Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh – “Prophetic Voices”

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

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, CHILDREN & YOUTH

Rose Koepp, Director of Christian Education

2025 was another amazing year of serving the children, youth, and families of this beloved community! We really kept ourselves busy all year long.

In February, we joined forces with the First Presbyterian Churches of Grand Island and Lexington to host a 24-hour Jr. High retreat in Aurora. We stayed at The Leadership Center where we shared in fellowship, fun, and faith formation. The theme for this retreat was “More than ME”; students learned about what the Bible has to say about living in community with one another. This is a new tradition that we plan to continue to grow in the coming years!



We finished out the spring semester continuing to learn from our “Living the Word” narrative lectionary curriculum. We confirmed three eighth graders, and graduated seven high school seniors.



Left: Confirmation class of 2025  
Meredith Oliver, Madelyn Gosda, Gabriel Snell

Right: High School Senior Class of 2025  
Keira Erickson, Kinnick Pumroy, Moses Rhodes,  
Addison Hermes, Laura Kate Oliver.



During the summer months, Pastor Damen and I once again offered Jr/Sr High fellowship. Once a week students gathered to play board games and talk through a curriculum about bringing our hard, honest questions to God.

We held our monthly Elementary Movie Club over summer as well. On the first Sundays in June, July, and August, elementary students gathered at the church to watch a movie and learn a biblical lesson

that tied in with the story. We ate pizza and popcorn, and had a lot of fun! Approximately twenty students attended each movie night.

The last week of June we put on the Vacation Bible School program “Scuba! Diving into Friendship with God” by Group Publishing (with some major modifications to the curriculum and music made by myself and Hannah Jensen-Heitmann). VBS was a four-day program that ran for three hours each morning.



We had twenty adult and youth volunteers from the church who worked together to put on an amazing week of learning and fun for forty-three students. The students memorized Proverbs 18:24b, “There is a friend who is closer than a brother.” and learned that God is a friend who is real, who loves, who we can trust, and who is for everyone. They also learned five catchy and truth-filled original songs that Hannah Jensen-Heitmann wrote.



As a part of the week, students brought a special offering that went to support our church's mission partner, the United Way. The students brought in \$370.23 to help provide assistance to local individuals and families who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

In connection with VBS, we had two exciting events: the first was a pool party at Hastings Aqua Court the night before VBS began. This was hosted by the

Congregational Life Committee and well attended by families of the church. The second event was a post-VBS parking lot celebration. We set up games, served food, and had a foam cannon (hosted by Brett Miller of Bison Bubbles). This was a really fun way to end our busy VBS week!



In August, Pastor Greg and I took a group of Jr High students on our now-annual Zoo trip to the Henry Doorly Zoo. We spent the hottest day of August exploring the zoo and building community together. This trip has quickly become a much-anticipated tradition that I look forward to continuing with our Jr High students!

In September we kicked off our school-year programs again; continuing to follow the narrative lectionary, play bells, sing in choir, and learn and grow in faith together. We continue to have a very strong team of volunteers who make everything happen as we serve nearly seventy students.

In October, we held our second annual "Pumpkins and PJ's" event. This was a three-hour event for students on a Saturday night, designed to let parents have a night out. We shared a meal, watched a



movie about thankfulness, made crafts, did a couple of science experiments, and played games. We had a great night with twenty-three students and twelve amazing teen volunteers! After the elementary students went home, we had a movie night for the teens where we celebrated a job well done and enjoyed more snacks.



In December, we hosted our fourth annual Christmas Craft Make-and-Take event where students come to make a craft that they can give as a Christmas gift to someone they love. This year we wanted to extend the reach of the event to more people in the community so we partnered with Leapfrog Village to spread the word through the public schools. We also added a free lunch component this year. The event was well attended with approximately 125 people from the church and community coming to eat and make crafts.



2025 was a year full of exciting opportunities and growth for all involved in Christian education here at First Presbyterian Church! I am so thankful for those who volunteer and help to make these opportunities happen for our children and youth. Here's to another year of growing in Christ, together!

-Rose

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Moderator: Mary Kay LaMaster

**Mission Statement:** Congregational Life provides hospitality, fellowship programs and events which draws 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 activities for 2025:**

Hosted potlucks in March and October

Coordinated 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship where other committees hosted and provided cookies.

Started Game Night to coincide with WNL to invite all members to WNL meal and then stay for games from 5:30-7:00. Held a Bingo night in November.

Provided chocolates on Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Rented the Aquacourt in June to provide a free evening at the water park. Also handed out popsicles

Hosted a picnic at Harms Park before attending a Sodbusters baseball game in July.

Supplied greeters for Worship in the Park.

Held an ice cream social following 10:30 worship on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Provided breakfast for the new member classes.

Provided volunteers for the Craft Take and Make.

Responsible for Hanging of the Greens and provided pizza for those that stayed to help decorate the Church. Also responsible for removing the Christmas décor. The committee would like to thank the church family for your willingness to stay following worship and make this an efficient way to decorate and put away the décor. Also, thank you to the youth group for bringing up the decorations from the basement.

A special thank you to Melissa for filling in for Pastor Damen while he was on paternity leave. Thank you, Pastor Damen for your assistance and guidance to the committee.

**All activities were made possible by these amazing members:** Kathy Amyot, Cheryl Lockwood, Jessica Meeske, Julie Thomsen, Dana Miller, Steve Illingworth, Marsha Nelson, Kathy Reimer, Jan Bolliger, Richard Johnson and Carol Kleppinger

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Kay LaMaster, moderator

**BOARD OF DEACONS**  
Moderator: Lisa Unger

**2025 Deacon Roster**

**Class of 2025**

Lois Hafer  
Milrae Korb  
Lois Meeske  
Mary Plock  
Brady Rhodes

**Class of 2026**

Laurie Johnson  
Linda Johnson  
Byron Jensen  
Chris Schukei  
Chris Wray

**Class of 2027**

Lisa Unger  
Betty Johnson Smith  
Melissa Karloff  
Neil Kerr  
Janet Brandt

The Board of Deacons is the “presence of Christ” in our church community. This ministry focuses on the care and compassion for the members of our congregation. This fifteen-member board is composed of naturally caring individuals that enjoy reaching out to others and sharing their kindness and love.

