



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 21.13 April 02, 2017

Greetings to our First Presbyterian Church of Hastings family! My family and I are so glad to be here and we are profoundly grateful for the warm welcome we have received.

I have felt an energetic spirit in our congregation for these past three Sundays. FPC Hastings is emerging from a period of transition and the energy and excitement about what the future holds for our vibrant community is remarkable! I am hopeful we can continue to keep the energy up as we connect and reconnect with one another.

If you heard my sermon about the Samaritan woman at the well, you know that we are called to **BE BOLD** in sharing about what Jesus is doing in our lives and our church community. The Samaritan woman ran back to her village from the well, told people about her encounter with Jesus, the Living Water, and invited them to return to the well with her so they could experience it for themselves.

There are some opportunities coming up in the next month for our community to come together in this spirit. My hope is that you will not only come and participate yourselves, but that you will also invite others to participate in the life of our church, to experience the living water springing forth from our faith community. If you know someone who drifted away from the church, invite them back. If you have other friends, neighbors or family members who you have never invited to church, now is the time, be bold!

We will be doing an Easter Egg hunt; keep an eye out for details about that. This will be an opportunity for fun and fellowship with our families, and an opportunity for you to invite your friends and neighbors. We will be extending an invitation to all of the Pooh Corner families as well; so, come and share with them, and then invite them to worship with us on Easter Sunday!

Our Holy Week services are another opportunity to go deeper in your walk with Christ and invite others to join you. We will have a Maundy Thursday service with communion and foot-washing stations assisted by our Middle School youth. We will have two contemplative prayer services on Good Friday at 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. Then we will have our Easter morning service with brass band, choir and a joyful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus!

Our Congregation Life Committee has declared April 23rd "Invite a Friend to Church Sunday." We hope to keep up the Easter spirit with a full sanctuary and an opportunity to share our vibrant church community with our friends and neighbors.

As your new pastor, I hope to get to know each of you and learn about what this church means to you. I am full of joy for this community and the opportunity to serve alongside you as we share the love and light of Christ in our church, our community, and the world. See you in church!

-- Pastor Greg
greg@fpchastings.org

April Services - Come Worship with Us!

April 2, 10:30 a.m. with Communion Offering to United Harvest Food Pantry,
7:00 p.m. Taize Prayer in Parlor

April 9 (Palm Sunday), 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

April 13 (Maundy Thursday), 7:00 p.m. with Communion

April 14 (Good Friday), 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. services in style of Taize in the Chapel

April 16 (Easter), 10:30 a.m. with Special Offerings 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 at FPC,

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

Greeters

Apr 2	Jim & Carol Harrenstein, Pam Lay
Apr 9 (Palm Sunday)	Melissa & Michael Karloff, Eleanor Jorgensen
Apr 13 (Maundy Thursday)	Lois & Jim Hahne, Georgie Evans
Apr 16 (Easter)	Kili & Justin, Carter & Selah Wenburg
Apr 23	Paul & Lynette Krieger, Kathy Utter
Apr 30	Connie & LaVerne Franzen, Alice Throckmorton

Ushers (Team 2): Duane Huber, Steve Illingworth, Brian Johnson, Laurie Johnson, Al Meyer-Captain, Clyde Sachtleben

*Please note: April ushers are scheduled for Maundy Thursday and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services

Communion Servers

Apr 2 (Team 4): Martha Boyd, Dick Brader, Jan Ham, Jeanne Hastings, Mark Hemje, Mary Olsen, Doug Soderquist, May Wierenga, Dan Zabloudil, Vera Zabloudil

April 13 - Maundy Thursday (Team 1): Erica Brooks, Sharon Brooks, Dianne Christensen, Katharine Davis, Susan Hoff, Byron Jensen, Deb Jensen, Chris Junker, Erik Nielsen, Tim Redline, Lori Schroeder, Ted Schroeder



**American
Red Cross**

Red Cross Blood Drive Monday, April 10, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. To donate or volunteer, contact Erica Brooks at 402-469-9285. Your donation is needed & makes a difference!

“THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! The cards and notes I received from all of you last week was overwhelming. Your words of appreciation filled my heart and verified why I did what I did to take a role of leadership at FPC. The truth be told, I received more from you than I gave. Seeking to grow in the spirit of God is what drives us each day. That spirit is certainly alive in the church and I am confident Greg Allen-Pickett is the Pastor needed to continue that growth. I am not running away, so I look forward to seeing everyone soon.” – Don Canady

OUR OFFERING AT WORK

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People) all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need.

From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

- » **International aid:** 15 countries received aid and support after catastrophic events, including the violence in South Sudan, earthquakes in Ecuador, flooding and drought in Malawi, response to religious minorities fleeing ISIL, and ongoing assistance for refugees and internally displaced persons related to Syria.
- » **National aid:** 25 states received help following natural and human-caused disasters, including flooding in South Carolina, Texas, West Virginia, and Louisiana; wildfires in California and the Pacific Northwest; ongoing response to Superstorm Sandy; and various public violence incidents.
- » **Ecuador:** The April 16, 2016, and subsequent May 18 earthquakes in Ecuador left over 600 people dead and directly affected 500,000 people. PDA assisted in providing 2,000 families with basic humanitarian needs of food, water, shelter, and medical care in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.
- » **Syria:** PDA assisted in providing immediate humanitarian care to the tens of thousands of Syrian refugees who sought safety through various European countries, and continued to provide relief and education for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries and internally displaced people remaining in and returning to Syria.
- » **South Carolina flooding:** South Carolina endured what has been described as a 1,000-year flood. At its height, more than 400 roads, 150 bridges, and two major interstates were closed. PDA opened five new volunteer villages that have hosted more than 2,500 volunteers assisting with the cleanup and rebuilding.
- » **Superstorm Sandy:** Ongoing response includes six PDA-related sites serving communities in New York and New Jersey. More than 9,600 people have volunteered their time and efforts.

