

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 25.13, Weeks of June 21 and June 28, 2020

NOTABLE NOTES

FROM PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

What a strange three months it has been! In mid-March, the Session of our church met to suspend in-person worship and to temporarily close the building. We had no idea how long it would last or what would happen to our church family and our community in the next three months.

We have experienced our share of tragedy as beloved members of our church family have died and we have been denied our rituals of grief like funerals and funeral luncheons. Please continue to hold those families who have lost loved ones in the past three months in your prayers, and reach out to them to see how they are doing.

We have also experienced a renewed sense of connection as our "Care Teams" have reached out to church families regularly during this time. Thanks to our Deacons and Mission Committee for supporting this vital ministry.

While the church building has been closed, we know that the church is not the building or the steeple, it is the people! And the people in our family of faith continue to be very actively living out our faith. Coming up in the next few months, we will have many opportunities to grow in our faith and serve our community:

- *June 20:* United Harvest Food Distribution at the PEACE Center. We are serving 400-500 families per month. Contact Kili for information about volunteering.
- *All Summer:* Conversation group about anti-racism and our faith. Start by watching the movie "Just Mercy" and then stay tuned to sign up as part of a conversation group.
- *June-July:* Book Group on the novel *Gilead* by Marilyn Robinson. See details in HomePage
- *Mid July-August:* Open Table sack lunch ministry. Pending Session approval, we will pack sack lunches for Catholic Social Services as we do every summer. However, we will do this in small groups throughout the month instead of all at once on Sunday mornings.
- *July 12-July 19:* Go and Serve youth mission trip will be serving in Hastings for a week. If you need something done or have a neighbor who does, please contact Damen
- *July 18:* United Harvest Food Distribution at the PEACE Center

That just covers the next month! This is in addition to our ongoing Stay-at-Home worship services on Sundays, our Monday Check-In and Friday Feature broadcasts/podcasts, our Tuesday noon Bible Study via Zoom, our Wednesday noon Summer Book Group, committee work, Deacons, Trustees, Session, and various other ongoing ministries and education opportunities. The church is alive and thriving in this time!

We hope you will be able to join us for some of these great educational and ministry opportunities in the coming month. Session will be meeting on June 18 to make a decision about our worship and building use for the month of July. Thank you for your patience as we work through this challenging time together and thank you for all you are doing to support First Presbyterian Church of Hastings with your time, talent, and treasure!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg

Jim & Mary Jeanne Cooke

Alana DeBellis & Family

Jim Duval

Cheryl Ann Elfond

Irina Erickson's Mom

Jim Hahne

Jim Harrenstein

Everly Hogan

Jeff Howard

FPC Prayers for:

Kristine Cook (Katharine Davis' sister)

Cale, Nobel, Zack Henderson

Connie & Tom Kubicka (Chris Junker's parents)

Elaine Schumacher (Vicki Howard's Mom)

Melba Trehern (Lisa Unger's Mom)

Chris Wheeler (Carol Wheeler's son)

Family of Erv Siemoneit

Family of Georga Ochsner

Family of Burman Eddleman

Gretchen Lainson

Tommy Thomsen

Mike Hahne & family

Family of Judy Brown

Family of Celia Ganow

Family of Jane Horton

Family of Ben Ore

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 (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 Presbyterian Church,

My husband and I want to thank your organization, Food from the Heart, for the frozen meals we received from Will and Ginny Locke. My husband's health has been up and down and to know we had a dinner to put in the oven on a not so good day was appreciated.

Thank you and God Bless you All,

Tim & Karen Ganskow

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.

♥ *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.



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.

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.

♥ *Burman Eddleman*, who passed away June 5, 2020. Burman was the father of Tony Eddleman. Private family services will be held at a later date.

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 ericalynn128@gmail.com.



A Meadowlark Sang

The child whispered, "God, speak to me" and a meadowlark sang. The child did not hear.

