

# The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 25.08, Weeks of April 12 and April 19, 2020

## NOTABLE NOTES

## FROM PASTOR GREG

Holy Week is always a time for us to come together as a family of faith and focus on what really matters: the saving love of God that is revealed through Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection. We begin Holy Week with the Palm Sunday procession, waving of palms, joyful shouts, and children singing as we announce, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" On Maundy Thursday, we focus on Jesus' last meal with his disciples and his incredible act of servant leadership and love as he took up his towel, knelt down, and washed their feet. On Good Friday, we dim the lights and reflect on the story of Jesus' crucifixion and his death, the ultimate act of self-sacrificial love. Holy Saturday provides us an opportunity to mourn and rest as Jesus lies in the tomb. And on Easter Sunday, we gather and boldly proclaim, "Jesus has risen! He has risen indeed!" as the organ, choir, and brass help to lead us in the joyful resurrection celebration.

This Holy Week will be very different from any other Holy Week I have experienced in my lifetime, and unless you were alive during the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic, it will likely be different than any Holy Week you have experienced. We won't be able to gather in person as a family of faith to walk this Holy Week journey together. I will miss seeing you lovingly wash each other's feet at our Maundy Thursday service. I will miss the feeling of sitting with all of you as we watch each candle go out for the Good Friday service and the darkness overwhelms us. I will miss knowing that our church members are holding vigil in our chapel between sundown on Friday and Easter morning.

As a pastor, some years I worry about jumping straight from the "Hosannas" of Palm Sunday to the "Hallelujahs" of Easter. I worry that we aren't spending time with Jesus in that upper room as he breaks the bread representing his body, pours the cup representing his blood, and humbly kneels to wash our feet, knowing what lies ahead. I worry that we will miss the darkness of Good Friday, not fully realizing the depth of sacrificial love that Jesus has if we don't spend some time in reflection. And I don't want us to lose the sense of desolation on Holy Saturday as Jesus lies in the tomb. Sure, we know how this story ends with the empty tomb, but we need to spend time immersed in the hard parts of the story to truly appreciate that ending.

I'm not worried about that this year. Between the medical impact of the virus including diagnosed cases and deaths, and the psychological and emotional impact of the quarantine, isolation, and social distancing that we are living through, the darkness of the last half of Holy Week is more real and more present than it has ever been. We are suffering the depths of human loss as the reports roll in, not just the loss of lives, but the loss of security, safety, familiarity, and human contact.

In the depths of that darkness, remember that your family of faith walks with you. If you need someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to reach out to your church by calling the office at 402-462-5147. You should be hearing from a member of the "Care Team" made up of a deacon and a mission committee member. We also invite you to join us for the Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm and the Good Friday Service at 12pm via internet livestream or by calling in at those times to listen to the service by dialing (253)215-8782 or (301)715-8592 and then typing in Meeting ID#: 810 056 549

While this is a Holy Week like nothing we have ever experienced, and it may feel like Good Friday every day, never forget that Easter Sunday is coming. We are ultimately people of resurrection hope. God accompanies us through the darkness and the valleys and will shine a light that no darkness can overcome. May we choose to be people of love and light during this Holy Week and shine that love and light so others may see and know that they are also beloved children of God.

Your Servant in Christ, Pastor Greg

The Allen-Pickett Family

Jim & Mary Jeanne Cooke

Jim Duval

Cheryl Ann Elfond

Jeff Howard

Jim Hahne

Everly Hogan

Janet Schawang

### ***FPC Prayers for:***

Melba Trehern (Lisa Unger's Mom)

Tom Kubicka (Chris Junker's Dad)

Kristine Cook (Katharine Davis' sister)

Irina Erickson's Mom

Chris Wheeler (Carol Wheeler's son)

Jack Stinson (Julie Thomsen's Dad)

Elaine Schumacher (Vicki Howard's Mom)

Alana DeBellis & family

Family of Celia Ganow

Ben & Joyce 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.***

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Sunday's service will be broadcast**

- live on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fpchastings](http://www.facebook.com/fpchastings) (You don't need to have an account to watch.)
- on the radio during Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. on KICS 1550 AM.
- 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." - Moderator of the 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!

