

First Presbyterian Church Hastings, Nebraska

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ
Ministers: Members of the Church
Senior Pastor: Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett
Associate Pastor: Rev. Damen Heitmann
Liturgist and Scripture Reader: Lynne Friedewald
Organist: Linda Vollweiler

September 3, 2017, 10:30 a.m.

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

PRELUDE "We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise" Kirk Dearman/arr. LeDoux

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.

Praise the Lord!

A voice in the wilderness urges us to respond.

We come with open hearts and willing spirits.

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN** "We Are Standing on Holy Ground" 3x 406

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, O God that as we move about the sound of your voice becomes muddled. It gets mixed up and muffled by all the noises of the world. Your clear calling is silenced and we wander off, heeding other echoes. And so we find ourselves in strange lands. We get called off to the land of gossip. We pitch tents in the territories of greed and consumption. We seek to establish residence at the intersection of hostility and contempt. Help us, O God, to return. Let us once more notice your calling and perceive your voice. Bring us back to the holy ground, the living ground, the ground of love, peace, and forgiveness.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me” 582

*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

ANTHEM

Moses & Payton Rhodes

Through the generous legacy of the Langenberg family, our church provides scholarships for music classes to children of members. Each Sunday this summer, we will hear a song offered by a recipient of the Langenberg Scholarship Funds.

MOMENT WITH CHILDREN/MINUTE FOR MISSION

Jessica Allen-Pickett

While the children are coming forward, we invite the congregation to sing: “This Little Light of Mine”

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 – Exodus 3:1-15

2nd SCRIPTURE READING- Romans 12:9-21

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

“Who Am I? Who are We?”

Rev. Damen Heitmann

*HYMN

“I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

69

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

OFFERING

(All loose coins in the offering plate will go to PC(USA) Hunger Fund.)

OFFERTORY

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

Melvin Rotermund

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Accept, O God, our gifts both small and large. May they be used to bring aid to the suffering, hope to the lost, and peace to all. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Take and eat the bread when it is passed to you.

Take the cup and hold it until the entire congregation has been served. We drink the cup together as a sign of unity in the Body of Christ.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. As the church, may we rise from the Communion Table and be sent by the power of the Holy Spirit to participate in God's mission to the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN

"The God of Abraham Praise"

49

(During the singing of the final hymn, we will take a second offering to benefit Habitat for Humanity. The congregation is invited to come down to the communion table and place their offering in the basket.)

*CHARGE and BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

"Fantasy in A Minor"

J.S. Bach

Come worship with us next week and invite your friends and family!

Sunday, September 10

Worship at 8:30 and 10:30am

Sunday School for all ages at 9:15am

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett preaching

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 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.

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.

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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.

Announcements

The radio broadcast airs during the 10:30 a.m. service on KICS 1550 AM and is given by JoAnn and Les Seiler.

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.

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.

Need a ride to church on Sundays? Request a ride by calling Deacon Moderator Jeanne Hastings at 402-462-8460 or the church office at 402-462-5147.

Flowers are given in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. William A. McCall by family.

Greeters: Peter & Pamela Lainson

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

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

Acolytes: Madeleine Johnson, Shannon Canady

Nursery: Kim Bogan, Abby Shetler

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.

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.



**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. You can also make an appointment to donate at 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.

8:30a.m. worship service begins next Sunday, September 10th.

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 and 17.
Fellowship Hall, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

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**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

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This Week --- Sep 4 – Sep 9, 2017

Mon, Sep 4	OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY	
Tue, Sep 5	10:00a	Staff Meeting in Pastor's Office
	12 noon- 6:00p	Red Cross Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall
	12:00p	Bible Study in Kessler
	1:00p	Quilters Meet in Annex
	5:30p	W.A.M. Meeting in Anderson Conference
Wed, Sep 6	11:00a	PW Coordinating Team Meeting in Library
	11:45a	PW Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
	4:00p-6:00p	WNL Activities – Pre-K thru 5 th Grade
	4:30p-6:00p	New Member Class in Anderson Conference
	6:00p-6:45p	WNL Family Time Meal – All Ages Welcome!
	6:30p	Wood Carvers in Basement
	6:45p-7:30p	Chancel Choir Practice
	7:30p-8:15p	Chancel Bells Practice
	7:30p-8:15p	WNL Bible Study/Fellowship – Jr./Sr. High
Thu, Sep 7	5:30p	Christian Ed Meeting in Parlor
	6:30p-8:00p	Spanish Class in NW Classroom, Annex
Fri, Sep 8	10:00a	Mahjong Ladies in Youth Activity Room

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