So the child yelled, "God, speak to me!" And the thunder rolled across the sky, but the child did not listen.

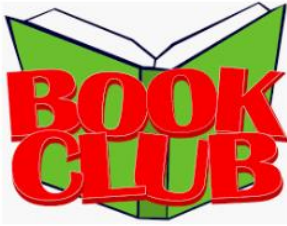
The child looked around and said, "God, let me see you". And a star shone brightly, but the child did not notice.

And the child shouted, "God, show me a miracle!" And a life was born, but the child did not know.

So the child cried out in despair; "Touch me, God, and let me know you are here." Whereupon God reached down and touched the child. But the child brushed the butterfly away and walked away unknowingly.

Lord, help me to be aware of your presence in the world around me; in the beauty of the night sky; the miracle of life; and in the midst of the turmoil in our world today. Help me to listen for, and hear, the still small voice in which you speak to me.

-Anonymous



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 for more information on how to join the online conversations.



MOVIE: "Just Mercy"

Available to watch for
free in June on:

*YouTube, iTunes,
Amazon Prime Video
& Google Play*

**Watch the movie and then stay tuned
for church based discussion groups.**



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.



PEOPLE HELPING COMMUNITIES
BY
PROVIDING HOPE AND COMPASSION

People Helping Communities by Providing Hope and Compassion, or PHC2, formerly known as Project Homeless Connect. This event has been CANCELLED

If you have any questions about PHC2 or ways to help, please contact Tina Winchell at phchastings@gmail.com or Lanae Hall at phc2volunteers@gmail.com



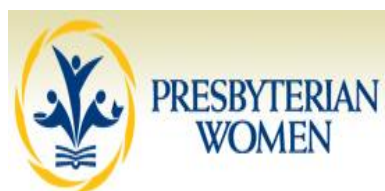
Third Saturday of the Month
Annex Building
Lincoln and 7th St. Hastings

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.

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



The **PW Father's Day** Offering this year will go to *The Guatemala Network of Living Waters for the World*. Please send your checks to the church made out to Presbyterian Women.

More than half of Guatemala's population lives below the poverty level, with nearly a quarter living on less than \$2/day. Many people lack a source of safe drinking water, which has a multiplying impact on poverty.

Currently, there are over 210 Living Waters for the World filtration systems installed across Guatemala, providing each of the surrounding communities with an opportunity to live longer, more healthful lives because they are finally free of water-borne illness and disease.

The Guatemala Network of Living Waters for the World helps to support teams that go to Guatemala to install waters systems and provides ongoing support to those systems through local in-country staff. Pastor Greg has served on the US board of Living Waters for the World for the past six years. He also serves on the Guatemala Board of Living Waters for the World.

RELAY FOR LIFE, 25th year!



Virtual Events June through August

Join the FPC Virtual Team

The SILENT AUCTION for a Relay For Life fund raiser will be virtual this year. Our First Presbyterian Church team will participate by donating a basket and items from our Hands Around the World store. (Thank you to those of our team who donated toward these items.) Pictures of items donated from all teams will be posted on a link to access the silent auction where people can place their bids

June 15-19. The link will be available closer to the event. Check Facebook or relayforlife.org Adams Co.

YOU CAN PURCHASE LUMINARIES (\$10) or DEDICATE A SONG (\$20) now through August. These luminaries will be on the virtual ceremony video. To purchase, go to relayforlife.org/adamscone, scroll down to Event Announcements. It is the 2nd option down. By clicking the purple text, it will take you to the page where you can purchase the virtual luminaries or the song dedication.

T-SHIRTS are available. 25th Anniversary Commemorative Limited Addition T-shirts are available for \$20 this year through this link <https://shopstf.com/products/relay> A good portion of the sale goes back to the relay event and credit to your team's goal. It might be possible of having a modified in person event in August if the Covid situation allows. If you have questions or need help, check Facebook, on line: relayforlife.org Adams Co. or call Susie Graham, team leader, 402-469-2638. **CANCER WON'T STOP AND NEITHER WILL WE. YOUR DONATIONS WILL TRUELY SAVE LIVES.**

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!*

NOW MORE THAN EVER...