Church members and friends of our church are divided into fifteen parishes with one Deacon assigned to each parish. These Deacons provide a special connection with members to make sure that they feel welcome. Throughout the year the Deacons made over 1200 contacts during 2025. These contacts are made in person, via phone call or text, or simply a card.

Deacons are assigned one or two VIPs. A VIP is an individual who is homebound or unable to get out easily or may reside in a care center or retirement home. The hope is to connect with their VIP at least once a month through a visit, call or card. Each Easter the Deacon delivers to their VIP an Easter Lily, on May 1 the Deacons delivered May baskets provided by Congregational Life Committee. In December each VIP receives a poinsettia from their Deacon. In addition to these three contacts, the Deacon stay in touch with their VIP throughout the year via phone calls, text, and in-person visits.

Deacons accompany Pastor Greg or Damean, to serve communion on Wednesday following the first Sunday of the month at Regency and College View. Thursday, we serve communion at Kensington and Providence. We continue to use communion packets and made up with the cup and delicious bread provided by Andy Barrows. **The Deacons have assisted in serving communion to our members 24 times in 2025.**

Each Sunday we see beautiful flowers at the altar, and each Sunday they delivered by a Deacon following the service to someone that has been ill, to a family that has lost a loved one, those who have a special celebration, or to someone special that we would like to show our appreciation for their work in the church. When we have a birth in our community a rose is placed at the pulpit. The Deacon delivering flowers that Sunday delivers that rose to the family. **During 2025 the Deacons have made over 134 flower deliveries, including our VIP deliveries.**

Transportation to the church is available through the Deacons for individuals or families that have a one time or ongoing need for service. This service was rarely used during 2025.

Facebook and YouTube is a welcome opportunity for our residents at College View to gather and watch church services together. Deacons’ signup to take large print bulletins and to join them in church service. Residents greatly enjoy the Deacons joining them and the special “wave

greeting” from the congregation during the passing of peace. **The Deacons have supported “remote worship” 52 times in 2025.**

The Deacons sign up each month to reach out to families and extend their love and support by organizing and serving funeral luncheons. **In 2025, the Deacons served 10 funeral luncheons totaling 1249 people.** This time of gathering is a special way to support the families.

During Holy Week in April the Deacons assisted with a prayer calling ministry. Following dinner and a brief orientation, Deacons, Elders, Trustees, and staff were given a list of church members to call. This ministry was spiritually beneficial for everyone involved and brought the congregation closer to each other and their faith. **Together we made 400 phone calls.**

In September the Deacons held a “meet and greet” during a “Welcome Back” reception held by Congregational Life Committee for the congregation after the service. Each Deacon had the opportunity to meet face to face with their parish members. **The Deacons handed out 500 baby Jesus during that time.**

The Board of Deacons shares their love of Christ through their care and compassion for our church family. Their willingness to call upon others and to be called to serve truly exemplifies the “hands and feet of Jesus” here on earth.

**GLOBAL MISSION & LOCAL SOCIAL WITNESS COMMITTEE**  
Moderator: Constance Malloy

**The Mission Committee** works to recognize needs in the community that align with our goals of peace and social justice. We strive to personalize our involvement with our projects so that we get to know the diverse communities that we serve in Hastings as well as our mission partners in Agua Prieta, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic.

**We work against hunger:**

Our committee was involved in cooking, serving, and cleaning up after **soup suppers** during the government shutdown, when federal employees had no income and families who depend on SNAP were not receiving funds.

Our **Hands Around the World** store regularly contributes at least \$100 a month to our **United Harvest**, which offers canned food, fresh produce, a protein, and other food to people whose budgets cannot get them enough food for a month. Pamela Lainson, a member of our Mission Committee, manages the store.

Several of our members serve on the Board for **United Harvest**, and most people on our committee volunteer in various capacities each month: pulling wagons of food to cars, collecting forms from cars, directing traffic, sorting and counting forms. This year, we diverted various categories in our Mission budget line to United Harvest because of growing need for food in our community, which we consider a priority.

**Open Table:** We worked with church members to assemble 3,000 **sack lunches** for Catholic Social Services to distribute M-F to anyone who asks.

**We work with immigrants:**

At the **Proteus Farmworker Recognition Luncheon, Aug. 6, 2025**, at YWCA, First Presbyterian was named as **Partner of the Year**. We have donated long-sleeved shirts and caps to protect farm workers from the sun and from chemicals. Denny Storer heads up this project.

We helped to host an **annual picnic for over 100 farm workers** to welcome them when they arrive in the summer. This summer, our picnic was July 17<sup>th</sup> at Lake Hastings.

On **July 9, 2025**, we hosted an **immigration attorney**, provided refreshments and childcare so our immigrant community could learn more about their rights. Mobile Consulates also attended.

We compiled several hundred “**Know Your Rights**” folders in English and Spanish to distribute to immigrants.

**Literacy Program:** participants with unclear immigration status can no longer participate in the CCC Literacy Program, so volunteers teach on two evenings a week at First Presbyterian Church.

We sponsored **Raices de Mi Pueblo**, a Mexican dance troupe that rehearses Monday and Thursday nights in the Peace Center. A member of our committee opens the doors and locks up after they leave. Jeni Howard has been particularly active in supporting them and helping with their dance presentations in Hastings and beyond.

**We recognize poverty and help to alleviate it:**

**Coat Drive:** Julie Thomsen headed up the coat drive again this year. Around 300 coats were collected and distributed at FPC on **Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>** during United Harvest.

**Easter Lily Sales** proceeds (**\$127.50**) went to Leap Frog Village at CCC, a family involvement program.

We support **Bridging Forward**, a United Way program that helps families find their way out of poverty. First Presbyterian offers its state-of-the-art kitchen for food preparation for the families that attend Monday night meetings at Peace Lutheran Church.

**We work for social justice:**

**Pride Parade:** The Mission Committee provided a cold-water station for participants in the **June 1, 2025**, Pride Parade.

**The Giving Tree:** Sharon Brooks arranges each year to partner with South Central Behavioral Services of Nebraska. Members of the congregation take tags from the tree that name recipient, wish list, and size. We purchase gifts, wrap them, and put them back under the tree for the agency to deliver before Christmas. These are often the only Christmas gifts these people struggling with mental health issues receive.

**We support our international mission partners:**

Each year, we send financial support to our partners in Mexico and in the Dominican Republic.

