

**First Presbyterian Church
Hastings, Nebraska**

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ

Ministers: Members of the Church

Pastor: Greg Allen-Pickett

Liturgist & Scripture Reader: Sharon Brooks

Praise & Alleluia Choir Directors: Tim & Teresa Canady

Organist: Linda Vollweiler

Children's Moment: Stephanie Brader

March 26, 2017, 10:30 a.m.

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

PRELUDE "Prelude and Fugue in G Minor" Healey Willan
(The prelude is an opportunity for prayer, meditation, and reflection.)

WELCOME

INTROIT "As We Gather in This Place"
Praise & Alleluia Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

When the world is dark and full of hate and fear, when we cannot see God,
We will turn to the light.

When we cannot find our way back to love and peace,
We will turn to the light.

When our vision dims due to the darkness within,
We will seek the light.

Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight.

The light of the world is Jesus Christ.

Come and worship the one who brings sight to the blind.

Let us be the light of Christ in our worship and in the world!

*HYMN "Be Thou My Vision"

450

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, who created us in God's own image, we are grateful for all that you have done for us, for all that you are doing in us, and for all that you will do through us. Open our eyes to see your presence among us, moving in powerful ways at all times and in all places.

Open our ears to hear familiar words in new ways— ways that will change us and challenge us to become the people you created us to be.

Grant us the power and the courage to come out of the darkness and into the light of Jesus Christ, and then shine the light of Christ into our world, that we may serve you by serving others. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain, sometimes we would rather shut our eyes and be blind than see things as they really are.

Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world, and give us the strength to bring your light to those who walk in darkness.

Help us see others as you see them, and forgive us when we do not trust you enough to open our eyes to the possibilities before us.

Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God, and lead us in the footsteps of the Light of the World, who reveals your glory in his life, his teachings, and his love. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*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

A MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

The congregation is invited to sing as the children come forward.

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

ANTHEM

“Guide Us Lord”

By Mark Patterson

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.

1st SCRIPTURE READING - *Ephesians 5:8-14*

2nd SCRIPTURE READING- *John 9:1-38*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

649

MESSAGE

Lenten sermon series on our identity in Christ: “See Light, Be Light”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (“A New Creed: 1968” from the United Church in Canada)

We are not alone, we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

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

“Amazing Grace”

arr. Wagner

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN “Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining (Shine, Jesus, Shine)” 192

*CHARGE and BLESSING

*POSTLUDE “Ellacombe” Travis

Sunday, April 2, 2017
9:15a.m. Sunday School
(All Ages Welcome!)
10:30a.m. Worship
Message by Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett
Communion Offering: United Harvest Food Pantry

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.

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.



Announcements:

The radio broadcast airs on KICS 1550 AM.

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 Jeanne Hastings, Deacon Moderator, at 402-462-8460 or the church office at 402-462-5147.

Flowers are given in memory of Bill Langford by his family.

Greeters: Don & Marie Rasmussen, Carol Wheeler, Margaret Koontz

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

Acolytes: Keira Erickson, Tyson Kerr

Youth Ushers: Lyndie Eddleman, Nyanhial Duang

Nursery: Andrea Franzen, Erika Nielsen, Laura Peterson

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

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

April 2 Communion Offering recipient: *United Harvest Food Pantry*

Communion Servers (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) Communion Servers (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

April 16 (Easter) Special Offering recipient: *One Great Hour of Sharing*

April Ushers (Team 2): Duane Huber, Steve Illingworth, Brian Johnson, Laurie Johnson, Al Meyer – Captain, Clyde Sachtleben, Carter Wenburg

*Please note, April ushers are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services.

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.

As a reminder, **Langenberg Legacy Lesson Program application** for Spring, 2017 semester is due April 1. You are invited to participate in this very exciting program offered by our church, which, through the generosity of the late Luella Langenberg, was established to encourage the children and youth of our church in their musical pursuits. Parent(s) of students in grades 1-12 may apply for up to \$250 per semester to offset the cost of private music instruction. Applicable areas of study include: piano, voice, guitar, or any band/orchestral instrument. Grants are limited to one per child. Parent(s) must be members of First Presbyterian Church, and students must be active participants in the church choir/music program. Lessons are verified by Worship, Arts and Music committee members. NOTE: Although grants are renewable, parents MUST RE-APPLY EACH SEMESTER. Contact Tim Canady, Music Coordinator, with any questions at 402-618-9358.

Can Two Nebraskans Build a Village in Uganda?

Come to the Forum next Sunday 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.

Sunday, April 2, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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.

Presbyterian Women (PW) Meet April 5

11:00 a.m. PW Coordinating Team Meeting in church library

11:45 a.m. PW luncheon in Fellowship Hall

12:30 p.m. Program given by Jeff McCoy "Recycling in Hastings"

RSVP by April 3 to your circle representative or church office.

If you're not able to make lunch, you may join us for the program.

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!

Kili Wenburg will be out of the office March 28 – April 1.

"THANK YOU to all those who have made our suitcase drive such a success! New or used luggage (suitcases, duffle bags, gym bags, back packs) will be received through March to be given to children being placed in foster care. –Mission Committee"

Second Annual Long-Sleeve Shirt Drive Bring your donations of new or gently used long-sleeved shirts to the basket in the Memorial Room. Mission Committee thanks you for your help in protecting farmworkers against pesticides and heat stress.

"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"

This Week --- March 27 – April 1, 2017

Mon, Mar 27	10:00a.m. 7:00p.m.	Staff Meeting in Pastor's Office Boy Scouts Troop 200 in Basement Scout Room
Tue, Mar 28	1:00p.m. 4:30p.m.	Quilters in the Annex Pooh Corner Staff Meeting in Anderson Conference
Wed, Mar 29	7:00a.m. 4:00p.m. 6:30p.m. 6:45p.m. 7:30p.m.	Bible@ Breakfast in the Parlor WNL! Woodcarvers in Basement Chancel Choir Practice Chancel Bells Practice
Fri, Mar 31	10:00a.m.	Mahjong Ladies in the Parlor

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