



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 22.08 Weeks Of: April 15 & 22, 2018

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

Christ has risen! Christ has risen indeed! My spirits are still lifted and my heart is still singing following our Holy Week and Easter services. The Good News is that Easter is a season that lasts 6 weeks, and not just a celebration of one day. So we will boldly proclaim, "We are an Easter people! Alleluia is our song!"

Thank you for all the ways that you helped First Presbyterian Church celebrate the miracle and joy of Jesus Christ's resurrection. Below is a poem I wrote as I was reflecting on all the ways that my heart was warmed. Enjoy!

"Things that warm a pastor's heart during Holy Week"

A poem by Pastor Greg

A Palm Sunday service with more than 30 beautiful children processing in, singing and waving palms

A baptism where the child being baptized rests her head on my shoulder and cuddles in at just the right time

A church and a supportive family who recognize how busy the pastor is during Holy Week and grant space and grace

A congregation that shows up for obscure, mid-week services during Holy Week

People who take a chance and lean into the discomfort of foot washing

The opportunity to co-preside in worship and at the communion table with mentors and friends

Plans to clean up after a service only to find church members who spontaneously stayed behind to help

Turning over Good Friday services to gifted colleagues and watching them shine

A full sign-up sheet for the Easter Prayer vigil, and the knowledge that we are being prayed for

A joyful Easter Egg hunt that reached out into the community, made possible by the generosity of the congregation, led with love by our staff and volunteers and executed graciously by all involved

Spring snow Easter morning that didn't dampen our spirits

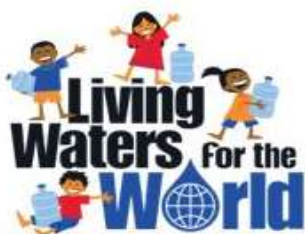
Our music ministry that fills the sanctuary with a joyful noise and points to the glory and wonder of God

Colleagues and volunteers who work together to make Easter a glorious celebration of Christ's resurrection

The joy of serving a church full of members who reflect the love of Christ into the community and the world

These are the things that warm a pastor's heart during Holy Week

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Greg



2018 VBS Volunteer Sign-Up

First Presbyterian Church--Hastings, NE

We are preparing for another great Vacation Bible School! This year, we are using Living Waters for the World's VBS curriculum. It is designed to help children experience God's love while exploring scriptures that refer particularly to God's use of water as an agent of creation, salvation, healing, blessing, and health. It will also give children an idea of the world water situation, and some suggestions about ways they may help.

Our VBS will be held May 21-25, 9:00am-12:00pm.

It is our prayer that God has VBS in His plan for your life! We know Jesus will work through YOU at VBS. Would you prayerfully consider serving in VBS? Please register as a volunteer at <https://fpchastings.org/vbs/>. Please contact Stephanie at stephanie@fpchastings.org or 402-462-5147 with any questions or if you'd like a printed registration form.

Moms Group: Information, Encouragement, Support

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

Apr 19: "Parenting Taboos"

May 3: *Celebration of Parenting*

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



Your Input Is Needed: 10 Quick Questions

At FPC, we value lifelong learning, and the Adult Education Committee wants to create programs and classes that meet your needs and preferences! Whether you currently do or do not attend adult Sunday School classes, please take our **quick, 10-question survey about adult Sunday School*** by clicking [here](#). (A paper version of this survey will be available as a bulletin insert in an upcoming worship service.)

*The Adult Education Committee creates programming in addition to adult Sunday School classes, but this particular survey is addressing only Sunday morning offerings.

Did you know that most of our Forums (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>.

Recalling that Earth Day is coming up on April 22, our "Featured Form" for this edition of the Home Page is one entitled "Creation Care," originally offered on April 23, 2017, by presenter Dan Deffenbaugh. To find the video of this Forum, visit the web page above and then scroll down to the first of the blue buttons with white text (quite a ways down the page), and click on the one labeled "4/23 Creation Care."

April communion offerings are for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). OGHS is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. In the 1990s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more.

