



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 21.19 May 14, 2017

Dear family of First Presbyterian Church:

I am still filled with joy from our Sunday worship experiences on May 7 as I write this letter on Monday afternoon! Thank you to all of you who attended and participated in our confirmation and installation worship services on Sunday! In our morning worship service, we confirmed four new members of our church and heard them share their statements of faith. It was an inspiring moment in the life our church and in my own life. In the afternoon, we celebrated my installation as your pastor and the shared ministry that we are called to participate in! I know it is difficult to make it to multiple worship services in one day, so over the next few weeks in the Home Page, I will be sharing different parts of these services that give me so much hope for the future of our church. Below is the opening of the sermon preached by my friend Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian at the installation service based on Philippians 2:1-18 and John 21:15-19. Please prayerfully reflect on these words and what they mean for each of you as well as our church as we begin our ministry together.

I suspect that, for Greg and Jessica, and for the search committee and the congregation, there is both a huge sigh of relief and a deep sense of excitement: the waiting is over, and the work of the search is done!

But of course, in many ways, the most important work is just beginning. For it is precisely now – as you start your ministry together – that you are shaping the values, patterns, and relationship that will define your identity together. It is precisely now that it's key for you to decide: what is it you aspire to in this new season? Who is it you aspire to be, as individual Christians, and as a congregation? What does success look like?

It's a key question facing every church these days. And I have to acknowledge that there are key components that can't be ignored: fiscal responsibility; inspiring worship; effective Christian education; and more. Institutional well-being is a part of the faithful stewardship of what we inherit from those who came before.

But for too many of us, we tend to stop there. We measure our church's success in terms of the number of young families we're attracting. We measure our church's well-being in terms of the number of "people in the pews." We measure our church's health in terms of income and loss. But if that's all we're measuring - if institutional survival is our highest aspiration – then haven't we missed the point of faith?

Which leads me to our Scriptures for today. Let's start with Paul's letter to his beloved church in Philippi. Like you, they're discerning their future, and they're wondering how they'll navigate the challenges and changes ahead. Paul has a clear word for them. This is what Paul desires for his most beloved congregation: not that they worry about survival. Not that they concentrate on growing. Not that they focus on money. No, what Paul wants more for them than anything else is this: he wants them to grow to be Christ-like. Isn't that still our highest aspiration?

How do we aspire to be like Christ? What does it look like to follow Jesus? I love Jesus' words to Simon Peter: "Do you love me? Feed my sheep. Do you love me? Tend my lambs." This instruction to love others, to tend to others, is exactly what Paul says to his beloved Philippians:

"If there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."

~Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

A VBS donation board is displayed in the Memorial Room. If you can help support our VBS by making a donation, please take a card and purchase the item listed. Then attach the card to the item and return it to the church ASAP. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at [402-462-5147](tel:402-462-5147) or stephanie@fpchastings.org



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!



VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED....Our VBS is being held from 2:00-5:00 pm on May 22-26. Volunteers are still needed to help make this a great week of learning about God! Please prayerfully consider serving as a VBS volunteer. You can sign-up as a volunteer online at <http://fpchastings.org/vbs-2017/> or complete this paper form and return it to the church. If you need more information, please contact Stephanie at 402-462-5147 or stephanie@fpchastings.org.

Name _____ T-Shirt Size _____

Mailing Address _____

Email _____

Phone# _____ Text# _____

Notes: _____

Medical Release: I give my permission for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to me in the event of an injury. I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency services will be paid by me. Photo Release: I hereby grant First Presbyterian Church permission to copyright and use photographs/videos taken at VBS of me in any manner or form for any purpose lawful at any time. I waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or written copy, that may be used in conjunction therewith, or the use to which it may be applied.

*Background checks must be performed on all adults over the age of 18. Please complete the Background Check Consent Form also.