**Frontera de Cristo** sent an intergenerational delegation to participate in a music program for a week that introduced local children to instrumental and vocal music in Spanish and English. Participants from Frontera stayed with church families; other church families provided meals and social activities in the evenings.

**Communion Offerings for 2025:**

**January:** Rite Care Speech Language Clinic, which offers pediatric speech therapy services for children with speech/language/communication delays at no cost to families. **\$1,157.65**

**February:** Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska. **\$795.00**

**March:** Community Safety Committee, which operates through EnCourage to keep us aware of deportation waves in the community and to make our neighbors aware of their legal rights. **\$1,095**

**April:** One Great Hour of Sharing. **\$1,273.00**

**May:** Open Table **\$990.00**

**June:** Central Navigators of the Community Impact Network through United Way **\$707.16**

**July:** Proteus **\$607.00**

**August:** Threads of Grace **\$739.00**

**September:** The Zone **\$527.00**

**October:** World Communion Sunday/Literacy Program at FPC **\$1,022.00**

**November:** United Harvest **\$651.00**

**December:** Christmas Joy **\$1,062.00**

**Total Communion Offerings for 2025: \$10,625.81**

**Reverse Advent Recipients:** Catholic Social Services, Hastings Public Schools, Toys for Tots, Crossroads. **Six hundred fifty children were served by Toys for Tots with your gifts.**

**What you donated to the other agencies:**

3 bottles of lotion

5 bottles of body wash

58 bottles of shampoo or conditioner

44 packages of bar soap

44 deodorants

28 bottles of all-purpose cleaner

30 packages of pasta

47 bottles of pasta sauce

31 bottles of Clorox

34 packages of toilet paper

39 bottles of shaving cream

51 packages of razors

58 packages of macaroni and cheese

39 packages of crackers and cheese or crackers and peanut butter

39 boxes of nutrition bars/granola bars

28 boxes of pancake mix

40 boxes of breakfast cereal

29 bottles of Pine Sol

41 boxes of trash bags

43 containers of aspirin

34 bags of cough drops

24 blankets

**We deeply appreciate the congregation's support of our projects in the community and those involving our mission partners abroad.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Constance Malloy, Mission Chair

GO & SERVE  
Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann

In 2025 a group of nine students and four chaperones packed their bags and made their way to Minneapolis, MN for a week of Go & Serve. The group went “*North with Purpose*” as they sought to learn from their hosts and live the love of God as best they were able.

In Minnesota the group partnered with Service Learning Camps ([www.servicelearningcamps.com](http://www.servicelearningcamps.com)) and stayed at First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights. The group spent the week serving a variety of organizations. The students participating were Henry Black, Ruei Duang, Kade Jorgensen, Peyton Mitchell, Charlie Ratzlaff, McKain Ratzlaff, Paxton Rhodes, Caleb Schukei, and Harrison Welsch. The sponsors were Kim Creech, Leah Ratzlaff, Chris Wray, and Damen Jensen-Heitmann.



In Minneapolis the agencies we served were:

- Second Harvest Food Bank [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org) Our task was to sort potatoes and pasta to be distributed to smaller food banks in the area. Their goal is to build a hunger-free America.
- Feed My Starving Children [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org) Similar to Hearts and Hands Against Hunger of Hastings, we packed dry meals which were sent to those experiencing hunger throughout the world.
- Global Health Ministries [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org) GHM collects and sends medical equipment to health providers throughout the world. We helped to prepare a variety of equipment to be sent to Rowanda.
- Minneapolis Crisis Nursery ([www.crisisnursery.org](http://www.crisisnursery.org)) The MCN provides no-cost emergency child care for residents of Hennepin County. Our group played, with children, prepared, served, and cleaned up lunch, and listened to their stories.
- Sennah Foundation ([www.thesannehfoundation.org](http://www.thesannehfoundation.org)) : The Sennah Foundation works to alleviate the effects of poverty. We participated in a food distribution by sorting produce and helping clients fill boxes and bags with what was available.
- Union Gospel Mission – Men’s Campus ([www.ugmfc.org](http://www.ugmfc.org)) : UGM provides a hot meal to anyone every day. They also have short- and long-term housing for those in need and have readily available addiction and mental health services. During our time there we tour the facility, met with residents, and prepared and served lunch.



- Friends of the Mississippi River ([www.fmr.org](http://www.fmr.org)) : We stenciled storm drains to help prevent unwanted materials from being dumped in the Mississippi River.
- George Floyd Square and the Say Their Names Cemetery: We also had the opportunity to be led on a pilgrimage of the site where George Floyd was killed in May of 2020. The group learned the story of the neighborhood and the stories of many who had been killed under racially motivated circumstances.

At the end of the week, we made our way to the Mall of America before cooling off in one of Minnesota's famed 10,000 lakes.

We offer our thanks and appreciation to the congregation for their continued support of our youth and Go and Serve.

Respectfully submitted,  
Damen Jensen-Heitmann

**LIBRARY REPORT**  
Sue Medske, Librarian

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 2025, circulation was 26 items, down from 52 in 2024. Most of that is due to the library being closed for renovations from April through October. Suggestions for increasing the usage of the library and for additions to the collection are always welcome.

Several books were added to the collection in 2025. All were purchased with income from The Ann Binfield and C. G. & Idilla Jeffrey Wallace memorial funds. They are available in the library.

The library also subscribes to 3 journals. They are Christian Century, Horizons Magazine, and Presbyterian Outlook. Back issues are kept for 2 years.

The library's renovation is now complete. Volunteers have been removing cards from the card catalog for books that were weeded from the collection. We still need volunteers to help get the catalog online. This will involve adding books to an online database, which will then be converted to a catalog. Contact me if you would be interested in helping with this.

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 a book sale or returned to the donor.

Sue Medske  
Librarian

## MEMORIALS AND GIFTS COMMITTEE

Moderator: Mary Olsen

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

Capital Campaign - \$1,935.00

FPC Postal Account - \$500.00

Radio/TV Fund - \$595.00

Roses for Newborn - \$39.67

(A request was received from WAM for restoration of the Steinway piano given to FPC through the Vernon Groves Estate. The committee approved the request up to \$10,000.00 but did not receive a total by the end of the year. This should be taken care of during 2026.)