Deacons delivered 2 bags with 21 items to Hastings Food Pantry on April 3.

Ann L. Binfield and Chip Essex Memorial Scholarships are now available. Applications may be found on the glass shelf in front of the church office, or online at: www.fpchastings.org/scholarships/. Deadline is May 11, 2018.

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In Nicolas Wolterstorff's book *Justice*, he used the term "quartet of the vulnerable" to describe four groups of people in the Old Testament that were the weakest and most vulnerable in society. The passage from Zechariah 7:9-10a (NIV) names those four groups. "This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the **widow** or the **fatherless**, the **foreigner** or the **poor**.'" What groups in our time would we put in a "quartet of the vulnerable"? Are they present at the United Harvest distribution?

This month we start a caring ministry that plans to make available a time for recipients to meet with facilitators to pray and share concerns. We ask that you **pray**:

- That the Spirit brings and empowers people to serve in that capacity. The need is for 6 to 8 individuals. In some instances, a skill in Spanish is desirable.
- That those who come to receive food will also have the courage and trust to receive food for the soul through sharing of concerns and prayer.
- That from this sharing of concerns and prayer, recognition of the societal injustices innate to the community may be identified.
- That as injustices are identified, the body of the church chooses to act as directed in Psalm 82:3-4 (NIV). "Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

As we discover how vulnerability comes about and who is most susceptible, may we do as Jesus did and respond with compassion and justice.

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Cleaning Out Your Closets???

The First Presbyterian Church Mission committee would love to receive your gently used winter coats for our coat drive that will be held in October. Coats of all sizes are needed for Men, Women and Children. (Adult XL and XXL are in high need) Donations accepted now through October at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings YMCA and Pershing Orthodontics.

If anyone is interested in assisting with minor mending and or cleaning, please contact Sharon Brooks at 402-705-4905. We are truly blessed to have such a giving community to help others in need. Please help get the word out before garage sale season so we can get a good start.

Update from Hands Around the World Store:

A new shipment of coffee has arrived!

And try our new product: organic Sunday morning pancake mix!

Open 9am-12noon on Sundays during the school year, come check us out!

FPC Adult Mission in Motion



“Building relationships and understanding across borders.”

Save the Dates

October 20th to October 26th, 2018

Join fellow church members on a journey to Frontera de Cristo.

fronterdecristo.org

One of our church’s strongest connections to Frontera de Cristo is through the Café Justo we sell in our Hands Around the World Store. On April 14th through April 18th we will have the pleasure of hosting Adrian Gonzalez, Director of Customer Services for Café Justo. Adrian was our guide and translator when Pam Lay, Jan Ham, Denny Storer and Jeni Howard were part of a Border to Border Delegation in 2016. The purpose of the trip was to gain more understanding of border issues, and to build relationships with people working-living close to borders on all sides. We would love to tell you about the dedicated, warm, hardworking people and families we met.

When we left our host families and the other coffee growing families in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico. We left with a determination to share the story of Café Justo. These coffee growers joined together to form a cooperative of families to grow, roast and package their 100% organic coffee using only their best beans. When the local coffee growers remain involved in the packaging and marketing process, they are able to make living wages for their families. Nobody can tell this story better than Adrian Gonzalez, so please consider joining us for the adult forum, worship service, and a meet-and-greet following the service on April 15th.



The Story Behind the Coffee

Why do we sell Cafe Justo coffee in our Hands Around the World Store?

Come find out!!

FORUM: April 22, 9:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall



Special guest Adrian Gonzalez, visiting from southern Mexico, will share how his company (Cafe Justo) combines great coffee with environmental stewardship, minimizing immigration, and serving God.



REV. GREG ALLEN-PICKETT
FORUM: APRIL 22, 9:15 A.M.

REFLECTIONS ON HOLY WEEK

GREG'S PHOTOS FROM LEBANON, SYRIA, AND IRAQ
PROVIDE A CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION OF JESUS' LAST WEEK.



