



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 21.15 April 16, 2017

A warm Holy Week greeting to all the saints of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings! I just passed the one month mark as your pastor, and my family and I continue to feel profoundly blessed and affirmed in following God's call here.

I started on the second Sunday of the Lent, which is the six weeks leading to Easter where we focus on Christ's journey to the cross. It was a fitting time to start as your new pastor. Below you will find a prayer I have adapted from the Prayers of the People I gave on Palm Sunday that reflects on this Lenten journey we have taken together. I hope to see you at our services during Holy Week and look forward to celebrating Christ's resurrection with you on Easter Sunday!

Pastoral Prayer for Holy Week

God of our lives, the Lenten journey for First Presbyterian Church of Hastings signified the end of a period of transition, and the beginning of a new chapter in the life of this church. Moments in that transition have been challenging, but we have trusted you and continue to trust you. We have sought and felt your presence with us each step of the way.

It has not always been an easy journey. We have been stretched and challenged, as we will continue to be in the days to come. We are grateful, God, that we have not been alone on this way. We are grateful that you have been with us all the while, supporting us even as you challenge us to follow you and love one another.

Over the past six weeks of Lent, we have journeyed day by day to Jerusalem, to the procession of palms and hosannas, to the temple and to the streets. And this week we accompany you to the Garden of Gethsemane and what lies beyond.

We are grateful that we have had each other as travelling companions. You have created us to be in community with each other, and in days like this we know why. Thank you for this sacred community, cast in your image, shaped by your love. Help us, as we follow Jesus together, to broaden our concept of community, to include not only those we know and love, but also strangers both near and far.

Capture our hearts and minds with a vision of your kingdom, and inspire us to work tirelessly to bring it to be in this world. You have shown us, God, what is right and just; you have shown us what it means to love as you love. In Christ, you have shown us what it means to give everything to this call, to live lives of radical obedience, radical humility, and radical love.

Lord, may we live our lives with such determination and focus that we might find the courage to lay aside the pleasures, comforts, and needs of our own lives in order to give life to others—indeed, to work and advocate for abundant life for all.

God, you call us to be a part of your kingdom; you call us to lead others to it. Thank you for that call. As we reflect on Jesus' last week on earth, may we be truly present in this week, present with one another and fully aware of your presence in our lives. May we humble ourselves as servant leaders, following Christ's example as he washed his disciple's feet. May we find your presence in bread and juice as we reflect on these signs and symbols of your grace. May we remember your death for us, and the three days you were in the grave. And may we spring forth in the new life you have created for us as we celebrate your resurrection with joy and encounter you once again. AMEN.

~Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett



2017 VBS
First Presbyterian Church
May 22-26 2:00-5:00pm

Everyone welcome! Pre-school through 4th Grade.
Register now at <http://fpchastings.org/vbs-2017/> for the best week of the summer!



The Easter Egg Hunt hosted by FPC in Alexander Park on April 8 was great fun! The weather was fantastic and over 60 children and their families, including over 15 Pooh Corner children, attended. Conversations were full of love, happiness, and invitation.

Thank you for your donations of candy and eggs. And a special THANK YOU to Jane Marsh, Kris Horton, Jill Kramer, Eric and Grace Brader, Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett, Jessica and Esther Allen-Pickett for helping set-up for the event!



2017 VBS Volunteer Sign-Up

First Presbyterian Church--
Hastings, NE



We are "gearing up" for another great VBS! This year, we are using the Group: Maker Fun Factory VBS. The kids will discover not only that God made them the way they are, but for a purpose too. Maker Fun Factory is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life--something we call God Sightings.

Our VBS will be held May 22-26, 2:00-5:00pm.

It is our prayer that God has VBS in His plan for your life! We know Jesus will work through YOU at VBS. Would you prayerfully consider serving in VBS? Please register as a volunteer at <http://fpchastings.org/vbs-2017/>. Or paper sign-up forms are located on the glass shelves near the church office. Please contact Stephanie at stephanie@fpchastings.org or 402-462-5147 with any questions.

