



# The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 21.30 Week Of: September 3, 2017

---

## Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

I am so grateful to be serving a congregation full of big-hearted and compassionate people! Over the last several days, as the images have come in from Texas of the damage from Hurricane Harvey, many of you have reached out and asked how we can help.

I attended seminary in Austin, Texas, so many of my seminary classmates are serving churches in the areas impacted by the hurricane including Houston and Corpus Christi. They have been asking for prayers, so I encourage all of us to be in prayer for safety and peace in the aftermath of the storm. They have also been asking for help by encouraging us to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). I worked at the Presbyterian Church headquarters in World Mission for almost four years and collaborated closely with PDA. I believe in PDA and their ability to respond to natural disasters at home and around the world. PDA's response to Hurricane Sandy was so good that the American Red Cross used PDA's infrastructure and resources and give a substantial grant to them for response and recovery to that hurricane.

PDA works through local Presbyterian churches to respond to needs in the local community. The churches know their communities best, and by giving through PDA we are able to not only respond to the disaster, but also share the love of Christ through these relief efforts.

On the next two pages you can read a detailed article written by my friend Rick Jones about the ways the PDA is preparing to respond in Texas following the storm. If you have been touched by the images of devastation from Texas and feel compelled to help, I encourage you to give through PDA. You can do that by bringing a check to the church which we will send. You can also give on-line through our church website or directly to PDA at <http://pda.pcusa.org>.

Over the next few months, we may try to organize a team from First Presbyterian Church to go help with the rebuilding efforts too, so stay tuned! Thank you for all you do; it is an honor to serve as your pastor.

*Your Servant in Christ,*  
*Pastor Greg*

# Presbyterian Disaster Assistance prepares to send national response team to Texas

Disaster Response August 28, 2017



Texas National Guard soldiers assist residents affected by flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Aug. 27, 2017. (National Guard photo by Lt. Zachary West)

## Team to assess damage from Hurricane Harvey and catastrophic flooding

By Rick Jones / Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE – Hurricane Harvey may have been downgraded, but the torrential rains are still pounding parts of Texas. Historic flooding has forced rivers and streams from their banks, submerged homes, churches, businesses and roads, stranding thousands of people.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is maintaining constant contact with Mission Presbytery and the Presbytery of the New Covenant.

“We know that in Mission Presbytery, the major impact of the storm has taken place,” said Jim Kirk, PDA’s associate for national disaster

response. “Presbytery leaders are doing an assessment and addressing immediate response needs. But the latest forecast calls for torrential rains to continue for the next 48 hours so it’s still an ongoing, dynamic event.”

Mission Presbytery includes the cities of Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Rockport and more. Harvey’s landfall was near Rockport and authorities say wind damage was devastating.

“A large chunk of the presbytery was impacted one way or another,” said Alan Ford, who oversees the presbytery’s disaster recovery efforts. “We’re still trying to get information on the impact of the storms and flooding because it varies from the coastline to inland communities”

Ford says it’s the worst flooding to hit the area in nearly 50 years.

“One of the problems is access to many of the flooded areas and a lot of the people have been evacuated. They don’t know what they will be going back to,” he said. “From what I’ve heard, many of the churches have been devastated by the storms and water.”

Members of PDA’s National Response Team, will be in the area on Wednesday to begin the review process.

“The team will connect with presbytery leadership to offer support, lend their efforts to assessing the damage and offer a ministry of presence to congregations as well as assist the presbytery in developing a short term response plan,” said Kirk. “They will also connect with interfaith partners on the ground.”

By the end of the week, forecasters say the Texas coastal areas could see as much as 50 inches of rain, the average yearly rainfall total for the area. The upper Texas coast and parts of southwestern Louisiana could see up to 25 additional inches according to the National Hurricane Center.

“There could be a lot of damage further inland as flooding proceeds downriver. The amount of rain we’ve seen inland has just been enormous,” said Ford. “However bad it has been for us, it’s bad or worse in the Presbytery of the New Covenant and we want to keep those folks in our prayers as well.”

