

# The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 25.12, Weeks of June 7 and June 14, 2020

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## NOTABLE NOTES

### FROM KILI WENBURG-MEMBERSHIP ROLLS COMMITTEE UPDATE

This spring, I was assigned to create and lead a short-term committee (Ann Koozer, Scott Shardelow, Lynne Friedewald, Brian Johnson, Sue Medsker-Nedderman, Doug Soderquist, and myself), tasked with fulfilling one of the goals of FPC's 5-year Strategic Plan: update the membership rolls.

Our first task was to formulate definitions for the various categories of church membership in order to submit these definitions to Session for approval and eventually to the congregation for addition into the church bylaws.

Next, we studied member data in order to determine which category best described each individual. (Recognizing that the data could potentially be incomplete and/or inaccurate, we will be contacting many members this summer to request help with confirming their correct membership status.)

Along the way in this process, we became aware of an implicit task for this committee: update contact information for all members. Since Care Teams were already making weekly quarantine-time check-in calls to many of our church members, they were asked to assist us with the contact information confirmation and update process. They and their work became an instant, invaluable resource for us. Thank you, Care Teams!! *Please always remember to contact the church office with changes to address, phone number, email, and so on. We can serve you well only with current information.*

You may be asking, “**So, why does this even matter?**” One major reason is **stewardship as a church body**: when we have people on our rolls incorrectly classified, we are likely either over-paying or under-paying our per capita apportionments. [“Per capita apportionments” are the approximately \$33/active member annual payments we make to the presbytery, synod, and general assembly.] We don’t want to under-pay these because they are an essential form of support to the Presbyterian Church (USA) regionally and globally. Additionally, we don’t want to over-pay these because then we would be unwittingly and unnecessarily draining money from our local church budget. Good stewardship requires a correct count of *active* members so that we can both support the connectional church and also wisely allocate our local funds.

A second, and perhaps even more important, reason we are doing this membership update is the reason that the 5-year strategic plan was concerned with **encouraging and facilitating greater participation of all members**. The folks of the 5-year strategic planning committee *believe in this church family!* They—and many others....perhaps even you reading this now!—have been blessed by involvement with Hastings FPC, and they want to share that with others! If individuals have fallen away from involvement in our church, we want to find ways to encourage them to come back so that we can learn and grow together in our service to God and one another. It is helpful to identify who those individuals are so that they can be contacted and encouraged to reengage.

If you are reading this now and know that you have not been active in recent months or years, consider this a warm invitation from your church family and a gentle nudge from God. We are ALL more than ready to get back out (post-coronavirus restrictions) and reengage in our world. There couldn’t be a better time to put church back on the priority list! While there is not as much happening at the church in the summer, we will soon be re-starting in-person worship, and in the fall, lots of exciting programs will begin, something for everyone! See you at church!

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

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

***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.***



#### **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 take time to

1. mail your donation in,
2. drop by the church and leave your offering in the new locked "tithing box" located on the second brick column under the portico.
3. sign up for electronic fund transfers,
4. 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.

#### **Dear Partners in God's Mission,**

I am writing on behalf of Presbyterian Mission to express our heartfelt gratitude for the ways in which you have helped to lift and love others. Through your generous support of PC(USA) mission, you share the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ in both word and deed. On behalf of Presbyterian Mission, please convey our appreciation to your mission committee, pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support.

Blessings on your mission and ministry,

Bill McConnell,

Mission Engagement Advisor,

Office of Mission Engagement and Support

## In Memory of

- ♥ *Erv Siemoneit*, who passed away May 3, 2020. Erv was the father of Sandy Siemoneit and Shirley Maul. Memorials may be given to Hastings Masonic Lodge #50.



### 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

- ♥ *Mary Jane Horton* who passed away May 22, 2020 at her home. Graveside services were held May 27, 2020 at Parkview Cemetery with Pastor Greg officiating. Memorials may be given to First Presbyterian Church.

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).



### Do You Realize?

WHEN you attend church, it's not an ordinary ace. It is something tremendous. You take a stand for faith and for the spiritual interpretation of life. You testify and witness to the faith that is in you.

