



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 23.05, Weeks Of: March 17 and March 24, 2019

NOTABLE NOTES FROM...

PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

We have some exciting news to share with you! As I celebrate my two year anniversary with the church on March 12, we have added 73 new members in that time; we are a growing church! We have had growth in membership, growth in attendance, and growth in giving. Our growth in membership and attendance means additional work for our pastoral staff, which we celebrate but also want to be careful to avoid burnout.

Our growth in giving, along with Kili's transition in the fall to less hours, has provided us an opportunity to consider a full-time Associate Pastor. As you know, Rev. Damen Heitmann has been serving as our half-time Associate Pastor for the last 18 months. As we finalized the budget and realized that we could afford a full-time Associate Pastor, we spent time in prayerful discernment, asking God to guide our steps forward.

The Personnel Committee met, prayed, and decided unanimously to recommend Pastor Damen for the full-time Associate Pastor. They forwarded that recommendation on to the Session, who also unanimously approved that decision after a robust discussion.

Damen has essentially been in an 18 month "job interview" for this position as he has served dependably as our half-time Associate Pastor. The consensus from the Personnel Committee and the Session is that Damen performed very well in this time. I echo that sentiment myself; Damen has been a gracious colleague, always willing to step in and help me when I needed him. He has done a faithful job of leading worship nearly every week and preaching once a month and is gifted in this area. His work with our high school youth and the Go and Serve team has been excellent and Damen has done a masterful job of building relationships with the youth and the adult volunteers.

On Sunday, March 24, we will hold a congregational meeting following our 10:30am service. The purpose of that meeting is three-fold:

- We will vote to elect Damen as our full-time Associate Pastor
- We will elect two new officers, one Deacon and one Trustee
- We will present the 5 Year Strategic Plan for the church

(As a bonus, we will also vote on the new name for the old Middle School Annex building!)

I hope you will be able to join us for that meeting as we affirm Damen's call to serve our church family in this way. Should you have any questions about this decision or the process we followed, please feel free to come talk to me, any of your Elders on Session, or any of the Personnel Committee members, all listed below.

I am so grateful to be serving as your Pastor and look forward to our continued growth as we strive to be the church in this time and place and serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and the world!

Your Servant in Christ, Pastor Greg

Session	Jessica Meeske	Erik Nielsen	Scott Shardelow	
Anne Bohlke	Brian Johnson	Kay Georgiana	Personnel	Richard McKenzie
Chuck Bauer	Pat Kern	Kris Horton	Tom Ratzlaff	Pat Kern
Mary Fisk	Neil Riley	Harold Korb	Tim Redline	Karen Doerr

Jim Cooke
Andy Barrows
Sharon Harvey
Jeff & Ashley Hermann
Celia & Wayne Ganow

FPC Prayers for:

Jim Harrenstein
John Harrington
Steve Thelen (Pamela Lay's brother-in law)
Katharine Davis
Jim Ostgren (Danna Wolford's father)

Zelma Fobben
Arlene Kort family
Levi Kaiser

Please let us know if you would like to be added to, or removed from, the prayer list by calling the church office at 402-462-5147.



Need a ride to church on Sundays? Call Deacon Moderator Joan Shaw at 402-460-8195 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.

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

--Dave Dirks, Moderator of the Foundation

HOSPITAL REMINDER

Due to hospital privacy regulations, 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!

A copy of any Sunday service is available on DVD disc upon request at no charge. Contact the church office at 402-462-5147.

FPC Global Mission & Social Witness team and the Go & Serve Youth delivered 141 diapers and wipes to Catholic Social Services February 27th.

Thank you from Marie Rasmussen

I wish to thank the Deacons for remembering me with the beautiful bouquet of flowers. They are truly appreciated.

I am so thankful also for being able to watch the church services on my phone when I was in the hospital. I truly felt like I was worshiping with you. May God Bless each of you.

New Arrival

❖ We are delighted to announce the arrival of the newest member of our FPC family, Audrey Miller, daughter of Dana and Brett Miller. A meal train has been set up at <http://takethemameal.com/meals.php?t=LJHV6613>

Jim Harrenstein Update - Jim has been moved to a cardiac rehab facility in Lincoln. He would love to receive cards or notes of encouragement. The address is: Select Specialty Hospital - Lincoln; 2300 South 16th St; 7th floor Room 714; Lincoln, NE 68502

In Loving Memory of

❖ **Craig Balnicke** who passed away February 4, 2019. Graveside services were held at Parkview Cemetery in Hastings on February 16.

❖ **Arlene Kort** passed away February 24, 2019. Services were held at First Presbyterian Church on March 1.

