

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 22.21, Weeks Of: October 14 and October 21, 2018

NOTABLE NOTES FROM...

PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

It has been a challenging month in the life of our nation, and in many of our own lives. Many of us are hurting, and we are more polarized as a nation than I have ever experienced in my lifetime. We have moved into a space where we are denying or ignoring the basic humanity of the person we disagree with, forgetting that each person we come into contact with is a precious child of God, made in the image of God. That is not our way as people of faith and followers of Jesus Christ.

I want to encourage you to be kind to one another. Listen deeply and respectfully to one another, even if you may disagree. Jesus modeled this behavior for us throughout his ministry, right up until the end. Let us share and embody the love of Christ to everyone we come into contact with.

I want to share with you this prayer written by my friend, Rev. Jill Duffield. Will you pray with me?

Prayer for a polarized country:

Reconciling God, we come to you grief stricken by the rancor and division among us, the hurt and pain rampant in our land. We lament our inability to speak the truth in love. We lament our addiction to power and political tribalism. We lament our propensity to dehumanize those with whom we disagree.

We cry to you for an infusion of the Holy Spirit that brings the wind of perfect love that casts out fear, honest repentance that compels healing actions, justice that brings wholeness for all people, mercy that makes space for caring relationships and goodness that overwhelms our hard-heartedness.

We come to you, Lord of all, exhausted by the current state of our life together, uncertain how to make it better, utterly dependent on your grace to show us the way. Grant us the vision of your promised future and give us the courage to take hold of it, no matter what we must do to be the witnesses to Jesus Christ we are, bearers of light and life and peace. We trust the One who has called us to do this.

Amen.

-Rev. Jill Duffield, editor of the Presbyterian Outlook Magazine

Blessings,

Pastor Greg

October Communion Offering goes to Peace and Global Witness featuring Hearts and Hands ever Against Hunger in Hastings who will receive 25% of the offering.

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

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

No Sunday School (all ages) this Sunday, October 14. Fall Break

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!

Global Mission and Local Social Witness Committee Activity Report

- ✓ The mission committee delivered 120 disposable diapers to Catholic Social Services Thursday, October 4th... more dry bottoms...

FPC Prayers for:

Judy Brown
Celia & Wayne Ganow
Mary Kay LaMaster
Ramona Shetler
Brett & Dana Miller
Elmer Heeren
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)
John Harrington
Zelma Fobben
Kathy (& Steve) Illingworth
Arlene Kort
Carolyn Nowka & families
Beth Utley
Jeff & Ashley Hermann
October is Pastor Appreciation Month:
Please pray for: Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett,
Rev. Damen Heitman

The family of Wilfred Grummert sincerely thanks you, our Church family, for comforting us with your expressions of care and concern, your prayers, and for gifts honoring the memory of our Dad, Grandpa, and Great-Grandpa.

Gary and Carol Grummert, Bert and Lori Wright, and Dylan Croon.

Upcoming Forum Classes

- ❖ October 14: *No Class* (Fall Break)
- ❖ October 21: *Fifty Years of Impact*. Assassinations of MLK and Bobby Kennedy; first Big Mac goes on sale; My Lai massacre in Viet Nam; first successful heart transplant; Black Power salute at the Olympics... the year 1968 was tumultuous and triumphant, innovative and incomprehensible. This class will explore 1968's continuing moral, cultural, and theological impact 50 years later.

Presenters: Rev. Bill Nottage-Tacey and friends

- ❖ October 28: *2018 General Assembly Update*

General Assembly (GA) is the biennial gathering of commissioners from each of the 173 presbyteries of the PC(USA). Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, decisions are made at GA on behalf of the national church body. This Forum will provide a report on the notable items addressed at this summer's GA.

Presenters: Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Sharon Rees

Finding God, Even in Failure

Your perfect plan just turned into a disastrous disappointment. What are you supposed to do now? How do you pick yourself up and move forward when you really want to sit in the corner and cry? The *Heirs Apparent* adult Sunday School class will be looking at these questions and more in light of the life of the prophet Jeremiah. This new five-session series called "Fail: What to Do When Things Go Wrong" begins October 21. All are welcome to join together to study how Jeremiah persevered and trusted God during extremely trying times.

Sunday mornings, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Anderson Conference Room

Soup Group Lunchtime Conversations for Women

All women of the church are welcome to join in casual lunchtime conversations on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The Fall 2018 "Soup Group" sessions feature viewing of a TED talk followed by conversation on topics related to self-care.

- ❖ October 18: Happiness and Gratitude

- ❖ November 1: Understanding Stress

Free childcare provided with reservation by the Tuesday preceding each gathering. Bring a sack lunch if you wish. Noon-1, Church library.