Monies from the following funds were used for the requests:

Interest Fund – FPC Postal Account

Elizabeth Kennedy – Radio/TV

Betty Payne – Roses for Newborn

Richard Portwood – Capital Campaign

Nancy Smith – FPC Postal Account and Radio/TV

Yearend balance is \$64,709.68. Of that amount, \$32,429.46.

Received - \$19,270.00. Expensed - \$3,069.67.

The Committee gratefully acknowledges gifts received in memory of:

Wayne Ganow

James Harrenstein

Kathryn Jane Johnson

Eleanor Jorgenson

Patricia Kleiber

David Schawang

Ken Stein

Jane Tushaus

Memorials are thankfully accepted for either designated or undesignated gifts.

The following members have completed their service on the committee: Wihlma Price, Kaela Pumroy and Kathy Utter. We thank them so much for their dedication to this committee and FPC.

Moderator: Mary L. Olsen, Moderator

Session Representative: Kay Georgiana

Trustee Representative: Danna Wolford

Stephanie Bliss

Diane Christensen

Ann Koozer

Tammie Nowka

Wihlma Price

Kaela Pumroy

Kathy Utter

Ex Officio – Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

MUSIC STAFF REPORT  
Linda Vollweiler, Music Director/Organist

2025 proved to be another wonderful year in the life of the music department. Before we knew it, it was January and Epiphany. Our Youth Choir directed by Linda Johnson, the Kids Choir directed by Teresa Canady, accompanied by Mary Plock, the Kids Bell Choir, director, Dr. Susan Oliver, the Youth Bell Choir, director, Dr. Byron Jensen and the Chancel Choir provided the music for this season of the church year along with outstanding sermons given by Greg Allen-Pickett and Damen Jensen-Heitmann.

On February 2, 2025 we heard a fantastic organ concert given by our guest organists Gregory Peterson and Jon Stender. Not only did they each play organ solos, they also played organ duets while sitting at the same console. A special treat for everyone in attendance! This concert was sponsored by the Langenberg Concert Series.

An Ash Wednesday service was held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Chancel Choir and Bells provided the music. The following Sunday was Gifts of Women. Rev. Lisa Ewald was guest preacher. We were privileged to hear the Hastings Symphony String Quartet along with a women's choir. Sara Cowan served as guest director of the choir.

The Nebraska Festival Singers, with guest cellist Christa Speed, presented a concert in our sanctuary on April 5<sup>th</sup> and helped lead our 10:30 worship service the following day. This outstanding ensemble is a professional auditioned choir composed of vocalists from across the state of Nebraska each with various professional backgrounds. Their conductor and founder is Dr. Marques L.A. Garrett. Collaborative pianist – Stacie Haneline.

The 10:30 Palm Sunday service opened with a joyous anthem sung by our youth while processing with Palm Branches. The Youth Bell Choir also played an anthem directed by Dr. Byron Jensen. It was decided to try something different at the Maundy Thursday service. It was held in the Memorial Room with worshippers seated around tables. The service began with fellowship as Charcuterie Boards were enjoyed by all. Pastor Greg and Rose Koepp led the service. Communion was served. The Chancel Choir sang an anthem directed by Dr. Robin Koozer accompanied by Linda Vollweiler on the Clavinova. Good Friday service was conducted by Pastor Damen and Hannah Jensen-Heitmann. This was a meaningful service with guitar. At the conclusion of this service a prayer vigil was held in the chapel.

On Easter Sunday two identical services were held in the sanctuary at 8:30 and 10:30 am. Music was led by Chancel Choir, Cathedral Brass and organ. Organist Linda Vollweiler and the Cathedral Brass concluded the service with the "Toccata" by Widor.

The following Sunday Dr. Brett Epperson directed the J.S. Bach cantata "Der Friede sei mit dir" BWV 158. Soloists were Dr. Epperson and Morgan O'Neill. The cantata was accompanied by organ and chamber orchestra. Our guest that Sunday was astronaut Clay Anderson. He not only did a wonderful sermon but also sang a beautiful solo.

May 4<sup>th</sup> was Confirmation Sunday. The Youth Choir, directed by Linda Johnson provided music. Our June services featured several vocal groups. On June 7<sup>th</sup> Daniel Christian in conjunction with the Hastings Community Music Academy taught a song writer workshop followed by a 7:00 pm concert. June 8<sup>th</sup> was Pentecost Sunday. Daniel provided special music. Other groups were Gracie's Uncles, A Brother's Fountain and our own very talented Hannah Jensen Heitmann introducing the music that she composed for Vacation Bible School.

July 6<sup>th</sup> was a bitter sweet day. The sweet part was that several vocalists from the area came together to sing compositions written by local composers: Dr. Brett Epperson, Hugo Madera, Hannah Jensen Heitmann and Lauren Bydalek. The bitter part was having to say goodbye to Dr. Epperson. Brett did a superb job as director of the Chancel Choir. He accepted a position at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. Robin Koozer graciously volunteered to be interim choir director until our new director, Dr. Migg Angangco takes over his duties in January, 2026. A big thank you to Robin!!

Langenberg students shared their musical talents at our summer worship services. The Langenberg Lesson Program 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. 21 students participated in the program this year. The Langenberg Legacy Program continues to support the music program. Hastings College students serve as Langenberg section leaders in Chancel Choir and ringers in Chancel Bell Choir. The legacy also supports song leaders, instrumentalists and orchestra members for Christmas, Easter and other special services.

On December 6 the River City Ringers presented an amazing Christmas concert at FPC. Lydia Meyer, a child of this church plays in this ensemble. It was good to see Lydia and to be able to enjoy the music performed by this very talented group.

The Chancel Choir and Youth Choir presented a Christmas Cantata on December 14th directed by Dr. Koozer accompanied by The Hastings Orchestra Quartet and organ. The congregation appreciated the many familiar carols heard in the cantata. On December 21<sup>st</sup> the Chancel Bell Choir played several Christmas pieces during the 10:30 service. The bell choir is always well received by the congregation. Thank you to the ringers and to Dr. Byron Jensen for all your hard work!

We offered four services on Christmas Eve. At 2:00 pm, Pastor Greg conducted a service at College View Assisted Living. The Chancel Choir sang an anthem. Linda Vollweiler played piano and Greg's daughter Esther read scripture and played in a cello duet. The 5:30 and 7:30 pm services were both candlelight. Pastor Damen conducted the 11:00 service. Hannah Jensen-Heitmann was the musician.

