

# The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175 Vol. 25.07, Weeks of March 29 and April 5, 2020

### NOTABLE NOTES

FROM PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

Sunday was our first "Stay-at-home" worship, and by all measures it was both successful and faithful. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make it so. Erik Nielsen and Roger Schukei spent hours during the week getting everything set up. On Sunday morning, Linda Vollweiler provided her always excellent musical leadership at the organ and Robin Koozer shared a special anthem with us and helped lead the hymns. The music was like comfort food for the soul! Pastor Damen did an amazing job of keeping the service going and offered a beautiful and moving prayer that spoke right to our hearts. And Erik Nielsen and his daughter Lucy ran all of the technology to make it work. Wow, are we blessed! If you get a chance, please thank each one of these people.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of you for your incredible support of me and my family over the last week. As most of you know by now, my wife Jessica had the first confirmed case of COVID-19 Coronavirus in our community, which she contracted while she was in Spain leading a class for Hastings College. As I write this note today, Monday 3/23, I am delighted to share that she seems to have fully recovered. My daughter and I remain symptom free as well. As a family, we have fastidiously observed the quarantine protocols, which means Jessica hasn't left the house since returning from Europe (except to go to the lab to be tested on Monday 3/16). In addition, Esther and I have not had any physical contact with her at all; she has been living isolated in our basement and will continue to do so until the health department and our doctor gives us the "all clear." We are hopeful that will be on Friday, 3/27.

Our congregation and community have been wonderful to us, and we can never properly express our gratitude for all the support you have shown us. We have been well fed, well cared for, and deeply loved. Thank you for all of your steadfast support in this difficult time. God has provided for our family through your care. We clearly see the love of God manifest through the love you have shown us, and it has helped sustain our spirits and our faith in this difficult time.

Below I share some excerpts from my sermon on Sunday. If anyone wants to watch it again you can find it here: <a href="http://shorturl.at/krux4">http://shorturl.at/krux4</a> If you would prefer to read a manuscript of the sermon, check with the church office; we can send you one. Know that I am holding all of you in prayer just as you continue to pray for my family.

Your Servant in Christ,

**Pastor Greg** 

We love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). So the Lord is among us in the love shown by and to others.

When things might be feeling bleak or fear might rise up in you, remember that the antidote to fear is love. Love God and love neighbor; we need to focus our attention and energy in that love because perfect love casts out fear. (1 John 4:18) And when you are looking for God in the midst of the chaos, just look for the helpers, look for the people acting in love, and know that the Lord is among us through that love.

If we can hold fast to these ideas, we will get through this together, and we will come out the other side a stronger, more resilient, more compassionate, and more loving community. May we believe it, and may it be so.

FPC Prayers for: The Allen-Pickett Family Jim & Mary Jeanne Cooke Melba Trehern (Lisa Unger's Mom) Jim Duval

Tom Kubicka (Chris Junker's Dad) Chervl Ann Elfond Kristine Cook (Katharine Davis' sister) Jeff Howard Irina Erickson's Mom Chris Wheeler (Carol Wheeler's son) Jim Hahne **Everly Hogan** Jack Stinson (Julie Thomsen's Dad)

Our Church & Country Alana DeBellis & family Family of Celia Ganow Ben & Jovce Ore Jane Horton Georga & Duane Ochsner Gretchen Lainson Jim Harrenstein

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.

Elaine Schumacher (Vicki Howard's Mom)

# ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Janet Schawang

- ➤ live on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com/fpchastings</u>
- on Channel 181 Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- at Good Samaritan Village, the 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."

#### HOSPITAL REMINDER

Due to hospital privacy regulations, for 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!

Looking for a way to streamline your giving? Now is a great time to set up online giving through the church website through the following link:

https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx? formId=9ce5ed95-8620-4c9e-89e4f4eb536fb0dd

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

**Birth Announcements** If you would like a rose on the pulpit to celebrate the birth of a new child in your family, please notify the office.

Mission Committee Update -305 diapers and wipes were delivered to Catholic Social Services on Feb. 27, to the delight of many toddlers... They also delivered 13 shirts to Proteus on March 4.

