



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 21.21 May 28 – June 4, 2017

Dear First Presbyterian Church family:

As I promised a few weeks ago in the Home Page, I will include different parts of the Installation Service from May 7. Below is the “Charge” that was given to me by my friend and mentor Chuck Sparks. Chuck was the church business administrator for the church in Denver that I served as the youth pastor. We worked closely together, he got to know me very well, and I have learned so much from him over the years. I encourage you to reflect on Chuck’s remarks with me as I strive to serve this beloved community faithfully:

Greg, it is my privilege to give you a solemn charge to preserve in your duties as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Hastings, Nebraska. God doesn’t choose people just so they will feel good about themselves or secure in their standing with God or whatever else. God chooses people to be used to bless and help other people. Elected. Predestined. Chosen. Whatever words people use for this reality, the point is never the elected or the chosen or the predestined. The point is that person serving others...making their lives better.

Jesus turned everything upside down. The best and the greatest and the most important are the ones who humble themselves while setting their needs and desires aside, selflessly serving others. Gather enough of these upside down people, Greg, and you’ve got a church. It is when the church gives itself away... in radical acts of service and compassion expecting nothing in return, that the way of Jesus is most vividly on display.

Greg, you have never had a job quite like this new calling. I want to remind you that, odd as it seems, this great church is actually paying you to read...so read in a whole collection of areas...and to pray...and to reflect on what you are learning...and then to use this learning to tend to your inner life and their spiritual life...this is so important and so easy to neglect, as you might feel guilty about the “details” of this church’s busy life...and your part in that.

Greg, please find your quiet time. In the quiet time is when the great insights come and transformation begins. As the prophet Isaiah says: In returning and in rest, you shall be saved or led correctly or made well; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.

Remember that this congregation is not paying you to be liked all the time. Your call here is for the spiritual guidance of each member, the Session, and the whole church...and, yes, that can and may lead to conflict. Do not worry...relationships with people may take years to build and you will have many opportunities to strengthen them and resolve the early conflicts.

So when you stumble, this loving and forgiving church is going to give you the benefit of the doubt because they do, in fact, want a whole person as their pastor, even with his faults. They are in this ministry with you and equally yoked with you to make this new relationship work. This church understands they have their part to play so that you and Jessica do not feel like you are the only ones invested in “how is the pastoring and church life going”.

Greg, continue to be the upside down person that you have modeled for us your whole life and live into this calling as pastor of First Presbyterian Church. With the love of your family, and the sufficient grace of the Holy Spirit, you have all you need.

As you, your family, and all those who have gathered to celebrate with you go forward from this worship service, let us all pray that we can, together, build a church worthy of the calling that Jesus Christ has extended to all of us. Amen.

~Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

*"We want to send a letter to **thank you** for the generous donation of 2 sacks – 20 items of food given and \$84.00 on Check # 18527 given to the Hastings Food Pantry. What a wonderful donation! Many people will be blessed with this gift! This is going to such a wonderful cause as it is helping needy people in our community! God bless in all you do!!" -- Hastings Food Pantry, Board of Directors*

*"Dear Congregation, On behalf of the Adams/Clay ARC, I would like to **thank you for your generous donation**. On May 25th we have our Root Beer Sign Up for activities during the summer – movie, bowling, etc. The participants are not charged for these events, so your donation will be well used. Thank you again for thinking of us. Sincerely, Sigrid Eigenberg, President of Adams/Clay (County) ARC"*

Global Mission Committee Members delivered last week 27 long sleeve shirts for our migrant farm workers to Proteus at the Landmark Center. Thank you!

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.

Hands Around the World Store (HAWS) shelves are restocked! Come on in and pick up a bag (or two) of Café Justo coffee. Feel free to also browse the fine selection of chocolate, textiles and jewelry. Items come from nonprofit, fair trade organizations dedicated to lifting disadvantaged artisans and farmers and their families out of poverty. HAWS also donates \$100 each month to the United Harvest Food Distribution. New summer hours are 9:30a.m. – 11:30a.m. every Sunday. Café Justo coffee is also available for sale in the church office during the week.

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.

Money and Possessions

Meeting 12:00-1:00 on Wednesdays, beginning June 14, the Summer Book Club will read and discuss Walter Brueggemann's book *Money and Possessions* under the leadership of Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh. *Order your copy from your favorite book seller today!*

"The Bible is rich with complex and diverse material on the topic of money and possessions. Indeed, a close look at many scriptural texts reveals that economics is a core preoccupation of the biblical tradition. In this new work, highly regarded preacher and scholar Walter Brueggemann explores the recurring theme of money and possessions in the Old and New Testaments. He proposes six theses concerning money and possessions in the Bible, observing their contradictory nature to the conventional wisdom and practice of both the ancient world and today's society. Brueggemann advises us to reassess the ways in which our society engages—or does not engage—questions of money and possessions as carriers of social possibility. He invites the church to move toward an alternative neighborly economy that is more consistent with the gospel we confess."

Upcoming Services - Come Worship with Us!