PW in the Synod of the Lakes & Prairies
presents:

Beginning to Dismantle Structural Racism through the...



“Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it
says that some are less than others. It is also a lie about
God, for it falsely claims that God favors parts of
creation over the entirety of creation. “ PC(USA) anti-racism policy

The study is free to all men and women who wish to participate via ZOOM. We will be meeting
on the following days: June 29, July 13, July 27, August 3, August 24, and August 31.
Sessions are offered at either a 1:30 – 2:30 PM or a 6:30-7:30 PM (Central) time.



Racial Justice Challenge

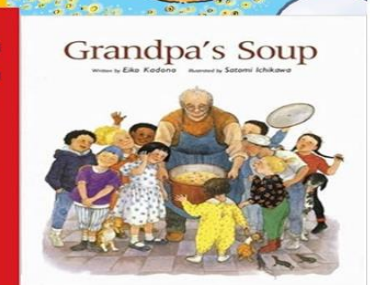
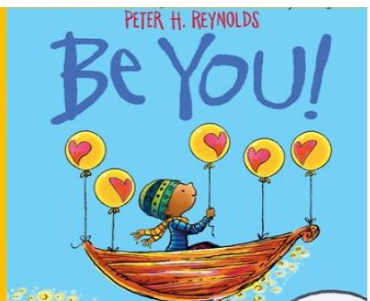
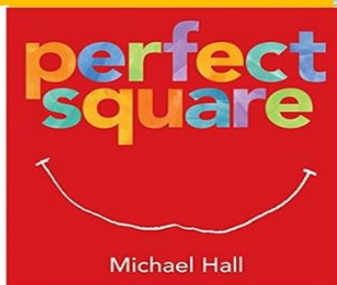
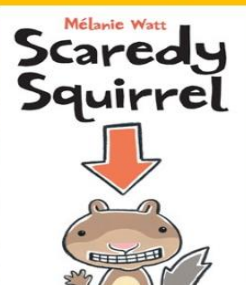
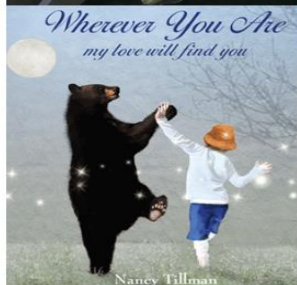
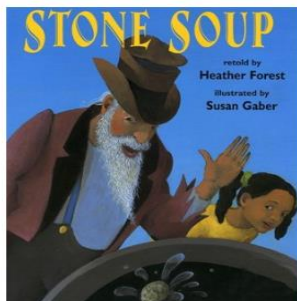
You don't need to be present at all sessions. Check your calendars and send an email to: Marilyn Stone at:
mmstone52@att.net Include in your email: your name, presbytery, email address and cell phone number (so
we can text you information if needed) You must be registered to receive the ZOOM invitation.

HYMN QUIZ TO PASS THE TIME DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC 2020

Matching: Match the lyric fragment with the hymn title.

- _____ 1. "Set us free by the truth you now bring us"
 - _____ 2. "Ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing"
 - _____ 3. "'Then enemies shall learn to love; all creatures find their true accord"
 - _____ 4. "What language shall I borrow to thank thee dearest friend"
 - _____ 5. "Thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour"
 - _____ 6. "I am the life that will never, never die"
 - _____ 7. "Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived"
 - _____ 8. "In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find"
 - _____ 9. "Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be"
 - _____ 10. "Some have never heard the message of salvation"
- A. Come, Thou Almighty King
 - B. O Day of Peace
 - C. I Danced in the Morning
 - D. Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
 - E. Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining; Shine, Jesus, Shine
 - F. I Love to Tell the Story
 - G. In Christ There Is No East or West
 - H. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
 - I. There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit
 - J. O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Answers found elsewhere in this issue of the Home Page





CHURCH LIBRARY NOTES

During this time of social distancing, you might find that you need something to read, but don't want to add to your home library. Since the public library is

closed, this might seem to be a problem. Not to worry, the church library is open. Any time the church staff is at the church and can let you in, you may browse the collection and take home that perfect book.

