



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 22.19 Weeks Of: September 16 and September 23, 2018

NOTABLE NOTES FROM...

JESSICA ALLEN-PICKETT

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

On Wednesday, 9/12, we mark 18 months with this church and its wonderful, welcoming, and vibrant congregation. I continue to be so thankful that Greg answered the call placed upon him by each and every one of you, the church, and God with a resounding “yes”. It is hard to believe that two years ago, I had no idea where Hastings, NE was and now I feel bad for all those who have not had the opportunity to know this special place.

Upon our return from our first and second visits to the community of Hastings and First Presbyterian Church, many people asked me, “Did you like it?” And, each time I was able to, without hesitation reply, “Yes.” The next question was, “What about the church did you like?” That answer also came easily; “It felt like a warm hug,” was my reply.

This answer continued to prove true from the huge welcome banner adorning our garage when we drove up to our new home to the cards, household necessities, and smiles that were delivered that night. The offers of help, support, friendship, prayers, and love throughout the move, and this first year and a half of getting settled have been more than we could have imagined or hoped for. Many of you have invited us over for a meal. We have been welcomed into people’s homes and lives, and we are grateful.

To help return some of the hospitality and love that we have received in the last year and a half, Greg and I would like to invite you into our home for dinner. We will offer dinner dates throughout the 2018-2019 school year until everyone who would like to and is able to attend has the opportunity. They will be potlucks with us providing the main dish and asking that others attending provide side dishes. Sign-up sheets will be available in the church office during the week and in the Memorial Room on Sundays. The dinners will take place on Sunday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 starting this month.

We hope through these potlucks we will be able to grow deeper in our relationships with members of the First Presbyterian Church family. We look forward to breaking bread with you in our home.

With love and gratitude,

Jessica

September Communion Offering goes toward Revive Ministries

Revive Ministries, Horizon Recovery & Counseling, and Unity House is an Outpatient Drug and Alcohol treatment facility. We also operate three 3/4 way sober living housing (2 for men and 1 for women). These houses offer people a sober living environment where they can learn skills to help them live a sober life. Donations received go into a sponsorship account that is used to give a hand-up not a hand-out to people who are struggling financially to pay for treatment.

Need a ride to church on Sundays?

Request a ride by calling Deacon Moderator Dawna Whitcomb at [402-469-4805](tel:402-469-4805) or the church office at [402-462-5147](tel: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 the church office at [402-462-5147](tel:402-462-5147).

"When working with your attorney to **update your will and estate plan**, please consider including a gift to the First Presbyterian Church Foundation. Your gift 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

HOSPITAL REMINDER

Due to privacy regulations in place at the hospital, if you would like the church to know that either you or a family member will be hospitalized or have been admitted, please take

a moment and call the church office at 402-462-5147. Remember... we don't always know what's happening unless you tell us!

Taize-style Contemplative Services Resume This Sunday

Candlelit space. Beautiful, almost mesmerizing music. Silence and scripture to guide intimate communion with God. It's a unique worship experience. Please join us on the first and third Sunday mornings of each month at 8:30.

*Former church member **Nancy Langford** is experiencing several serious health challenges. Since she now lives in North Carolina near family, what we can do for her is limited, but she does appreciate greeting cards. Please send cards (handcrafted, mass-produced, funny, serious, inspirational, beautiful, whatever) to: Nancy Langford. 605 Tuttle Rd., Durham, NC 27703.*

To my Church Family

Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, and cards during this time as we grieve the loss of my Mom. It means so much.

Jean Matheny

FPC Prayers for:

Judy Brown
Celia & Wayne Ganow
Mary Kay LaMaster
Ramona Shetler
Audery Watson
Lori & Bert Wright
Dylan Croon

Elmer Heeren
Lois Katt (Barbara Sunderman's Mom)
Richard & Wanda Langer
Steve Thelen (Pamela Lay's brother-in law)
Georgette Smidt (Ted Schroeder's sister)
Connie Meyer (Daveta Brader's sister-in-law)

Zelma Fobben
Kathy (& Steve) Illingworth
Arlene Kort
Carolyn Nowka & families
Gary & Carol Grummert
Beth Utley

