

**First Presbyterian Church  
Hastings, Nebraska**

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ

Ministers: Members of the Church

Pastor: Greg Allen-Pickett

Liturgist and Scripture Reader: Stephanie Brader

Organist: Linda Vollweiler

Chancel Choir Director: Robin Koozer

**Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 21, 2017, 10:30 a.m.**

*\*Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

PRELUDE                      “Christians, We Have Met to Worship”      arr. Douglas Wagner

WELCOME

INTROIT                      “When Morning Guilds the Sky”                      On LAUDES DOMINE  
Chancel Choir

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Live in God’s love!

***Let that love be poured out for all God’s people!***

Bring hope and peace to all whom you meet.

***We are called to be God’s witnesses.***

Celebrate and rejoice.

Praise be to God who has called, healed, and given us a ministry of peace. Come let us worship our Lord and our God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer!

\*HYMN                      “Blessed Jesus at your Word”                      395

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***Source of all creation, maker of the world and everything in it,  
you are never far from each one of us.***

***We come into your house seeking you, O giver of life and breath.***

***Reveal yourself to us; dwell with us; and abide in us.***

***We live because of you. We hope because of you. We seek your  
presence here with us this morning.***

***In the name of Jesus Christ in whom we live, and the Spirit of Truth  
who abides in us, Amen.***

CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Maker and giver of all, forgive us when we are too preoccupied to notice your presence in our lives:  
When we walk through this world and fail to see the wonder of you upholding our lives and all creation;  
When we walk through our lives and fail to see you abiding with, within, and around us;  
When we walk through holy moments and fail to savor your presence, instead feeling abandoned in the vast sweep of life as each day rushes at us with its demands.  
Open our eyes to your presence, God of love, that we may lean on you—for you uphold all of creation in tenderness and power. Amen.***

## SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: When Jesus left the disciples, he gave us a promise: “I will not leave you orphaned!”

***All Gathered: For we, his disciples, live in him and he in us - the presence of God within and around all.***

Leader: What a promise! Take courage! Take comfort! In the name of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God is with us and we are forgiven!

***All Gathered: Alleluia! Amen!***

### \*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“Glory Be to the Father”

581

### \*PEACE OF CHRIST

*The Peace of Christ be with you.*

***And also with you.***

(Greet others around you this morning by exchanging the Peace of Christ.)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ATTENDANCE

### ANTHEM

“River in Judea”

arr. Leavitt/Feldman

## COMMISSIONING OF VACATION BIBLE STUDY VOLUNTEERS

We invite the children to come forward to help us commission and pray for our VBS volunteers. While the children are coming forward, we invite the congregation to sing:

“Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.”

## WORDS OF COMMISSIONING

Will you use your gifts for teaching and supporting the children, and share with them the Christian faith and the love of God?

Will you be faithful to the task, sharing generously of your time and talent?

Will you take seriously your role as learner, diligently studying the Scriptures and lessons for each day?

## LITANY OF THE TEACHERS AND VOLUNTEERS

We have heard God's call to teach and lead Vacation Bible School for our church. We teach; trusting in God's support, sustaining grace and empowerment for this task.

We volunteer; relying on prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We love; inviting others to recognize and respond to God's love in their lives.

We depend on our church family to uphold us in prayer, love and support.

## COMMISSIONING PRAYER

***Loving God, you have entrusted all of us to be messengers of your grace, justice and love. Believing that you are in our midst through the power of the Holy Spirit, we set apart those who would serve in our Vacation Bible School. In the coming week, we ask for you to guide these teachers and volunteers, that they may be faithful messengers of your love. May they serve you in nurturing the spiritual growth of all who are entrusted in their care. Bless each one gathered here, enabling them to be channels of your grace. Encourage and guide all members and friends of this church to be in prayer for these teachers and volunteers, and for all the children who will come through the doors of our church this week to learn about your love. We pray all these things through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.***

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***Let the one who has ears to hear, listen.***

***The Word of the Lord speaks to the living of our lives today. God's Word is our fortress and strength, providing shelter and foundation for daily living. Let the one who has ears to hear, listen.***

1<sup>st</sup> SCRIPTURE READING – *Psalm 66:8-20*

2<sup>nd</sup> SCRIPTURE READING – *John 14:15-21*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

***Thanks be to God.***

## MESSAGE

“What the Trinity Means For Us”

\*HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from *The Book of Worship for Church and Home*)

Leader: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true Church, whose holy faith let us now declare:

***We believe in God the Creator, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all God's works, and whose will is ever directed to the good of God's children.***

***We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.***

***We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.***

OFFERING (All loose coins in the offering plate will go to PC(USA) Hunger Fund.)

