



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. 2018
Volume 19, #1

From the Pastor's Desk

Who has not, at some time in their life, wanted a “do over”? An opportunity to start again, to begin afresh, to back up from what has been and try all over again. Perhaps to buy a different house instead of the one you own? Thoughts of what life might have been like if you had chosen a different career path? A wish that you could back up and try things differently with your children. I imagine there may be a few people who wish they could have a “do over” in casting their 2016 presidential vote. The practice of “do overs” in golf is so widespread that it has its own special terminology: “taking a mulligan.”

I imagine that one of the reasons that we celebrate the annual New Year's festivities is that it offers each of us an annual “do over”. All those resolutions and goals from last year get to be re-set and re-done for the year ahead. All the things that went wrong, the things we wish we had never said or done, the outcomes that we regret, all of these can be done over in new, fresh, and better ways in the year ahead. We can let go of the regrets and mistakes of the past, and begin a renewed journey into the future. The whiteboard is wiped clean and we can start again.

However, for those of us who claim Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are offered that same opportunity for a “do over” every day, and we celebrate that promise in church every Sunday.

January at a Glance

Jan. 2

Session 6:30 PM

Jan. 3

Youth Game Night 6:45 PM

Jan. 8 and 15

10:30 Worship
w/ Communion

Jan. 14

10:30 AM Worship
Annual Reports due

Jan. 15

Newsletter Deadline

Jan. 21

10:30 AM Worship
Annual Meeting
Potluck

Jan. 28

10:30 Worship

Jesus promised us that if we acknowledge our sins and regrets, that God will forgive us and make us new again. And if we ask, God will help us to do better this time. Every Sunday, when we pray the prayer of confession together, God offers us the opportunity for a “do over” in our life. To heal our broken relationships, to strengthen the self-doubt that is holding us back, and to guide us along the pathway toward wholeness and peace in our lives. In effect, God is saying to us, “Do it all over again, and if you let me, I will be with you to help and guide you.”

I hope and pray that your New Year celebrations with family and friends will be safe and fun. And that whatever you feel you need to “do over” from the past year (or years) will begin afresh and new in the new year of 2018. More importantly, I hope you will experience the grace and hope that comes each day from God’s promises to us through Jesus Christ, and that whatever is in the past is forgiven and set aside, and that the future is made new each morning in the love and peace of the Holy Spirit. Happy New Year! And may the year of 2018 be filled with blessing for you and for all those you love.

See you in church,

Steve



1st Presbyterian Church of Hastings Core Values

- * Moving and engaging worship
- * Openness in decision-making
- * Deep, life-giving relationships
- * Building and 160 year history as part of our identity
- * Serving the community through mission
- * Courage to take risks and the ability to persevere

Session Meeting

The Session will meet at church on Tuesday, January 2 at 6:30 pm. Session members please let Pastor Steve know if you will not be able to attend.



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"After Ted closes with prayer, there will be a brief meeting in the parking lot to determine what, if anything, was actually decided in this meeting."



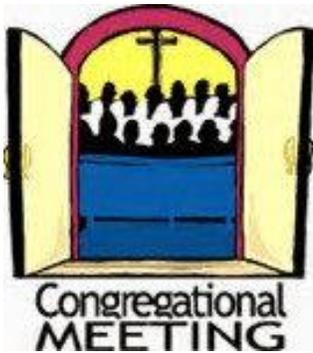
Middle and High School youth will gather on **Wednesday, January 3** at 6:45 pm for their monthly game night at Park Ridge Apartments. Meet at St. Luke's Episcopal Church to carpool together. Pastor Steve really needs to redeem himself from last month's dreary results at the monthly game of Farkle. Contact Pastor Steve with questions.



Annual Report Submissions

Committee Chairs and others with reports and material for the Annual Report of the congregation should send those items as soon as possible, but no later than Sunday, January 14th to Pastor Steve at stevempls@iCloud.com. Annual Reports will be available at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting and Potluck January 21

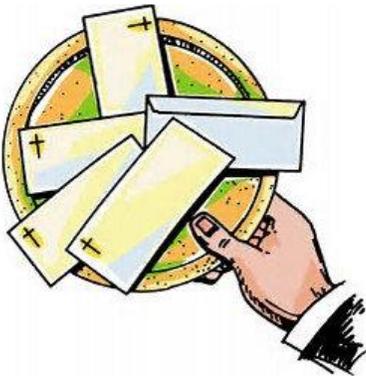


The Session of FPCHastings has called for the **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** to be held on **Sunday, January 21, 2018** immediately following the 10:30 am worship service. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to receive the Annual Reports of the congregation, to review the financial report for 2017 and the session-approved budget for 2018, to elect elders, deacons, foundation trustees, and members of the congregational nominating committee, and to conduct such other business as may be necessary. By order of Grant Tiefenbruck, Clerk of Session.