*"First Presbyterian Church, **Thank you so much** for your generous donation to the HHS Food Pantry! We feel so blessed that your high school students selected the Pantry for your communion offering! It is the support of our community that makes our work possible, and we are so grateful for your help! Thank you, -- Kathy Funkey"*

Second Annual Long-Sleeve Shirt Drive

Bring your donations of new or gently used long-sleeved shirts to the basket in the Memorial Room. Mission Committee thanks you for your help in protecting farmworkers against pesticides and heat stress.

United Harvest Volunteers Needed

Everyone is welcomed and needed on Saturday, April 15. It's a fun and rewarding way to begin your weekend!

Choose one of two volunteer shifts (**9:30-12:00 OR 12:00-2:30**), and arrive at the Annex at the beginning of your chosen shift. *Thank you!!*

April communion offerings to United Harvest Mobile Pantry will be accepted throughout the month. As this mission continues to grow, so do the needs. Your support is greatly appreciated!

May communion offerings will be to FPC's Open Table Sack Lunch Program fund since FPC is scheduled to assemble and provide the Open Table lunches through the month of July.

Another Way to Support the Open Table:

"*Give Day* is on May 11th. You can log onto www.givehastings.org from May 1st to May 11th. This is a wonderful opportunity to donate to the Open Table Sack Lunch Program, which was started in 2004 to help eradicate hunger in our community. In 2016, an average of 185 sack lunches per day were handed out to individuals and families in need. However, some days, we can give 200-300 lunches out. We rely on donations and volunteers to provide these at no cost to recipients. The money raised on *Give Day* allows us to add milk and juice to each lunch." *—Pam Taylor, Board Member, OTSLP*

April Services - Come Worship with Us!

April 16 (Easter), 10:30 a.m. with Special Offering to *One Great Hour of Sharing*

April 23, 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., High School Senior Recognition,
3:00 p.m. Hastings College Spring Choir Concert at FPC

April 30, 10:30 a.m., Christian Education Volunteer Recognition

Last Call for the Easter Prayer Vigil

Once again, members and friends of FPC will be offering a continuous stream of prayer from 8 p.m. on Good Friday until 8 a.m. on Easter Sunday. Sign up by contacting Kili for one (or more!) one-hour slots. All are welcome to submit prayer requests to be held in prayer during the vigil.

**Sunday,
April 16, 2017**

9:15 a.m. No Sunday School (All Ages)

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship,
Message by Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

Bring a Friend Sunday: April 23

Blessedly, lots of people join us for worship on Easter Sunday. Let's keep that momentum going by inviting them--and others--back for the following Sunday: "Bring a Friend Sunday."

With our new pastor on board, it's easy to invite a friend or neighbor to come and check out what's new at FPC!

(Bonus: There will be cookies, coffee, and fellowship between services and after 10:30 worship!)



Self-Development of People (SDOP)

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People continues to work with low-income communities across the United States to overcome oppression and injustice, including the focus areas of New Orleans, Detroit, Baltimore, and Los Angeles. In 2016, National SDOP entered into partnerships with the projects below. Projects focused on literacy, worker-owned cooperatives, capacity building, prisoner reentry, farming, advocacy, tenant rights, skills development, and youth-led initiatives. Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, over 5,000 projects in economically poor communities in the United States and around the world have had an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges.

National SDOP Projects:

- Somali Bantu Community Mutual Assistance Association of Lewiston/Auburn, ME
- Damayan Cleaning Cooperative, New York, NY
- Wayside Outreach and Development Inc., Brooklyn, NY
- Equipping, Encouraging & Empowering Workers in Vredenburg, AL
- VEGGI Farmer's Cooperative, New Orleans, LA
- Families & Criminal Justice, Los Angeles, CA
- Radio Indigena (Indigenous Radio Station), Oxnard, CA
- Stitching up Detroit, Detroit, MI
- Community Tenants Association, San Francisco, CA
- Street Vendor Project, New York, NY
- Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson, Poughkeepsie, NY
- New York State Youth Leadership Council, New York, NY
- Bolitas Harvesters Association, Immokalee, FL
- Flint Democracy Defense League, Flint, MI
- We the People of Detroit, Detroit, MI

Highlighted Projects:

- » **Jobs Not Jails, Holyoke, MA:** The project is a campaign led by community members to have investment in jobs, education, and mental health reform instead of development of more prisons. The community is organizing to identify policies that need to be changed and working with pro bono legal assistance to introduce new legislation.
- » **Capital Park Women's Empowerment Project, Columbus, OH:** The project is to create a cooperative sewing program to create designer bags, with training in marketing of these products for a community of refugee Somali women.
- » **We the People of Detroit (Detroit Water Crisis Hotline), Detroit, MI:** An advocacy project to provide short-term water supplies for members to avert a public health crisis, restore water to affected and high-risk members, and implement policy to ensure fresh clean water is delivered to low-income residents at an affordable cost.
- » **Providence Student Union (PSU), Providence, RI:** The project is to build the participant base for Providence Student Union, an organization of high school students who recognize, investigate, and formulate ways of bettering their schools.
- » **Mid Council Self-Development of People Funded Projects:** 16 Mid Council Committees partnered with 28 local projects totaling \$158,744 in grants.

International Partners Awarded Grants:

- Belize: SDOP continues to work with economically poor communities in Belize. In 2016, SDOP partnered with Maskall Agriculture Farmers' Cooperative Society Limited, Belize District and Los Pequeños Agricultores y Ganaderos de Nago Bank Cooperative Society Ltd, also in Belize District. (In 2014 and 2015, SDOP funded Sandy Beach Women's Cooperative, Stann Creek District; Trio Farmers in Development Cooperative, Toledo District; and Seine Bight Village Council, Seine Bight Village).
- West Africa Initiative (a collaborative initiative with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and various ecumenical partners)
- The Presbyterian Church of Rwanda
- SDOP's intermediary partner CE-Mujer in the Dominican Republic

Find out more about the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) at presbyterianmission.org/sdop

Please bring your offering during our Easter celebration.

Reflections on "Life in God in the Midst of Cancer" by Dr. Ryan Ramaekers, oncologist, speaker at the April 2 Taize service

The Blessings Cancer Can Provide

Cancer is certainly not regarded as a desirable condition, but there are positive blessings that can arise out of the experience. The prayer is that the cancer patient or their loved one realizes each of these blessings in their journey after a cancer diagnosis.

1. It makes one appreciate the beauty of the simpler things in life and minimizes the importance of worldly pursuits.
2. It awakens the soul to the reality of our own mortality, which can connect us more closely with Christ.
3. It helps us realize the gift of Christ's sacrificial suffering on the cross.
4. It awakens the need for seeking atonement/forgiveness from God and others and often enhances the relationship with family and friends.
5. It ignites the desire and need for prayer.
6. It can humble even the proudest, realizing the need for a superior and all-powerful God.
7. It creates more value to the individual days, hours, and minutes of our life.
8. It enables one to have more empathy and compassion for those around them.
9. It can strengthen one's faith, courage, and determination.
10. It can ultimately result in greater attention to one's mental and physical well-being.

What Cancer Cannot Do

"Cancer is so limited... It cannot cripple love; it cannot shatter hope; it cannot corrode faith; it cannot destroy peace; it cannot kill friendship; it cannot suppress memories; it cannot silence courage; it cannot invade the soul; it cannot steal eternal life; it cannot conquer the spirit." --Author Unknown

Happy Hour Book Club Is This Thursday

If you haven't done so already, finish reading your copy of *Enrique's Journey*, and make plans to join us for discussion at Perkins restaurant on Thursday, April 13, at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to join in the discussion, even if you haven't read the book.

Moving from Uncertainty to Understanding

It is widely recognized that sentiment among Christians in our current social climate spans the continuum when it comes to attitudes toward Muslims. Some of us are accepting; some are afraid; some just don't know. Recognizing that Jesus has called us to love all people, and recognizing that love is difficult without knowledge and understanding, the Christian Education Committee encourages all members and friends of FPC to take advantage of upcoming opportunities to learn about Islam, the faith of our Muslim neighbors.

- "Intro to Islam, Part 1" Taught by Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh, Hastings College Professor of Religion. 7:00 p.m., Wed., Apr. 12, Memorial Room
- "Intro to Islam, Part 2" Taught by Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh, Hastings College Professor of Religion. 7:00 p.m., Wed., Apr. 19, Memorial Room
- "What It's Like to Be Muslim in the Midwest in 2017" Invited lecture by Dr. Abla Hasan, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Professor of Practice of Arabic Language and Culture. 7:00 p.m., Fri., Apr. 28, French Memorial Chapel, Hastings College.
- Follow-up Discussions. Sun., Apr. 30, 9:15 a.m. FPC Parlor; led by Damen Heitmann. Sun., Apr. 30, 3:00 p.m., Blue Moon; led by Rev. Jessica Palys.

