



Mission Statement of 1st Presbyterian Church, Hastings

Following Christ, we strive to love and serve the world so that all may grow in faith and experience true joy.



More Good News

Jan. 2017
Volume 18, #1

January at a Glance

Jan. 1

10:30 AM Worship
w/ Communion

Jan. 3

Session 6:30 PM

Jan. 8 and 15

10:30 Worship

Jan. 11

Prayer Shawl 7 PM

Jan. 13

Annual Reports due

Jan. 15

Newsletter Deadline

Jan. 22

10:30 AM Worship
Annual Meeting
Potluck

Jan. 24

Pastor April on KDWA
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Jan. 29

10:30 Informal Worship

From the Pastor's Desk

It is the dark time of year, with shorter days, overcast skies and the chill of a brisk wind. And like the dark of winter, so too advent begins in darkness, with a hope-filled watching and waiting. It is the light for which we so patiently but also anxiously wait.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1.1-5).

We need light to survive. A bright sunny day can snap us out of a sad or depressed mood just as quickly as a dreary day can bring us down. Light affects our psyche. Light can also warm the hearts, literally. Imagine the flickering of a fire, radiating warmth and a glow to all who come in contact with it. Or picture the wick of a burning candle, the mesmerizing dance of the flame atop a mountain of wax, dispersing its aroma throughout the air.

Light can bring us to a place of calm in the midst of chaos, its can center us in a frenzied and distracting world.

The light of Christ shines through the darkness of our world and lives to fill us with a transforming light. That is how I see this congregation – composed of faithful people who seek to share the transforming light of Christ with others. I feel blessed to be a part of the ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings.

The ministry I feel called to is one of spiritual formation and discipleship, both in my own life and the life of others. I feel nurtured and nourished by the ministry of presence and listening for God’s voice in my life. My own spiritual formation involves prayer, worship, study, preaching, pastoral care and teaching. Similarly, but not surprisingly, the ministry of spiritual formation and discipleship for the greater community of faith here at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings involves prayer, worship, study, preaching, pastoral care and teaching. The ministry I feel called to here at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings is one which reflects my passion and commitment to ministry and to the church and in turn engages the saints here in spiritual formation and discipleship. What ministry are you being called to? Consider how our ministry together becomes a beacon of light and hope for all we come in contact with.

2016 was a remarkable year in so many ways, I look forward to 2017 with joy and awe, wondering what ministries we will embrace together to let the light of Christ in our hearts shine like a beacon of hope.

Grace to you, and peace,

April

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!
2017**



1st Presbyterian Church of Hastings Core Values

- * Moving and engaging worship
- * Openness in decision-making
- * Deep, life-giving relationships
- * Building and 150 year history as part of our identity
- * Serving the community through mission
- * Courage to take risks and the ability to persevere

Thanks to all the people in our congregation who give so freely to others.

We have members who regularly volunteer their time at Hastings Family Services. We contributed shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child and we bought Christmas gifts for Hastings Family Services. Yearly, in the fall, we buy supplies for backpacks for needy children. We helped to make tie blankets for Meals on Wheels to distribute and have knitted or crocheted prayer shawls to give to those you need a measure of comfort.

These are just a few of the many ways we reach out to our community. How can you help in the coming year?



Congregational Meeting



Annual Meeting and Potluck January 22

Please join us after church for our Annual Meeting.

This is an important time when we conduct the business of the church with our members. Afterwards we have the opportunity to share a meal and enrich our lives with fellowship. We hope to see you there.

The lift has recently been brought up to state code.

Now you will need to keep pressure on the appropriate floor button to work the the lift.



Looking Ahead

2017 Per Capita

\$33.75 total per member

Please submit to the church by May 1st

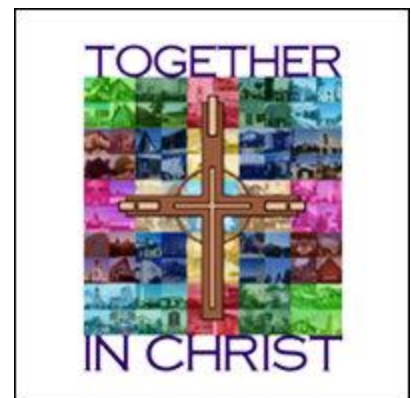


Yard Sale

After Christmas is a great time to start setting aside items for our annual Garage Sale in May. Just remember that every item must be relatively clean and usable. If it's broken or trashy, it won't sell and will cost us to get rid of it.

Next summer's Synod School runs July 23-28 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa.

J. Herbert Nelson, recently elected as stated clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will be convocation speaker next summer, and Claudio Carvalhaes, well-known speaker and worship leader, will lead evening worship services. April will also be teaching a class this year.



Winter S Words

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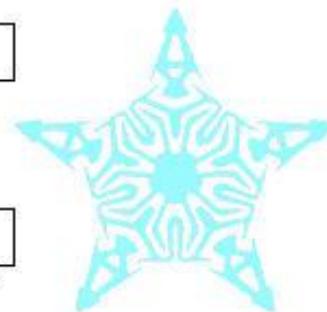
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What Star is This, With Beams so Bright?