Find out more about the ongoing work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at presbyterianmission.org/pda

Please bring your offering during our Easter celebration.

First Presbyterian Church remitted on March 15: \$911.00 Hastings High School Food Pantry, \$50.00 for disaster relief, \$112.44 to PC(USA) Hunger Fund, \$291.67 to General Assembly, \$350.00 to Synod, and \$2,945.82 to the Presbytery.

United Harvest Mobile Pantry served 370 households on March 25! Thank you for your continued support of this ministry as it serves so many in need!

Upcoming distributions are scheduled April 15, May 20 and June 17 from **10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

"Our delicious **CAFÉ Justo** is available in the church office Monday through Friday – buy a pound or two and you directly support a partner coffee grower in Chaipas and help support projects of the Mission Committee here at our church. Supply and variety may vary depending on demand – know we are trying to meet your needs... thanks!" – The Mission Committee

Sunday's Taize Service to Offer Blessing upon Cancer Survivors

"This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: 'In repentance and rest is your salvation; in quietness and trust is your strength' (Isaiah 30:15).

Cancer touches so many lives. Let us join together to pray *for and with* cancer survivors and those who have lost loved ones to cancer. **Dr. Ryan Ramaekers**, oncologist, joins us to offer thoughts about life in God in the midst of cancer.

Sunday, April 2, 7:00 p.m., Parlor

Taize Testimonial: "When I initially heard about Taize worship, I imagined something austere and somber. But when I attended the service for the first time, I found the mood to be cozy and friendly. Surrounded by soft candlelight and soft voices, worshipers can focus inward and reach out to others at the same time. It is at once personal and communal, intimate and open. For me, it has become a welcome ritual for easing into the work week." --Linda Cooke

Sign Up 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 in the Memorial Room for one (or more!) one-hour slots. All are welcome to submit prayer requests to be held in prayer during the vigil.

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. Abba 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.

April Forums

Fellowship Hall, 9:15-10:15



“Can Two Nebraskans Build a Village in Uganda?”

April 2: Join us to hear the inspiring story of Ryan and Jen Ramaekers, Nebraska-natives, who adopted two children from Uganda, fell in love with the people there, and have since dedicated themselves to finding a way to build a long-term home for migrant refugees in the area.

“Appalachian Trail: Journey of Body and Soul”

April 9: Having hiked the 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail in 2016, Hastings Middle School science teacher Jayson Stoddard joins us to share what six months of hiking taught him about the amazing human body, the kindness of strangers, and the sharpening of personal priorities.



Happy Easter! (No Forum)

April 16: No Forum Class. Please consider signing up for the Easter weekend prayer vigil and/or joining us for Holy Week services: 7 p.m. on Maundy Thursday; noon or 7 p.m. on Good Friday; and 10:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday.

“Creation Care”

April 23: 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.



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.*

**Sunday,
April 2, 2017**

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
(All Ages Welcome!)

10:30 a.m. Worship,
Communion offerings to: United Harvest
Message by Greg Allen-Pickett
7:00 p.m. Taize in the Parlor

Prayers for Lynn Barrows, Roger Bauer (Chuck Bauer's father), Celia Ganow, Richard Johnson and his mother Wilma (Billie), Larry Nowka, Don Reynolds, and families.

Condolences to Cathy & John Pershing for the loss of Cathy's mother, Jeanne Butz Bennett, who died March 17.

Flower Memorial Dates

The following are open dates for flower memorials: 3rd and 5th Sundays in April; 3rd and 4th Sundays in July; 3rd Sunday in August; 4th Sunday in September; 1st and 2nd Sundays in November, and all the Sundays in December. 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.



Richard and Evelyn Viglicky celebrate 70 years of marriage on April 16. Congratulations and sentiments may be mailed to: 926 East "E" Street, Apt. 114, Hastings, NE 68901.

St. Mark's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral at 5th & Burlington is holding its forty-fifth annual Lenten series. Through April 5th, all are welcome to join **Semons a La carte** on Wednesdays from 12:05 to 12:30 p.m. for a Lenten message followed by lunch served in their undercroft. Lunch is \$4.00.

Presbyterian Women (PW) – April Events

April 5: 11:00 am – PW Coordinating Team Meeting in the church library
11:45 am – PW luncheon in the Fellowship Hall
Circle 2 – Plan and prepare lunch
Circle 3 – Set table, give devotions, and provide nametags
12:30 pm – Program given by Jeff McCoy: "Recycling in Hastings"

Please RSVP by April 3 to your circle representative or to the church office if you plan to come for lunch. If your schedule does not allow you to come for lunch, you are welcome to join us for the program.

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."

EASTER LILIES

Easter lilies may be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$10. Twenty Easter lilies will be purchased. All additional proceeds will go to Adams/ Clay County ARC (Advocate for the Rights of Citizens).

Lily in memory of: _____

Lily in honor of: _____

Given by: _____



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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

March 19, 2017

10:30a.m. Worship Attendance	211
General Fund (2017)	\$9,610.00
Plate Collections	\$102.00
Per capita	\$60.50
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$32.04
Christian Ed Sunday School	\$6.90
Food Pantry	\$8.00
Communion-Miriam's Hope	\$35.00
Utilities	\$100.00
Go & Serve Concessions	\$513.01

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