#### **Lost and Found Reminder**

Did you know the church has a pooking for lost and found area? In fact, there are two places to look! We items ranging have from



sweaters and lonely gloves to neck ties and glasses. Please check the Lost and Found by the Pop Machine and also check the wood shelf in the hallway by the office.



### Help Us Celebrate...

Joyce Harrenstein is turning 99 years old on March 14th. Please help us honor her with a card shower. Cards can be

sent to 2525 S Wabash Ave; Hastings, Ne 68901

**April Communion Offering** goes to the Maryland Living Center of Hastings. The mission of MLC is to provide an empowering life experience in a stable, safe, and secure living and learning environment, for homeless or transitioning youth. MLC is a permanent housing facility that aims to successfully transition homeless and aged-out youth, ages 16-21 years old, into independent living within 12-18 months.



#### FRAUD ALERT

If you receive an email or a text message that looks like it is from Pastor Greg, Pastor Damen, or one of

the other church staff asking you to buy gift cards, please ignore it and report it to the church office. The phone number and email address will be incorrect.

Someone is sending these emails and text messages masquerading as Pastor Greg stating that he is visiting someone in the ER or the hospital and needs help to order or purchase a gift card. Pastor Greg will never ask a church member to purchase a gift card by sending you an email or text message, so please don't respond. Always pay attention to the return email address and check it for accuracy. Thank you.



#### **Brooks's Bookshelf**

Our son, Brooks, was born on October 10, 2018. Three days after his birth, he was diagnosed with Trisomy 21: Down Syndrome. He is a happy, strong, loving,

unique individual and a true blessing to our family. He makes our lives better every day!

Brooks's Bookshelf was created in celebration of our amazing son. He is an inspiration to anyone who is lucky enough to know him! The bookshelf is a way to share the joy of reading and also spread the awareness of Down Syndrome. Bookshelves, where children are welcome to take a book home, will be located throughout our community!

Each bookshelf will include books of all interests with some specific books focused on kindness, on compassion, and on individuals with unique differences. Books to range from picture/baby up to early readers.

Every story and every person is unique and beautiful. We hope that you'll find it in your hearts to donate a book or send a monetary donation to help us in this celebration.

Check out our Amazon wish list under Brooks's Bookshelf and other places to donate on our

website at brookssbookshelf.org Follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

-Kindly, Brooks Borrell & Family

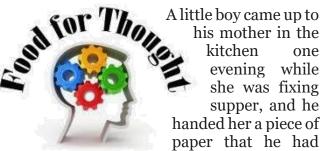


FPC is starting a medical equipment library from which members can borrow equipment that they need on a temporary basis. These items will include walkers,

one

bath chair, crutches, toilet riser, knee scooter, etc. If you have any equipment cluttering your basement that you would like to donate or if you have a temporary need for such an item, please contact Erica Brooks

at ericalynn128@gmail.com.



been writing on. After his mom dried her hands, she read it, and this is what it said:

- ✓ For cutting the grass: \$5.00
- ✓ For cleaning up my room this week:
- ✓ For going to the store for you: 50¢
- ✓ Babysitting my kid brother while you went shopping: 25¢
- ✓ Taking out the garbage: \$1.00
- ✓ For getting a good report card:
- ✓ For cleaning up and raking the yard:
- ✓ Total owed: \$14.75

Well, his mother looked at him standing there, and the boy could see the memories flashing though her mind. She picked up the pen, turned over the paper he's written on, and this is what she wrote:

- ♥ For the nine months I carried you while you grew inside me: No charge
- For all the nights that I've sat up with you, doctored you, and prayed for you: No charge

- ♥ For all the trying times, and all the tears you've caused through the years: No charge
- For all the nights that were filled with dread, and for the worries I knew were ahead: No charge
- ♥ For the toys, food, clothes, and even wiping your nose: No charge

♥ When you add it up, Son, the cost of my love is: No charge.

When the boy finished reading what his mother had written, there were big tears in his eyes, and he looked straight up at his mother and said, "Mom, I sure do love you."

And then he took the pen and in great big letters he wrote: PAID IN FULL

-Anonymous





The <u>next</u> Red Cross Blood Drive will be <u>Monday</u>, <u>March 30</u>, <u>2020</u>, 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 or sign up at www.redcrossblood.org.