Charles Coffin

**What star is this, with beams so bright,
More lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King,
Glad tidings of our God to bring.**

**'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed";
And lo! the Eastern sages stand
To read in heaven the Lord's command.**

**While outward signs the star displays,
An inward light the Lord conveys,
And urges them, with force benign,
To seek the Giver of the sign.**

**True love can brook no dull delay;
Nor toil nor dangers stop their way
Home, kindred, father land and all
They leave at their Creator's call.**

**O, while the star of heavenly grace
Invites us, Lord, to seek Thy face,
May we no more that grace repel,
Or quench that light which shines so well!**

**To God the Father, God the Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
May every tongue and nation raise
An endless song of thankful praise!**

*Where is the child who
has been born king of
the Jews?
For we
observed
his star
at its
rising,
and have
come to
pay him
homage.*

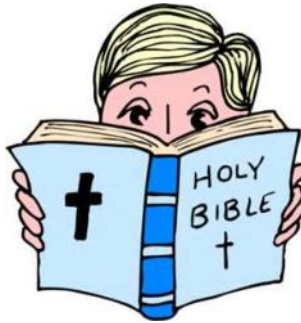


Matthew 2:2

Bible Readings This Month

January 1

Isa. 63: 7-9
Ps. 148
Heb. 2: 10 - 18
Matt. 2: 13 - 23



January 8

Isa. 42: 1-9
Ps. 29
Acts 10: 34-43
Matt. 3: 13-17

January 15

Isa. 49: 1-7
Ps. 40: 1-11
1 Cor. 1: 1-9
John 1: 29-42

January 22

Isa. 9: 1-4
Ps. 27: 1, 4-9
1 Cor. 1: 10-18
Matt. 4: 12 - 23

January 29

Mic. 6: 1-8
Ps. 15
1 Cor. 1: 18-31
Matt. 5: 1-12

January 2017 Servers

	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Leaders
Jan. 1	Reiter	Browns	Kristin Blevins
Jan. 8	Mullins	Crawmer	Marcia Caneff
Jan. 15	Altpeter	Tiefenbrucks	Dennis Brown
Jan. 22	Tayson/Wittkopf	Blumeyers	Dave Hume
Jan. 29	Informal Worship	Becker	Grant Tiefenbruck

Session Minutes for November 1, 2016

A stated meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, MN was held at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the church on November 1, 2016.

The meeting began at 6:30 PM when Reverend Dr. April Davis Campbell lit the Christ Candle to remind us that we are on sacred ground and are the keepers of the flock. The devotion was led by Mary. Mary talked about some of the changes in life (she is retiring at the end of this year). There is joy living in the present moment. I John 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now. God's presence will calm us in the middle of our worldly cares. The meeting was then opened with prayer.

Elders Present:

Class of 2016: Carlotta Mullins, Marcia Rash, Brenda Reiter

Class of 2017: Grant Tiefenbruck, Dave Hume

Class of 2018: Dennis Brown, Mary Crawmer

Absent:

Clerk's Report: The October Minutes were approved as submitted. Annual reports will be starting.

Treasurer's Report: We need to update our accounting software, Quick Books. We will end the year about where we started with our check book.

Foundation Report: Still has not met.

Pastor's Report: The transitional presbytery executive may come to talk with us at informal worship on January 29. A draft of the pledge card was prepared. The elevator (technically a lift) has never been inspected. The inspector indicated that we need a pressure test on the hydraulic system. Need to find keys for the elevator and a secure place to keep them. An inspection was originally part of our permit to operate the lift. April has been searching for an advent wreath project for informal worship. Her second Twin Cities Marathon was successfully completed. A recent half marathon was completed in just over 2 hours which was a significant improvement. Her dad is finally out of ICU at Regions Hospital. He still has lost a lot of muscle mass. He remains on a feeding tube. April hopes for his continued strengthening. She is thankful for our understanding of the situation. Progress was made on a new sign on our existing footprint. A vendor proposal is a traditional sign employing LED lighting.

Presbytery Meeting: at House of Hope in St. Paul on November 15th. Dave and Grant are planning to attend that meeting.

Deacons: Christmas Caroling on December 11th.

M/S/C to receive all of the reports above on the consent agenda.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds – Dennis – He will handle the leaf raking this year. He has also been party to the adventures with the elevator.

Fellowship – Brenda – Martin Luther exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, \$20 tickets, December 4th after church. Deadline for reservations will be 11/20/2016.

Christian Education – Kaitlin is doing a good job with Sunday School.

Mission – Mary – Collecting Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse until November 20.

Stewardship/Finance – Marcia Rash – There will be a pot luck on November 13 to celebrate our stewardship. It is also Poinsettia Fundraiser time. Orders will be due 11/20/2016, too.

Worship – A Unity Service that will focus on healing after the divisiveness of the election season will be held on November 6 at 5 PM.

Personnel/Nominating – Contacting people, but not a lot of success yet.

M/S/C to receive the committee reports.

Old Business – None – still no guidelines for Presbytery grants

New Business - None

There will be a Joint Meeting of Deacons & Elders on Tuesday, December 6 at 6 PM followed by a meeting of the Session. Dave has devotions.

There will be a meeting of Session on January 3, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

There will be a meeting of Session on February 7, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

Mary closed the meeting with prayer at 7: 15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Tiefenbruck
Clerk of Session



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 Worship w/Communion 	2	3 Session 6:30 PM  Thomas Norcross	4	5	6  Epiphany  Margaret Brown	7
8 10:30 Worship	9  Pat Dymacek	10	11  Prayer Shawl Ministry 7PM  Lee Rossing	12	13 Annual Reports Due	14
15 10:30 Worship	16  Martin Luther King Jr, Day	17	18	19	20  Amy McNamara	21  Debbie Baxter
22 10:30 Worship and Potluck 	23	24 Pastor April on KDWA 11am-12pm	25	26	27	28
29 10:30 Informal Worship	30  Robert Albright	31  Tom McNamara				