

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 25.10, Weeks of May 10 and May 17, 2020

NOTABLE NOTES

FROM PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family: Your Session (the leadership council of the church) met on May 4 to assess how much longer we will suspend in-person meetings and worship for the safety of our church family. Governor Ricketts has permitted churches to restart in-person worship this week with a significant set of restrictions. The article in the Hastings Tribune also stated, "State officials issued guidelines for the conduct of faith-based services, emphasizing that the reopening of houses of worship during the continuing threat of the coronavirus should not be interpreted as a diminution of the threat of the virus. Faith leaders are responsible for the safety of those who attend services in houses of worship." Your Session takes that responsibility very seriously and approached this decision prayerfully. As a result, we voted unanimously to continue the suspension of in-person worship and meetings through May 31. We will still offer Stay-at-Home worship each week and have an exciting event planned for Sunday, May 31st, which is Pentecost Sunday. The Session will reconvene on May 21 to assess the month of June.

You may hear about other churches in our community and state that are meeting in person this month. Please understand that each church will need to decide the safest and most appropriate time to resume in-person worship and meetings for themselves. For our particular church family, given the demographic makeup of our congregation and the layout of our church building, Session has made this decision for the health and safety of our all of our members and staff. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me or any of your Session members.

In the meantime, your church staff and many volunteers are hard at work keeping our family of faith connected while we cannot meet in person:

- Every Sunday a small group gathers in the sanctuary to run our worship service and share it over the internet, radio and TV. We couldn't do that without our amazing organist, Linda Vollweiler, and our volunteer tech crew of Erik Nielsen and his family. We have also had volunteer musicians come in every week to help lead hymns and offer special music selections. If you get a chance, please thank these wonderful servants of the church. Here is a link to all of our worship services (while these are housed on Facebook, you don't need a Facebook account to view them): <https://www.facebook.com/pg/fpchastings/videos/>
- Every Monday, Pastor Damen and I do the "Monday Check-In" that includes announcements and a bible study chat based on the scripture that will be preached on the following Sunday. Here's a link to all of our Monday Check-Ins: <https://soundcloud.com/damen-heitmann/sets/monday-check-in>
- Every Wednesday, Steph Brader puts together the "Kids' Corner" that includes a video bible story and a link to some great resources so children and families can continue to grow in their faith. You can view those here: <https://bit.ly/3b3H38e>
- Every Friday, Pastor Damen does the "Friday Feature." He invites a local musician to listen to the "Monday Check-In" and find or write a piece of music that relates. The conversations between the musician and Damen are fun and insightful, and the music is always beautiful. You can catch all of those by visiting this link: <https://soundcloud.com/damen-heitmann/sets/friday-feature>

In addition to these four weekly touchpoints, we also have "Care Teams" made up of our Deacons and Mission Committee who are reaching out to all of our church family members on a regular basis.

Your church staff continues to keep the office open and running, answering phones and greeting people who come to the church building, as well as sterilizing the building to keep it safe. All of your church committees are still meeting using video or teleconferencing, so the business of the church continues as well.

In the last two weeks, I have received more requests for help with rent, utilities, and food than I normally do in two months. Because of the generosity of the church, we have been able to meet those requests. If you and your family can, please continue to give to the church so we can continue to share the love and light of Christ by meeting the needs in our community.

At the end of each service, Pastor Damen and I sing the Sunday School song, "The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is the people. I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together. All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes we're the church together." This pandemic and the safety guidelines have put that to the test, but I believe we are passing that test with flying colors. Thank you, and I give thanks to God for all that each of you are doing to help us be the church together in this time and place.