The Presbytery of the New Covenant includes Houston, Galveston and Bay City among others. Thousands of people have been evacuated and thousands more are still awaiting rescue according to the Red Cross as torrential rainfall from Harvey continues to deluge the area and bring additional threat to Louisiana as well.

“Just like with Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy and Matthew, we are relying on the generosity of Presbyterians to provide financial and hands-on support to help the whole church stand with these communities and the Presbyterian families,” said the Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, PDA director. “This is a catastrophic event of wind and water, the likes of which Texas has not seen. In the Song of Solomon, Scripture says ‘Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it,’ and we will be there with them. Our love and partnership will be with the people of Texas for the long run.”

Kraus estimates PDA will be making a three-to-five-year commitment to help communities recover from the disaster.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is the emergency response and refugee program of the denomination, committed to the long-term journey of recovery of communities adversely affected by a crisis or catastrophic event. It is funded by [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) and raises designated funds for responding to specific disasters.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The PDA website for continuing updates is <http://pda.pcusa.org>.

The PC(USA) website to donate is <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000169>.

If you choose to send your donation to FPC (for FPC to remit to PC(USA), as Pastor Greg has suggested) please make your checks payable to FPC and note ‘disaster relief’ or ‘Hurricane Harvey’ in the memo section of your check, or the comments section of your online payment.

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 500<sup>th</sup> 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 September 16
  - Volunteer at either (or both) shifts: 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 12 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Volunteer opportunities at Wednesday Night Live
  - Contact Stephanie Brader for details.



### **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 402-462-5147 to RSVP by Friday, September 1.

**Fourth Sunday Fellowship has began!** This new offering from the Congregational Life Committee invites members of the congregation to take some time, each "Fourth Sunday" of the month, to slow down, relax after worship, and leisurely enjoy some refreshments in the company of the church family.  
(Refreshments today provided by Congregational Life Committee. Coffee provided by Mission Committee.)

**No Sunday School next week (all ages).** Have a happy Labor Day weekend!



**American  
Red Cross**

Our next **American Red Cross blood drive** is Tuesday, Sep 5, from 12 noon to 6 p.m. If you would like to donate or volunteer, contact Erica Brooks at 402-469-9285 or [ericalynn128@gmail.com](mailto:ericalynn128@gmail.com). You can also make an appointment to donate at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

**NEW! Two Weekly Bible Studies.** Both will study scriptures for the upcoming Sunday's worship service. Both will be led by Pastor Greg. Options: Tuesdays at noon (bring a sack lunch if you like), beginning September 5; or Wednesdays at 7:00 a.m. (breakfast is provided), beginning September 13.

On September 10, the **Heirs Apparent adult Sunday School class** will begin a new series of DVD-based discussions entitled "What's Your Story: Seeing Your Life Through God's Eyes." All are welcome!  
*Anderson Conference Room, 9:15-10:15 a.m.*

Pastor Greg, who oversaw all world mission operations at the national level of the PC(USA), will share the **History of Presbyterian Mission** during the Forum classes on Sep 10 & 17. *Fellowship Hall, 9:15-10:15 a.m.*

**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.

**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

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

**September 3 Communion Servers (Team #2):** Paula Crozier, Mary Fisk, Matt Fong, Bonnie Grams, Jeff Howard, Brian Johnson, Mary Kay LaMaster, Constance Malloy, Al Meyer, Chad Murrell, Kathy Utter, Rogene Wenburg

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY SEPTEMBER

Kraig & Laurie Lofquist	09/01/2007
Paul & Ruth Caldwell	03/09/1953
Joe & Amy Black	09/03/2007
Craig & JoAnn Williams	09/05/1970
Brady Rhodes & Susan Meeske	09/05/2005
Travis & Renee Thomsen	09/13/2003
Chuck & Jane Bauer	09/14/1980
Todd & Shannon Welton	09/16/1989
Bruce & Jodie Phelps	09/21/1989
Jim & Linda Donohue	09/21/2002
Tim & Hilarie Redline	09/22/2001
Tracy & Susie Pettit	09/25/1982
Mike & Becky Meyer	09/28/1991
William & Susan Oliver	09/28/2002
Jamison & Brittany Murphy	09/29/2012
Jim & Dawn Baldwin	09/30/1989

**September Ushers (Team #1):** LaVern Franzen, Chuck Hastings-Captain, Jim Hoffman, Roger Sunderman

**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](mailto:tarci@fpchastings.org).

**The church office will be closed** on Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> in recognition of Labor Day. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!



