

**First Presbyterian Church  
Hastings, Nebraska**

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ

Ministers: Members of the Church

Pastor: Greg Allen-Pickett

Organist: Linda Vollweiler

Calvin/Westminster Choir Director: Linda Johnson

Children's Moment: Stephanie Brader

**March 19, 2017, 10:30 a.m.**

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

PRELUDE "Prelude and Fugue in A Minor" J.S. Bach  
(The prelude is an opportunity for prayer, meditation, and reflection.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 95)

*O come, let us sing to the LORD!*

***Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!***

*Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;*

***Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!***

*For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.*

***O come, let us worship the LORD!***

INTROIT "Jesus, Savior, Lord I Adore You" Martin and Stevens  
Calvin/Westminster Choir

\*HYMN "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" 182

INVOCATION

***Loving God,***

***We come here today with a lot on our hearts and minds. May your spirit enter this place and enter our lives in this moment so that we might hear what you have to say to us today. May the familiar stories of the Bible gain new meaning for us today and inspire and equip us to go out into the world as your faithful disciples. Amen.***

CALL TO CONFESSION

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE      “Glory Be to the Father”      581

\*PEACE OF CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ATTENDANCE

A MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

*The congregation is invited to sing as the children come forward.*  
**Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.**  
**Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.**  
**Yes, Jesus loves me; Yes, Jesus loves me,**  
**Yes, Jesus loves me; the Bible tells me so.**

ANTHEM      “Lamb of God”      arr. Craig Courtney

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING- *John 4:5-29, 39-41*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN      “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”      440

MESSAGE    Lenten sermon series on our identity in Christ: “Be humble, be bold”

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from the French Reformed Confession of 1559)

**We believe and confess only one God, who can do all things, is all-wise, all-good, all-just, and all-merciful.**  
**We believe that everything required for our salvation has been offered and communicated to us in Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God and God’s eternal Son.**  
**Jesus Christ clothed himself in our flesh: God and human in one person.**  
**We believe that we are illuminated in faith by the unfathomable grace of the Holy Spirit.**  
**God imparts this gracious gift.**

***By faith we receive grace to live holy lives in awe and reverence for God, for we receive what the gospel promises when God gives us the Holy Spirit.***

***Faith does not cool our desire for good and holy living, but rather engenders and excites it in us, leading naturally to joyful and good works.***

## CONCERNS and CELEBRATIONS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

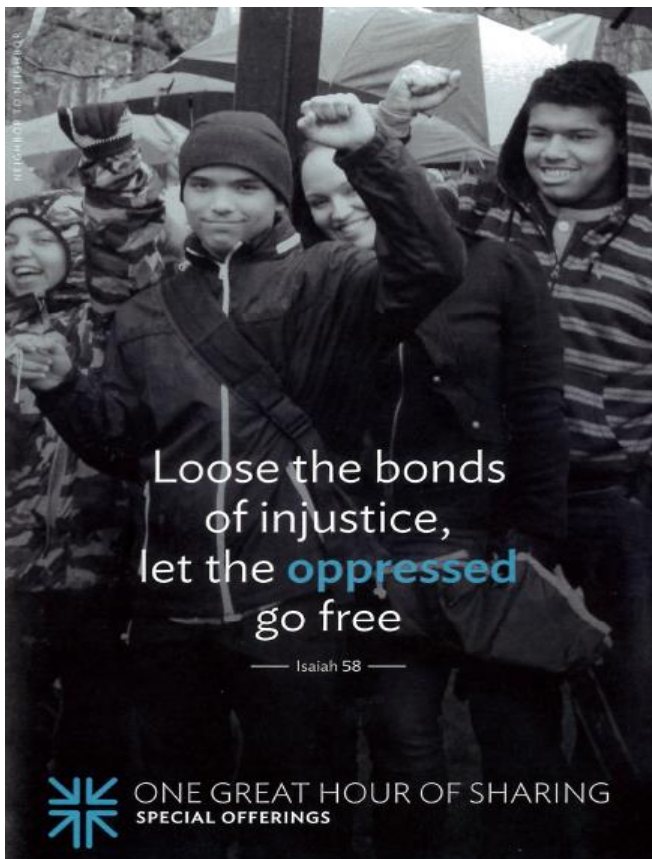
***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the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

### OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY	“Immortal, Invisible”	Welsh Melody/arr. Broughton
*DOXOLOGY	“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”	606
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
*HYMN	“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”	538
*CHARGE and BLESSING		
*CHORAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE	“Grant Us Peace”	
*POSTLUDE	“Recessional Fanfare”	A.F. Schultz

**Sunday, March 26, 2017  
8:30a.m. Worship  
with Celebrate Band  
9:15a.m. Sunday School  
(All Ages Welcome!)  
10:30a.m. Worship  
Message by Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett**



Loose the bonds  
of injustice,  
let the **oppressed**  
go free

— Isaiah 58 —



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS



## One Great Hour of Sharing

is our direct response to God's call in Isaiah 58.

With your gift, you . . .



**Loose the bonds of injustice**  
*Self-Development of People (SDOP)*

You partner in projects like Jobs Not Jails, which has already assisted over 7,000 people with access to jobs and education as they establish new lives after prison, thus reducing the probability of repeat offenses.



**Share your bread with the hungry**  
*Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)*

You engage in sustainable agriculture and water projects as well as initiate and support programs like Joining Hands, Peru, and Earth Care Congregations that creatively work to address long-term care of the earth to end hunger and poverty for the most vulnerable.



**Bring the homeless poor into your house**  
*Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)*

You provide food, shelter, and education to refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria and helped the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon rebuild 40 homes in Homs, Syria, for those who wish to restore the Syria they love.



Resources

<sup>1</sup>"Race and the Criminal Justice System." Equal Justice Initiative. Accessed November 03, 2016. <http://eji.org/history-racial-injustice-race-and-criminal-justice>.

<sup>2</sup>Pew Center on the States. "State of Recidivism: The Revolving Door of America's Prisons" (Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts, April 2011).

<sup>3</sup>"Report: The War on Marijuana in Black and White." American Civil Liberties Union. June 2013. Accessed November 03, 2016. <https://www.aclu.org/report/report-war-marijuana-black-and-white>.

<sup>4</sup>"Felony Disfranchisement." The Sentencing Project. The Sentencing Project. Accessed November 03, 2016. <http://www.sentencingproject.org/issues/felony-disfranchisement/>.

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## Self-Development of People helps people establish new lives after prison

Olga Pedraza left prison drug-free and excited to start her new life and career as a counselor in Holyoke, Massachusetts. But there was a catch. Olga's new job required a driver's license, which was revoked when she was convicted. The state demanded more than **\$4,500 to have it reinstated**—money she had no realistic hope of raising.

### But Olga didn't despair

Olga joined the OGHS-supported **Neighbor to Neighbor** organization, which promotes investment in jobs and education instead of prison. Their **Jobs Not Jails** campaign aims to change public policy to help ex-offenders reestablish new lives and reduce the likelihood of returning to prison.

And on March 20, 2016, they won a major victory. Gov. Baker signed a law repealing the suspension of driving privileges for most drug offenses and the accompanying fine. With her license reinstated, Olga was able to **start her new life and career as a counselor**, helping others recover from their drug addictions.

You can be part of this work by giving to One Great Hour of Sharing.

**Please give generously.**

## Patterns of Systemic Injustice

Systemic injustice is much more difficult to recognize than overt acts of racism, making it a much more difficult problem to address. Studies have shown that social institutions—such as schools, judicial systems, banks, and government organizations—give unfair treatment to people based on race or class. Over time, this has led to unequal opportunities for people of color and hindered the growth of their communities.



