



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 22.04 Weeks Of: February 18 & 25, 2018

Our theme for the year is "Hear the Story, Share the Story, Live the Story." We have been inviting our members to offer a reflection on scripture. Those reflections can be offered on Sunday morning during worship, and we are also taking written reflections for publication in our newsletter. These reflections have provided a beautiful opportunity for us to consider scripture through the eyes of the people sitting next to us in the pews. Thank you to everyone who has shared a reflection! There is still opportunity to do so; come see me or Kili if you are interested in sharing on Sunday morning or submitting a written reflection.

Below you will find a reflection written by Julie Thomsen based on Mark 1:21-28. I am so grateful for Julie's heartfelt honesty and willingness to share. I hope this reflection helps strengthen your own faith as it has strengthened mine.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Greg

"Today's scripture includes stories of Jesus' healing people. Thinking about this within the current sermon series on 'Jesus' Identity,' I find myself thinking about how some difficult times in my life have impacted my identity. I will share two experiences with you: one that was very painful years ago and one I am currently struggling with; both of which cause me self-doubt and insecurity.

Years ago, I was married to someone who was unfaithful. He became a father with one of his girlfriends, while at the same time I was visiting doctors wondering why I wasn't getting pregnant. This situation made me very insecure. I felt like people would blame me for not being a good wife, for not being observant enough to have known what was going on. My dream was to have a big happy family and great marriage. Which I thought I did. I was totally blindsided and lost. I thought, "What a failure I am!" At that point I turned to prayer, praying for strength to get me through this life change. An answer to prayer seemed to come through self-esteem workshops that I was required to attend through my employer. The workshops were great for my job but they were even more helpful for my personal growth. I felt like God had provided this opportunity so that I could get back on track. While going through my divorce, I easily could have let my demons take over by seeking revenge, or being jealous and hurtful, or losing myself in self-doubt, but Jesus did not let this happen. He showed me the high road, and I took it. He showed me how I could believe in myself. In finding the courage to believe in my own value and worth, I found wonderful friends, support, and most importantly, God.

Currently I struggle with Dysphonia, a vocal cord dysfunction that gives you no voice control. It also comes and goes as it pleases. Dysphonia has a way of interfering with my daily life in several ways. Responsibilities at work are affected when I need to be strong and confident going over treatment planning and finances with patients. With running and swimming (which I love), it can affect me like asthma, making it hard to catch my breath at times, which slows me down. Then socially, I do not like people I don't know to think I have an awkward voice. I strongly feel my identity is threatened by my voice. However, in this strange time in my life I can still find a sense of humor with myself when my voice starts cracking up. I am working on accepting my voice change daily. Jesus may not heal my voice as he healed others in today's scripture passage; however, he is healing me in a way by helping me to find more empathy for others and more patience with myself. I am learning that identity comes from the heart, not from the opinions of others. Jesus didn't take away my difficult situations through miracles, but he is healing me in a deeper way by helping me understand myself--my identity--through him."

Special Attendance Recognition

Children who routinely attend Sunday School and Wednesday Night Live will get a chance at a worship leadership role. Each month, all children preschool thru 8th grade with 100% Sunday School or Wednesday Night Live attendance will be entered into a drawing. Two children will be chosen each month. The children will get a chance to extend their faith growth to others by choosing to serve in one of the following worship roles:

- Acolyte (if under 4th grade)
- Usher
- Liturgist
- Music soloist
- Call to Worship leader
- Prayer leader
- Children's Moment leader or helper

During the month of January, eleven (11) children had 100% Sunday School attendance. Twenty-five (25) children had 100% Wednesday Night Live attendance. The two children whose names were drawn for January's recognition are Meredith Oliver (Sunday School) and Chudier Duang (WNL). Thanks be to God for our faithful attenders.

ATTENTION: Mandatory Training for ALL First Presbyterian Church Child & Youth Adult Volunteers!!!!

First Presbyterian Church

Child Protection Policy Training

Who: All persons 18 years of age or older who desire to or presently work with the children participating in FPC programs and activities

When: Sunday, March 18; 11:30am–12:00pm (following worship)

Where: First Presbyterian Church–Sanctuary

*First Presbyterian Church seeks to provide a safe and secure environment for the children who participate in our programs and activities. Training of adults working with FPC children is a **MANDATORY** requirement of the FPC Session-adopted policy. Questions? Contact Stephanie at 402-462-5147 or stephanie@fpchastings.org*

Moms Group: Information, Encouragement, Support

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month in the Library, noon-1.

Feb. 15: *Elusive Happiness*. Sure, there is deep joy in parenting, but where is the *fun*?