**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).

**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.



**Looking for a way to give during our time of "Stay at Home" Church?** The church counts on your giving to carry on its work. As you participate in "Stay at Home" Worship, please mail your

donation in, drop by the church office during the week, sign up for electronic fund transfers, or give on-line at:

<https://fpchastings.org/give-online/>

In the days and weeks to come the church will continue to play a vital role in responding to this virus, just as we did with the flood relief efforts in Nebraska last year. Thank you for your continued support and provision in this time.

### **Lost and Found Reminder**

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



### **Mission Committee Update**

- Six long sleeve shirts were delivered March 11, 2020 to Proteus

### **Help Us Celebrate...**



Please wish Carol Medsker a happy 90th birthday on April 12. Her family requests a card shower in her honor. Send your cards to her at 902 East F Street, 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.

**Maryland Living Center felt what they currently most need** is entertainment for the residents in the form of young adult card games, puzzles, board games, adult coloring books, markers/crayons, books, etc. These items can be dropped off at MLC.



### 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](http://brookssbookshelf.org) Follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

-Kindly, Brooks Borrell & Family



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

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](mailto:ericalynn128@gmail.com).



A gentleman was walking through an elephant camp, and he realized the elephants weren't being kept in cages or held by the use of chains. All that was holding them back



from escaping the camp was a small piece of rope tied to one of their legs.

As the man gazed upon the elephants, he was completely confused as to why the elephants didn't just use their strength to break the rope and escape the camp. They could easily have done so, but instead, they didn't try to at all.

Curious and wanting to know the answer, he asked a trainer nearby why the elephants were just standing there and never tried to escape.

The trainer replied, "When they are very young and much smaller, we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to

believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

The only reason that the elephants weren't breaking free and escaping from the camp was that over time they adopted the belief that it just wasn't possible.

**Moral of the Story:** No matter how much the world tries to hold you back, always continue with the belief that what you want to achieve is possible. Believing you can become successful is the most important step in actually achieving it!

-Anonymous

## Looking Ahead...



**The next Red Cross Blood Drive** will be **Tuesday, May 26, 2020**, 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](http://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 free of charge. 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 the volunteer sign-in table. Volunteer shifts are 9:30-12:00 and 12:00-2:00. Plastic bags can be brought to the church office and donated to the cause.

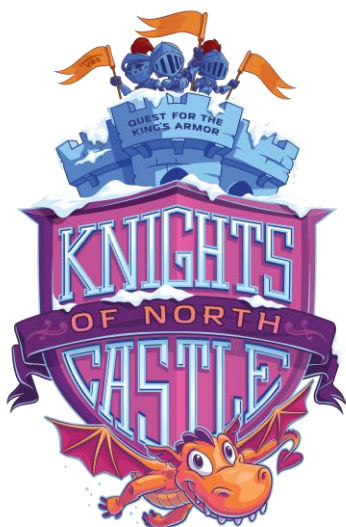
April 18, 2020		
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting	9:45 AM
A, B	May park and get number starting	10:00 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting	10:15 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting	10:30 AM
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting	10:45 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number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



**PEOPLE HELPING COMMUNITIES**  
BY  
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 [phchastings.org](http://phchastings.org). 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 [phchastings@gmail.com](mailto:phchastings@gmail.com). For further information, contact Lanae Hall at [phc2volunteers@gmail.com](mailto:phc2volunteers@gmail.com) 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.