On December 28<sup>th</sup> only one service was offered at 10:30. It was held in the Fellowship Hall with Damen and Rose Koepp leading the service. A continental breakfast was served prior to the service.

As you can see, there is a lot offered at FPC. Without our wonderful music staff, it would be impossible to do all the wonderful things we do. Thank you for sharing your talents! A big

thank you to the solo and ensemble musicians, our pastors and the FPC members for your support.

In Christ,  
Linda Vollweiler  
Director of Music and Organist

## WORSHIP, ARTS, AND MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Moderator: Robin R. Koozer

The Worship, Arts, and Music Committee (often referred to as WAM) is a standing committee of FPC and meets February-June and August-December. WAM is overseen by the session of FPC. The Mission of the Committee is, "***Giving Glory to God through worship and the arts***". In order to oversee this mission, the committee works closely with the pastors to direct the worship and music of the church (in accordance with the Presbyterian Directory of Worship), enhance worship and programming through visual art, maintains the instruments owned by the church, and carefully monitors the Langenberg funds in conjunction with the Trustees and Session.

The church is very fortunate to have a dedicated, gifted and talented group of musicians/educators who serve as staff members working diligently and creatively to enhance the varied music needs of FPC worship:

Linda Vollweiler, Music Director and Organist

Dr. Brett Epperson (January-May), Chancel Choir Director and Coordinator of the Langenberg Music Series

Dr. Robin Koozer (June-December), Chancel Choir Director and Coordinator of the Langenberg Music Series

Dr. Byron Jensen, Chancel Bells and Youth Bells Director

Linda Johnson, Youth Choir Director

Mary Plock, Children's Choir & Youth Choir Accompanist and Contemplative Service Coordinator

Teresa Canady, Children's Choir Director

Susan Oliver, Children's Bells Director

In late April, 2025, Dr. Brett Epperson announced his departure from Hastings College and FPC to assume a position at Pacific University in Stockton, California. Beginning June, 2025, Dr. Robin Koozer assumed temporary leadership of the FPC Chancel Choir and Coordinator of the Langenberg Music Series. On January 1, 2026,

Dr. Raoul "Miggi" Angangco assumed these leadership positions.

Generally, two services occur on Sunday mornings. The Contemplative Service (8:30) is held in the Chapel and serves as an alternative (in the style of *Taizé*) to the Traditional Service (10:30), held in the Sanctuary. WAM thanks all of the song leaders and instrumentalists for their leadership during the 8:30 and 10:30 worship services. Additional appreciation is given to students in the Langenberg Lesson Program for supplying special music during the summer months.

In addition to the weekly contributions made by the various music ensembles, WAM has presented several special Sundays with musical and fine arts opportunities this year. Most of these special presentations were funded by the Langenberg Funds and are included in the report (which follows). An additional Advent event sponsored by WAM was "The Sharing of Creches" in which members shared their personal Nativity Sets in a display. Over thirty sets were displayed. Many members have expressed that this should become an annual event at FPC!

## THE LANGENBERG MUSIC ENDOWMENT AND SERIES REPORT

Under the coordination of Drs. Epperson and Koozer, the *Langenberg Music Series* served not only our church and city, but additional communities and constituents. Langenberg Funds provide for this series as well as for various individuals who serve FPC in special roles related to the music program:

Epperson/Koozer: *Coordinator of the Langenberg Music Series*

Hannah Jensen-Heitmann: *Composer in Residence*

The HSO Strings: *Ensemble in Residence*

The Cathedral Brass: *Ensemble in Residence*

Other Langenberg funds were utilized in support of the Hastings Community Music Academy\*, the South-Central Nebraska Children's Chorale\*, the Hastings Public Schools summer band and orchestra, the Midwest premier performance of "Job's Trials: A Jazz Song Cycle" by Dan Loomis, bass; the commission and world premier of "Unbroken" by Thomas LaVoy (performed by the FPC Chancel Choir in celebration and recognition of the lives of the Saints who preceded us; "Ring in the Holidays", a concert performance by The River City Ringers of Omaha; and "The Christmas Light" by Benjamin Harlan, Performed by the Chancel & Youth Choirs with a Chamber Orchestra. The cantata celebrated the Season of Advent and the birth of Christ.

\*In residence at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

The 2025-2026 Concert Series will conclude with an Organ Recital featuring Jens Korndörfer, on Saturday, January 24 Recital @ 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary (Dr. Korndörfer will provide music on Sunday, January 25 for the 10:30 am service,) and a concert by The String Beans on Saturday, April 12 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Members of the 2025 WAM Committee included: Session Representatives-Susan Medsker and Robin Koozer (Moderator); Music Staff; Members: Linda Vollweiler, Linda Johnson, Brett Epperson, Byron Jensen, Susan Oliver, Mary Plock, and Teresa Candy. Members at large-Kay Georgiana, Neil Kerr, Becky Meyer, Dana Miller, Eleanor Oliver, Mary Olson, Sarah Wolf (Recorder,) Mary Fisk, Melissa Struss, and Miggi Angangco.

With appreciation,

Robin R. Koozer

Moderator: Worship, Arts, and Music Committee

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S REPORT

Moderator: Mary Fisk

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 2025, PW contributed financially to church mission projects including the PW Thank Offering, the PW Birthday Offering, the Least Coin Offering, enCourage Advocacy Center, Living Waters for the World, the Hunger Fund, and the CROP Walk. We donated cookies for the UCC Bloodmobile.

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. In October we collected 9 bags of food, plus a small box and a large box of food for the Hastings Food Pantry. Also, in September and October, we collected items for disaster buckets for flood relief. We collected enough materials for 9 buckets with money left over to help with shipping costs. We delivered them to Lincoln and they were sent from there to places in need.

Gifts of Women Sunday was March 9. Lisa Ewald, Mary Lanning Hospital chaplain, gave the sermon. Members of PW read the scriptures and served as ushers and greeters. Joy White was recognized and honored with a PW Honorary Life Membership for her service to the church.

Church Women United held their May Friendship Luncheon. Rose Koepp was recognized as First Presbyterian's Outstanding Woman at the event. Our women helped provide salads for the luncheon. Jayson Stoddard received the Human Rights Award at the Human Rights celebration with many appreciative friends and family at the First Congregational UCC Church.