OFFERTORY "Adagio" Mendelssohn

\*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" 606

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

\*HYMN "In Christ There is No East or West" 317

\*CHARGE and BLESSING

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Go With Us Lord" - Sung in Canon 748

\*POSTLUDE "Let Us with a Gladsome Mind" arr. Albert Travis

**Come worship with us next week and invite your friends and family!  
Sunday, May 28**

**10:00a.m. Worship: Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett Preaching**

**11:30a.m. "Lunch and Learn" with Jim McGill**

# **2017 Traditional VBS Volunteers**

Preschool Leaders: Jessica Allen-Pickett, Susan Hoff, Jane Marsh, Linda Cooke,  
Evelyn Smidt

Music Leaders: Ann Koozer & Merry Williams

Bible Discovery: Nancy Grams & Laurie Johnson

Snacks: Laurie Lofquist & Susan Oliver

Games: Eric Brader & Avery Essink

KidVid Cinema: Leah Ratzlaff

Imagination Station: Amy Black & Campbell Schukei

SpotLight VBS: Maggie Nielsen

Audio/Video Techs: Maggie Nielsen & Eric Brader

Tear-Down: Abby Shetler

Crew Leaders: Lily Black, Erika Nielsen, Maddy Johnson, Courtney Junker,  
Bonnie Grams, Kenton Grams, Jill Kramer, Eleanor Oliver, Emily Johnson

# **2017 Special Needs VBS Volunteers**

Bible Adventure: Jan Ham

Exploration Station: Jessica Allen-Pickett

Craft & Play: Pam Canady

KidVid Cinema: Jane Marsh

Games: Abbi Stoddard

Sensory Break Area: Stephanie Adam

Crew Leaders: Roxie Bruce, Jeni Howard, Emily Johnson, Melanie Klatt,  
Diana Metzger, Deb Rodgers

Youth Leaders/Peer Students: Esther Allen-Pickett, Grace Brader, Emily Klatt,  
Nina Meyer, Maggie Nielsen

# Come meet our Presbyterian Mission Worker



Jim and Jodi McGill

Jim and Jodi McGill have been serving as mission co-workers since 1995 working with the Church of Central Africa in Malawi in the areas of water/sanitation and health.

Jim is a water engineer who has installed hundreds of water projects in sub-saharan Africa.

## **3 opportunities** to come hear Jim talk about the work that God has called him to do in **Niger, South Sudan and Malawi**

1. BBQ/Potluck at Pastor Greg's House on **Saturday, May 27 at 4pm**. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share; Greg will provide hot dogs, chicken and veggie burgers. (Please RSVP, see below)
2. During worship at First Presbyterian Church of Grand Island on **Sunday, May 28 at 9:30am**
3. After worship "Lunch and Learn" at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings on **Sunday, May 28 at 11:30am**



This trip is being co-sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Grand Island and First Presbyterian Church of Hastings.

To RSVP for the BBQ at Greg's house, or for more information about any of these events, please contact:

Pastor Greg at [greg@fchastings.org](mailto:greg@fchastings.org) or by phone at (402) 462-5147

A free-will offering will be taken at each event to cover the travel costs and to support the work of the McGills. First Presbyterian Church of Hastings will also be taking a Father's Day Offering in support of the safe drinking water projects Jim is doing with the partners in Africa.



## **Announcements:**

**The radio broadcast** airs during service on KICS 1550 AM and is given by JoAnn and Les Seiler.

**Today'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 - today's service will be broadcast on Channel 3** on Sunday at 12:00 noon and on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

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

**Flowers are given** in loving memory of Elton and Edith Willcock by family.

**Greeters:** Bill and Martha Boyd, Eleanor Jorgensen

**Ushers (Team 3):** Andrew Barrows, Dave Fisher-Captain, Ed Lockwood, Phil Odom, Rich Portwood, Doug Soderquist

**Acolytes:** Eric Brader

**Youth Ushers:** Michael Boeve, Sydney Kerr

**Prayers** for Judy Brown, Celia Ganow and families.

Donations for FPC's **Open Table Sack Lunch Program** are accepted throughout May.

FPC is scheduled to assemble and provide the Open Table lunches throughout the month of July again this year. More than 5,000 sack lunches and almost 800 'special meals' were prepared last year. The cost to fill the total need last year was \$5,318.82.

The Open Table Fund has a 2017 beginning balance of \$3,052.03. \$1,618.00 was raised from communion offerings last week! The fund is still in need approximately \$650.00. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

**Hands Around the World Store (HAWS) shelves are restocked!** Come on in and pick up a bag (or two) of Cafe 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. Hours today are 9a.m. – 12p.m., and beginning next Sunday, 9:30 – 11:30a.m. through summer.



### **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. Donations can be made via the website: [www.RelayForLife.org](http://www.RelayForLife.org).

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




"People having so much fun while examining issues related to faith."  
 "Wonderful, thoughtful, energetic, fun-loving teachers, staff and leaders."  
 "A place where the needs of the entire family are considered."  
 "Gives me the incentive to try new things in my church."  
 "The 'connectedness' and warmth of Christian community."

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 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**



**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

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 800-328-1880, ext. 207

**Let Justice Flow**

**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. Please call or come to the office to claim.

**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](mailto:tarci@fpchastings.org).

**This Week --- May 22 – May 27, 2017**

<b>Mon, May 22</b>	<b>7:00p.m.</b>	<b>Boy Scouts Troop 200</b> in Basement Scout Room
<b>Tue, May 23</b>	<b>1:00p.m.</b>	<b>Quilters</b> in the Annex
<b>Wed, May 24</b>	<b>7:00a.m.</b> <b>6:30p.m.</b>	<b>Bible@ Breakfast</b> in the Parlor <b>Wood Carvers</b> in Basement
<b>Thu, May 25</b>	<b>6:00-8:00p.m.</b>	<b>Spanish Class</b> in the NW Classroom, Annex
<b>Fri, May 26</b>	<b>10:00a.m.</b>	<b>Mahjong Ladies</b> in the Choir Room (Basement)

**May 22 – May 25: 9a.m.-11a.m. Special Needs VBS**

**May 22 – May 26: 2p.m. – 5p.m. VBS**

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