Your Servant in Christ, Pastor Greg

FPC Prayers for:

Jim & Mary Jeanne Cooke	Melba Trehern (Lisa Unger's Mom)	Family of Judy Brown
Jim Duval	Tom Kubicka (Chris Junker's Dad)	Alana DeBellis & family
Cheryl Ann Elfond	Kristine Cook (Katharine Davis' sister)	Family of Celia Ganow
Jeff Howard	Irina Erickson's Mom	Family of Ben Ore
Jim Hahne	Chris Wheeler (Carol Wheeler's son)	Jane Horton
Everly Hogan	Jack Stinson (Julie Thomsen's Dad)	Family of Georga Ochsner
Janet Schawang	Elaine Schumacher (Vicki Howard's Mom)	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 (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.

Thank You...

Dear Presbyterian Church: Many thanks for your donation to Hearts & Hands Against Hunger. Your gift directly purchases the ingredients for life-saving meals. We appreciate ALL you do to

make Hearts & Hands Against Hunger a huge success. Your church is making a difference in the lives of the poor and hungry worldwide!

Dear Partners in God's Mission:

I write on behalf of Presbyterian Mission to express our heartfelt gratitude for the ways in which you have helped to lift and love others even while apart.

Through your prayerful and financial support, you share the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ in both word and deed. A cup of clean water, a song of praise lifted in a foreign language, a tender glance of comfort and hope, and a genuine prayer for those who are suffering: you make all of these possible. In each moment, you bring Easter to the world.

On behalf of Presbyterian Mission, we thank you for your gracious and faithful support to the hunger fund. You have blessed our witness and ministry in a profound way.

-Bill McConnell, Mission Engagement Advisor, Office of Mission Engagement and support



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.

In Memory of

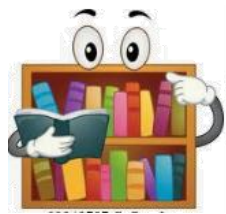
- ♥ Georga Ochsner, who passed away April 17, 2020. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. Memorials may be given to First Presbyterian Church. Cards



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.



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.

and memorials may be sent to the funeral home.

- ♥ Judy Brown, who passed away April 18, 2020. Services are pending.
- ♥ Ben Ore, who passed away April 21, 2020. Services are pending.

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 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 ericallynn128@gmail.com.



CARROTS, EGGS, AND COFFEE

A carrot, an egg, and a cup of coffee. You will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again.

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her that she did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each over a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil.

In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes, she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to

her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see."

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee.

The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship, or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

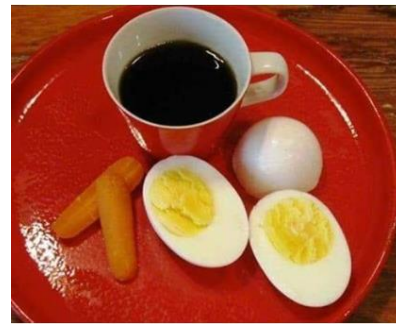
Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot,

it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you when the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest. Do you elevate yourself to another level?

How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?

The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way. The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; you can't go forward in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling.



Live your life so at the end, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

May we all be COFFEE!!!!!!



Graduating Seniors, Are you looking for scholarships for college? Did you know First Presbyterian Church has two that are available? The deadline of May 15 is fast approaching. For details and applications check out the FPC website under the scholarship section.

CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSETS???



The First Presbyterian Church and First United Methodist Church would love to receive your gently used winter coats for our coat drive that will be held in October.

Coats of all sizes are needed for Men, Women and Children.
(Adult XL and XXL are in high need)



Donations accepted now through October at these Hastings locations:

First Presbyterian Church,
First United Methodist Church, YMCA
and Pershing Orthodontics.

Thank you in advance!!

We are not ready to start collecting coats, but please save them for when we are!



2020 VBS

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, NE

We are sorry to announce that due to the situation with COVID-19 and the safety of our people, the Session has decided to cancel VBS for this year. Although this was a tough decision, it is important to keep all of the kiddos and volunteers safe. We'll see you next year!



The next Red Cross Blood Drive scheduled for **Tuesday, May 26, 2020**, has been postponed. Watch this space for the new date. 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.



Sponsored by:
First United Methodist Church
First Presbyterian Church

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

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.