March Communion Offering goes to Open Table Program The Open Table program was created in 2004 to provide a daily sack lunch to people, no questions asked, no judgments made.

adult education

Heir's Apparent Adult Sunday School

"Liking Jesus: Intimacy and Contentment in a Selfie-Centered World" is a study that looks at how social media works in relation to our emotions, relationships, attitude, beliefs and our biblical values.



❖ March 17 "Habitat for Humanity"

Anchored in our community for a number of decades, Habitat for Humanity engages the skills of many people. When the weather cooperates, the team will be ready for a new build. How does this process work? Come learn from a panel of seasoned volunteers.

Presenters: Members of the Board of Habitat for Humanity

❖ March 24 "Strategic Plan for Our Church Family"

We are ready to go! Our planning process is wrapped up and we are excited to share the results. Everyone is welcome to learn about what will be happening at FPC.

Presenters: Pastor Greg and Brady Rhodes

Soup Group Lunchtime Conversations for Women

All women of the church are welcome to join in casual lunchtime conversations on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 12:00-1:00pm in the Library. Bring a sack lunch if you wish.

Bible @ Breakfast (Wednesday's at 7 a.m. in the Parlor) The current study is on the development of the apocalyptic imagination in biblical history. Come join this class with Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh studying from scripture in the Old and New Testaments.

Spirituality Lab

Learn and practice together a different form of prayer or meditation at each gathering. Join us to find the information and support you need for a more interesting and fruitful prayer life. 7:00 a.m., in the Library (New Location).

❖ March 28: *Writing prayer as a letter between myself and God*

How is prayer different from other spiritual practices?

❖ April 11: *Praying via mandala creation*

How can we involve family in prayer?

❖ April 25: *Prayer walking (using the labyrinth at Hastings College)*

How do you understand the relationship b/w happiness and joy, and where do you find them in your life?



The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be **Monday, April 1, 2019**, from 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.



American
Red Cross



Pickle Ball?!!

Anyone interested in learning the hottest sport in America?!! FPC Hastings is starting a FREE Pickle Ball group. You are invited to come to the FPC Annex located at 7th and Lincoln Ave. every Monday from 1:00 to 3:00, and Thursday (during March) 5:30 to 8:00pm. Pickle Ball is a fun blend of ping pong, racquetball, and tennis. It is designed for all ages; a healthy activity for young and old alike. It is much lower impact than tennis, but just as fun! All equipment is available, you just need to show up. You will be excited to learn a new sport for the New Year! We promise you will not be disappointed.

Sermons a La Carte – 2019 Theme: The Way of Love Practices for a Jesus Centered Life

Please join us at St. Mark's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral on Wednesdays during Lent from 12:05 p.m.-12:30p.m. for a Lenten message followed by lunch (\$4. per person)

- ❖ **March 13** The Very Rev. Katie Hargis (St. Mark's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral); Lunch by the Women of Saint Mark's
- ❖ **March 20** Pastor Kent Rogers (Grace United Methodist Church); Lunch by Grace United Methodist Women
- ❖ **March 27** Pastor Dustin Bower (First Christian Church Disciples of Christ) Lunch by First Christian Church
- ❖ **April 3** Pastor Steven Peeler (Lutheran church of the Good Shepherd); Lunch by the Women of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
- ❖ **April 10** Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett (First Presbyterian Church); Lunch by the Presbyterian Women

Knitters and Crocheters If you like knitting and/or crocheting, join us for our new knitting/crocheting *fellowship group*, the **Knit Wits**. We will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, 7:00-8:00/8:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Bring whatever project you're currently working on, or stop in for pointers on how to get started. We'll have refreshments, fellowship, and fun!



God on the
move!

A Lenten Sermon Series

Join us for the Season of Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week & Easter as we explore God's work through the travels, teachings, death & resurrection of Jesus

March 10: God moves... in the desert

Luke 4:1-13

March 24: God moves... over the fence

Luke 13:1-9

March 31: God moves... down the road

Luke 15:11-32

April 14: God moves... to the cross

Luke 19:28-40 (Palm Sunday)

April 18: God moves... showing us what love looks like

John 13:1-17, 31-35 (Maundy Thursday)

April 19: God moves... to the end

John 18:1-19:42 (Good Friday)

April 21: God moves... out of the tomb!

Luke 24:1-12 (Easter Sunday)



Registration began March 1 for this summer's Synod School that runs Sunday through Friday, July 21-26. Deirdre "Dede" Johnston, professor of communication at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, will be the convocation speaker, and Shawna Bowman, associate director of field education and experiential education at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, will be the worship leader. For those who haven't received a copy of the catalog, it is available online at <https://www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool>

Presbyterian Women.

