



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 21.18 May 7, 2017

40 days of Easter

On Sunday, April 16, we celebrated Easter, and what a celebration it was! We had a glory-filled service with stunning music and we got to hear the familiar resurrection story again. I preached a sermon about the most hopeful image in the world: the empty tomb. And we proclaimed Christ has risen! I am so grateful for all who came and participated in the service.

We basked in the God's glory during that service and for the rest of the day. Maybe some of you even felt the Easter joy into the following week, I know that I did. Then for many of us, myself included, the realities of life and the world set in and the Easter celebration became a memory. But I want to remind all of us that Easter is a season, it lasts for 40 days! The Easter season commemorates the forty days the resurrected Jesus walked this earth before His Ascension back to heaven. Luke wrote, "After Christ's suffering, he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God." (Acts 1:3). How do we keep the Easter spirit going in this season?

We can start by reflecting on the stories of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances. We are doing that through the bible readings and sermons on Sunday mornings, but I would encourage you to do this yourself during this Easter season. Think about how Jesus presented himself to his disciples and others, and what that means for you today. Here is a listing of some of my favorite post-resurrection appearances for you to read, reflect on and study:

John 20:1-10: Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene outside the tomb

John 20:19-25: Jesus appears to the disciples, and then to "Doubting/Inquisitive Thomas"

Luke 24:13-35: Jesus appears to two disciples on the road to Emmaus

John 21:1-25: Jesus appears to 7 disciples fishing on the Sea of Galilee (and cooks them breakfast!)

Matthew 28:16-20: Jesus appears to the disciples and gives them "The Great Commission"

Acts 1:1-14: Jesus appears to the disciples, reasserts the "Great Commission" by saying, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth," and then ascends to heaven.

These are just a few of my favorite post-resurrection appearances that I offer for you to read and study during the season of Easter. My prayer for all of us is that we remember we are a resurrection people! Even though the joy of Easter Sunday may have faded a bit for us, let us remember that the resurrected Christ is with us every day of our lives, through the power of the Holy Spirit. And let us not forget our call to be witnesses to the love and grace of God to all the world as we continue to celebrate the 40 days of the Easter Season! Christ has risen indeed!

~Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett



Confirmation Cake Reception

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MEMORIAL ROOM
SUNDAY, MAY 7
FOLLOWING THE 10:30AM SERVICE**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WNL YEAR-END
PICNIC

Children of all ages, families, and congregation are welcome to attend!

Wednesday, May 10
Libs Park—16th St. & Baltimore Ave
5:00-6:00pm fellowship & free-play
6:00-7:00pm meal*

*Hot dogs, drinks, condiments, and table service will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



A VBS donation board is displayed in the Memorial Room. If you can help support our VBS by making a donation, please take a card and purchase the item listed. Then attach the card to the item and return it to the church ASAP. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at [402-462-5147](tel:402-462-5147) or stephanie@fpchastings.org



2017 VBS

First Presbyterian Church

May 22-26 2:00-5:00pm

Everyone welcome! Pre-school through 4th Grade.
Register now at <http://fpchastings.org/vbs-2017/> for the best week of the summer!

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED....Our VBS is being held from 2:00-5:00 pm on May 22-26. Volunteers are still needed to help make this a great week of learning about God! Please prayerfully consider serving as a VBS volunteer. You can sign-up as a volunteer online at <http://fpchastings.org/vbs-2017/> or complete this paper form and return it to the church. If you need more information, please contact Stephanie at 402-462-5147 or stephanie@fpchastings.org.

Name _____ T-Shirt Size _____

Mailing Address _____

Email _____

Phone# _____ Text# _____

Notes: _____

Medical Release: I give my permission for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to me in the event of an injury. I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency services will be paid by me. Photo Release: I hereby grant First Presbyterian Church permission to copyright and use photographs/videos taken at VBS of me in any manner or form for any purpose lawful at any time. I waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or written copy, that may be used in conjunction therewith, or the use to which it may be applied.