Signature _____ Date _____

BACKGROUND CHECK CONSENT FORM

DISCLOSURE AND AUTHORIZATION FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO ACCESS CONSUMER REPORTS

DISCLOSURE

In connection with your application for employment with First Presbyterian Church including any independent contract for services and volunteer work (hereinafter "Employment") or when deciding whether to modify or continue your ongoing Employment, First Presbyterian Church may obtain a "consumer report" and/or an "investigative consumer report" on you from **Praesidium, Inc.**, a consumer reporting agency, or from any third party, in strict compliance with both state and federal law. A consumer report is a communication of information by a consumer reporting agency bearing on your credit worthiness, credit standing, credit capacity, character, general reputation, personal characteristics, or mode of living which is used or expected to be used for purposes of serving as a factor in establishing your current and/or continuing eligibility for employment purposes. An investigative consumer report is a report obtained through personal interviews with individuals who may have knowledge of your character, general reputation, personal characteristics, or mode of living. The consumer reports or investigative consumer reports may contain information regarding your credit history (if applicable to position), criminal records, driving history records, education records, previous employment history, social security traces, military records, professional licensure records, drug testing, government records, and other types of background information. You further understand that these reports may contain information concerning the reasons for termination of past employment. You are hereby notified that you have the right to make a timely request for the nature and scope of any investigative consumer report. You are further notified that, prior to being denied Employment based in whole or in part on information obtained in the consumer report, you will be provided a copy of the report, the name, address and telephone number of the consumer reporting agency and a description in writing of your rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Inquiries to **Praesidium, Inc.** should be directed to **Praesidium, Inc.; Consumer Disputes; P.O. Box 202002 Arlington, TX 76006. 1 (800) 743 - 6354.**

AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize, without reservation, the obtaining of "consumer reports" or "investigative consumer" reports by First Presbyterian Church at any time after receipt of this authorization and throughout my Employment, or service, if applicable. I further authorize and request, without reservation, any present or former employer, school, police department, state or federal agency, financial institution, division of motor vehicles, consumer reporting agencies, or other persons or agencies having knowledge about me to furnish Praesidium, Inc. or First Presbyterian Church with any and all background information in their possession regarding me, so that my employment qualifications may be evaluated and/or reassessed. I also agree that a fax or photocopy of this authorization with my signature should have the same authority as the original.

The following is information required in order for First Presbyterian Church to obtain a complete consumer report:

FULL LEGAL NAME (First, Full Middle Name, Last Name)	
STREET ADDRESS	CITY STATE ZIP
COUNTIES YOU HAVE LIVED WITHIN THE PAST TEN YEARS (USE BACK OF SHEET IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL SPACE) (Circle any of the following states in which you have lived: CA, CO, DE, LA, MA, SD, VT, WV, WY)	
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	DATE OF BIRTH *
DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER	ISSUING STATE
OTHER OR FORMER NAMES (AKA, Maiden Names, Married Names, Surnames, Etc.)	

* This information will be used for background screening purposes only.

By signing below, I certify: (1) that I have read and fully understand this disclosure and authorization; (2) that all of the information I am providing is true, complete, correct and accurate; and (3) that I have received the attached Summary of Your Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.)

Signature _____ Date _____

Long-Sleeved Shirt Drive Continues Through June

There's still time to clean out your closet and contribute your long-sleeved shirts for our shirt drive. We are once again collecting shirts to be distributed through Proteus to local farmworkers for protection against pesticides and heat stress.

Time for some good BBQ!

Competitors will be producing their best ribs and burgers at the First United Methodist Church this Saturday evening, May 13, 5-6:30 p.m. Dinner is \$10 for adults; \$5 for kids under 12. A portion of the proceeds goes to support the United Harvest mobile food pantry.

Are you, or is someone you love, graduating from college this Spring?

We would like to acknowledge and celebrate all of our college graduates. Please contact the church office at 402-462-5147 with names and schools of those graduating this Spring.

Sunday School may be over for the spring, but Bible@Breakfast continues

All are welcome to join the Bible@Breakfast group anytime!
Gatherings are at 7:00 a.m., Wednesday mornings, through May.
The group is currently reading and discussing the book *A New Kind of Christianity* by Brian McLaren.