Per Capita Offering

On Sunday, January 21st, as part of worship on our Annual Meeting Sunday, we will receive and dedicate our special Per Capita offering. Our Per Capita offering is the primary way that we, as a congregation and as church members support our connectional church – the local presbytery, regional synod, and national General Assembly. It is not a “head tax”, but a witness to the collective love of God’s people for the wonderful acts of God in our lives.

The Per Capita for this year is \$34.50 per person.



The Session is asking that each person who considers First Presbyterian Church of Hastings your church home make a decision to pay your household’s Per Capita offering for 2018 as you are able. Watch for a mailing coming soon that will have more information and will include a special Per Capita Offering envelope for your use in January. Or you can send in your check anytime to the church office, with “Per Capita” on the memo line.

THANK YOU...

Thank
You

- Marcia Rash and all the members of the Bell Choir for their music this fall and Advent
- Bob Albright for special music in our Lessons and Carols service
- Karen Altpeter for the organ music and piano/organ duets with Pat Dymacek
- Sylvia Tayson for the beautiful fall and Advent chancel decorations
- Kristin Blevins and Mary Crawmer for coordinating our Scrips Fund-raising orders
- Mary Crawmer for organizing our adopt-a-family Christmas gift tree for Hastings Family Service



On December 17th, a group went Christmas caroling after church to Augustana, Park Ridge, and Regina. Thank you to Bob Albright, Carolyn Blumeyer, Margaret and Dennis Brown, Kathryn Norris, Helen Ott, Steve and Susan Robertson, Becky and Grant Tiefenbruck, and Bernice Wittkopf for their enthusiastic singing. A special thanks goes to Karen Altpeter for her accompaniment on the piano. This was a fun event for carolers and residents alike.



Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, January 21 – Per Capita Sunday, Annual Congregation Meeting, Pot Luck Lunch

Sunday, February 4 – Ordination/Installation of officers in worship

Wednesday, February 14 (7pm) – Ash Wednesday worship service

Thursday, March 29 (7pm) – Maundy Thursday worship service

Friday, March 30 – Ecumenical Good Friday Service (time and location TBA)

Sunday, April 1 – Easter Sunday



Please continue to feed the piggy bank on the kiosk with your spare change. We will wrap up our collections for the Heifer Project in February. At that time, the congregation can decide what to buy with the money we have collected. There is a catalog on the kiosk with more information about the Heifer project and what animals our money can purchase.



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.

THE BACK PEW - Jeff LARSON

May yer house be warm, yer boots dry, and da only ting cold and wet is yer dog's nose and may he be house-broken, and worm free. okee-dokee den, dats all.



A Minnesotan Winter Blessin' don't ya know.

<http://thebackpew.com>

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Ok Ole, in da name uv da Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.. take a dip!

Well Sven led Ole to da Lord while ice-fishin, and in an ill-fated moment of spiritual exhilaration.. Ole was baptized right den-n-dere in da first ICE FISHIN HOLE BAPTISM!

THE RECIPE CORNER

Please send your recipes to Becky Tiefenbruck at mrsbect@gmail.com or put them in the newsletter box in the office.



Crock Pot Beef Roast

submitted by Becky Tiefenbruck

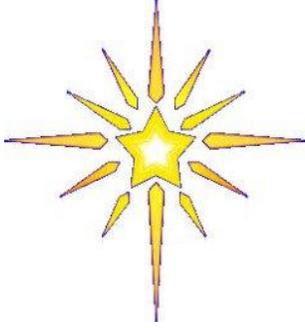
Ingredients:

Beef chuck roast
Potatoes
Carrots
2 large onions
2 cans Golden Mushroom Soup
1 pouch dry onion soup (optional)

The nice thing about this recipe is that the size of the roast and the kind and amount of potatoes and carrots are all flexible. I have used both Idaho and red potatoes at times. I like to use the peeled baby carrots for convenience, but have also used whole carrots and cut them up. The soup makes a nice gravy and is excellent to use with leftover roast in a stew.

Directions:

1. Cut potatoes in half (or quarters for large potatoes)
2. Cover the bottom of the crock pot with the potatoes
3. Spread golden mushroom soup over the potatoes
4. Place the roast on top of the potatoes
5. If desired, sprinkle dry onion soup on roast
6. Place carrots around the roast
7. Spread the rest of the golden mushroom soup over the roast and carrots
8. Peel and slice the onions and place on top of the roast
9. Cook on low for 6 to 8 hours



As with Gladness Men of Old

by William Chatterton Dix

**As with gladness, men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward, beaming bright
So, most glorious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before
Him Whom Heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.**



