



## The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 22.10 Weeks Of: May 13 & 20, 2018

### **WNL YEAR-END PICNIC & VBS VOLUNTEER COMMISSIONING**

Wednesday, May 9  
Libs Park—16<sup>th</sup> St. & Baltimore Ave  
5:00-6:00pm fellowship & free-play  
6:00-7:00pm meal\* & commissioning

\*The main dish, drinks, and table service will be provided.  
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



Stephanie Brader, our Director of Education for Children & Youth, was asked by *GenOn Connect* to write a brief article about WNL year-end celebration. You may find it here:

<https://www.genonministries.org/blogs/blog/one-great-idea-end-of-year-celebration>

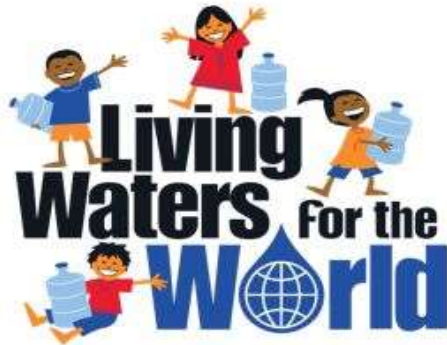
## Join Us for Church in the Park

On May 20, we will have ***only one worship service at 10:30,***  
and it will be held ***at Chautauqua Park.***

On this special occasion, we will be joined by our friends from St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
for a joint worship service and pot luck lunch.

Fried chicken, drinks, and tableware will be provided. Please bring a side to share.

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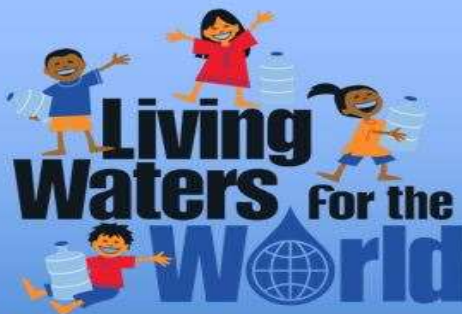
## 2018 VBS

**First Presbyterian Church**

**May 21-25 9:00am-12:00pm**

**\*\*Early drop-off option at 8:00am by pre-registration ONLY.**

Everyone welcome! Pre-school (must be toilet trained) through 4<sup>th</sup>  
Grade. Register now at <https://fpchastings.org/vbs/> for the best  
week of the summer!



**Clean Water for All God's Children!**

**Please join us for**

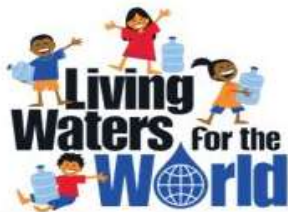
**Special-Needs VBS**

**May 22-24**

**1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Hosted by: First Presbyterian Church**

## Volunteers Are Still Needed



## 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](mailto:stephanie@fpchastings.org) or 402-462-5147 with any questions or if you'd like a printed registration form.

## **Summer Bible Study Schedule**

FPC offers two regular weekday Bible studies: Tuesdays at noon and Wednesdays at 7 a.m. During the summer, the Tuesday noon group will continue to meet as they have throughout the year. The Wednesday morning group will continue with their regular schedule through May. Beginning June 6, the Wednesday morning Bible study group will change time and focus: instead of meeting at 7 a.m., they will meet at noon; instead of studying the Bible, they will study a book (for details on the book, see the following article in this newsletter about "Summer Book Club").

## **Coming Soon: FPC Summer Book Club**

Do you know anyone in the so-called "Church Alumni Association," that growing organization filled with former church members who are no longer motivated and inspired by traditional explanations of spiritual truth?

Or do you sometimes yourself feel like a "believer in exile," a spiritual seeker struggling to straddle two worlds, one with modern concepts, symbols, and science, and another with confusing creeds, unmoving liturgies, and archaic language?

If these questions, both framed by phrases coined by Episcopalian Bishop John Shelby Spong, trigger either a positive response or serious curiosity, consider participating in FPC's Summer Book Club as it discusses Spong's new book *Unbelievable: Why Neither Ancient Creeds Nor the Reformation Can Produce a Living Faith Today*.