SPIRITUALITY LAB: Discovering the right mix of prayer and meditation for your spiritual life

2nd and 4th THURSDAYS: 7-7:45 a.m., church library

LED BY: Kili Wenburg

*Begins September 13



Upcoming Forum Classes

- ❖ September 16: *Hastings Hospice Choir*. Learn about hospice services through Mary Lanning, enjoy music and personal reflections from the Hastings Hospice Choir, and tap into that "thin place" that exists between life and death, a beautiful place in which we meet God.
Presenters: Colleen Vacek, Tom Michalek, Hastings Hospice Choir, Kili Wenburg
- ❖ September 23: *Hastings College Sunday*. FPC is proud to be the spiritual home of many HC faculty, staff, administrators, and students. Two of these will join us to describe the exciting, new things happening at HC, including changes in calendar, curriculum, and study abroad opportunities. Additionally, we will get a sneak peek at an important research project linking HC, FPC, and the United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry.
Presenters: Susan Meeske, Barbara Sunderman, Laura Logan

Thank you to those who helped

I would like to say thank you to FPC for allowing me to help again in the reconditioning of the gym floor in the Church Annex building. It turned out very nice, as I expected it would. However this would not have been possible without the help of several good volunteers. They include (in no special order) Sharon Brooks, Denny Storer, Neal Hoff, Matt Malouf, and our own Tony Calhoun.

These folks did a great job and I thank them for their time to help me prepare the floor, especially, as I have discovered, I'm no longer a young man who can do these big floors alone.

If you see any of these folks, please tell them thanks and be sure to take a look at the floor they created. They all had a part in making it great again! Good job crew!

-Monte Malouf, Jr.



2019 Red Cross Blood Drive Schedule

Tuesday, January 8th; Monday, April 1st;
Monday, July 1st; and Tuesday, September 3rd,

Times will still be 12 noon – 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendar now! To donate or volunteer your time, please call Erica Brooks, FPC Parish Nurse, at [402-469-9285](tel:402-469-9285) or sign up at www.redcrossblood.org.

Hastings Food Pantry donations update

In a letter dated August 22nd, the Hastings Food Pantry thanked the church for our donation of 2 bags – 27 items of groceries. The Hastings Food Pantry has been in operation since 1982 as an all-volunteer organization providing Hastings and the surrounding area with emergency food.

Langenberg Lesson Program

You are invited to participate in a very exciting program offered by the First Presbyterian Church, Hastings. Several years ago, through the generosity of the late Luella Langenberg, a program was established to encourage the youth of our church in their musical pursuits.

- Parents 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.
- Parents must be members of First Presbyterian Church and students must be active participants in the church choir/music program.
- Application forms will be available in the church office starting September 1, 2018.
- **DEADLINE FOR THE FALL 2018 GRANT PROGRAM IS OCTOBER 1, 2018.**
- **ALTHOUGH GRANTS ARE RENEWABLE, PARENTS MUST RE-APPLY EACH SEMESTER.**

If you have any questions regarding this program, please call the church office, 402-462-5147. We hope you will consider taking advantage of this wonderful program!



Ending Hunger One Step at a Time Hastings CROP Hunger Walk 2018

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.

Hastings CROP Hunger Walk is sponsored by the local church Women United with help from Hastings College. Twenty-five percent of the Hastings Walk fundraiser will be used locally to benefit our local Hastings Salvation Army food Pantry. The 2018 walk event will be Sunday, October 7, 2018, at Hastings College Hazelrigg Student Union at 1:30 to register and 2:00 to walk.

To join the First Presbyterian Church team, start your own team, register, or donate, go on-line at crophungerwalk.org and follow the simple step-by-step instructions.

A table will be in the Memorial Room each Sunday till October 7 with more information about the walk event and to take your donations. The church office will also take your donations if you are unable to participate in person.

You read that right! Presbyterian Women from all across the United States have officially donated more than 1,063,000 bras to Free The Girls!