*Background checks must be performed on all adults over the age of 18. Please complete the Background Check Consent Form also.

Signature _____

Date _____

BACKGROUND CHECK CONSENT FORM

DISCLOSURE AND AUTHORIZATION FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO ACCESS CONSUMER REPORTS

DISCLOSURE

In connection with your application for employment with First Presbyterian Church including any independent contract for services and volunteer work (hereinafter "Employment") or when deciding whether to modify or continue your ongoing Employment, First Presbyterian Church may obtain a "consumer report" and/or an "investigative consumer report" on you from **Praesidium, Inc.**, a consumer reporting agency, or from any third party, in strict compliance with both state and federal law. A consumer report is a communication of information by a consumer reporting agency bearing on your credit worthiness, credit standing, credit capacity, character, general reputation, personal characteristics, or mode of living which is used or expected to be used for purposes of serving as a factor in establishing your current and/or continuing eligibility for employment purposes. An investigative consumer report is a report obtained through personal interviews with individuals who may have knowledge of your character, general reputation, personal characteristics, or mode of living. The consumer reports or investigative consumer reports may contain information regarding your credit history (if applicable to position), criminal records, driving history records, education records, previous employment history, social security traces, military records, professional licensure records, drug testing, government records, and other types of background information. You further understand that these reports may contain information concerning the reasons for termination of past employment. You are hereby notified that you have the right to make a timely request for the nature and scope of any investigative consumer report. You are further notified that, prior to being denied Employment based in whole or in part on information obtained in the consumer report, you will be provided a copy of the report, the name, address and telephone number of the consumer reporting agency and a description in writing of your rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Inquiries to **Praesidium, Inc.** should be directed to **Praesidium, Inc.; Consumer Disputes; P.O. Box 202002 Arlington, TX 76006. 1 (800) 743 - 6354.**

AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize, without reservation, the obtaining of "consumer reports" or "investigative consumer" reports by First Presbyterian Church at any time after receipt of this authorization and throughout my Employment, or service, if applicable. I further authorize and request, without reservation, any present or former employer, school, police department, state or federal agency, financial institution, division of motor vehicles, consumer reporting agencies, or other persons or agencies having knowledge about me to furnish Praesidium, Inc. or First Presbyterian Church with any and all background information in their possession regarding me, so that my employment qualifications may be evaluated and/or reassessed. I also agree that a fax or photocopy of this authorization with my signature should have the same authority as the original.

The following is information required in order for First Presbyterian Church to obtain a complete consumer report:

FULL LEGAL NAME (First, Full Middle Name, Last Name)	
STREET ADDRESS	CITY STATE ZIP
COUNTIES YOU HAVE LIVED WITHIN THE PAST TEN YEARS (USE BACK OF SHEET IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL SPACE) (Circle any of the following states in which you have lived: CA, CO, DE, LA, MA, SD, VT, WV, WY)	
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	DATE OF BIRTH *
DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER	ISSUING STATE
OTHER OR FORMER NAMES (AKA, Maiden Names, Married Names, Surnames, Etc.)	

* This information will be used for background screening purposes only.

By signing below, I certify: (1) that I have read and fully understand this disclosure and authorization; (2) that all of the information I am providing is true, complete, correct and accurate; and (3) that I have received the attached Summary of Your Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.)

Signature _____ Date _____



Church to host 'tweaked' VBS for special needs children

John Huthmacher

Apr 30, 2017 Updated 8 min ago

First Presbyterian Church is offering a Vacation Bible School catering to children with special needs.

Modeled after its traditional VBS program, the new interdenominational class incorporates special education teachers, occupational therapists and others well familiar with special needs children to create an experience geared to meet youngsters where they're at while simultaneously setting the minds of their parents or caregivers at ease.

"We want the parents to feel comfortable bringing their children here," said Stephanie Brader, director of children's education at First Presbyterian. "A lot of children miss the opportunity to attend Vacation Bible School because their parents maybe don't feel comfortable leaving them with a lay volunteer, so we're bringing in specialized help to make them feel comfortable."