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***Upcoming Services - Come Worship with Us!***

May 14 Final Spring 8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship,  
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship with Handbells & HC Choir

May 21 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship, VBS Commissioning

May 28 10:00 a.m. Worship (not a typo) with final spring performance by Celebrate Brand

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May communion offerings will be to FPC's Open Table Sack Lunch Program.

FPC is scheduled to assemble and provide the Open Table lunches through the month of July again this year.

More than 5,000 sack lunches were assembled and almost 800 'special meals' prepared last year. 'Special meals' required Wednesday afternoon gatherings, meal preparation and storage, delivery to Catholic Social Services to return Thursday to warm and assemble to serve.

This 'above and beyond' effort was opted by the Mission Committee in consideration of those who eat sack lunches regularly.

The cost to fill the total need was \$5,318.82.

The Open Table Fund has a 2017 beginning balance of \$3,052.03, which is a great start!

Glory be to God that we are able to fill this need; let's do it again!

Your offering makes the difference, thank you!

United Harvest volunteers are needed on Saturday, May 20!

We need your help to keep our new ministry going strong!

Volunteer schedule: please choose one shift and report to the Annex at the start of your chosen time: 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon and 12 noon – 2:30 p.m.

Thank you for your service!

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 Judy Brown, Celia Ganow and families.

If you are interested in owning a gently-used **electric wheelchair**, please contact the church office.

A car key was found in the pews and **a bracelet** in the parking lot recently. Please call or come to the office to claim.



Andrew and Britni Pettit from Livingston, Texas will be wed this Saturday, May 13th in Ashland, NE. **Congratulations** to the families, including parents Tracy and Susie Pettit!

Directory Additions/Changes:

ALLEN-PICKETT, Greg, Jessica & Ester (p.1) Greg's Email: greg@fpchastings.org;

Jessica's Email: jallenpickett@gmail.com

CANADY, Don (p.4) Email: canadydon2@gmail.com

MULLEN, Diane (p.19) Email: mullenj204@gmail.com

THOMSEN, Julie (p.27) Email: thomsenj61@gmail.com

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**FPC is happy to offer the following scholarships:**

#### **Ann Binfield Scholarship**

This scholarship is for students attending a Presbyterian college or university.  
Amounts awarded are based primarily on need.

#### **Chip Essex Memorial Scholarship**

This scholarship is for any student attending a 2-year or 4-year college.  
\$500 each semester to one individual.  
Applications are available in the church office, or by emailing Traci Boeve @  
[tboeve@hastings.edu](mailto:tboeve@hastings.edu).

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Presbyterian Women (PW) – May Events

May 17 – Circle Meetings – Study Lesson “Who is Jesus According to Abrahamic Faiths”

- Circle 1 – 9:30 am – Jean Barber's home – Elaine Specht is the Lesson Leader
- Circle 2 – 9:30 am – Mary Lewis' home – Mary Lewis is the Lesson Leader
- Circle 3 – 1:15 pm – Church Parlor – Nancy Grams is the hostess – Jill Kramer is the Lesson Leader

PW and Circles do not meet during the summer months of June, July, and August.



American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Adams County

Saturday, June 2, 6:00 - 11:00 PM

Hastings High School Track

Relay for Life is the nationwide, signature event of the American Cancer Society. It is a community event in the fight against cancer, and as part of the ceremonies, volunteers and survivors line the track with luminaria (lighted candles in weighted, white bags) inscribed with an individual's name. At sunset, everyone is invited to participate in the incredibly moving Luminaria Ceremony and observe a heart-felt-moment of silence as the candles are lit. Each luminaria is lit in honor of someone who has survived cancer or in memory of someone who has lost his or her battle to cancer. Donations for luminaria are \$10 each. All money goes to the American Cancer Society mission to help others Stay Well, Get Well, Finding Cures and Fight Back.