WHEN you attend church, you take the side of angels, you count on the side of the spiritual, you tell the world you believe in God and Eternity and Immortality, and that's tremendous.

WHEN you attend church, you challenge all that is evil, all that is contrary to the will of God. When you attend church, you say to the world that you are against lying, cheating, immorality, drunkenness, war and everything that hurts human beings.

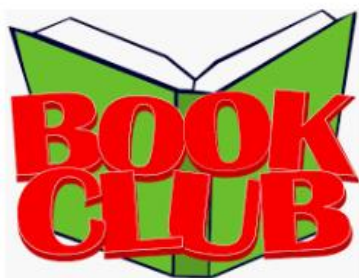


WHEN you attend church, you tell your neighbors who see you go that you are not simply and earthly creature, that you are not giving up all your time to creaturely pleasures, that you are seeking something higher.

WHEN you attend church, you salute Christ and His Church. You appreciate what the Church has done for humanity.

WHEN you attend church, you come to God's house to adore, to worship, to praise. You become a part of that host that has been worshipping God down through the ages. You have been caught up in spirit.

-George Mecklenburg



**Since Wednesday, May 13th at noon**, Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh has been guiding a discussion of the book *Heaven and Hell: A History of the Afterlife* by Bart Ehrman.

Plans are to meet during the next 15 weeks, beginning with Zoom Conferencing and modifying interactions as physical distancing recommendations evolve.

Please obtain a copy of the book from your favorite vendor.

Contact Sharon Brooks, [sbbrooks52@gmail.com](mailto:sbbrooks52@gmail.com) for more information on how to join the online conversations.



**The next Red Cross Blood Drive** is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 7, 2020**, from 12 noon – 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendar now! 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](http://www.redcrossblood.org).



**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](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.



**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.

June 20, 2020		
C, D, E	May park and get number starting	9:45 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting	10:00 AM
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting	10:15 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting	10:30 AM
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting	10:45 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting	11:00 AM
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting	11:15 AM
A, B	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.



## RELAY FOR LIFE, 25th year!

June 15-19, 2020

Join the FPC Virtual Team

Relay for Life has been a way for our church family to remember loved ones we have lost to cancer and to honor those who have survived. This year it will still happen, but because of the pandemic, it will look a bit different. We've gone virtual with our 2020 Relay for Life of Adams County June 15 - 19.

There are plans for a silent auction, a money raiser for American Cancer Society. Our First Presbyterian Church team can, with some help, donate an item for auction. That can be a large basket containing many items from our store, Hands Around the World. It will be posted on a Relay for Life site along with other teams' donations for June 15 - 19.

A virtual Luminaria event may be an option later. More planning is happening now.

As always, donations may be given online at [www.Relayforlife.org](http://www.Relayforlife.org) or Facebook, Relay for Life of Adams County, NE, or collected in our church office.

### 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 or long-sleeve shirts for Proteus, but please save them for when we are!



Each purchase is  
*powerful*

Artisans in India are able to earn an income and help fund community improvement projects like healthcare and education for children through handcrafting.

Every  
bar  
tells a *story*

Every cocoa bean is dried in the sun and sorted by hand by cocoa farmers like Sarah Ayipah and Esi Konadu, who rely on their farming income to support themselves and their families.



Photo credit: Elizabeth Hudson

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.



# 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 10:30 am.**

**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
- ✓ on Channel 181 Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.
- ✓ Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

## **What's Happening at FPC --- June 7 – June 20, 2020**

*Session has voted to suspend all in-person meetings through June 30 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.*