Community Prayer Walk

Joyce Schiffler Service Award

Sunday, April 29, 2018 2:00pm-3:30pm

Details:

The Walk begins in front of St. Cecilia High School, park in StC parking lot.

Participants will walk together for 35-45 minutes in central downtown Hastings.

The Walk ends at the St. Cecilia Health Ministry Office, 200 yards from the StC parking lot.

Immediately after the Walk, the Joyce Schiffler Service To Others will be awarded at the St. Cecilia Health Ministry Office, 415 N. Kansas. Award given by Sunrise Rotary Club.

For those with **limited mobility**, a modified "Prayer Walk" will be set up at the Health Ministry Office, 415 N. Kansas. Handicapped parking and entrance is located on the west side of the building.

Walking together in groups, or as families, is a great way to participate!

This Community Prayer Walk and Award commemorates

Joyce Schiffler

a well-known community walker, who lived a life of selfless service to others.

The Community Prayer Walk also:

- Promotes physical and spiritual activity.
- Encourages faith communities on their spiritual walk with God.
- Brings faith traditions together in prayer.
- Honors Joyce, who walked everywhere and inspired people to serve.

A collaboration between Rotary, First Presbyterian Church, St. Cecilia Health Ministry, and the Hastings Health Ministry Network.



Hastings Health Ministry
Network





Presbyterian Women Meetings: Wednesday, April 18

Circle 1 @ 9:30 a.m.: Hostess May Wierenga, Lesson Marilyn Nielsen

Circle 2 @ 9:30 a.m.: Hostess Lynnette Krieger, Lesson Jane Foote

Circle 3 @ 1:15 p.m. (Library): Hostess June Nielsen, Lesson Jane Marsh

A Big "Thank You" to Matt Fong for taking such good care of the Easter lilies!

Prayers for: Lynn Barrows, Judy Brown, Ruth Caldwell, Stacy & son Ty Chapel, Fiona (Louie & Kristen) Eckhardt, Stacy Eddleman, Zelma Fobben, Celia & Wayne Ganow, Bonnie Grams, Irmise (& Elmer) Heeren, Nick Herringer, Kathy (& Steve) Illingworth, Lois Katt (Barbara Sunderman's mom), Mary Kay



Nick Herringer added 6 new photos — with **Nick Herringer**.
Apr 9 at 3:43pm · 🌐

Pathology results confirmed a reoccurrence of glioblastoma. Today I start 6 weeks of daily radiation treatments and chemo pills. After radiation is finished, the plan is to start the Optune cap. This cap sends low intensity electric fields into the brain that may slow or stop cancer cells from multiplying.
1 THESSALONIANS 5: 16-18
ALWAYS BE JOYFUL, NEVER STOP PRAYING, BE THANKFUL IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU WHO BELONG TO JESUS CHRIST.



Write a comment... 📷 GIF 😊

LaMaster, Richard & Wanda Langer, Mary (& Jim) Lewis, Teresa Luther, Dwight & Jane Marsh (Edie Perdew, Dwight's sister), Carol Medsker, Larry & Carolyn Nowka, Ramona Shetler, Erv & Betty Lou Siemoneit (Shirley Maul & Sandy Siemoneit's parents), Steve Thelen (Pamela Lay's brother-in-law), Beth (Peggy Thomson's sister), Audrey Watson and families.

Condolences to: Sharon Chapel and family for the loss of her son, Ty Chapel. Ty's memorial service will be Saturday, April 28th, 11:00a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Greg Allen-Picket will be officiating.

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.