Mar. 1: *Raising Boys*. Specifically, we'll talk about how movies teach "manhood."

*Free Childcare. *Bring a sack lunch if you like.

United Harvest needs your hands and your hearts this Saturday, February 17!

Two ways you can help:

1. **VOLUNTEER.** Volunteers need not register in advance. Just show up around 9:30 and get an assignment at the volunteer check-in table. *We especially need volunteers who can help clean up at the end (approximately 12:30-2:00)!!*
2. **PRAY.** As you lift up both the volunteers and the recipients, allow your prayers to be guided by the following quote from Robert Kruschwitz: "Through the practice of Christian hospitality, the church participates in God's peaceable kingdom. Such hospitality indicates the crossing of boundaries (ethnic origin, economic condition, political orientation, gender status, social experience, educational background) by being open and welcoming of the other. Without such communities of hospitality, the world will have no way of knowing that all God's creation is meant to live in peace."

"Reluctance into Boldness"

Adam Hamilton's new book *Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet* provides the background for a new DVD-based study series just getting underway in the Heirs Apparent class. As Hamilton shares historical information, archaeological data, and biblical text, we will gain a better understanding of Moses' significance in our lives today, and we'll discover how we, too, can turn our own reluctance into boldness!

Sunday mornings, 9:15 a.m., Anderson Conference Room

Financial Peace University Series Begins February 20

Financial Peace University is open to anyone: couples or singles, young or "more experienced," just starting out or retired. Anyone who needs to clean up their finances or just wants to understand better how money works can benefit from this material. Managing our money is a life skill that is becoming increasingly important in this rapidly changing world. If you have taken the class before and want a "refresh," it is free. If you are new to FPU, there is a fee for materials. FPU will be held on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church starting on February 20, and concluding on April 24 (with no class on March 20). Childcare will be available upon request for a free will donation. You can register online at www.daveramsey.com, or contact Deb Johnson at 402-469-5847 for more information.

Did you know that most of our Forums (the adult education classes taught on Sunday morning), are recorded and available on our website? You can watch previous forums by visiting this webpage: <https://fpchastings.org/adult-education/>

Each issue of the Home Page, we will feature a forum. For this issue, you are invited to check out the forum on Communion that was co-taught by Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen on Sunday, January 7. This class looked at the biblical basis for communion as well as history and traditions of communion. One thing that was discussed was different ways of serving communion, including by "intinction." We invite you to watch this forum and if you have any questions about communion, come talk with Pastor Greg or Pastor Damen. To find the forum, visit the webpage above and then scroll down to the blue text that reads "01/07 Communion, Familiar and Mysterious."



How did our election campaigns get this way?

FORUM: Feb 18, 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall

The U.S. was the first country in history founded not by military conquest or religious fervor, but by a small group of men who convinced the majority of people it should exist. The founding fathers understood the rules of effective public relations campaigns, and journalists were always integral to the process, but politics changed in the 1930s when two individuals met by chance, formed a PR firm, and invented the modern negative media campaign. Barry Anderson, retired professor of journalism and former radio and television producer, will share the fascinating story of the birth of the tactics evident today in every American election.



NEBRASKA CULTURAL ENDOWMENT
Arts + Humanities
LIVELIHOOD



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

Beyond Survival: Thriving and Faithful to the End

FORUM

Sun., Feb. 25.

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship Hall



SPEAKER

Rev. Bill

Nottage-Tacey

Sharing inspiring stories of rural churches,
like Hanover Presbyterian Church,
which have made a difference in the landscape of
ministry and mission on the prairies.

February communion offering is for Souper Bowl of Caring, Hastings Middle School Food Pantry, and will be collected throughout the month.

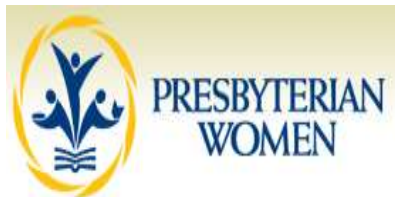
Prayers for: Erica Brooks, Judy Brown, Ruth Caldwell, Fiona (Louie & Kristen) Eckhardt, Stacy Eddleman, Zelma Fobben, Jane Foote, Celia & Wayne Ganow, Lois Hahne, Carol Harrenstein & her mother Ethel Johansen, Irmise (& Elmer) Heeren, Kathy (& Steve) Illingworth, Linda Johnson, Richard & Wanda Langer, Mary (& Jim) Lewis, Carol Medsker, Bob Nedderman, Larry & Carolyn Nowka, Ramona Shetler, Erv & Betty Lou Siemoneit (Shirley Maul & Sandy Siemoneit's parents), Elaine & son Jonathan Specht, Steve Thelen (Pamela Lay's Brother-in-Law), Audrey Watson and families.