Please Circle I will meet March 20-9:30am in the Library
(Hostess-Darlene Payne; Lesson-May Wierenga)

✓ Circle II will meet March 20-9:30am

(Hostess-Bonnie Grams; Lesson-Pam Lay)

✓ Circle III will meet March 20 - 1:15 pm in the Library

(Hostess-Nancy Grams; Lesson-Katherine Davis)



Register NOW for 2019 Summer Camp Grades 3 - 12,

PLUS Intergenerational & Family camps for Adults/Children age 5-12!

Benefits of Christian Camping...



☑ Campers can grow in their spiritual development in a fun, positive environment. ☑ Camp is an extension of your local church ministry program ☑ Child development experts believe that residential camp experiences help children and youth mature socially, emotionally, intellectually, morally, and physically.

(Supported by research conducted by the American Camp Association)

Highlands Presbyterian Camp & Retreat Center Summer Camp brochures are available on the built in wood shelf in the hall by the church office. Scholarship Applications are also available. Contact Stephanie at stephanie@fpchastings.org with any questions.

2nd Semester Grief Group for Men and Women

Find strength and comfort by gathering with others experiencing similar struggles at the loss of a loved one. The grief group for men and women began March 6 at 4:30-5:30 and will continue to meet every Wednesday for 8 weeks in the Kessler room. The group will be using the book "Praying our Goodbyes" by Joyce Rupp. Contact the church office if you are interested in attending.



5th Sunday Congregational Potluck - March 31

Food and Fellowship bring us all together for conversation on Sunday, March 31st following the 10:30 service. Please bring your family and friends, along with a food item to share.

In order to have a variety please consider: last names beginning with

A-G—salad/vegetable;

H-M—main dish;

N-Z—dessert/bread.

Congregational Life Committee members will provide table settings and drinks.



Hands Around the World Store

New shipments have arrived with coffee, tea, spices, scarves, and Easter decorations. Please stop by the store to see all of our New Spring merchandise. Our products from SERRV, Equal Exchange, and Just Coffee are Fair Trade. Behind every product is a story of inspiration, hope, and change - of artisans being able to send their children to school, build a first home, and feel the security of becoming self-sufficient. Your purchase not only helps to lift artisans, farmers, and their families out of poverty, but also supports United Harvest, a local mission, to which our store donates \$100.00 every month. Your purchase makes a difference!

Have you ever wanted to visit the Holy Land? Now is your chance!!

Pastor Greg will be traveling to the Holy Land October 4-12, 2019. The total package includes roundtrip airfare, all accommodations, meals, and eight days of sightseeing. Flyers are located in the office and in the Memorial Room. *The deadline to sign up has been extended to March 25.* Questions? Please call the office.

In the "Foot steps of Jesus" Journey to the Holy Land



Spiritual Directors
Pr. Greg Allen-Pickett



October 04 - October 12 2019

Package Price: \$3450.00 From Omaha, NE
Other Cities Available

Package Price Includes:

- * Roundtrip Airfare
- All nights accommodations in double occupancy luxury hotels
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- Eight days sightseeing in modern air conditioned private bus
- * English speaking government licensed Christian tour guide on duty
- * And much more

Hosted By:



First Presbyterian Church
621 N Lincoln Ave Hastings, NE 68901
Phone: (402) 462-5147

Good Shepherd Travel
www.goodshepherdtravel.com
Toll Free: 1-844-659-5263



CHURCH @ CAMPUS

SUN

DAY

SUNDAYS IN LENT

EVEN

ING

IT'S CHURCH
BUT AT HASTINGS COLLEGE
AND IN THE EVENING



FRENCH MEMORIAL CHAPEL • 7PM

Church @ Campus – Sleep In? Out of town? Wi-Fi Out of Whack? Whatever the reason, if you missed church on Sunday morning, you don't need to worry because during Lent you'll get a second chance (seasonally appropriate, eh?).

Beginning *Sunday, March 10* and continuing through Lent, we'll be holding Sunday evening worship services on the campus of Hastings College at 7:00 pm in *French Memorial Chapel*. The services will be similar to our regular 10:30 a.m. services. **Church @ Campus** is open to all who would like to come, so feel free to give it a try.

Home Page Newsletter
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

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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 twice monthly 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.

⁹ If you declare with your mouth,
“Jesus is Lord,”
and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.

¹⁰ For it is with your heart
that you believe and are justified,
and it is with your mouth
that you profess your faith and are saved.

¹¹ As Scripture says,
“Anyone who believes in him
will never be put to shame.”

Romans 10: 1-11