This week your librarian has been weeding the collection in preparation for putting the catalog online. This means that there are many books on their sides on the shelves. These are the books that no one has checked out in at least the last 5 years (and for some of them, more like the last 30-50 years). They haven't been removed from the collection yet, though, so if you see something that strikes your fancy, please check it out and save it from being discarded.

There are also some new books on the rolling display cart in front of the video collection. Some of these are books about racism. Others are about being civil during difficult times. I also have added a copy of the children's books being used for the sermon series this month. Below is a list of what has been added this week:

- Wherever You Are, My Love Will Find You - Nancy Tillman
- Be You! - Peter Reynolds
- Perfect Square - Michael Hall
- Scaredy Squirrel - Melanie Watt
- more than enough: living abundantly in a culture of excess - Lee Hull Moses
- Resist and Persist - Erin Wathen
- Difficult Conversations - Douglas Stone, et al
- The 7 Laws of Magical Thinking - Matthew Hutson
- Mere Civility: Disagreement & the Limits of Toleration - Teresa Bejan
- The Altars Where We Worship: The Religious Significance of Popular Culture - Juan Floyd-Thomas, et al
- Cultivating Empathy - Nathan Walker
- White Awake - Daniel Hill
- White Fragility - Robin diAngelo
- The Girl Who Sang To the Buffalo - Kent Nerburn
- When Blood & Bones Cry Out: Journeys Through Soundscape of Healing & Reconciliation - John Paul & Angela Jill Lederach

As always, I welcome your suggestions for books to add to the collection. Please let me know if there is something that you think would be suitable for the church library. You can leave a note on the library desk (please sign your name) or drop me an email at s.medsker.nedderman@gmail.com.

Sue Medsker-Nedderman
church librarian



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 10:30 am.**

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 --- June 21 – July 4, 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.

Sun, June 21	10:30a	"Stay at Home" Worship Service
Mon, June 22		Father's Day
		"Monday Check-in" Communication
		from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
		Sent out via email and social media
Tues, June 23	10:30a-11:30a	NO-Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, June 24	12:00p-1:00p	Summer Book Club via Zoom Conferencing
Thurs, June 25		
Fri, June 26		"Friday Feature" Communication
		Sent out via email and social media
Sat, June 27		
Sun, June 28	10:30a	"Stay at Home" Worship Service
Mon, June 29		"Monday Check-in" Communication
		from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
		Sent out via email and social media
Tues, June 30	8:30a-4:30p	All Staff Retreat
	12:00p-1:00p	NO-Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, July 1	12:00p-1:00p	Summer Book Club via Zoom Conferencing
Thurs, July 2	5:30p-6:30p	Christian Ed via Zoom Conferencing
Fri, July 3		"Friday Feature" Communication
		Sent out via email and social media
		INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY
		OFFICE CLOSED
Sat, July 4		INDEPENDENCE DAY

Answers to Hymn Quiz:

1.E; 2.H; 3.B; 4.J; 5.A; 6.C; 7.I; 8.G; 9.D; 10.F

Gilead Gleanings: A First Pres Summer Reading Project

Gilead Gleanings

FIRST PRES SUMMER READING

Join Pastors Greg and Damen as they read their way through the novel Gilead by Pulitzer Prize winning author Marilynne Robinson

Podcast Discussions

June 26
July 10
July 24

Zoom Chats

July 2
July 16
July 30

Written as a letter from a father to a son, Gilead recounts the memories of Congregationalist minister John Ames. The novel contains insights into faith and the human condition.

