



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 21.31 Week Of: September 10, 2017

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

I want to share a few updates, thoughts and a couple of introductions with you. It has been a very busy summer for our beloved church! We have experienced a 40-50% increase in attendance this summer compared to the last three years, and the energy and excitement on Sunday mornings and throughout the week is joyful and contagious.

Not only do we have an increase in attendance and a boost in our spirits, but we are a church on the move! In addition to our incredible Vacation Bible Study that reached more than 70 children in Hastings, we piloted a Vacation Bible Study for children with special needs that was very successful. We also challenged ourselves to the "Summer of Service" and collectively logged over 1,300 hours of service to our church and community in the month of July. We sent a Go and Serve team to North Carolina, packed more than 4,000 sack lunches for the hungry in our community, and helped facilitate three United Harvest mobile food pantry distributions that distributed more than 100,000 pounds of food to our neighbors. I am so humbled and grateful to be serving such a compassionate and committed congregation!

Your staff, Session and committees were hard at work this summer too; I am excited to announce some staff additions. The Session and Trustees voted in May to approve a half-time associate pastor. This is a pilot program to explore if the church can afford and would benefit from additional pastoral staff. We convened a hiring committee made up of staff, session members, and church members with a vested interest in the success of our youth and college programs. The committee met, finalized a job description, and interviewed qualified candidates. We selected Rev. Damen Heitmann; you may know him as the Chaplain at Hastings College. His position at Hastings College was transitioned to half-time effective July 1, so he was available and wanted to come join the FPC family.

The main focus of this position will be High School Youth, College Ministry, and Mission (including Go and Serve). Damen will also help lead worship most weeks and will preach once a month. Because this is a half-time, one year contracted position, it did not require the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) search process or a congregational vote. Your Session, Personnel Committee, Trustees, and the hiring committee did a faithful job of vetting the position, ensuring the budget, and finding the right candidate. Our hope is that the church will experience growth in membership and budget and that this pilot program can become a permanent position. If that happens, we would put the position and candidate to a congregational vote. Damen's first day was August 16 and we introduced him to the congregation in worship in August 20. Please join me in welcoming Damen to the FPC family! On the next page you can read a brief bio of Damen.

We have also called Rev. Don Canady out of retirement into the role of "Parish Associate." This means Don will assist me, up to 5 hours per week, to help with the congregation's pastoral care needs like hospital visits, homebound visits, etc. I will still be doing most of these visits; I firmly believe that pastoral care is a vital part of the ministry that you have called me to as your senior pastor, and I find pastoral care a deeply gratifying part of my ministry at this church. However, with 600 members on our rolls and more than 2/3 of them being active members, I want to ensure that our members are getting connected to the church when they have pastoral care needs, so Don will assist me with these visits.

I am excited for all the positive energy and forward momentum we are experiencing here at FPC. I believe that God is at work in and through this congregation, transforming our lives and our community. Thank you for all that you do and please continue to support our beloved church through your time, talents and resources, and your commitment to love your neighbors and be the hands and feet of Jesus inside and outside the wall of our church!

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Greg


Bio of Damen Heitmann, half-time Associate Pastor:

Originally from Victor, Iowa, Damen Wesley Heitmann is a 2005 graduate of Wartburg College. Following a year as an AmeriCorps VISTA member (a domestic volunteer program similar to Peace Corps), Damen attended United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities from which he graduated in 2009. He is an ordained member of the United Church of Christ and served for four years as the pastor at First United Church in Little Falls, Minnesota.

Damen came to Hastings, Nebraska in 2014 when he began serving as the Chaplain at Hastings College. In this capacity he leads weekly chapel services, works with student groups, coordinates special events and service trips, sends out silly emails and generally encourages people to consider their place in the universe. While continuing at

Hastings College, Damen began working at First Presbyterian Church in August of 2017 where he works with Senior High youth, preaches once a month, engages in college ministry, and helps to facilitate some mission activities.

When not at the college, Damen spends his time keeping the cat (Baloney) from scratching the furniture, playing basketball, and doing a bit of writing.



3 Week Sermon Series: "It's Not Fair!"

Have you ever felt that life just isn't fair? We hear that phrase from kids a lot, but all people feel that way sometimes.

Join us as we study three passages from the Gospel of Matthew that contrast our human concepts of fairness with God's understanding of fairness. Pastor Greg will preach a 3 week sermon series on this theme at the 8:30 and 10:30 services.