PW programs for 2025 included presentations by Revive, Inc, Pastor Greg and the Mexico trip group, Doodle Harris, HC chaplain, Churchwide Gathering report, Brandon McDermott, Brady Rhodes on the 30x30 Project, and Hannah Jensen-Heitmann providing Christmas music. In November, we honored the women in our church who had died during the past year.

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 2025-2026 study is "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ".

We would like to thank everyone for supporting all of our projects.

## PW ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer: Sue Medsker

### **General checking account**

Balance forward December 31, 2024 \$1,746.73

Receipts:	Apportionments from circles	\$2,400.00
	Bible Study books	\$215.00
	Birthday Offering	\$322.00
	Collections	\$2,744.00
	Least Coin	\$68.68
	Luncheon income	\$729.46
	PCUSA Hunger Fund	\$165.65
	Thank Offering	<u>\$443.00</u>
	Total income	\$7,087.79

Expenses:	Bible Study books	\$219.40
	Birthday Offering	\$322.00
	Church Women United - dues	\$40.00
	Collections remitted - Mother's Day, Father's Day	\$2,744.00
	Gifts for speakers	\$240.00
	Honoraria	\$325.00
	Honorary memberships	\$95.00
	Horizons subscriptions	\$75.80
	Hunger fund	\$165.65
	Kitchen supplies	\$202.19
	Least Coin	\$68.68
	Luncheon expense	\$199.33
	Pres. Central NE - mission pledge	\$1,500.00
	Pres. Central NE - presbytery/synod support	\$225.00
	Thank Offering	<u>\$443.00</u>
	Total expenses	\$6,865.05

Balance on hand December 31, 2025 \$1,969.47

### **Regular savings account**

Interest	\$291.65
total	<u>\$0.28</u>
	<u>\$291.93</u>

### **Frances Anderson Memorial Fund**

Interest	\$2,782.18
Total	<u>\$4.15</u>
	<u>\$2,786.33</u>

**Total assets on December 31, 2025** \$5,047.73

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Moderator: Erik Nielsen

### **Class of 2025**

Kim Kern  
Danna Wolford  
Todd Pankratz

### **Class of 2026**

Barb Harrington  
Susan Hoff  
Gary Bauer

### **Class of 2027**

John Nelson  
Erik Nielsen  
Kevin Turner

The trustees oversee the property and finances of the Church. It was a busy year with the continued implementation of the many Capital Campaign projects which are 99% completed!

We remain grateful for the work of Tony Calhoun, our church's facilities manager, who helps to keep the church properties in good shape and oversees the contractors in the building.

We are also grateful for Deb Hamburger, the church's finance manager, who helps to keep our books in order. We also grateful to Jane Bauer who serves as the volunteer treasurer for the church.

Melissa Davis, the office manager, continues to do an excellent job as well.

We saw an increase in the use of the PEACE Center following the renovation of the gym and the Trustees approved many building use requests for that space including the Hastings Pickleball Club, which now uses the gym 6-8 times per week.

The classrooms in the PEACE Center are fully renovated and are being used by various community groups, including the United Way and the Toys for Tots program as well as the Mexican Folkloric Dance Troupe and others.

Fiscally, the church is in excellent shape. We ended the year with a surplus budget. This was due to excellent budget management by the staff, and the incredible generosity of the congregation. We will carry over the surplus into 2026 to offset increasing costs in insurance.

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Moderator: Ross Struss

First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee

### **Class of 2025**

Lindsey Stout  
Cheryl Lockwood

### **Class of 2026**

Ross Struss - Moderator  
Linda Johnson

### **Class of 2027**

Dana Miller  
Kathy Reimer

Session Rep: Justin Brader  
Trustee Rep: Kevin Turner

The following scholarships were awarded for the 2025-2026 school year:

Keira Erickson - Binfield scholarship in the amount of \$5,000  
Madalynn Redline - Legacy scholarship in the amount of \$500  
Luke Brooks - Legacy scholarship in the amount of \$500  
Campbell Schukei - Binfield scholarship in the amount of \$5,000  
Kinnick Pumroy - Legacy scholarship in the amount of \$500  
Laura Kate Oliver - Legacy scholarship in the amount of \$500  
Angie Amaya - Binfield scholarship in the amount of \$5,000  
Eleanor Oliver - Legacy scholarship in the amount of \$500

- All money in the Essex Scholarship has been distributed and it has now been closed by the Trustees.
- \$15,000 of the distributable amount in the Binfield Scholarship was given out and approximately \$8,000 retained for the 26-27 scholarship cycle.
- Conversation was had among the committee about moving up the dates of the cycle. This motion carried and will go into effect in the fall of 2026.

Ross Struss was elected to serve as the moderator again for the 2026-27 scholarship cycle.

## PEACE CENTER REPORT

The PEACE Center (old Middle School Annex), which the church purchased from Hastings Public Schools in 2009, has continued to grow as a “Community Center,” providing safe ways to gather and continue the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church while serving the larger community. We have seen increased usage in 2025 with the capital campaign projects, particularly the gym. We hope that continues to grow in 2026 with the remodeling of the classrooms.

Currently the PEACE Center serves over **1,000 people per month** through ministries and community partnerships detailed below:



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### **UNITED HARVEST MOBILE FOOD PANTRY:**

the third Saturday of every month, 400 families receive free food distribution from the PEACE Center. In addition to the 400 recipient families, there are 40-60 community volunteers that help with the distribution of food.

**HEARTS AND HANDS AGAINST HUNGER:** In partnership with the local Kiwanis Club, food is packaged by volunteers and sent around the world to communities in need. See the attached report.

**HASTINGS COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY:** The PEACE Center provides a sorting and storage facility for the Hastings Community Food Pantry. 20 volunteers per month help sort and store the food that is donated and distributed by this ministry.

**RAICES DE MI PUEBLO MEXICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE TROUPE:** The PEACE Center is the home base for this dance group which includes up to 20 dancers weekly along with their family members who accompany them.

**SOUTH HEARTLAND DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT (SHDHD):** Hosts 3-6 gatherings per year to teach health education seminars in Spanish to Latino families. Attendance is 20-30.

**HASTINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUMMER BAND:** Hosts an annual concert with 75 students and 150 family members, many from lower socio-economic families.