Coming Soon: Kirkin of the Tartans (Nov. 11)

You may not have heard of "Kirkin of the Tartans" before, but it is a tradition in the Presbyterian Church that honors our Scottish heritage and will be a festive follow-up to last year's celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. "Tartan" is another word for "plaid," a specific pattern of which can be claimed by each Scottish family.

During "Kirkin of the Tartans" services, the specific "tartan" or "plaid" flag of each family is blessed, signifying a blessing of the family as a whole. While we have many non-Scottish families in our local Presbyterian church, we'll all still have a chance to participate and receive blessings upon our families or households during a fun and engaging worship service on November 11.

All families are encouraged to bring a swatch of tartan, which will be placed on the communion table; bring either the official tartan of your family (if you have one) or just bring a plaid pattern that you like. The service (and there will be only one worship service that day) will feature a bagpipe band and will be followed by a special meal.

Similar to last year's meal that featured German dishes, this year, we'll enjoy a meal featuring Scottish dishes. It will be a day in the life of First Presbyterian that you won't want to miss, so mark your calendar now!

Questions? Contact Jessica Meeske or another member of the Congregational Life Committee.

Is there room for improvement in your prayer life?

If so, check out the **Spirituality Lab**, where each gathering offers a chance to learn and practice a new form of prayer and/or meditation, giving you the support and information you need to find the right prayer practices for your life. The 45-minute 7 a.m. gatherings are on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month and provide a wonderful way to start your day! Questions? Contact Kili.

7:00 a.m., Oct. 11 & 25, The Upper Room Classroom (upper level Memorial Room)



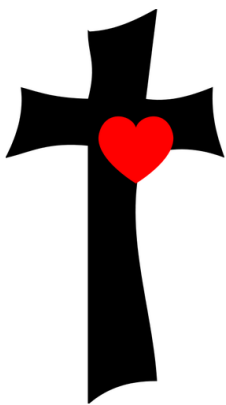
**MEN'S BASKETBALL
HASTINGS COLLEGE VS. STERLING COLLEGE**

GUYS NIGHT OUT

**Monday, November 5. Food at 6:00, Game at 7:00
Legacy Room, Lynn Farrell Arena, Hastings College
All men, all ages welcome.**

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

“The elders who lead the church well should receive great honor. Those who work hard by speaking and teaching especially should receive great honor.” 1 Timothy 5:17 (ICB)



Dear Pastor,

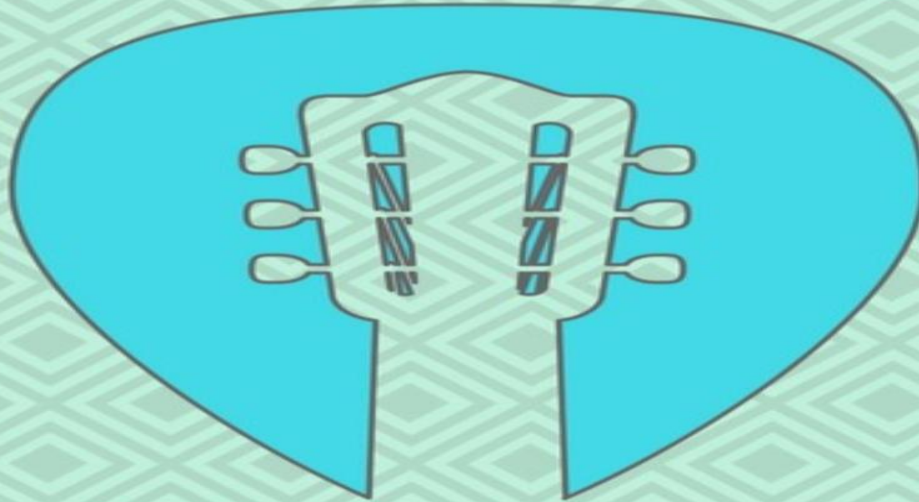
Thank you Pastor, for all you do,
For your work, your kindness, and guidance too.
You point to Jesus, You walk the walk!
We (usually) listen when you talk!!

We think you're special! We think you're great!
And we will pray for you every day!
(Um... in October!)

No, really, Pastor, we've got your back.
Now we'll cut you a little slack.
We truly think that you're the best,
And thank you for all that you invest.

God bless you, Pastor!

The Gathering



Our Lives, God's Story, Original Music

**“The Gathering” returns on October 28 at 7pm at Prairie Loft
Our theme this time around shall be
“Regret and Contentment:
Missteps, Mistakes, and Learning to Live With It”**

**If you have a story you'd like to share please contact Pastor Damen
dheitmann@hastings.edu**

Winter Coats Available for | Those in Need

**First Presbyterian Church
7th and Burlington
Saturday, October 20th at 9am**

All Sizes Available for Adults and Children



Home Page

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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 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.

Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens
and the earth by your great power
and outstretched arm.
Nothing is too hard for you.

Jeremiah 32:17