### ***In Loving Memory of Wayne Specht***

11/03/1937 - 08/27/2017

Services will be held at FPC Hastings  
this Saturday, Sept 2 @ 11 a.m.

Additional details will be posted on FPC's  
website: <https://fpchastings.org/>  
as they come available.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## SEPTEMBER

<b>09/01</b>	Geraldine Carlson	<b>09/10</b>	Gary Anderson Jr	<b>09/19</b>	Jeff Howard
<b>09/02</b>	Dalton Adam		Willow Wissing		Jerri Knapple
	Mike Ziemba	<b>09/11</b>	James Ellerbee	<b>09/21</b>	Lori Schroeder
<b>09/03</b>	Linda Petroff		Jarod Wilson		Richard Viglicky
	Neil Riley	<b>09/12</b>	Cheryl Elfond	<b>09/22</b>	Mitchell Benorden
<b>09/04</b>	Daveta Brader		Jane Foote		Jim Hahne
	Raegan Bradley	<b>09/13</b>	Cade Hemje		Trace Haythorn III
	Tethloach Duang		Cora Hemje		Jane Marsh
	Willis Horton		Renee Thomsen		Jack Shardelow
	Hilarie Redline	<b>09/14</b>	Lathan Dirks	<b>09/23</b>	Laura Bishop
	Peyton Mitchell		Neal Hoff		Carol Grummert
<b>09/05</b>	Septer Duang		Kim Kern		Neely Nuss
	Dave Glass		Dixie McDonald		Karter Stroyek
	Pat Ochsner		Cheryl Wray	<b>09/24</b>	Kayla Howe
<b>09/06</b>	Nyanhial Duang	<b>09/15</b>	Ronald Maul		Matthew Karloff
	Melissa Ferguson	<b>09/16</b>	Teresa Canady		Ben Shoemaker
	Ryan Kern		Byron Jensen	<b>09/25</b>	Shelby Rhodes
	Truman Welsch		Lennon Launchbaugh		Ted Schroeder
<b>09/07</b>	Joe Black		Imee Robbins	<b>09/26</b>	Heather Cassidy
	Mike Hogan		Roger Schukei	<b>09/27</b>	Becky Maul
	Georga Ochsner	<b>09/17</b>	Tim Canady		Chris Olsen
	Kim Schawang-Smith		Karen Doerr	<b>09/28</b>	Tyler Lay
<b>09/08</b>	Kerry Brader		Kaden Grams		Jeff Ziemba
	Jordan Graviette			<b>09/29</b>	Jane Johnson
	Sharon Harvey			<b>09/30</b>	Addyson Hermes
	Constance Malloy				Phil Odom
<b>09/09</b>	Matthew Brooks				Carole Pedersen
	Caroline Echternach				Ron Telecky
	Mary Olsen				Sheryl Telecky
	Cheryl Schukei				Francis Vineyard
					Braxton Wissing

**Home Page**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**621 North Lincoln Avenue**  
**Hastings, NE 68901**  
**Phone: 402-462-5147, Fax 402-462-6818**  
**Email: [fpc@fpchastings.org](mailto:fpc@fpchastings.org)**  
**Website: [www.fpchastings.org](http://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](mailto:tarci@fpchastings.org) or call 402-462-5147.

### **Financial Corner**

**August 20, 2017**

10:30a.m. Worship Attendance	240
General Fund (2017)	\$6,450.00
Plate Collections	\$144.00
Per capita	\$60.50
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$63.30
Communion – RiteCare	\$45.00
Memorials-Joan Swan	\$120.00
Scholarship Fund-Chuck Evans	\$100.00
Food Pantry	\$8.00
Coffee Donations	\$13.00

#### **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