With the boldness of a modern day Martin Luther, Bishop Spong calls for a new reformation within the church, posing twelve challenging theses ranging from the need to reimagine the nature of God, to why original sin is an inadequate way to understand human behavior, to how resurrection has more to do with spiritual wholeness than unthinkable biology.

Facilitated by John Harrington, this discussion group will meet each Wednesday noon, June 6 - July 18 in the Anderson Conference Room. Feel free to bring a sack lunch. Participants should obtain a copy of the book through their preferred book outlet.

## **Next United Harvest: Saturday, May 19**

At the April United Harvest distribution, an abundance of volunteers were present to make the mission a success! Volunteers are not asked to sign up in advance, so organizers never know whether there will be too many or too few workers. Therefore, even though there was more than enough help last month, this month may be very different, so please continue to support this important mission with your time and your prayers. It takes around 100 volunteers every month....is this the month you can help? If so, please come to the Annex gym at 9:30 or noon (workers for both shifts are needed!) and check in at the volunteer coordinator table. THANK YOU FPC for your continued service to the community through United Harvest!!

## **Thanks for another great year!**

It's been another wonderful year of learning and serving and growing together! I am so blessed to be a part of the staff at FPC, and I thank all the church family for your support and encouragement!

Because I am on a 10-month contract with the church, I will not be holding regular office hours in the summer. I am still available for spiritual direction by appointment as needed, so contact me by email ([kili@fpchastings.org](mailto:kili@fpchastings.org)) or by phone (402-461-6374) if I can be of service to you over the summer.

--Kili Wenburg

**Spanish classes** will now be held on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. (rather than 6:30 p.m.) in the Annex's NW classroom. All levels of knowledge are welcome to attend these free classes!

## **GO & SERVE Needs Your Help/Stuff!**

The Go and Serve Mission Team will be holding a Garage Sale June 1st and June 2nd in the FPC Annex. We would LOVE your donations of gently used items! We will take donations NOW until the days of the sale (June 1-2). Drop your items off in the church common office area or contact the church office to have a Go and Serve Team member pick up the items from you. Items we are not able to accept include tvs, computer monitors, child car seats and cribs.





Each Mother's Day, the Presbyterian Women sell **Mother's Day cards** for a suggested offering of \$10 each. The proceeds go to a mission to help mothers. Usually that mission has been overseas, but this year we are keeping it local. The proceeds will go to the *Sixpence Early Learning Fund* here in Hastings. More than 30,000 of Nebraska's infants and toddlers are at risk of

arriving at their first day of kindergarten developmentally unprepared to learn and thrive. Sixpence is changing the odds in their favor. The *Sixpence Early Learning Fund* is Nebraska's signature effort to put our state's youngest and most vulnerable children on the path to success in school and life. Sixpence promotes high-quality early care and learning opportunities that help parents guide the healthy development of their infants and toddlers.

Women from our church will be selling cards Sunday, April 29, and Sunday, May 6 in the Memorial Room. Cards will also be available for purchase in the church office Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m. thru the week of April 30. Please stop by and help us help the young women of Hastings.



**American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Adams County**  
**Friday, June 1, 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM Hastings High School Track**

Relay for Life is the nationwide, signature event of the American Cancer Society. It is a community event in the fight against cancer, and as part of the ceremonies, volunteers and survivors line the track with luminaria (lighted candles in weighted, white bags)

inscribed with an individual's name. At sunset, everyone is invited to participate in the incredibly moving Luminaria Ceremony and observe a heartfelt moment of silence as the candles are lit. Each luminaria is lit in honor of someone who has survived cancer or in memory of someone who has lost his or her battle to cancer. Donations for luminaria are \$10 each. All money goes to the American Cancer Society mission to help others Stay Well, Get Well, Finding Cures and Fight Back. First Presbyterian Church Team again will be participating this year. Luminaries are available each Sunday in May at a table in the Memorial Room or in the church office during the week. Donations can also be made via the website: [www.RelayForLife.org](http://www.RelayForLife.org).