**HASTINGS PICKLEBALL LEAGUE:** Groups of 8-12 pickleball players use the gym 6-8 times weekly.

**UNITED WAY OF SOUTH-CENTRAL NEBRASKA:** For one week in December, the Toys for Tots program is run out of the PEACE Center. 20-30 volunteers participate along with 10 community organizations and 50 families that come through to receive toys.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** The PEACE Center is also used for recreation for other Christian Education activities. 40-50 children and youth use the space monthly.

**QUILTERS CLUB:** Women from the church and community gather weekly to sew quilts. This provides fellowship for those women. The quilts they make are for personal use, donated to families in need, sold in silent auctions to raise money for local nonprofits, and given to military veterans.

**WALKERS CLUBS:** Four days a week different groups use the PEACE Center gym for exercise and the classrooms for a coffee fellowship group.

## HEARTS & HANDS AGAINST HUNGER

Jeanne Hastings

## **Hearts & Hands Against Hunger of Hastings**



Hastings Middle School Eighth Graders



Sertoma 8 Man Football Camp

## **Annual Report 2025**

Orphans in Ukraine, refugees in camps in Chad and hurricane victims in Jamaica are some of the people receiving the food we packed at Hearts & Hands Against Hunger during the last year. The need is great. Orphan Grain Train picks up the food that we pack and ships it to different locations. They tell us it is consumed within three months after they pick it up.

Hearts and Hands Against Hunger has been feeding starving children for 17 years, packing over 9.5 million meals. Last year we packed 520,000 meals and had over 1500 volunteers. Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Grade School Classes, Middle and High School Classes, College Groups, Church Groups, Families and Businesses have all come to pack meals at the Presbyterian Church Peace Center during the past year.

Our volunteers continue to amaze us. It is heartwarming to see all ages packing meals side by side; young children putting on expiration stickers and their grandparents sitting next to them running the sealers. Everyone can serve and participate in the vital ministry of feeding the hungry.

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

## **Groups that packed meals at Hearts & Hands Against Hunger 2025.**

Hastings Areas Home School Students  
United Methodist Church Youth Group/Red Cloud  
First United Methodist Church Mission Group  
Sandy Creek High School Students  
Adult Bible Study Class/First St. Paul  
Hastings Noon Rotary & Sunrise Rotary  
Hastings High Young Voters  
Hastings College Bible Study Group  
Good Samaritan Village Residents  
Lonetree 4-H Club  
Thermo King Employees  
St. Paul Lutheran/Holstein  
St. Paul Lutheran/Minden  
Webster County Junior Leaders  
Girl Scout Troops K-4<sup>th</sup> Grades  
Archway Covette Club  
Hastings Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students  
Sertoma 8-man Football Camp  
Monday Weekly Packing Group  
Hastings Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students  
Hastings College Freshmen  
St. Ann's Youth & Church Members/Doniphan  
Bible School Class/Trinity Lutheran/Hildreth  
CPI Employees  
Lakeside Community Church-Day of Serve  
Faith Lutheran High School Youth Group  
Red Cloud Middle School Leadership Team  
Hastings High School Key Club  
St. Ann's Catechism Class/Doniphan  
Doniphan/Trumbull 8<sup>th</sup> Graders  
Hastings High School Science Club  
St. Cecelia High School Students  
Heritage Bank & Insurance Employees & Families  
Cub Scouts Pack 207  
Silver Lake High School Students  
ESU9 Staff & Families

## HASTINGS COMMUNITY MUSIC ACADEMY

Executive Director: Hannah Jensen-Heitmann

### ANNUAL REPORT 2025

In 2025, the Hastings Community Music Academy continued to grow as a welcoming space where people of all ages and backgrounds connect through music. From early childhood music-making to semi-professional ensembles, this year reflected our mission in action: making collaborative musical experiences accessible, meaningful, and joyful.

This year, we were proud to offer a wide range of classes and ensembles that served children, teens, adults, and families throughout our community. These included:

- South Central Nebraska Children's Chorale- providing young singers with high-quality choral experiences and performance opportunities
- Community Treble Choir- welcoming singers from middle school through adulthood
- Jambalaya Pep Band & Community Holiday Band- bringing musicians together for ensemble collaboration and public performance
- Multicultural Music Camp- put on in collaboration with a visiting group from Mexico
- Homeschool Elementary Handbell Choir- offering hands-on ensemble experiences for young learners
- Community Handbell Choir and Semi-Professional Handbell Choir- creating ensemble opportunities for handbell musicians at varying experience levels
- Preschool Music Classes- introducing our youngest participants to music through play, movement, and song

In addition, we continued to offer private lessons in guitar, piano, flute, percussion, and voice, supporting individualized musical growth across ages and skill levels.

A highlight of the year was our fundraiser dinner and concert in December, which hosted 80 dinner guests and featured 75 performers from across our programs. This event not only raised critical funds to support our mission but also showcased the talent, dedication, and collaborative nature of our community. It was a reminder that music brings people together—not just as performers, but as supporters, volunteers, families, and friends.

By the end of the year, we had served over 120 community members through our classes, ensembles, and private lessons. We also continued hosting a monthly Musical Storytime at Bryant Books and Music in downtown Hastings, and participated in Give Hastings Day in May.

The Hastings Community Music Academy is excited to offer a variety of new and returning classes in 2026, and we look forward to watching this organization continue to grow. We are deeply grateful to our instructors, participants, volunteers, donors, and community partners who made this year possible. We also extend our deepest gratitude with First Presbyterian Church for their generosity, support, and guidance, which have been so valuable to our mission.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

Greg Allen-Pickett, Senior Pastor

In 2023, the church had a capital campaign that coincided with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The campaign sought to raise \$2million for remodeling and renovation projects.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation we raised \$2 million in gifts and pledges from our members and an additional \$250,00 in grants. Some church members paid their pledge in full while many made their pledges to be paid over a 2 or 3 year period.

**To date, we have received over \$2.23 million in fulfilled pledges and gifts, a 99% pledge fulfillment rate!**

We have been hard at work implementing the projects defined in the capital campaign in the last two years and the changes in the church and the PEACE Center are noticeable and drawing positive attention from the community.

