



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 21.29 Week Of: August 27, 2017

Dear First Presbyterian Family:

On Wednesday, August 16, white supremacist posters were pasted on light/electric poles in front of Hastings High School and the Hastings Museum as well as other locations around town.

As your pastor, and as a person of faith living in the community of Hastings, I felt convicted to respond. I wrote the statement you see below. Your Session reviewed and approved the statement and then I shared it with other pastors and faith leaders in Hastings. We had 20 pastors from across all denominations and churches sign the statement, and then we held a press conference on Friday 8/18 in front of the Hastings City Building. We believe that love is stronger than hate. And we believe as Christians, we are called to speak against hatred and racism in our community. Even if it is a small minority of people who feel this way, we must speak out, to reject the sin of racism AND to stand in solidarity with those who are impacted by these words and actions. Our sisters and brothers need to hear our voices. Thank you for being a voice of love in our community, and keep on sharing the love and light of Christ in all the big and small ways that you do.

*Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Greg*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

As faith leaders in the Hastings community, we believe that God is sovereign over all creation and because all human beings are embraced by God's all-encompassing grace, anything reflecting white nationalism, white supremacy, or hate and discrimination towards another human being does not reflect the God revealed in our scriptures. Regardless of our specific political persuasions, we agree that the attitudes fostered by any manifestation of white nationalism are inconsistent with Christian values of welcoming the stranger as if we were welcoming Christ. That commitment stems from our biblical faith. In Matthew 25, Jesus called upon his followers to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty and show hospitality to the stranger. He reminded his disciples that whenever they do any of these things "to the least of these, my brothers and sisters," they are doing them for Christ himself. And in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians (3:28), he reminds us that there is no differentiation between any ethnic group or social class; Jews and Gentiles, slaves and free, male or female, because we are all one in Christ Jesus. We believe that every human being is a precious child of God (1 John 3:1), made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). God believes that every human being is deserving of God's love, and God calls on each of us to practice the same. We are called to see the image of God in every person we meet, and that should compel us to treat every person with dignity and respect and to reach out in love, remembering that we love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19)

In the values purported by these groups, we see no public witness consistent with the Gospel or with the values of those who are believers in Jesus Christ and members of Christ's church. As faith leaders in the community of Hastings, we stand firmly against any articulation or manifestation of white supremacy, white nationalism, or hate groups in our community.

We also renew our commitment to a future where faith communities and faith leaders will foster attitudes and actions so that all human beings and the whole of creation can thrive. We join our prayers, our hearts, our minds, our voices, and our actions with other people of faith as well as with secular people of good conscience, to resist the present destructive forces in our country manifest in these messages and images from groups representing white supremacy and hate in our country. Through the power of God's infinite love and the invitation that God gives us to do justice, embrace compassion, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8), we seek to be a force for positive good in our community and to reverse the destructive consequences of these groups here in our community, in our state and country, and around the world.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

New Member Classes: September 6 & 13

If you're planning to join the church, or if you simply want to learn more about what it means to be Presbyterian in Hastings and beyond, please plan to attend the New Member Classes, held 4:30-6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, September 6 and 13, in the basement youth room. Complimentary meal will follow the class portion. Free childcare will be provided through the Wednesday Night Live program. Please call the church office 402-462-4147 to RSVP by Friday, September 1.

8:30a.m. worship service (now weekly) begins Sunday, September 10th.

August Communion Offerings will be accepted thru the month and remitted to RiteCare speech, language and literacy clinics. Find more information at: <https://www.ritecarene.org>.

School clothes needed: Little boys size 8,10 or 12, new or nearly new. Please call Susan Hoff @ 402-469-0985 or Carol Grummert @ 402-984-4157.

Prayers for: Judy Brown, Ty Chapel (Sharon Chapel's son), Mary Jo Emmons, Zelma Fobben, Celia (& Wayne) Ganow, Jan Ham, Irmise (& Elmer) Heeren, Thomas Johnson (Richard Johnson's brother), Mary (& Jim) Lewis, Clay Mathews (Susan Oliver's brother), Carla Ridout, Wayne (& Elaine) Specht and families.

Condolences to Tom and Leah Ratzlaff and families for the loss of Tom's mother, Janet Ratzlaff of York, NE.

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** during service at 10:30 a.m. 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.

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.

2017/2018 Christian Education Volunteers

Sunday School Teachers

PreK/Kindergarten: Nancy Grams, Kris Horton, Lois Hafer

1st/2nd Grade: Irina Belikova-Erickson, Abigail Shetler, Justin Brader, Tom Ratzlaff