Third Saturday of the Month Annex Building Lincoln and 7th St. Hastings

Sponsored by: First United Methodist Church First Presbyterian Church A mobile pantry is a traveling food pantry that delivers food to families in need through a one day distribution. Our goal is to provide food where there is a high need, but resources are limited. The mobile food pantry is available to all <u>free of charge</u>. The institutions providing the food are equal opportunity providers.

Those interested in receiving food should bring boxes or bags. To volunteer, simply show up on the date of the next distribution and check in at

	April 18, 2020	
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting	9:45 AM
A, B	May park and get number starting	10:00 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting	10:15 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting	10:30 AM
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting	10:45 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting	11:00 AM
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting	11:15 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting	11:30 AM

the volunteer sign-in table. Volunteer shifts are 9:30-12:00 and 12:00-2:00. <u>Plastic bags can be brought to the church office and donated to the cause.</u>



#### **PEOPLE HELPING COMMUNITIES**

PROVIDING HOPE AND COMPASSION

People Helping Communities by Providing Hope and Compassion, or PHC2, formerly known as Project Homeless Connect. We've made a few changes this year, not just in name only, and are excited for what blessings this new year will bring! The first annual PHC2 event will be June 25 this year, at First St Paul's Lutheran Church as in the past, and invite you to mark

your calendars with this volunteer opportunity! Volunteer registration is now open at <a href="mailto:phchastings.org">phchastings.org</a> If you have any questions about PHC2 or ways to help, please contact us either by responding to me at this email or to Tina Winchell at <a href="mailto:phchastings@gmail.com">phchastings@gmail.com</a> in order to arrange a time. As well, I would be happy to provide a brief descriptive statement and volunteer form to share in your church bulletins or newsletters, if you'd like. For further information, contact Lanae Hall at <a href="mailto:phc2volunteers@gmail.com">phc2volunteers@gmail.com</a> or 402-303-2333.



# 2020 VBS Volunteers Needed

# First Presbyterian Church--Hastings, NE

We are preparing for 2 amazing Vacation Bible School offerings again this year—our Traditional VBS and our Special-Needs VBS.

We are using Cokesbury's Knight of North Castle VBS. North Castle is hidden in a frozen land. The King's valiant Knights are on a quest in search of the King's Armor. But the armor isn't what they think it is.

Knights of North Castle VBS invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power.

They'll explore Old and New Testament stories and discover different pieces of protective armor—the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice,

the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation—at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters, and they will explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God.

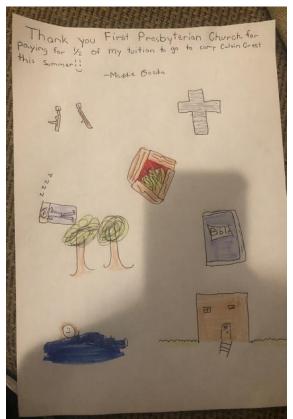
#### Our Traditional VBS will be held

Monday, June 1- Thursday, June 4, from 9:00am-12:00pm

Our Special-Needs VBS will be held

#### Monday, June 1 – Wednesday, June 3, from 1:00pm-3:00pm

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 SOON as a volunteer at <a href="https://fpchastings.org/children/">https://fpchastings.org/children/</a>. Please contact Stephanie at <a href="mailto:stephanie@fpchastings.org">stephanie@fpchastings.org</a> or 402-462-5147 with any questions or if you'd like a printed registration form.



Register NOW for 2020 Summer Camp--3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, PLUS Intergenerational & Family camps for adults/children age 5-12! Highlands Presbyterian



**Church Camp** 

Camp & Retreat Center Summer
Camp brochures are now available
on the wood shelf next to the
church office door. Scholarship
Applications are also available.
Please contact Stephanie at
stephanie@fpchastings.org with
any questions.

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.
- Campers engage with others, building on the connectional strength of the reformed tradition.
- Child development experts believe that residential camp experiences help children and youth mature socially, emotionally, intellectually, morally, and physically. This is supported by research conducted by the American Camp Association.