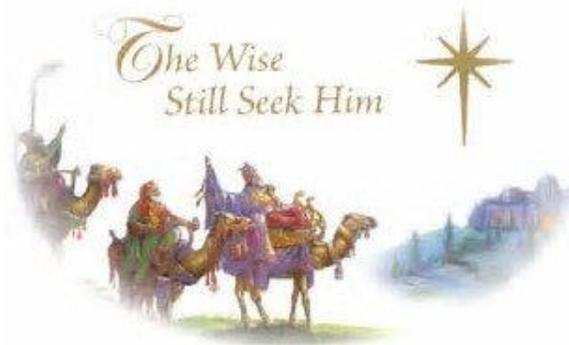
**As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.**

**Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.**



**In the heavenly country bright,
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!**

Bible Readings This Month



January 7

Gen. 1: 1-5

Ps. 29

Acts 19: 1-7

Mark 1: 4-11

January 14

1 Sam. 3: 1-10 (11-20)

Ps. 139: 1-6, 13-18

1 Cor. 6: 12-20

John 1: 43-51

January 21

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

Ps. 62: 5-12

1 Cor. 7: 29-31

Mark 1: 14-20

January 28

Deut. 18: 15-20

Ps. 111

1 Cor. 8: 1-13

Mark 1: 21-28

January 2018 Servers

	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Leaders
Jan. 7	Carlotta Mullins	Judy Becker	Marcia Caneff
Jan. 14	Mary Crawmer	Christians	Kristin Blevins
Jan. 21	Alister Brenda Reiter	Browns	Dennis Brown
Jan. 28	Tayson/Wittkopf	Tiefenbrucks	Becky Tiefenbruck
Communion Preparers January 7: Becky Tiefenbruck and Shannon Stenzel			
Communion Server January 7: Brenda Reiter			

Session Minutes for October 3, 2017

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 October 3, 2017.

The meeting began at 6:30 PM when Moderator Reverend Dr. Stephen Robertson called the meeting to order. Steve led the devotion. He began by reflecting upon the shooting in Las Vegas on Sunday evening. Psalm 46 was read. Steve then opened the meeting with prayer.

Elders Present:

Class of 2018: Grant Tiefenbruck, Dave Hume

Class of 2019: Dennis Brown, Mary Crawmer

Class of 2020: Karen Altpeter, Brenda Reiter

Absent: None!

Also Present: Bob Albright, Marcia Rash

Clerk's Report: There were no corrections to the September meeting minutes. Emily Forthun's wedding took place on Saturday, September 30. There were pictures on Facebook.

Treasurer's Report: Income of \$79,252 includes the church vitality grant and the new sign funds. A new budget is being put together. We'll need someone besides Marcia to do the audit next year. We also need someone to manage the SCRIPS program for the church.

Foundation Report - Bob Albright - Even with withdrawals, we are money ahead year to date from the investments. Over the life of the fund we are getting about 10% yield. Bob is going away in the winter this year. He will leave some checks behind. We may need to sell some of the Vanguard Wellington Fund shares to cover the checks.

Pastor's Report – Steve will be traveling to Florida from 10/24-27 to visit his mother. Steve and Susan will be traveling to LA for some vacation & a meeting of presbytery treasurers from 11/10 -11/18. Steve has been active teaching adult Bible study, meeting about music in worship, and making contact with the Hastings Ministerial Association.

Presbytery Meeting: The next Presbytery meeting will be on 11/6 at Church of the Way in Shoreview, MN.

Deacons -Becky Tiefenbruck – They will be meeting on October 8 after worship to plan for the rest of the fall season.

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

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds – Dennis – Carpets were cleaned, and he fixed some leaks in the education wing. A Cleaning Day is being planned for October 29 with a light lunch.

Fellowship – Brenda – It is going reasonably well. “The Lord will provide.”

Christian Education – The Adult study about Martin Luther and John Calvin will continue.

Mission – Mary – Our portion of the Peace and Global Witness offering will be sent to the Lewis House.

Stewardship/Finance – Nothing else to discuss.

Worship – Karen – the downstairs worship experience seems to be going well. M/S/C to approve the plan for worship upstairs through Epiphany and downstairs from January 14 through February 11. We’ll worship upstairs again through Easter. M/S/C to spend \$213 for an ad in the Chamber of Commerce brochure.

Nominating – Grant – the group is getting started on the task at hand.

M/S/C to receive the committee reports.

Old Business –

New Business –

There will be a stated meeting of Session on Monday, November 27, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the church. We shall be meeting with the Deacons. Bring treats.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Steve at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Tiefenbruck
Clerk of Session

Session Devotion Schedule

October – Steve
November – Brenda
December – Karen
January – Grant
February – Mary
March – Dennis



January

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 	2 Session 6:30 PM	3 Youth   Thomas Norcross			6  Epiphany  Margaret Brown
7 10:30 Worship w/Communion	8	9  Pat Dymacek	10	11  Lee Rossing	12	13
14 10:30 Worship 	15  Martin Luther King Jr, Day	16	17	18	19	20  Amy McNamara
21 10:30 Worship  Annual Meeting and Potluck  Debbie Baxter	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:30 Worship	29	30  Robert Albright	31  Tom McNamara			