In honor and in memory of our father's on **Father's Day** this year, the Presbyterian Women will be collecting donations for Living Waters for the World (LWW), a global ministry that provides sustainable clean water and fosters long-term, mutually beneficial relationships between volunteers and communities in need.

LWW is a program of the Synod of Living Waters, Presbyterian Church (USA). Participation of churches of all denominations and civic organizations in this life-changing work is encouraged. LWW trains volunteers to establish and lead water mission teams that partner with international communities to implement water purification systems and health education. International Networks support partners throughout every phase of a water project and support sustainable water systems that produce clean water for a generation.

Please make your donation of any denomination by June 14<sup>th</sup> payable to "Presbyterian Women" and include the name(s) of who you'd like to honor or memorialize. Checks may be given to your circle leader, be dropped off in PW's mailbox in the common office area, or mailed to FPC. Contact Mary Fisk with questions: 402-460-7880 or [maryjanefisk@gmail.com](mailto:maryjanefisk@gmail.com).

**FPC: Exploring God's Mission Through Partnership**  
***"Building relationships and understanding across borders."***



**Fact Sheet**

***What?***

FPC Hastings is sponsoring an adult exchange to one of our mission partners, Frontera de Cristo from October 20<sup>th</sup> to October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Frontera de Cristo is a Bi-National Presbyterian Border Ministry.

The following is directly from their excellent website at [fronteradecristo.org](http://fronteradecristo.org)

*Working with our partners, Frontera de Cristo engages in six areas of ministry including: church development, health ministry, family ministry, mission education, the Just Trade Center, and community development with the New Hope Community Center. A great deal of energy and prayer is directed towards mission education, working with mission delegations across borders to build relationships and understanding, and witness to the power of the gospel to tear down walls that divide humankind. Mission teams come to be in mutual mission with their Mexican brothers and sisters, sharing their gifts and talents as well as receiving.*

***Where?***

Frontera de Cristo is a Bi-National Border Ministry between Douglas, AZ and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. Our mission group will spend some time in Douglas, but most of the week will be spent in Agua Prieta.

***When, How and How Much?***

Plans are to depart from the Grand Island Airport for Tucson, AZ on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. A Frontera de Cristo van will pick us up in Tucson and transport us

to Douglas and Agua Prieta. We will fly back to Grand Island from Tucson on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. The estimated cost is approximately \$800 to \$900 including the flight. If you prefer to drive and have more time, arrangements could be made to meet in Douglas. This cost includes food and housing while we are there. We will be housed in homes, a community center, or churches during our stay.

### *Activities:*

Primary goals for exchange delegates include:

- Forming relationships between U.S. and Mexican brothers and sisters.
- Building understanding of our spiritual, political and economic connections across borders
- Understanding the realities of life on the border
- Sharing talents or gifts of participants; as well as, discovering new abilities.
- Building knowledge of Frontera de Cristo to interpret their mission and ministry to others.

Activities may include visits, interactions and services at a migrant resource center, migrant shelter, the border wall, border patrol, Sonoran Desert, a Maquiladora, Just Trade Center, drug/alcohol rehab center, community gardens, Lily of the Valley Church, Café Justo roasting facility and Café Y Mas coffee shop.

### *Who?*

Twelve adults who are interested in making this life changing journey and building understanding and relationships with our brothers and sisters across the border, and with each other. Those participating should be able to handle moderate amounts of walking. An official ID is necessary for border crossing. Passports may serve as this identification, but are not necessarily required for this trip.

### *Deadlines and Application*

The deadline for filling out the attached application is June 1st, 2018. A \$200 deposit would be required at that time. Again some of the activities and opportunities could be tailored to the skills and interests of the participants, so the sooner we know who is coming, the better. The final non-refundable payment will be due July 1<sup>st</sup> to book the flight. Please consider joining us.

## B. INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM

### FRONTERA DE CRISTO

Individual Registration Form



#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name	Telephone
Address	E-mail
Name of Church or Organization	Passport #

#### MEDICAL INFORMATION

Do you have any medical or physical disabilities that may require accommodation?

If yes, please describe.

Do you take prescription medication?

If yes, please list their names and dosages.