## What Shall We Tell Them?

July 26-31, 2020 Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa



Here are the shareable links for the Easter Vigil and for submitting Prayer Requests

### **Prayer Vigil Signup:**

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lI2zoSdjyknL DUwWHgfqnnow728HJin/view?usp=sharing Prayer Requests:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13qF4FkZJ 9a3VdVFnoKyvE4ifoachseA/view?usp=sharing

## Purpose

Synod School is a learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages. We seek to create an environment of hospitality, healing, and hope. The week is designed for laity and clergy, and individuals and families. Classes and activities are available for adults, youth, and children.

#### Come..

- to participate in a unique experience of Christian community as we worship, study, play, and live together;
- to grow in faith through action, relationships, and a centering of the spirit;
- for continuing education, for a special family experience, or for individual growth;
- to take it all in, then return home to share and serve.

#### Synod School Theme: What Shall We Tell Them?

"We will tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of God, and God's might, and the wonders that God has done." Psalm 78:4 What does this look like when we can't assume people know our language and history as a Church? The changing context around us raises questions about how to be faithful in this time and age, in a world that is changing constantly. How do we talk about God? Where, when, why and how do we tell our stories? What stories do we tell?

#### For additional information contact

#### Deb DeMeester

Director of Leadership Development Synod of Lakes and Prairies Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 2115 Cliff Drive Eagan, MN 55122-3327 SynodSchool@lakesandprairies.org 800-328-1880 or 651-357-1140 Fax: 651-357-1141 www.lakesandprairies.org Facebook Group: "Synod School: Is this heaven? No, it's Iowa!"

Synod School is a leadership development ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with support from the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation.



# Happy Anniversary

04/02/1983 04/06/2002 04/07/2001 04/08/1978 04/11/1987 04/13/1974 Mike & Marcia Hogan Danny & Jodi Graves Mark & Lorna Zajack Paul & Belinda Nuss Todd & Tammy Lay Bob & Mary Boerigter 04/21/1973 04/21/1979 04/21/2012 04/26/1975 04/26/1975 04/29/1989 Dan & Vera Zabloudil Judy & Marty Hoch Clyde & Katherine Sachtleben George & Colleen Adam Mary & Jorn Olsen Dave & Sandra Dirks



# Happy Birthday

04/01	Karen Huber	04/09	Dennis McPherson	04/20	Robert Grams
04/03	Brett Erickson	04/10	Myah Juranek	04/21	Kathy Warriner
	Jacob Shin	04/11	Carolyn Miller	04/22	Jenni Bauer
04/04	Lyndsey Witte		Mattie Eddleman		Walker Hermann
	Hannah Wray		Brianna Zubrod		Kenny Graham
	Wendy Propp	04/12	Carol Medsker	04/23	Chad Rethorst
04/06	Norma Saathoff		Tom Portwood		Joan McCarthy
	Will Locke		Sarah Nottage-Tacey	04/24	Norah Snell
	Ruth Swingle	04/13	William Hermes		Tyrell Nichols
	Andrea Franzen		Riley Pontine		Helen Vollweiler
	Kenton Grams		Broden Hultine	04/26	Elaine Specht
	Michael Benorden		Kevin Junker		Taylor Musgrave
04/07	Michael Brooks	04/15	Monroe Runcie		Mike Hahne
04/08	Doug Ourada		Harold Korb		Brett Miller
	Irina Belikova-Erickson	04/16	Laura McCarthy	04/27	Thomas Kerr
	Barb Harrington		Collin Hermes		Dave Johnson
04/09	Daniel Tut	04/17	Jaxen Mitchell		Curtis Reimer
	Anne Halbert	04/18	Jim Baldwin	04/28	Cole McCoy
	Cathy Pershing		Dean Meyer	04/29	Kristan Harrenstein
	John Pershing		Evelyn Smidt	04/30	Julia Reimer
	Launa Epp	04/20	Belinda Nuss		



#### First Presbyterian Church, Hastings

#### April 5 - Palm Sunday

▼ 10:30 a.m. "Stay at Home" Worship Service
(Please stay at home and join us at 10:30 via radio on KICS 1550 AM or on Facebook
Live. You can also worship on Channel 181 on Tuesday at 1:00 pm or Sunday at
9:00am.)