Sunday, September 10: "How to fight like a Christian" The Gospel of Matthew provides us a roadmap for Christian conflict resolution. (*Matthew 18:15-20*)

Sunday, September 17: "The math of forgiveness" God's math is not our math when it comes to forgiveness, we are called to forgive not seven, but seventy seven times! (*Matthew 18:21-35*)

Sunday, September 24: "A 'fair' wage" The parable of the same wage being given to workers who worked 10 hours and workers who worked 2 hours deeply offends our sense of "fairness." But in God's economy of grace, all are given the same. (*Matthew 20:1-16*)

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.

Blessing of the pets will be on Sunday, September 17, 8:30 a.m., at Alexander Park. This will be a short service, open to the whole community, so invite your neighbors and friends!!

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.*

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.

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.

United Harvest Needs Volunteers (badly!)

At the last couple distributions, we were low on volunteers. This slowed down the process and strained those volunteers who were there.

We need "all hands on deck!" to make this critical mission a success. If you have been considering joining in, but aren't sure if you are really needed, rest assured, you ARE needed!

Please mark your calendar and make plans to join us on the 3rd Saturday of the month (Sep. 16 is the next one) for either (or both!) shifts: 9:30-12:00 or 12:00-2:00. THANK YOU!!

Do you have an idea for or concern about our church?

It's "the Presbyterian way" to accomplish things through committees, and our FPC committees are ready and willing to welcome you and/or your ideas!

Please contact the moderator of the appropriate committee to share your input or to find out how you can join the efforts of their committee!

Christian Education -- Chris Junker

Communication and Technology -- Erik Nielsen

Congregational Life -- Kraig Lofquist

Congregational Nominating Committee -- Kim Creech

Foundation -- Dave Dirks

Global Mission and Local Social Witness -- Sharon Brooks

Go and Serve -- Tammie Nowka and Kim Hermann

Memorial -- Mary Olsen

Personnel -- Lynne Friedewald

Presbyterian Women -- Rogene Wenburg

Scholarship -- Tim Redline

Worship, Arts, and Music -- Erik Nielsen

Deacons -- Jeanne Hastings

Trustees -- Dave Fisher

Session -- Karen Doerr, Clerk

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 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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

September Heirs Apparent Classes

"What's Your Story? Seeing Your Life Through God's Eyes" DVD lesson and discussion led by Curtis Reimer.
Anderson Conference Room,
9:15-10:15 a.m.

September Forum Classes

"Presbyterian Mission History" Drawing upon his experience as General Manager of Operations for Presbyterian World Mission, Pastor Greg will explain and illuminate the long and far-reaching history of Presbyterian mission work.
Sep. 10 & 17, Fellowship Hall,
9:15-10:15 a.m.

"Portrayals of Jesus in Contemporary Fiction"

It's a literary parallel to the "Summer Sermon Song Series"! No need to read ahead; together we'll identify and explore trends in modern authors' characterizations of Jesus. Led by Dr. Gary Johnson.
Sep. 24, Fellowship Hall,
9:15-10:15 a.m.

Busy Person's Retreat

Oct. 1-15



Step out of
the fast lane.
Go on retreat...
...without leaving home.

Join fellow retreat participants at opening and closing sessions at 7pm on Sunday, October 1, and on Sunday, October 15. Between those dates, connect more deeply with God, yourself, and the world around you privately and with professional direction through 30 minutes of personal daily prayer and three 45-minute individual spiritual direction sessions scheduled at your convenience.

All parts of this retreat will be held in Hastings.

Kili Wenburg, MA, certified in spiritual direction and directed retreats, will facilitate all group and individual sessions.

TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE, OR TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE RETREAT
DIRECTOR OR ABOUT SPIRITUAL DIRECTION,
CALL KILI AT 402-462-5147, OR EMAIL [KILI@FPCHASTINGS.ORG](mailto:kili@fpchastings.org)



CROP Hunger Walk

Hastings CROP Hunger Walk is sponsored by our local Church Women United. The walk will start at Hazelrigg Student Union and will be in the College and Heartwell Park area Sunday, October 8, 2017 starting at 2:00 pm.

CROP Hunger Walks began in 1947 under the wing of Church World Services and for many years has raised funds to help provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs, both locally and globally.