The idea of adding a special camp for special needs children was brought to Brader by longtime First Presbyterian lay member Jane Marsh, who has worked with special needs children for years. Marsh was inspired by a Vacation Bible School program she observed while volunteering at her daughter's church in Millard.

"She was just amazed and wanted to make that happen here," Brader said. "She contacted me and asked, 'Can we make this happen?' So we're trying it."

Following the same curriculum as the church's regular program, which this year runs from 2-5 p.m. May 22-26 at the church, the special needs version is from 9-11 a.m. May 22-25 and is tweaked to include specific tools that address the special needs of its participants, Brader said.

For starters, it is an hour shorter to accommodate those dealing with attention deficit issues.

Special scissors and other items will enable students with motor skill challenges to safely navigate arts and crafts projects. A sensory break area will give children who feel over-stimulated a chance to unwind when they feel overwhelmed.

"We're simplifying it," Brader said. "Otherwise, it's the same theme as the regular one. We want the kids to have the same experience but obviously make it so they feel comfortable and safe. The first year is always an experiment, but we want it to be impactful.

"My hope is to reach children who haven't had a chance to experience God's love in this way because of their differences. We're all children of God made in His image and need to understand that and be able to fulfill our faith needs."

Deadline for registering for the program is May 8. Registration is available online at fpchastings.org.

For information, call 402-462-5147.

Upcoming Services - Come Worship with Us!

May 7 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship with Communion, Offerings to Open Table Sack Lunch Program

Youth Sunday Confirmation, Last Day of Sunday School

4:00 p.m. Installation of Greg Allen-Pickett; 5:30 p.m. Potluck, Everyone is Invited!

7:00 p.m. Taize Prayer Service (**moved to the Chapel**)

May 14 Final Spring 8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship,

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship with Handbells & HC Choir

May 21 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship, VBS Commissioning

May 28 10:00 a.m. Worship (not a typo) with final spring performance by Celebrate Brand

Greeters:

May 7	Jane Bauer, Mary Creigh
May 14 (Mother's Day)	Roger and Karen Doerr, Jan Ham
May 21	Bill and Martha Boyd, Eleanor Jorgensen
May 28 (Memorial Day Weekend)	Dwight and Jane Marsh, Wayne and Elaine Specht

*Service starts 10:00 a.m. May 28 thru summer

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

Communion Servers, May 7 (Team 2):

Paula Crozier, Mary Fisk, Matt Fong, Jeff Howard, Brian Johnson, Mary Kay LaMaster, Kathy Nelson, Constance Malloy, Al Meyer, Chad Murrell, Kathy Utter, Rogene Wenburg

May communion offerings will be to FPC's **Open Table Sack Lunch Program**.

FPC is scheduled to assemble and provide the Open Table lunches through the month of July again this year.

More than 5,000 sack lunches were assembled and almost 800 'special meals' prepared last year. 'Special meals' required Wednesday afternoon gatherings, meal preparation and storage, delivery to Catholic Social Services to return Thursday to warm and assemble to serve.

This 'above and beyond' effort was opted by the Mission Committee in consideration of those who eat sack lunches regularly.

The cost to fill the total need was \$5,318.82.

The Open Table Fund has a 2017 beginning balance of \$3,052.03, which is a great start!

Glory be to God that we are able to fill this need; let's do it again!

Your offering makes the difference, thank you!