UPCOMING FORUMS

*Sunday, April 16, No Forum.
Happy Easter!*

"Creation Care"

Dan Deffenbaugh, Hastings College Religion Professor, will join us to share his passion for caring for God's creation. Author of "Learning the Language of the Fields: Tilling and Keeping as Christian Vocation," Dan is an avid bird watcher, organic gardener, beekeeper, theologian, and bluegrass musician.

*Sunday, April 23, 9:15 a.m.,
Fellowship Hall*

CONGREGATIONAL LIVES

Need a ride to church on Sundays? Request a ride by calling Jeanne Hastings, Deacon Moderator, at 402-462-8460 or the church office at 402-462-5147.

The **radio broadcast** airs Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. during service on KICS 1550 AM.

Sunday's service will be broadcast on Channel 181 Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

For those living at Good Samaritan Village, Sunday's service will be broadcast on Channel 3 on Sunday at 12:00 noon and on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

Prayers for Mark Canady, Celia Ganow, Larry Nowka, Don Reynolds and families.

As a reminder, **no Sunday School (all ages) Easter Sunday**, April 16.



Congratulations to grandparents LaVern and Connie Franzen, Aunt Andrea Franzen, and families **for the birth of Brooks Hudson Johnson**, born 3/29/2017 to Allison and Nate Johnson.

Flower Memorial Dates

The following are open dates for flower memorials: 3rd Sunday in April; 3rd Sunday in July; 3rd Sunday in August; 2nd Sunday in November. Please contact Mary Olsen if you would like to have one of the Sundays or if you would like to have a specific Sunday that isn't listed above (some of the filled dates can have more than one memorial listing.) **Flower memorials are available to all members of congregation and are free of charge.** Mary can be reached at 402-462-2811 or molsen@charter.net.

Presbyterian Women (PW) – April Events

April 19: 9:30 am – Circle 1 in May Wierenga's home; Mary Jeanne Cooke is the lesson leader
9:30 am – Circle 2 in Joy White's home; Susie Graham is the lesson leader
1:15 pm – Circle 3 in the church parlor; Sue Medsker-Nedderman is the hostess;
Jane Pollak is the lesson leader
The Bible study this month is, "Who is Jesus – according to the non-canonical gospels."

The **church office** will be **closed** on Monday, April 17th.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Ann Binfield Scholarship

This scholarship is for students attending a Presbyterian college or university.

Chip Essex Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is for any student attending a 2-year or 4-year college.

Applications are available in the church office
or by emailing Traci Boeve.

tboeve@hastings.edu

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
2017 May Friendship Day



**KINDLING
NEW FIRES
OF**

**LO
VE**

You Are Invited

MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY LUNCHEON
Friday, May 5, 12 pm Noon Luncheon
First United Methodist Church, 614 N Hastings
Tickets \$5. Purchase at your church or at the door

Home Page

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The Home Page

A publication of
First Presbyterian Church
621 N. Lincoln Ave.
Hastings, NE 68901

Senior Pastor: Greg Allen-Pickett

Publishing Guidelines: The *Home Page* is a weekly publication (bi-weekly June & July) for the people and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

The newsletter seeks to inform, instruct and challenge its readers to become engaged in the ministry of FPC.

Articles will be accepted by Friday of each week. Submissions may be edited for length and suitability. You may send articles to the church office: tarci@fpchastings.org or call 402-462-5147.

Financial Corner

April 02, 2017

10:30a.m. Worship Attendance	218
General Fund (2017)	\$6,672.25
Plate Collections	\$128.00
Per capita	\$181.25
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$20.13
Christian Ed Sunday School	\$4.86
Food Pantry	\$5.00
Communion-United Harvest	\$640.16
ARC	\$40.00
Easter Lilies	\$180.00
Memorials	\$50.00
Coffee Donation	\$6.20
Newsletter Postage	\$20.00

Thanks be to God!

And God is able to provide you
with every blessing in abundance,
so that by always having
enough of everything,
you may share abundantly
in every good work.
-2 Corinthians 9:8