25% of our Hastings Walk fundraiser will be used locally to benefit our Saturday's UNITED HARVEST MOBILE PANTRY. First Presbyterian Church has a team in this event. Please join our team as you donate to this much needed fundraiser. A table is in the memorial room each Sunday till October 8 for your donations and will inform you of the walk event. Or you can donate in the church office. To donate or register online go to crophungerwalk.org, find Hastings CROP Hunger Walk, Register, Join a team, or start your own team. Follow the simple step-by-step instructions.

Join in on the fun. Please plan to walk and donate.

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Just a note to tell you that **GriefShare** is on a slightly different schedule this year. We are currently finishing the summer series held at Good Samaritan Village. When that concludes on September 12, we will take a two week vacation. The fall series will begin the first Thursday in October. Additional information is available by request in the church office.

**Condolences** to John Northrop for the loss of his wife Michele on September 5, 2017.

**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), John Northrop, Carla Ridout, Elaine Specht and families.

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).

First Presbyterian Church Hastings remitted \$430.00 to RiteCare for August communion offerings and \$174.19 to PC(USA) Hunger Fund on August 31. Glory be to God!

Deacons delivered 7 bags (including 1 large box) with 54 items to the Hastings Food Pantry on August 31.



*Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. — Song of Solomon 8:7*

Hurricane Harvey may have been downgraded, but the torrential rains are still pounding parts of Texas and Louisiana. Historic flooding has forced rivers and streams from their banks and submerged homes, churches, businesses and roads, stranding thousands of people. 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 family as it responds to its neighbors.

**The needs for the response are great. God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.**

**GIVE:** Please give generously to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's emergency response and long-term recovery work in the areas affected by Hurricane Harvey. Designate gifts to DR000169-Harvey.

**ACT:** Put together Gift of the Heart kits for survivors in the affected areas — hygiene kits and cleanup buckets are especially needed. For more information, go to [pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/](http://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/).

Contact the PDA Call Center to be notified of volunteer opportunities.

Call (866) 732-6121 or email [pda.callcenter@pcusa.org](mailto:pda.callcenter@pcusa.org).

**PRAY:** God, our Shelter, be a strong presence in the lives of neighbors who, having survived the winds and rains of Harvey, now face grief, uncertainty and weary days. May our generosity in prayer and in tangible signs of support overflow more than floodwaters, to sustain your work of healing and rebuilding and to bring comfort and strength to those who suffer. Amen.

Keep up to date on long-term recovery efforts at [presbyterianmission.org/pda](http://presbyterianmission.org/pda) or [facebook.com/PDACARES](https://facebook.com/PDACARES)

☐ \$500   ☐ \$125   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$25   ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

US Hurricane Response – Harvey – DR000169 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation/PIN \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Presbyterian Mission

HH17-BI

Starting next week (September 12) we will change the "Home Page" newsletter publishing schedule. We will **publish it every other week** instead of weekly. For those who still get the "Home Page" by postal mail, on the weeks we don't publish the "Home Page" newsletter, we will mail you the announcements section of our weekly worship service bulletin. For everyone else, we will keep our webpage and Facebook page updated with all the events and schedules, and you can always access the most recent church bulletin with all the announcements and calendar on our webpage, as well as previous copies of the "Home Page." This will save us money in printing and mailing and will also save staff time. Please come talk to Pastor Greg if you have any questions about this decision.

# UNITED HARVEST



## MOBILE PANTRY

HELPING MEET YOUR FAMILY'S NEEDS

Date: **Saturday, July 15**  
**Saturday, August 19**  
**Saturday, September 16**

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Location: **Annex Building**  
Between the First United Methodist Church and First  
Presbyterian Church  
**Hastings Ave and 7<sup>th</sup> 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!



**FOODBANK**  
FOR THE HEARTLAND



**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 27, 2017**

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 10:30a.m. Worship Attendance   | 233         |
| General Fund (2017)            | \$19,361.00 |
| Plate Collections              | \$83.00     |
| CE Sunday School               | \$12.50     |
| PC (USA) Hunger Fund           | \$47.01     |
| WNL                            | \$110.00    |
| Communion – RiteCare           | \$20.00     |
| Communion–Habitat for Humanity | \$5.00      |
| Scholarship Fund-Chuck Evans   | \$100.00    |
| Food Pantry                    | \$5.00      |
| Coffee Donations               | \$2.00      |

#### **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