First Presbyterian Church Team again will be participating this year. Luminaries are available each Sunday in May at a table in the Memorial Room or in the church office during the week. Donations can be made via the website: www.RelayForLife.org.

MINUTES OF A STATED MEETING OF SESSION FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HASTINGS, NEBRASKA April 20, 2017

Members of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska, held their regular meeting on April 20, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the classroom of the Annex Building.
Elders in attendance: P= Present E=Excused A=Absent

Class of 2017

P - Chris Junker
P - Erik Nielsen
P - Tim Redline
P - Mary Olsen

Class of 2018

P- Sharon Brooks
P - Kay Georgiana
E - Harold Korb
P - Kraig Lofquist
P - Clerk: Karen Doerr

Class of 2019

P - Chuck Bauer
E - Anne Bohlke
P - Mary Fisk
P - Jessica Meeske

Moderator was Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett. Erik Nielsen opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer based upon Luke 5:1-11.

Consent Agenda: Motion and a second to approve the Consent Agenda. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.

Board Reports:

Deacons: No action items to bring forward. Communion was served on Sunday, April 2nd at the 10:30am service and then provided on April 4th and 6th at College View and at Perkins Pavilion and to some VIP's in their homes on those same days. Communion was also served on Maundy Thursday, April 13th.

Trustees: No action items to bring forward. Two points of information were shared: all contractors doing business with and for FPC will provide proof of comprehensive liability insurance and Workman's Compensation insurance for all its employees. Second, Chuck Sparks, business administrator for Wellshire Presbyterian Church in Denver will meet with Pastor Greg and Tarci to help Pastor Greg better understand the church's financial system and offer his perspectives.

Foundation: Did not meet.

Motion and a second to receive the reports of the boards. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.

Clerk's Report: No report.

Reports from Committees of Session:

Christian Education: Session will meet with the confirmands, their parents and mentors on May 3rd. VBS dates and curriculum have been set.

Communication/Technology: A laptop for Greg has arrived. Security cameras have been activated.

Congregational Life: Session recommends to the committee and to WAM that Church in the Park be held at Alexander Park and members be encouraged to bring lawn chairs and coffee.

Global Mission/Social Witness: Recommendation from committee that \$1500 from the Langenberg Fund be used to fund summer orchestra and band scholarships. Students receiving the scholarships are asked to write a note of thanks to the church. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.

Memorial: No action items to bring forward.

Personnel: Did not meet. Next meeting will be on May 11, 2017.

Worship, Arts & Music: No action items to bring forward.

Scholarship: Did not meet.

Moderator's Report: An invitation was extended to the installation service for Pastor Greg on Sunday, May 7th at 4PM. A potluck supper will follow.

Annex sub-committee: The committee provided an update on its work after which Session toured the building and held a discussion regarding use of the Annex. Session recommended that all projects be put on hold until a visioning process is conducted with all boards, committees and members of the church. Motion and a second to provide storage space in the Annex, which does not interfere with Hearts and Hands of Hastings or the United Mobile Food Pantry, to Hastings Food Pantry for a period of one year, May 2017 to May 2018. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.

Motion and a second and vote to adjourn the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen G. Doerr, Clerk of Session

Session will hold its next stated meeting on May 25, 2017 beginning at 5:30 PM in the Anderson Conference Room.

"When working with your attorney to update **your will and estate plan**, please consider including a gift to the First Presbyterian Church Foundation that will enhance the work of this congregation for many years to come. Our Federal Identification Number is 47-0710307." --Roger Doerr, Moderator of the Foundation

Home Page

First Presbyterian Church

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Address Service Requested

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 30, 2017

10:30a.m. Worship Attendance	177
General Fund (2017)	\$1,682.32
Plate Collections	\$107.00
CE Sunday School	\$5.46
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$30.37
Communion: United Harvest	\$30.00
Special Offering: UH Food Carts	\$58.00
Food Pantry	\$7.00
CE Special Needs VBS	\$105.00

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