"We thank the congregation and pastoral staff for the prayers, cards, and expressions of concern and support during this period for loss of our mother. We are truly blessed to be part of the caring family which is First Presbyterian Church." – Al & Lee Meyer

Irva Smith has been a member of FPC Hastings since April 2, 1933! Her family is hosting **an open house for Irva's 100th birthday** on Sunday, February 18th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Join us in the 200 wing dining hall in Perkins at Good Samaritan Village.

Correction to February Birthdays: Jenni Welsch's birthday is March 26.

Condolences to: the Hermes' family for the loss of Charlotte Hawthorne, and to the family and friends of Carla Reese.



**Presbyterian Women invite you to join them for lunch
on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 11:45 a.m.
They will be serving lunch for Sermons a la Carte
at St. Mark's Episcopal Church**

Located @ 422 N. Burlington St.; cost for lunch is \$4.00 per person.

Langenberg Legacy Lesson Program Application for Spring 2018 is now available

First Presbyterian Church is pleased to invite you to participate in a very exciting program offered by our church. Several years ago, through the generosity of the late Luella Langenberg, a program was established to encourage the children and youth of our church in their musical pursuits. Parent(s) of students in grades 1-12 may apply for up to \$250 per semester to offset the cost of private music instruction. Applicable areas of study include: piano, voice, guitar, or any band/orchestral instrument. Grants are limited to one per child. Parent(s) must be members of First Presbyterian Church and students must be active participants in the church choir/music program. Lessons are verified by Worship, Arts and Music committee members. NOTE: Although grants are renewable, parents MUST RE-APPLY EACH SEMESTER.

2018 Directory is available 3-hole punched or as a stapled booklet and may be found in the church parlor or on the wooden table in the common office area. It is also available in .pdf format. Please contact Tarci at 402-462-5147 or tarci@fpchastings.org if you'd like a copy mailed or emailed.

Directory Correction: p. vi Session, Class 2020, Brian (W.) Johnson, 953 – 41 Rd., Menden, NE 68959. Cell phone: 308-830-2642; Birthday: August 27. (Brian Nicholas Johnson celebrates his birthday in February.)

The radio broadcast airs during Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. on KICS 1550 AM.

Sunday's service will be broadcast live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings and on Channel 181 Tuesday at 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 in the office.

Need a ride to church on Sundays? Request a ride by calling Deacon Moderator Dawna Whitcomb at 402-469-4805 or the church office at 402-462-5147.

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**HOW TO TRANSFER GIFTS OF STOCK IN  
THREE EASY STEPS**

*The First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, NE currently has an account with TD Ameritrade that receives all stock(s) for immediate liquidation. This account is served by TD Ameritrade Representative Douglas Oakeson of Oakeson Steiner Wealth & Retirement. If your stock(s) is held in certificate form please contact Doug at 402-461-3000 to have him assist you in the handling of your gift. If your stock(s) is held in a brokerage account at another financial institution, you need to authorize your financial institution to transfer that stock(s) to TD Ameritrade. Here is how:*

1. Write a short "authorization letter" addressed to your financial institution or stockbroker that is holding your stock. Your financial institution will not transfer stock without your written authorization. Please use the following example to write your letter:

*(Date)*

Dear xxxxx *Brokerage House*:

Please transfer \_\_\_\_ shares of my \_\_\_\_\_ stock held in my account # \_\_\_\_\_ with your firm, to TD Ameritrade via DTC per the following information.

DTC Clearing #: **0188**

For further credit to TD Ameritrade Account #: **939579723**

For further credit to TD Ameritrade Account Name: **First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, Nebraska**

Thank you.

*(Jane Doe's signature)*

Jane Doe

2. Contact your financial institution to see if they will accept a fax copy of your letter or if it is necessary to mail the original. Please confirm that they receive the letter.

3. Contact the Tarci Matthews at First Presbyterian Church to let her know that your stock is being transferred. Tarci will contact Doug Oakeson to alert him to expect the transfer.

First Presbyterian Church will be notified by Mr. Oakeson when the stock has been transferred. The church will authorize TD Ameritrade to sell the stock(s) immediately. You will receive a gift acknowledgement from First Presbyterian Church confirming this stock gift.

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*"When working with your attorney to update your **will and estate plan**, please consider including a gift to the First Presbyterian Church Foundation that will enhance the work of this congregation for many years to come. Our Federal Identification Number is 47-0710307." --Dave Dirks, Moderator of the Foundation*

Home Page
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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 bi-weekly publication 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.

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