3rd/4th Grade: Jill Kramer & Daveta Brader

5th Grade: Traci Boeve

6th/7th Grade: Steph Brader

8th Grade Confirmation: Dave Cooke

Sr. High: Kraig & Laurie Lofquist

WNL Bible Study & Youth Group Teachers

PreK/Kindergarten: Jane Marsh, Susie Graham, Cheryl Schukei

1st/2nd Grade: Leah Ratzlaff & Kathy Reimer

3rd/4th Grade: Jessica Allen-Pickett & Courtney Junker

5th Grade: Ann Koozer

6th/7th/8th Graders: Erica Brooks

Sr. High: Justin Miller

Other Sunday Volunteers

Children's Moment Leaders: Nancy Grams & Lauren Canady

Nursery: Leah Ratzlaff & Erika Nielsen

Other WNL Volunteers

Table Setter/Decorator/Cooks: Nancy Grams, Bonnie Grams, Lois Hahne

Nursery: Abigail Shetler, Leah Ratzlaff, Erika Nielsen

Recreation: Brady Rhodes & Eric Brader

Napkin Launderer: Carol Grummert

Dinner Dean: Chris Schukei

Table Parents: Abigail Shetler, Richard Brader, Tom Ratzlaff, Leah Ratzlaff, Mike Meyer, Becky Meyer, Courtney Junker, Damen Heitmann

Attendance Recorder: Lynne Friedewald

Adult Sunday School Teachers

Heirs Apparent: Curtis Reimer

Forums: Gary Johnson, Travis Feezell, Tarci Matthews, Jane Bauer, Doug Oakeson, George Howard, Brian Johnson, Jenni Welsch, Nina Meyer, Becky Meyer, Mike Meyer, Nancy Grams, Kathy Duval, Erica Brooks, Darrel Lloyd, Byron Jensen, Don Canady, Greg Allen-Pickett

Our theme for the year is “*Hear the Story, Share the Story, Live the Story.*”

The “Story” is the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! We will focus our programming this year around opportunities for us to:

- Hear the Story told to us from different perspectives and in different voices
- Share the Story of how our lives have been transformed by our relationship with Jesus and our participation in the Body of Christ, the church
- Live the story by proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel in word and deed through our mission and ministry efforts

We hope the members of our church will embrace this opportunity to engage hearts and minds as we learn about, share, and live out our faith!

I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ.
--Philemon 1:6

HEAR

SHARE

LIVE

the Story

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

HEAR

- **Worship:** We are going back to two services EVERY Sunday: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
 - Our 8:30 a.m. services will alternate between Celebrate services (contemporary worship style) and Taize services (contemplative worship style).
 - Our 10:30 a.m. services will be in the traditional style.
- Visit of Presbyterian mission worker Kurt Esslinger from South Korea on Wednesday, September 20
 - Kurt will share with the kids at Wednesday Night Live and then offer an adult forum at 7:00 p.m.

SHARE

- **Invite your friends to worship services**
 - “Blessing of the Pets” service in Alexander Park Sunday, September 17, at 8:30 a.m.
 - “Hastings College Sunday” will feature the HC choir (and celebration of World Communion) on Sunday, October 1, at the 10:30 a.m. service.
 - On Sunday, October 29, we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation with special activities during worship followed by a German-themed potluck dinner.
- **Bible studies on Tuesdays at 12 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7 a.m. led by Pastor Greg**

LIVE

- **United Harvest Distribution August 19 and September 16**
 - Volunteer at either (or both) shifts: 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- **Volunteer opportunities at Wednesday Night Live**
 - Contact Stephanie Brader for details.

~~~~~  
**Presbyterian Women's meetings resume in September.** They begin with the PW luncheon at 11:45am on the first Wednesday of each month. A program and short business meeting follow the luncheon. All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to come for all or part of the meeting. Call your reservation to your circle telephone chairperson or to the church office by the Monday preceding the PW meeting.

**September 6, 2017** – Program – Kili Wenburg – Preview of Bible Study Lessons for 2017-2018  
Circle 3 – prepare lunch;  
Circle 1 – devotions, table setting and decoration, nametags, cashier

**September 20, 2017** - Circle meetings begin:

Circle 1 – Hostess – Katherine Sachtleben – 9:30am in Katherine's home  
Bible Study Leader – Gayle Fandry

Circle 2 – Hostess – Eleanor Jorgenson – 9:30am in Eleanor's home  
Bible Study Leader – Flossie Sanderson

Circle 3 – Hostess – Lois Hahne – 1:15pm in the church parlor  
Bible Study Leader – Kathy Duval

~~~~~

Dear Stephanie,
On behalf of the Hastings YMCA, I wanted to share our sincere appreciation for First Presbyterian Church's participation w/ the 1st Annual YMCA-VBS. The volunteers that represented your church were outstanding with the youth. It was wonderful to witness the kids from our community learning about how God lovingly creates us and watching them create their very own G.U.T.S.Y. Bear. - a message that these kids at the Y absolutely need to hear. Thanks to all of you that engaged these children - carrying out time and resources - it does not go unnoticed.

Until Next Summer -
Gwen Ruppert
Membership Director
Hastings YMCA

Home Page
First Presbyterian Church
621 North Lincoln Avenue
Hastings, NE 68901
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

August 13, 2017

10:00a.m. Worship Attendance	162
General Fund (2017)	\$4,836.00
Plate Collections	\$109.00
Per capita	\$302.50
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$28.68
Communion – RiteCare	\$70.00
Go & Serve Stock Sales	\$150.00
Go & Serve	\$20.00
Memorials-Joan Swan	\$125.00
Scholarship Fund-Chuck Evans	\$455.00
Mission Donation	\$25.00
Food Pantry	\$10.00

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