**Mass incarceration** has a clear racial impact: **70 percent** of American prisoners are non-white.<sup>1</sup>



**More than 40% of offenders** returned to state prison within **3 years** of their release from custody.<sup>2</sup>



Staggering Racial Bias: **Marijuana use is roughly equal** among Blacks and Whites, yet Blacks are **3.73 times** as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession.<sup>3</sup>



**1 in 13** African Americans is **unable to vote** due to laws that deny ex-felons the right to vote.<sup>4</sup>

Ministries supported by OGHS are providing education and assistance to ex-offenders, and working to change public policies that make it more difficult for people to establish new and thriving lives for themselves.

### Three Ways to Give



Through your congregation



Text OGHS 20222 to give \$10 now



[presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs](http://presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs)

## **Announcements:**

**The radio broadcast** airs on KICS 1550 AM and is given in loving memory of Isabelle and Chester Gates by their daughter Ann and son Jerry.

**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, please note the new time - 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 Jeanne Hastings, Deacon Moderator, at 402-462-8460 or the church office at 402-462-5147.

**Flowers** are given in memory of Mildred and Victor Lutkemeier by family.

**Greeters:** Jeff and Vicki Howard

**Ushers:** LaVern Franzen, Chuck Hastings-Captain, Jim Hoffman, Roger Sunderman

**Acolytes:** Avery Essink, Hannah Hafer

**Youth Ushers:** Grace Canady, Lauren Canady

**Nursery:** Andrea Franzen, Laura Peterson, Leah Ratzlaff

**Prayers** for Lynn Barrows, Roger Bauer, Shannon Canady, Renee Miller (Mary Fisk's daughter), Celia Ganow, Roberta Lloyd, Lavera Meyer (Al Meyer's mother), Larry Nowka, Don Reynolds and families.

### ***In loving memory of Joe Heineman, March 19, 1928 – March 15, 2017***

Services will be Saturday, March 18, 2017, 11:00 A.M. at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings with Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett officiating. Lunch in Fellowship Hall will follow.

Burial with military rites by U.S. Air Force will be Tuesday, March 21, 2017; 11:00 A.M. in Omaha National Cemetery. Memorials may be given to Kevin C. Heineman Memorial Forensics Scholarship at Hastings College. Visitation will be Friday, March 17, 2017, 3:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. with family present 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. at the funeral home, and one hour prior to service at the church.

*“The Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church - **Thank you so much** for your donation to the Healthy Beginnings Program to help families in need receive parenting info & support to help them be the best parents that they can be. We appreciate your kindness & support! – The Staff of Healthy Beginnings”*

**United Harvest volunteers are needed** on Saturday, March 25! NEW 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!

Donations for **Miriam's Hope** will be accepted through the month of March.

### **Suitcase Drive Continues Through March**

The Mission Committee is holding a "suitcase drive" and requests your donations of new or used luggage bags (suitcases, duffle bags, gym bags, back packs) to be given to children being removed from their homes and placed in foster care.

### **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, 2nd, and 4th 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. Any member of congregation may have a flower memorial. Mary can be reached at 402-462-2811 or molsen@charter.net.

This Week --- March 20 – March 25, 2017

<b>Mon, Mar 20</b>	<b>10:00a.m.</b>	<b>Staff Meeting</b> in Pastor's Office
<b>Tue, Mar 21</b>	<b>1:00p.m.</b> <b>5:30p.m.</b> <b>6:45p.m.</b>	<b>Quilters</b> in the Annex <b>Annex sub-Committee Meeting</b> in Kessler <b>Deacons Meeting</b> in Anderson Conference
<b>Wed, Mar 22</b>	<b>7:00a.m.</b> <b>4:00p.m.</b> <b>6:30p.m.</b>	<b>Bible@ Breakfast</b> in the Parlor <b>WNL!</b> <b>Woodcarvers</b> in Basement
<b>Thu, Mar 23</b>	<b>5:30p.m.</b>	<b>Session Meeting</b> in the Anderson Conference
<b>Fri, Mar 24</b>	<b>10:00a.m.</b> <b>12:00noon</b>	<b>Mahjong Ladies</b> in the Parlor <b>Soup Group</b> in Fellowship Hall

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## 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](mailto:stephanie@fpchastings.org) or 402-462-5147 with any questions.