What are you doing this summer? Why not join pastors Greg and Damen (as well as a few other notable guests) as they read through Gilead by Pulitzer Prize winning author Marilynne Robinson?

Set in Gilead, Iowa the novel takes the form of a letter written from a Congregationalist minister to his son. The touching book reveals much about the human condition and the heart of faith. It is sure to tell us as much about ourselves as the characters it contains.

In addition to securing a copy of the book and reading along, folks can join in the fun by listening to three podcast conversations which will be released on June 26, July 10, and 24. In those podcasts the pastors and guests will discuss the book and how they find it relating to the world around them. There will also be open conversations (hosted via ZOOM) which readers and join and discuss. Those open conversations will take place July 2, 16, and 30.

There will be a few copies of the book available in the church office though we sadly cannot buy a copy for everyone. Be on the lookout for more information and track down your reading glasses now!

Update on Giving:

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

April: \$67,795 (we recovered)

May: \$66,891

YTD: \$266,563

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, 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, May Expense: \$47,100

YTD TOTAL Expense: \$267,502

YTD Budgeted Expense: \$288,935

We have underspent the budget by \$21,433 so far this year.

Happy Birthday

07/01/1979	Byron & Deb Jensen	07/18/1998	Tim & Teresa Canady
07/05/2014	Tyler & Jamie Lay	07/18/1998	Tommy & Dee Toms III
07/06/1974	George & Jo Anderson	07/24/2010	Harold & Milrae Korb
07/10/2010	Tracy & Kenny Brooks	07/25/1958	Dick & Pat Kleiber
07/15/1980	Teri & Tam Nguyen	07/26/1980	Jeff & Vicki Howard
07/15/2006	Zach & Erin Runcie	07/27/2012	Doug & Marnie Soderquist
07/16/1972	Neal & Susan Hoff	07/31/2004	Tom & Leah Ratzlaff