<b>Sun, June 7</b>	<b>10:30a</b>	<b>"Stay at Home" Worship Service</b>
<b>Mon, June 8</b>		<b>"Monday Check-in" Communication</b> from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen Sent out via email and social media
<b>Tues, June 9</b>	<b>10:30a-11:30a</b> <b>12:00p-1:00p</b> <b>5:30p-6:30p</b> <b>6:00p-7:00p</b>	<b>Staff Meeting</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Bible Study</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Congregational Life</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Trustees</b> via Zoom Conferencing
<b>Wed, June 10</b>	<b>12:00p-1:00p</b>	<b>Summer Book Club</b> via Zoom Conferencing
<b>Thurs, June 11</b>	<b>4:30p-5:30p</b> <b>5:00p-6:00p</b>	<b>Global Mission</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Personnel</b> via Zoom Conferencing
<b>Fri, June 12</b>		<b>"Friday Feature" Communication</b> Sent out via email and social media
<b>Sat, June 13</b>		
<b>Sun, June 14</b>	<b>10:30a</b>	<b>"Stay at Home" Worship Service</b>
<b>Mon, June 15</b>		<b>"Monday Check-in" Communication</b> from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen Sent out via email and social media
<b>Tues, June 16</b>	<b>10:30a-11:30a</b> <b>12:00p-1:00p</b> <b>6:45 p-7:45p</b>	<b>Staff Meeting</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Bible Study</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Deacons</b> via Zoom Conferencing
<b>Wed, June 17</b>	<b>12:00p-1:00p</b>	<b>Summer Book Club</b> via Zoom Conferencing
<b>Thurs, June 18</b>	<b>5:30p-7:00p</b>	<b>Session</b> via Zoom Conferencing
<b>Fri, June 19</b>		<b>"Friday Feature" Communication</b> Sent out via email and social media
<b>Sat, June 20</b>	<b>9:00a-2:00p</b>	<b>United Harvest Food Distribution</b>

**Trackable Metrics to gauge how we are doing after 2 months of suspended in-person worship as of 05/26/2020:**

**Update on "Attendance" numbers:**

	2020 Attendance Numbers	2019 "In-Person" Numbers
15-Mar	192+90 in Person 282	250
22-Mar	298	267
29-Mar	387	277
5-Apr	Palm Sunday Parade 422	Palm Sunday 298
12-Apr	Easter 569	Easter 484
19-Apr	360	192
26-Apr	411	261
3-May	312+50 "Drive-in" worship 362	260
10-May	Mother's Day 274	200
17-May	308	163

We do see a drop in attendance after Easter every year.

**Update on Engagement through our 3 weekly touchpoints:**

- Monday Check-In: 275 Views on YouTube, 450 plays on Soundcloud
- Friday Feature: 690 plays on Soundcloud
- Kid's Corner: 158 Views on YouTube (taking summer off)

**Update on Giving:**

March: \$31,484 (people were adjusting to mailing in checks or switching to on-line giving)

April: \$67,795 (we recovered)

YTD: \$200,097

We need *average* giving of \$53,000/month to make our budget for the year. We are right on track with where we need to be.

We ordinarily see a big boost in giving in November and December, as many people pay their whole pledge at once.

We do usually see a drop in giving during the summer as people are traveling and not bringing their offerings in, and we expect to see the same this summer.

**Update on Spending:**

March Expense: \$61,389, April Expense: \$48,185

YTD TOTAL Expense: \$220,402

YTD Budgeted Expense: \$231,148

We have underspent the budget by \$11,000 so far this year and will continue to experience savings in utility expense.

**Intangible Metrics for Engagement:**

- Heirs Apparent continuing on Zoom (taking summer off)
- Bible at Breakfast and Summer Book Club continuing on Zoom
- Coffee and Walkers continuing on Zoom
- Middle School Youth Group Meeting through Zoom (taking summer off)
- Chancel Choir and Heirs Apparent participating in "Nebraska Bible Project"
- "Care Teams" ministry of weekly check-ins by Deacons and Mission Team members
- United Harvest Food Distributions
- Additional ministry to shut-ins and grocery runs for at-risk households
- Ongoing committee meetings and subcommittees meeting through Zoom
- Special Sunday Services:
  - Palm Sunday Parade 4/5: 75 people
  - Drive-In Worship 5/3: 50 people
  - Pentecost Parade 5/31: TBD



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**621 North Lincoln Avenue**  
**Hastings, NE 68901**  
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**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>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said,  
‘love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

<sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies  
and pray for those who persecute you,  
<sup>45</sup> that you may be children of  
your Father in Heaven.

He causes his sun  
to rise on the evil and the good  
and sends rain of the righteous  
and the unrighteous.

<sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you,  
what reward will you get?  
Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

<sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your own people,  
what are you doing more than others?  
Do not even pagans do that?

<sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore,  
as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Matthew 5:43-48