May 28 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship with final spring performance by Celebrate Band

June 4 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Communion

Pentecost Sunday (please Wear Red), Ryan Shetler Baptism, Reception of New Members

Offerings will be Remitted to Helping Children: 60% to PC(USA), 40% to CASA

June 11, 18, 25 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Greeters:

May 28 (Memorial Day Weekend)

Jane and Dwight Marsh, Wayne and Elaine Specht

June 4

Kathy and Curt Reimer, Eleanor Jorgensen

June 11

Brian and Laurie Johnson, Jill Kramer

June 18 (Father's Day)

Kathy and Jim Duval, Carter and Selah Wenburg

June 25

Anne Bohlke, Mary Fisk, Stephanie and Justin Brader

June Ushers (Team 4): Susie Graham, George Howard-Captain, Dixie McDonald, Gale McDonald, Dan Zabloudil, Vera Zabloudil

Communion Servers, June 4 (Team 3):

Kay Georgiana, Susan Hoff, Jeni Howard, Harold Korb, Lynette Krieger, Paul Krieger, Kraig Lofquist, Kathleen Nelson, Chris Schukei, Kym Warner

**As with all positions, if you're signed up to volunteer –
please be sure to attend or find a replacement. Your commitment is appreciated!***

Prayers for Judy Brown, Celia Ganow, Don Canady and families.

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 during service at 10:00 a.m. 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.

A copy of any Sunday service is available on DVD disc upon request at no charge. Contact Tarci at 402-462-5147 or tarci@fpchastings.org.

Does anyone know the **history of the large, wooden cross** displayed during Holy Season? Please call the office at 402-462-5147 if you have information to share.

Lost: Looking for a 9-patch quilt top, blue hue. If found, please contact the church office.

Found: A gold-colored, rope style **bracelet** in the parking lot, and a pair of **glasses** with thin frames in a pew. Please call or come to the office to claim.

The **office will be closed Monday, May 29** in observance of Memorial Day.



CONGRATULATIONS TO SPRING, 2017 COLLEGE GRADUATES!

Will Boyd of Glendale, AZ, son of Bill & Martha Boyd – Midwestern University Dental School

Grace Carroll, daughter of Kay Throckmorton & Michael Carroll of Portland, OR – University of Portland

Tuesday Frasier of Manhattan, KS, granddaughter of Dwight & Jane Marsh – Kansas State University, BA

Matt Karloff, son of Mike & Melissa Karloff – NE Wesleyan University, Biology, Highest Distinction and one of four recipients of the prestigious Gold Key

Will Reimer, son of Curtis & Kathy Reimer – NE Wesleyan University, Economics, Highest Distinction

Peter Throckmorton of Potomac, MD, son of Doug and Lori Throckmorton – Denver University School of Business



American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Adams County

Friday, 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. Susie Graham may also be reached thru June 2nd at 402-469-2638. Donations can be made via the website: www.RelayForLife.org.



Kids Eat Free!

Niños Comen Gratis! Ages 1-18*

ZONE SITE

MAY 22 — JUNE 2

2015 W 3rd St by the Water Park

11:30am—1:00pm

CARTER PARK SITE

JUNE 5 — JUNE 30

E Street and S Chicago

12:30 pm—1:00 pm



When a loved one dies, there is **GriefShare**. A **summer series** of GriefShare will be held at The Good Samaritan Village Community Center, 900 East E street. The 13 week series will begin on Tuesday, June 13 at 2:00 p.m. Each session lasts 1-1/2 to 2 hours and includes a 30 minute video featuring nationally respected "grief experts" and their personal losses, followed with discussion.

GriefShare is Christian-based and non-denominational. With sponsors First St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Livingston Butler Volland Funeral Home & Cremation Center, there are no costs to participants. Those who are not sure that they are ready for such a group are invited to come "try it on." For more information go to www.griefshare.org or call 402-463-1329.

Synod School 2017



Synod School, an annual midsummer ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is for laity, clergy, families, and singles. It's fun and mind-stretching courses, worship and singing you'll long remember, and times for both fellowship and private reflection. Discover Synod School and you'll know why so many people keep returning.

Choose among 70+ courses. Examples include Bible studies: *Horizon's Bible Study, Exodus, Minor Prophets, Jesus' last days*; body and mind renewal classes: *Yoga, Silk Effects, Zumba, Folk Dancing, Clearing Clutter in our lives, Repertoire for church choirs, and Living a Life of Loving Attention to God*; classes for living faithfully in the world: *Addressing the impact of adverse childhood experiences, White Privilege, Syria, LGBTQ folks and friends, Interfaith relations*; classes for leader development: *The Productive Pastor, Start with Why, Thriving as a Church Educator*.

Convocation speaker **J. Herbert Nelson**, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will speak on themes from Amos 5:24. Evening worship will be led by **Claudio Carvalhaes**, Associate Professor of Worship at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Morning worship will be led by **Erin Kaye** of First Presbyterian Church in Camden, AR and **Rachel Corpus** of Plymouth UCC in Des Moines.

July 23–28, 2017

Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

Discover Synod School!

www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool
800-328-1880, ext. 207

Let Justice Flow

"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." –*Dave Dirks*, Moderator of the Foundation

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

May 14, 2017

8:30a.m. Worship Attendance	44
10:30a.m. Worship Attendance	181
General Fund (2017)	\$4,978.05
Plate Collections	\$97.00
CE Sunday School	\$1.39
WNL	\$30.00
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$37.97
Communion: Open Table	\$100.00
Special Offering:	
Presbyterian Scholarships	\$25.00
"Music"	\$20.00
Food Pantry	\$10.00
Coffee Offering	\$104.11

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