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

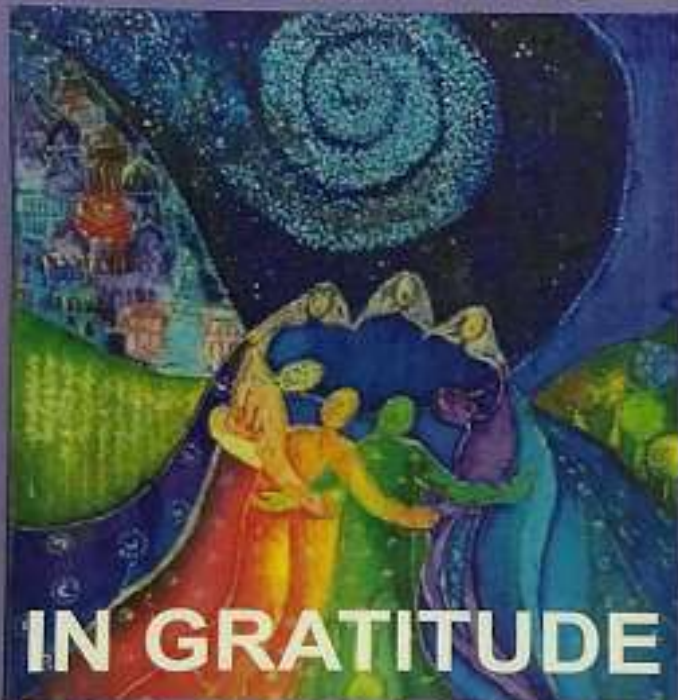
Sunday's service will be broadcast live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings and on Channel 181 Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

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.

*"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*

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
2018 May Friendship Day
REACHING FOR WHOLENESS



IN GRATITUDE
FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

You Are Invited

MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY CELEBRATION

Friday, May 4, 12 pm Noon, Salad Luncheon

First St Paul's Lutheran Church, 501 N Burlington Ave

Tickets \$5, Purchase at your church or at the door

Church Attendance

		<u>7th</u>	<u>14th</u>	<u>21st</u>	<u>28th</u>			
<i>January</i>	8:30a	26	28	25	63			
	10:30a	<u>230</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>184</u>	<u>193</u>			
	Total	256	208	209	256			
		<u>4th</u>	<u>11th</u>	<u>18th</u>	<u>25th</u>	<u>Ash Weds 2/14</u>		102
<i>February</i>	8:30a	22	47	26	36			
	10:30a	<u>125</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>188</u>			
	Total	147	205	232	224			
		<u>4th</u>	<u>11th</u>	<u>18th</u>	<u>25th</u>	<u>Maundy Thurs 3/29</u>		77
<i>March</i>	8:30a	17	15	28	35			
	10:30a	<u>244</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>284</u>	<u>Good Fri 3/30</u>	Noon 34/7p.m.	37
	Total	261	179	229	319			

Financial Corner

	January	February	March
General Fund (2017 & 2018)	\$23,465.00	\$32,451.19	\$28,291.62
Plate Collections	\$185.00	\$350.00	\$568.00
Per capita (2017 & 2018)	\$584.25	\$362.40	\$121.00
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$68.49	\$97.02	\$151.53
Communion	\$469.00	\$1,104.31	\$518.00
	(Big Brothers/Big Sisters)	(HMS Pantry)	(Sixpence Early Learning)
Special Offering	-	-	\$1,072.00 (Pine Ridge)
Special Offering	-	-	\$200.00 (Houston Trip)
CE Sunday School	\$62.25	\$39.11	\$32.78
Go & Serve Donations	\$1.00	\$150.00	-
Memorials	\$925.00	\$50.00	\$1,350.00
Bereavement Fund	-	-	\$200.00
WNL	\$100.00	-	-
Bid Board	\$55.00	-	-
Joy Offering	-	\$50.00	-
OGHS	-	\$50.00	\$455.75
Adult Mission Fund	-	\$100.00	-
ARC (lilies)	-	-	\$102.00
Advent Candles	-	\$72.94	-
Food Pantry	\$46.00	\$9.00	\$20.74
Postage/Coffee/Copies/Discs	\$6.10	\$32.46	\$21.68
Flowers/Radio	-	-	\$65.00
Pooh Corner Rent	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
Church Usage	\$50.00	-	-
Annex Bldg. Usage	\$637.50	\$250.00	\$2,320.00
<u>Will to General Fund</u>	-	-	<u>\$20,438.93</u>
Total	\$27,254.59	\$35,768.43	\$56,529.03

Home Page

First Presbyterian Church

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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