Another Way to Support the Open Table:

"Give Day is on May 11th. You can log onto www.givehastings.org from May 1st to May 11th. This is a wonderful opportunity to donate to the Open Table Sack Lunch Program, which was started in 2004 to help eradicate hunger in our community. In 2016, an average of 185 sack lunches per day were handed out to individuals and families in need. However, some days, we can give 200-300 lunches out. We rely on donations and volunteers to provide these at no cost to recipients. The money raised on Give Day allows us to add milk and juice to each lunch." —Pam Taylor, Board Member, OTSLP



**The Presbytery of Central Nebraska
Joyfully invites you to the installation of
Reverend Greg Allen-Pickett
As pastor at
First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
Sunday, May 7 at 4pm**

Come and share in a winsome installation service that will include
music from the Chancel Choir and Celebrate Band

The sermon will be preached by Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian
Author and Pastor of congregations in Ohio, Oregon, and Illinois

Installation Commission:

Moderator: Joyce Dean,
Community Presbyterian Church, Fairfield
Teaching Elder: David Boyd,
First Presbyterian Church, Gothenburg
Teaching Elder: Jill Boyd,
First Presbyterian Church, Cozad
Ruling Elder: Darnice Nyce
Second Presbyterian Church, Hastings
Ruling Elder: Chris Junker
First Presbyterian Church, Hastings

Special Guests:

Charge to Congregation: Bryce Wiebe
Presbyterian Church (USA), Louisville, KY
Charge to Pastor: Chuck Sparks
Wellshire Presbyterian Church, Denver
Preacher: Chris Chakoian
First Presbyterian Church, Lake Forest, IL
Music: Chancel Choir and Celebrate Band
First Presbyterian Church, Hastings

A potluck supper will be held at the church immediately following the service.

FPC Hastings members, please bring a dish to share, with consideration given to the following
suggestions: main dish (last name beginning with A-I); side dish (last name beginning with J-S);
dessert (last name beginning with T-Z).

UNITED HARVEST



MOBILE PANTRY

HELPING MEET YOUR FAMILY'S NEEDS

Date: **Saturday, April 15**
Saturday, May 20
Saturday, June 17

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Location: **Annex Building**

Between the First United Methodist Church and First
Presbyterian Church

Hastings Ave and 7th Street in Hastings, NE

Contact: (402)-463-6733

Instructions: Please bring boxes or bags to carry
food. No need to pre-qualify.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

A mobile pantry is a traveling food pantry that delivers food directly to families in need for a one-day distribution.

Brought to
you by First
United
Methodist
Church and
First
Presbyterian
Church of
Hastings

The mobile pantry
is available to you
free of charge!



United Harvest volunteers needed on Saturday, May 20!

We need your help to keep our new ministry going strong! 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!

Final Adult Sunday School Classes for Spring Semester: May 7

Heirs Apparent: Don Canady will lead the class in taking a final look at the Gospel of John.
9:15, *Anderson Conference Room*

Forum: Rev. Damen Heitmann, Hastings College chaplain, will lead an open discussion on Islam and the "Understanding Islam" series.
9:15, *Parlor*

Final Soup Group Gathering

Have any "life hacks" that you can share for the good of other moms? Our final session will include, as always, food, friends, and fellowship, but it will also feature an opportunity to bring and share your ideas on what works for you and your family--dealing with picky eaters, overcoming morning routine challenges, organizing stuff, prioritizing date nights with your spouse, etc., etc..
Friday, May 5, 12:00-1:00, Fellowship Hall

Last Chance to Experience Taize-Style Worship until the Fall

This beautiful, relaxing, contemplative service may be just the deep breath opportunity you need to re-center your mind and heart this hectic spring season.
Join us to pray, listen to scripture, sing praises, and reflect on the special theme of "*Overcoming Fear*."
Sunday, May 7, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

Summer Is Coming!and So Is the Presbyterian Summer Book Club!

Meeting 12:00-1:00 on Wednesdays, beginning mid-June, this group will read and discuss Walter Brueggemann's "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."

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.

Prayers for Celia and Wayne Ganow.

Condolences to Kenny and Susie Graham for the loss of Kenny's brother, Larry A. Graham from Cresson, PA. Services will be May 5th in Pawnee City, NE.