The remodeled kitchen in the church is a hub of activity every Wednesday night, used often on Sunday mornings, and is used throughout the week by the Presbyterian Women and PEO groups. It was also used during the federal government shutdown to host community soup suppers. The Kitchen has become a space of warmth and hospitality with modern appliances and space for many people to work.

Our updated bathrooms by the sanctuary and behind the fellowship hall make a statement of hospitality to anyone coming in to use the building.

We've added automatic door openers on our exterior church office doors and a handicapped accessible bathroom in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to make the space more accessible as we have increased both church and community use of our Christian Education wing.

Our choir loft is now handicapped accessible, making it a space of welcome for all.

The PEACE Center has seen some major improvements as well. The refurbished gym is now being used 9-10 times per week by different community groups including the Hastings Pickleball Club, two community walking groups, a homeschool group, and more.

We have completed the remodeling and refreshing all of the classroom spaces in the PEACE Center to make them more hospitable and welcoming for community use. We will also completed the rain garden project.

We installed solar panels on the roof of the PEACE Center and the church to help offset our utility bills, and continue to do maintenance for long-term sustainability of our facilities.

On the next page is a detailed list of the projects, the budget, and the progress.

## First Presbyterian Church Capital Campaign Projects

Church Projects Update		Progress	Budget	Actual Cost
<b>Hospitality</b>				
Remodel and Upgrade Kitchen	COMPLETED	\$175,000	\$160,000	
Update Main Bathrooms	COMPLETED	\$50,000	\$55,000	
Refresh church offices, Anderson Room, Parlor	COMPLETED	\$75,000	\$85,000	
Improved lighting in Sanctuary	IN PROGRESS	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Relocate Fair Trade Store, Remodel Library	COMPLETED	\$30,000	\$30,000	
<b>Accessibility</b>	<b>Progress</b>			
New Sanctuary Bathrooms	COMPLETED	\$80,000	\$80,000	
Handicapped Entrance for Office Doors	COMPLETED	\$15,000	\$10,000	
Accessible Restroom on 2nd Floor Ed Wing	COMPLETED	\$30,000	\$35,000	
Handicapped Accessible Choir Loft	COMPLETED	\$100,000	\$75,000	
<b>Family-Friendly</b>	<b>Progress</b>			
Cry Room and Family Bathroom off Sanctuary	COMPLETED	\$35,000	\$38,000	
Complete Christian Ed Wing Remodel	COMPLETED	\$40,000	\$45,000	
Repair flooring, Basement Middle School Room	COMPLETED	\$20,000	\$22,000	
<b>Preservation and Sustainability</b>	<b>Progress</b>			
Assessment and Maintenance of Stained Glass	COMPLETED	\$75,000	\$50,000	
Brick Tuckpointing	ONGOING	\$100,000	\$75,000	
Bat Mitigation	COMPLETED	\$50,000	\$65,000	
Solar Panels	COMPLETED	\$60,000	\$60,000	
CHURCH PROJECTS TOTAL:		\$1,000,000	\$900,000	To date

PEACE Center Projects Update		Progress	Budget	Actual Cost
<b>Hospitality and Accessibility</b>				
Remodel Classrooms and Bathrooms	COMPLETED	\$60,000	\$75,000	
New doors, windows, signage	COMPLETED	\$150,000	\$200,000	
New exterior entrance and vestibules	COMPLETED	\$40,000	\$45,000	
Parking Lot Project	COMPLETED	\$425,000	\$425,000	
<b>Community Friendly</b>	<b>Progress</b>			
Convert H.S. Youth Room to Community Room	COMPLETED	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Fix water damaged gym floor, refresh gym	COMPLETED	\$75,000	\$65,000	
<b>Long-Term Sustainability</b>	<b>Progress</b>			
Plumbing Project	COMPLETED	\$50,000	\$45,000	
Capstone Sealing, Shingles, Tuckpointing	COMPLETED	\$50,000	\$30,000	
Solar Panels	COMPLETED	\$60,000	\$60,000	
Rain Garden	COMPLETED	\$20,000	\$20,000	
PEACE CENTER PROJECTS TOTAL:		\$1,000,000	\$985,000	To date

PRAYER GARDEN, COLUMBIARIUM REPORT, AND MEMORIAL WALL  
COMMITTEE  
John Pershing

2025 brought the construction of the Prayer Garden, Columbarium and Memorial almost to completion. The installation of stained glass for the archways will complete the Prayer Garden. The installation is scheduled for this spring. The committee hopes that all of the members have taken the opportunity to visit the Prayer Garden.

I would like to thank Brad Hamburger of Carmichael Construction for a job well done. A special thanks goes to Steve Wolford, Janna Johnson, and Robin Koozer. Without Steve's professional expertise and dedication to the church the project would have taken longer to complete with additional expense. Janna Johnson took on the responsibility for the landscaping and selection of furniture. Robin Koozer led the selection of decorations. A special thank you to Cal Johnson, Barb Harrington, Jane Bauer, Kathy Reimer and Phil Odom for their dedication to the committee and their contributions.

The estimated cost of the project was \$366,035. The expenses paid to date are \$402,408.97. Balance to be paid to Jackson Glass \$26,495.19 and Art Glass \$29,300.00. The total cost will be \$458,204.16. The project went \$92,169.16 over estimated budget.

Donations to the Prayer Garden totaled \$119,000 and sales income for construction expenses is \$28,800. Total funds raised to date total \$147,800.

The Session approved advancing \$266,000 for construction of the Prayer Garden, Columbarium and Memorial Wall. The total advance needed from the church funds required is \$310,404. (Cost \$458,204 - donations/sales \$147,800 = \$310,404) This is \$44,404 more than the approved advance.

Future sales of niches and Memorial Wall will generate an additional \$382,250. Over time as the niches and memorial lines are purchased the advance will be repaid.

There have been eleven niches and nineteen memorial lines purchased. In total there are 160 niches and 90 memorial lines.

The Prayer Garden, Columbarium and Memorial Committee members for 2026 are Robin Koozer, representing the Session, Barb Harrington representing the Trustees, Mary Olsen from the Memorial Committee and Phil Odom, Kathy Reimer, and John Pershing are at large members.

More information on the Columbarium and Memorial Wall is available on the church's website. Go to [fpchastings.org](http://fpchastings.org), Info Center, Columbarium. You can also contact any committee members.

Please contact me if you have any question.

John Pershing 402-984-6442, johnpershing1@me.com