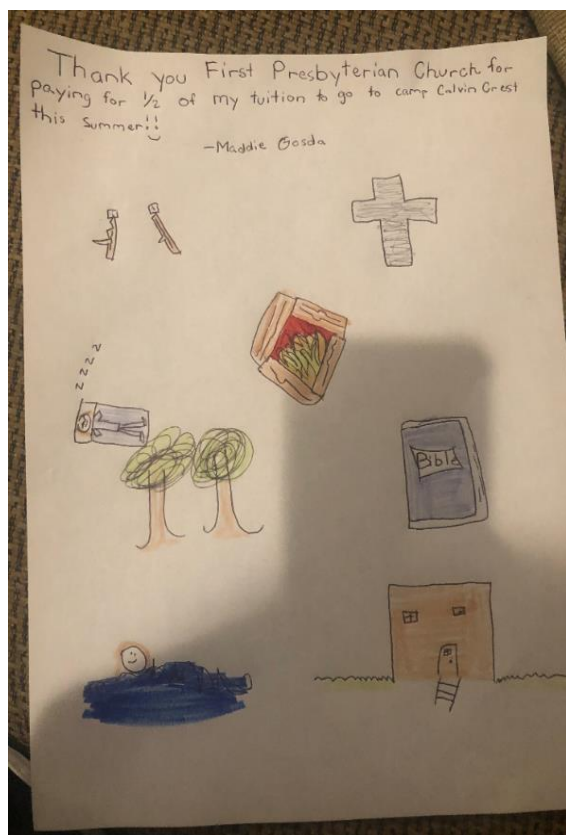
**Our Traditional VBS will be held**

**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 <https://fpchastings.org/children/>. 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.



**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



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](mailto: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

## 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.



## Mark Your Calendar

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

[www.fpchastings.org](http://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 [www.facebook.com/fpchastings](https://www.facebook.com/fpchastings)

(You don't need a Facebook account to watch/listen.)

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.

## What's Happening at FPC --- April 12 – April 25, 2020

*Session has voted to suspend all in person meetings through May 11 in order to comply with the State Directed Health Measures. All boards and committees will continue to meet via conference call to be coordinated by the church staff representative.*

<b>Sun, Apr 12</b>	<b>10:30a</b>	<b>“Stay at Home” Worship Service Easter Sunday</b> See Holy Week Schedule for SPECIAL details
<b>Mon, Apr 13</b>		<b>“Monday Check-in” Communication</b> from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen Sent out via email and social media
<b>Tues, Apr 14</b>	<b>10:30a-11:30a 12:00p-1:00p 5:30p-6:30p 6:00p-7:00p</b>	<b>Staff Meeting via ZOOM Conferencing Bible Study via ZOOM Conferencing Congregational Life via ZOOM Conferencing Trustees Meeting via Zoom Conferencing</b>
<b>Wed, Apr 15</b>	<b>7:00a-8:00a 9:30a-10:30p</b>	<b>Bible at Breakfast via ZOOM Conferencing Hastings College Chapel “Kid’s Corner” Communication</b> from Stephanie Brader Sent out via email and social media
<b>Thurs, Apr 16</b>	<b>7:00a-8:00a 4:30p-5:30p  5:30p-6:30p</b>	<b>Bible at Breakfast via Zoom Conferencing FPC/Pooh Corner Liaison Meeting via ZOOM Conferencing Session Meeting via Zoom Conferencing</b>
<b>Fri, Apr 17</b>		<b>“Friday Feature” Communication</b> Sent out via email and social media
<b>Sat, Apr 18</b>		<b>United Harvest</b>
<b>Sun, Apr 19</b>	<b>10:30a</b>	<b>“Stay at Home” Worship Service</b>
<b>Mon, Apr 20</b>		<b>“Monday Check-in” Communication</b> from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen Sent out via email and social media
<b>Tues, Apr 21</b>	<b>10:30a-11:30a 12:00p-1:00p 6:45p-7:45p</b>	<b>Staff Meeting via ZOOM Conferencing Bible Study via ZOOM Conferencing Deacons meeting via ZOOM Conferencing</b>
<b>Wed, Apr 22</b>	<b>7:00a-8:00a 9:30a-10:30p</b>	<b>Bible at Breakfast via ZOOM Conferencing Hastings College Chapel “Kid’s Corner” Communication</b> from Stephanie Brader Sent out via email and social media
<b>Thurs, Apr 23</b>	<b>7:00a-8:00a</b>	<b>Bible at Breakfast via Zoom Conferencing</b>
<b>Fri, Apr 24</b>		<b>“Friday Feature” Communication</b> Sent out via email and social media
<b>Sat, Apr 25</b>		

**Please note:  
PW Circles will NOT be meeting in April.  
The May PW luncheon has been cancelled.**



**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 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: [fpc@fpchastings.org](mailto:fpc@fpchastings.org) or call 402-462-5147.

<sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt  
and placed their cloaks  
on them for Jesus to sit on.

<sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on  
the road, while others cut branches from the  
trees and spread them on the road.

<sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and  
those that followed shouted,  
“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he  
who comes in the name of the Lord!

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole  
city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

<sup>11</sup> The crowds answered,  
“This is Jesus,  
the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Matthew 21: 7-11