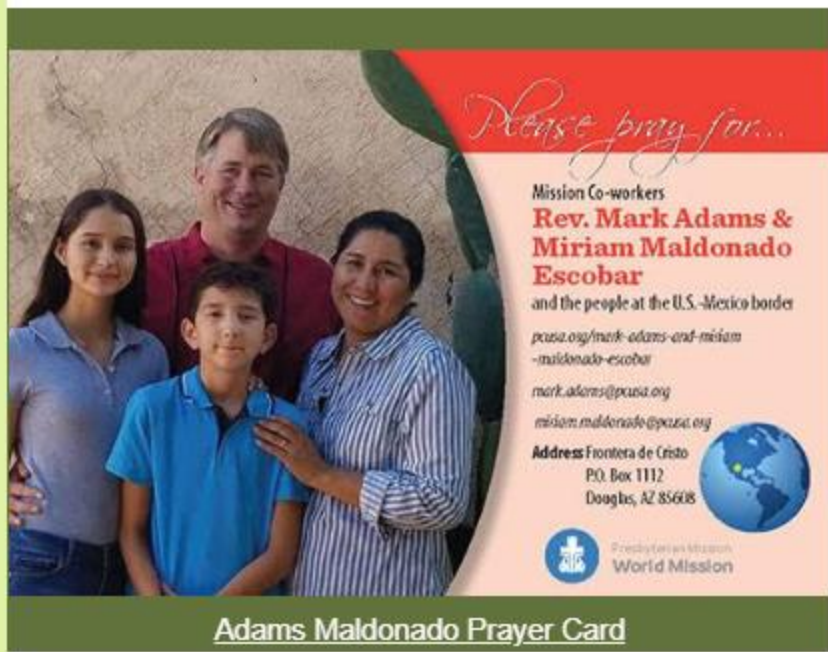


Happy Anniversary

07/01	Cal Johnson	07/09	Sara McPherson	07/22	Mark Hemje
	Audrey Portwood		Connie Hultine		Harrison Welsch
	George White	07/11	Chris Dinkler		Chelby Schlichtman
07/02	Jamie Lay		Tom Johnsen		Meg Stewart-Magee
	Brad Davis	07/13	Charles Hermes	07/23	Becky Matticks
	Cale Henderson		Kay Georgiana	07/24	Mackenzie Heneger
	Jayden Propp	07/14	Lynne Friedewald		Grace Redinger
	Pat Jacoby		Mary Jeanne Cooke	07/25	Dave Fisher
	Brent Sovereign		Marc Hultine		Laif Hultine
07/04	Lincoln Welsch		Jessica Allen-Pickett		Don Rasmussen
	Seth Schwarz	07/15	Becky Foote	07/26	Linda Johnson
	Mike Meyer	07/16	Michelle Kerr		Kate Hemje
07/05	Julie McDougal		Nkuma Uche		Jordan Norris
	Dave Schawang		Duane Huber		Mary Lewis
07/06	Adam Welton	07/17	Pamela Lay	07/27	Sydni Johnson
	Verna Meyer		Bruce Day		Claire Lay
	Stephanie Ourada	07/18	Sharon Reicks	07/28	Susan Benorden
07/07	Owen Hermann		May Wierenga	07/29	Lyndie Eddleman
07/08	Caroline Ourada		Rachael Tut	07/30	Bob Boerigter
	Eleanor Oliver	07/19	Susan Roberts		Mary Seiler
	Tammie Nowka		Steve Jurgena		Lisa Unger
07/09	Paige Taylor	07/20	Charlie Stout	07/31	Stella Adam
	Martha Boyd	07/21	Cathy Davis		Mike Florek

**The Adams
Maldonado Family:
Your PCUSA
Mission Co-workers
on the US/Mexico
Border
Serving With**

**Frontera
de
Cristo**



June 10, 2020

10 de junio, 2020

Back in March, Miriam and I received communication from World Mission that all mission personnel were being recalled back to the US, and if we wanted to shelter in place, we had to request an exemption. We requested and were granted an exemption from returning to the US (although for us it is only two blocks south of the US/Mexico border).

That same morning the US government also announced that the US/Mexico border would be closed to all except essential travel for a month (commerce will not be impacted-- so please tell folks to drink lots of Cafe Justo in the midst of the crisis ;)). The partial closure has now been extended through June 22.

In addition to not wanting to travel currently, we want to be "present" with our partners in the midst of a crisis. Although we know that we will be separated from them in this time of physical distancing with no gathered worship, or vigils, events, meetings, or meals, the message that we would give to our partners by removing ourselves from the community and separating ourselves geographically from them in a time of crisis is not something that we feel called to do. We recently wrote a reflection on the importance of being a "presence of peace" during crisis-whether that be cartel violence or a pandemic violence. Pray that we can continue to figure out what it means to be a presence of peace in this time.

[Click here](#) to see our latest ministry update.

We are adjusting to new rhythms of life in these uncertain times-a lot more family time, and in that I am grateful (most of the time ;) Spending more time in the patio, playing with Larry (our dog); reading, throwing the baseball, cooking together; being more attentive to the incredible skies out here, whether spectacular sunrises and sunsets, or moon rises, or last month's Lyrid meteor shower when Nathan and I climbed up on the roof to watch-amazing that people have been watching this annual shower for at least 2700 years; and Anna Flor giving facials and "styling" dad's hair (which has grown extra-long).

We cherish your prayers, encouragement and support that help make possible our life and ministry and give thanks to God for you! Hope to see you tomorrow.

Peace,

Miriam and Mark

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

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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.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

The Lord is near. ⁶

Do not be anxious about anything,
but in every situation, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to
God. ⁷ And the peace of God,
which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever
is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,
whatever is admirable – if anything is
excellent or praiseworthy – think about such
things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned
or received or heard from me,
or seen in me – put it into practice.
And the God of peace will be with you.
Philippians 4:4-9