May 16, 2020		
A, B	May park and get number starting	9:45 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting	10:00 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting	10:15 AM
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting	10:30 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting	10:45 AM
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting	11:00 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting	11:15 AM
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting	11:30 AM

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.



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, and we 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 we invite you to mark

your calendars with this volunteer opportunity! Volunteer registration is now open at 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 . For further information, contact Lanae Hall at phc2volunteers@gmail.com or 402-303-2333.



Presbyterian Women supports Healthy Beginnings with a special Mother's Day offering, Sunday, May 10.

Healthy Beginnings is a Mary Lanning Healthcare program established to help families at high risk, especially those struggling with financial shortages, homelessness, addiction issues, abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and

health issues. Home visits are offered weekly for families prenatally and until the last child is three years of age.

Healthy Beginnings often works with parents that have a history of substance abuse. It is very common for people to think that because of their history, they can't parent. We worked with a couple that both had a history of substance abuse. They worried that they couldn't care for their infant after they both went to rehab. They feared relapsing due to the stress of finances and having a newborn.

Healthy Beginnings has been supporting them not only with their parenting needs but also to live a healthy lifestyle away from drugs. Both the mother and father have remained drug free, are employed, in secure housing, and have learned to enjoy becoming great parents.

Please keep in your prayers the hospital team members who work with Healthy Beginnings and the families they support.

Please make your donation checks out to Presbyterian Women and mail them to the church. A table will be set up in the Memorial Room when we are able to once again meet at the church.

*Even though the **Hands Around the World Store** is not open on a regular basis right now, you can always call the office to stop by and purchase more coffee or do some shopping by appointment.*

Every towel tells a *story*

Many marginalized women artisans in India are the sole income earners for their households. Each hand-stitched towel provides a sustainable income and allows them to send their children to school.



Each purchase is *powerful*

Through fair trade, artisans in India receive improved working conditions, stable incomes, access to international markets, and benefits from health campaigns.



Mark Your Calendar

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 www.facebook.com/fpchastings
(You don't need a Facebook account to watch/listen.)
- ✓ 10:30 a.m. service on KICS 1550 AM
- ✓ on Channel 181 Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.
- ✓ Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

What's Happening at FPC --- May 10 – May 23, 2020

Session has voted to suspend all in-person meetings through May 31 for the safety of our congregation and staff and 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.

Sun, May 10	10:30a	“Stay at Home” Worship Service
Mon, May 11		“Monday Check-in” Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen Sent out via email and social media
Tues, May 12	10:30a-11:30a 12:00p-1:00p 5:30p-6:30p 6:00p-7:00p	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing Congregational Life via Zoom Conferencing Trustees via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, May 13	7:00a-8:00a 9:30a-10:30p	Bible at Breakfast via Zoom Conferencing Hastings College Chapel “Kid’s Corner” Communication from Stephanie Brader Sent out via email and social media
Thurs, May 14	4:30p-5:30p 5:00p-6:00p	Mission Committee via Zoom Conferencing Personnel Committee via Zoom Conferencing
Fri, May 15		“Friday Feature” Communication Sent out via email and social media
Sat, May 16	9:30a-2:30p	United Harvest
Sun, May 17	10:30a	“Stay at Home” Worship Service
Mon, May 18		“Monday Check-in” Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen Sent out via email and social media
Tues, May 19	5:30p-6:30p 10:30a-11:30a 12:00p-1:00p	Foundation Board via Zoom Conferencing Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, May 20	6:45p-7:45p 7:00a-8:00a	Deacons via Zoom Conferencing Bible at Breakfast via Zoom Conferencing “Kid’s Corner” Communication from Stephanie Brader Sent out via email and social media
Thurs, May 21	5:30p-6:30p	Session via Zoom Conferencing
Fri, May 22		“Friday Feature” Communication Sent out via email and social media

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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 or call 402-462-5147.

Matthew 6:25-27 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”

Matthew 6:34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Luke 12:25 “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”