*"Dear Family & Friends of FPC, **Thank you so much** for your thoughts, prayers, calls, visits and the beautiful flowers, and our God who makes everything possible! Blessings be on all of you!"* –Larry & Carolyn Nowka



BrieElla Laurie Spurgeon was born April 24th (7lbs., 11oz; 19-1/2") to Becky and Zach Spurgeon. Congratulations to the families!



May Anniversary Correction:

Chuck & Jeanne Hastings were married May 18, 1974 (not 1981.)

If you are interested in owning a gently-used **electric wheelchair**, please contact the church office.

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**FPC is happy to announce the following scholarships are now available:**

### **Ann Binfield Scholarship**

This scholarship is for students attending a Presbyterian college or university.

### **Chip Essex Memorial Scholarship**

This scholarship is for any student attending a 2-year or 4-year college.

Applications are available in the church office, or by emailing Traci Boeve @ [tboeve@hastings.edu](mailto:tboeve@hastings.edu).

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American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Adams County

Saturday, 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.

Presbyterian Women (PW) – April Events

Mother's Day Cards

Healthy Women Healthy Families is a year-round ministry of PC (USA) and Presbyterian Women. Mother's Day cards will be offered in the Memorial Room prior to Mother's Day (May 7) and in the church library thru the weeks. All proceeds from the cards will support programs of Presbyterian partner churches overseas that directly impact the health and well-being of women and children. Donations of any amount are welcome. Please list the name of a special woman/women you would like to honor on the form below. Please return the form immediately or to the church office by May 11. All women remembered will be listed in the bulletin on Mother's Day, May 14, 2017.

Other activities:

May 3 – 11:00 am – PW Coordinating Team will meet in the church library.

There will be no regular PW meeting this month.

May 4 – 2:00 pm – Campbell Spring Tea – Westminster United Presbyterian Church, Campbell, NE – Program; "I am just a Quilter" presented by Betty Mlejnek. Contact May Wierenga if you plan to attend. She is organizing a car pool.

May 4 – 1:00 pm – Fall Presbytery Meeting in Edgar, NE. Sue Medsker-Nedderman will be the speaker. Call Nancy Grams if you plan to attend. A carpool will be available there, too.

May 5 – 12:00 pm – Church Women United May Friendship Day – First United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$5 and are available in the church office or at the door.

May 17 – Circle Meetings – Study Lesson "Who is Jesus According to Abrahamic Faiths"

- Circle 1 – 9:30 am – Jean Barber's home – Elaine Specht is the Lesson Leader
- Circle 2 – 9:30 am – Mary Lewis' home – Mary Lewis is the Lesson Leader
- Circle 3 – 1:15 pm – Church Parlor – Nancy Grams is the hostess – Jill Kramer is the Lesson Leader

PW and Circles do not meet during the summer months of June, July, and August.

HEALTHY WOMEN HEALTHY FAMILIES MOTHER'S DAY PROJECT

(a year-round ministry of PC (USA) and Presbyterian Women)

Mother's Day cards will be offered in the Memorial Room this Sunday, April 30, and next Sunday, May 7, and in the library throughout the weeks. The suggested donation is \$10 with the proceeds going to support programs of Presbyterian partner churches overseas that directly impact the health and well-being of women and children. Donations of any amount are welcome. Please fill in the form below and return to PW or the church office. All women will be listed in the bulletin on Mother's Day, May 14.

Card in honor of _____

Donation in memory of _____

Given by _____

Home Page
First Presbyterian Church
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Phone: 402-462-5147, Fax 402-462-6818
Email: fpc@fpchastings.org
Website: www.fpchastings.org

Address Service Requested

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

April 23, 2017

8:30a.m. Worship Attendance	41
10:30a.m. Worship Attendance	243
General Fund (2017)	\$2,120.00
Plate Collections	\$119.23
CE Sunday School	\$2.75
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$24.79
Communion: United Harvest	\$10.00
Special Offering: UH Food Carts	\$893.00
OGHS	\$200.00
WNL	\$22.00
Fish Banks	\$6.30
Coffee Donations	\$1.49

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