We had estimated we would hit that number this year, and we did - back in March! We've been so wrapped up in launching Costa Rica, keeping up with all the amazing birthday fundraisers, planning for our first ever FTG promo video, and dreaming for the future that we didn't even realize it until a couple weeks ago. It's incredibly humbling to realize that *1,000,000 bras have been donated from 24 countries and sent overseas to Mozambique, Uganda, El Salvador, and Costa Rica.* The number of women who have been able to change their lives because of these bras is what keeps us going. So from the bottom of our hearts, thank you. Thank you for your support and all your unmentionables.

Thank you from FPC Hastings PW

One million bras
...and counting...



United Harvest Distribution is this Saturday, September 15

Your time and your prayers are needed as we continue this vital ministry in the heart of Hastings!
To volunteer, please check in between 9:15 and 9:30, or come for the cleanup shift around 11:30 or 12:00.

A Prayer for the Hungry

O God, we pray now for the hungry—

not the spiritually hungry
not the emotionally hungry
not the psychologically hungry
(though they surely need our prayers)—
we pray now simply for the hungry, hungry.

We know in the realm that Jesus showed us

no one goes hungry,
no one lacks daily bread.

In Your Realm,

those with food remember the hungry,
those with food share their food with the hungry,
those with food work on behalf of the hungry,
those with food weep for the hungry,
even if it makes them feel guilty.

God, we are grateful you never forget about the hungry—

that you long for the hungry to be fed.

God, we are grateful you never forget about those who aren't hungry—

that you long for them to feed the hungry.

God, the hungry and unhungry stand as one before you;

loved with the same love,
both in need of you and each other.

God of the Hungry, so many are hungry.

Rescue your hungry children,

fill their stomachs with food
and their hearts with gladness,
so that they, too, might experience the luxury of dealing
only with their spiritual hunger,
their emotional hunger,
their psychological hunger.

Send your Spirit to the hungry hungry,

and to the unhungry,
until all feast with Jesus in the new age.

In the name of Jesus and the hungry hungry we pray.

a prayer by Steve Hammond

What's up with missions?

Winter Coat Distribution

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 20th. We will have coats of all sizes, shapes and colors available in the Memorial Room for folks who don't have warm outer wear available to them. If you know of someone, bring them along with you to pick out a coat. We will be open at 9 a.m. until our supply is gone.

Happy Nappies

Thank you for all the bundles of diapers that come into our containers each month. We delivered 115 diapers to Catholic Social Services on August 30.


Feminine Hygiene Products for Pine Ridge

We will be delivering another car/van load of supplies to our friends at Pine Ridge this fall. This time, we hope to meet with the school nursing staff there. If you are interested in making the trip, tell Georgie Evans, Margaret Marsh, or Kim Hermann.

A recent message from our mission worker in the Dominican Republic, Kristin Hamner:

"Today I felt a little sad that school started up in Algodón and many of our little friends weren't around to play. But then I saw all the school-age kids walking to and from school with first their empty plates and then their full ones and was reminded one of the great things about school for these kiddos. They have at least one meal that they can count on. I teared up as I saw some kids taking their scoop of rice to share with others in their family who aren't in school."

Follow Kristin Kay Hamner on Facebook for photos and stories about her mission work.

A photograph of a white bowl filled with a thick, orange-colored soup, topped with green herbs. Next to the bowl is a loaf of rustic, golden-brown bread, sliced into several pieces. The background is a light, neutral color.

Sunday Suppers with Greg and Jessica

Breaking bread. Becoming friends.

- Series of potluck fellowship events at Greg & Jessica's house
- Sunday evenings this fall, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Six slots per night; adults only, please
- Sign up on poster in Memorial Room, or call the church office
- Please consider signing up with those you don't know well so that new relationships can be formed

BLESSING
of the pets



SUNDAY
SEP. 30
8:30 A.M.

ALEXANDER PARK,
7TH AND LINCOLN AVE.

PROVIDED BY FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ALL PETS. ALL PEOPLE
WELCOME!

Home Page

First Presbyterian Church

621 North Lincoln Avenue

Hastings, NE 68901

Phone: 402-462-5147, Fax 402-462-6818

Email: fpc@fpchastings.org

Website: 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 the Friday prior to publication. Submissions may be edited for length and suitability. You may send articles to the church office: fpc@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