#### April 8 – Wednesday of Holy Week

WNL Activities as Scheduled

#### April 9 - Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service in the Sanctuary (This is a service that reflects on Christ's command to "Love one another as I have loved you." It includes communion and an optional foot-washing ritual.)

#### April 10 - Good Friday

- ♥ 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service in the Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service in the Chapel (This is a service that reflects on Christ's crucifixion.)
- 8:00 p.m. Easter Prayer Vigil in the Chapel (continues until 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunday) (Individuals or families can sign up for 1 hour time slots to hold a prayer vigil between the end of the Good Friday Service and Easter Morning. Prayer resources are available in the chapel. We hold vigil during the time between Christ's death and resurrection, praying for ourselves, our community, and our world.)

#### April 11 – Easter Egg Hunt

- 10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt at Alexander Park (North of the church)
   Alternate location in case of rain: FPC PEACE Center Gym
   Age Divisions: Age 0-2 years Age 3-5 years Kindergarten-2nd Grade
- ▼ Easter Prayer Vigil (continues until 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunday)

#### April 12 – Easter Sunday

- ♥ 6:40 a.m. Easter Sunrise Worship Service in the Hastings College Football Stadium/Lloyd Wilson Football Field Press Box
- ♥ 7:15 a.m. Breakfast in the HC Press Box
- No Sunday School (All Ages)
- ♥ 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

#### (LOCATIONS/EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)



Please check the calendar on the church website for the most accurate list of activities.

www.fpchastings.org

# Sunday Worship services are currently limited to "Stay at Home" worship at 10:30am. Broadcast live

10:30 a.m. on Facebook at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/fpchastings">www.facebook.com/fpchastings</a>

10:30 a.m. service on KICS 1550 AM

also

on Channel 181 Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.

and

Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

All other activities are suspended through April 6. The Session will meet at that time to re-evaluate the situation and determine the schedule going forward.





March 19, 2020

Dear Nebraska Employers:

The Nebraska Department of Labor recognizes that this is a challenging time for your business. Due to COVID-19, some of you have made the difficult decision to lay off workers without pay. Others will be facing this decision soon.

Any workers in a non-paid status due to COVID-19 may file a claim for unemployment insurance benefits. Unemployment claims in Nebraska are filed online at <u>NEworks.nebraska.gov</u>.

On Tuesday, Governor Ricketts announced that from March 22 through May 2, NDOL would be waiving the requirement to search for work, as well as the requirement to serve an unpaid waiting week once eligibility is determined. Employers whose workers file claims tied to COVID-19 will also not be charged for those benefits. Nebraska's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund will instead be used. The Governor's press release and Executive Order can be viewed <a href="here">here</a>.

In addition to regular unemployment insurance benefits, employers also have the option of utilizing Short-Time Compensation (STC). The Short-Time Compensation program helps prevent layoffs by allowing employers to uniformly reduce affected employees' hours by 10 to 60 percent while permitting the employees to receive a prorated unemployment benefit. For more information, see the information on this page: <a href="https://dol.nebraska.gov/STC">https://dol.nebraska.gov/STC</a>

For unemployment claims, live chat assistance is available on NEworks.nebraska.gov. Detailed questions may be emailed to <a href="mailto:ndo.nichelp@nebraska.gov">ndo.nichelp@nebraska.gov</a> and should include contact information. The NEworks mobile app is available to download for free. There is no requirement to visit a job center. The job centers are adhering to social distancing guidance to protect the health of our customers and our team. Job center locations and numbers are listed here.

Please let us know if you have questions as you make decisions about how to move forward during this time. We are here to support you as you navigate this challenging situation.

John H. Albin Commissioner of Labor

Department of Labor 550 S. 16th Street, PO Box 94600 Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4600

John H. Ollin

dol.nebraska.gov

An Equal Opportunity Employer | TDD 800-833-7352

John H. Albin, Commissioner of Labor Main 402-471-9000 Fax 402-471-9917 ndol.administrativeoffice@nebraska.gov

(\*\*This copy does <u>not</u> have live links.)

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 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 Thursday prior to publication. Submissions may be edited for length and suitability. You may send articles to the church office: <a href="mailto:fpc@fpchastings.org">fpc@fpchastings.org</a> or call 402-462-5147.

1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

3 This is good and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

1 Timothy:1:1-6