Allergies	Blood Type
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#### SPECIAL REQUIRMENTS

Food Allergies

Dietary Restrictions (vegetarian, gluten free, diabetic etc.)

Accessibility (wheelchair access, etc.)

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

PLEASE BRIEFLY  
DESCRIBE WHAT YOU  
WOULD LIKE TO LEARN  
ON THIS TRIP.

#### EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name	Telephones (home, work, cell)
Address	E-mail





Last summer Pastor Greg invited the congregation to submit secular songs they wanted to hear a sermon on. He preached on: Lynyrd Skynyrd, Barry Manilow, The Beatles, U2, The Byrds, and a few others. The sermon series was a hit, so he is doing it again this summer! If you live in Hastings and have always wanted to hear a sermon on your favorite secular song, send it our way. The schedule is already filling up with: Bob Dylan, Mumford and Sons, Crosby, Stills and Nash, Simon and Garfunkel and others, but we have a few spots left, so let us know!

### **Volunteers Needed**

**Project Homeless Connect** is a one-day, all-volunteer led event to connect homeless, near homeless, or those who are struggling to needed resources and services, and to raise public awareness of homelessness and the needs of those who often may go unseen. The mission of PHC is about welcoming all as neighbors into the life of the community, changing the way resources are accessed, and offering positive results for those in need.

*Project Homeless Connect-Hastings* will be 10-4pm, Thursday, June 28 at 1<sup>st</sup> St Paul's Lutheran. Last year we served 428 guests, including 287 children. This year we anticipate serving over 450.

Volunteers are the foundation of our event! Last year we had 200+ volunteers; we anticipate needing 225 for this year. Please visit [phchastings.org](http://phchastings.org) for more information about volunteer opportunities, to sign up, or to learn more about the event. Volunteer forms can be completed online, printed out and returned by mail to **PHC, 835 S Burlington, Ste. 106, Hastings, NE 68901**. As well, volunteer forms will be available soon in the church office.

### **Volunteer opportunities include:**

- Set-up day before event/clean-up after event
- Navigator
- Runners/Greeters
- Food Service
- Registration table
- Translators, including Spanish, Sudanese, Vietnamese

Donation drives will be at Wal-Mart on May 5 and May 26, 10-3pm both times.

email: [phchastings@gmail.com](mailto:phchastings@gmail.com) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/phc.hastings>

**May communion offerings** will be donated to the Open Table Sack Lunch Program.

FPC is scheduled to assemble and provide the Open Table lunches through the month of July again this year. More than 5,000 sack lunches were assembled and almost 800 'special meals' prepared last year.

'Special meals' required Wednesday afternoon gatherings, meal preparation and storage, delivery to Catholic Social Services to return Thursday to warm and assemble to serve. This 'above and beyond' effort was opted by the Mission Committee in consideration of those who eat sack lunches regularly.

The cost to fill the total need was \$4,727.40. The Open Table Fund has a 2018 beginning balance of \$301.64. Glory be to God that we are able to fill this need; let's do it again! Your offering makes the difference, thank you!



**Prayers for:** Lynn Barrows, Judy Brown, Ruth Caldwell, Sharon Chapel, Fiona (Louie & Kristen) Eckhardt, Stacy Eddleman, Zelma Fobben, Celia & Wayne Ganow, Bonnie Grams, Irmise (& Elmer) Heeren, Michael, Marcia & Stephen Hogan, Kathy (& Steve) Illingworth, Lois Katt (Barbara Sunderman's mom), Arlene Kort, Mary Kay 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.



**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](http://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.

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

**FPC remitted \$2,201.03 on 05/01/2018 to One Great Hour of Sharing. Glory be to God!**

*"Dear Partners in God's Mission, As you engage with Presbyterian Mission, you get a glimpse of what God is doing around the world. And so, on behalf of all who serve and are served by Presbyterian Mission, please allow me to express **our appreciation to your congregation and your congregation's leadership for your faithful giving.** Your church's support changes lives and offers a glimpse of God to people all around the world. Thank you!"* – Rev. Rhonda K. Kruse, Mission Engagement Advisor

*"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**  
**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 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](mailto: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