

# **The Home Page**

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175 Vol. 25.14, Weeks of July 5 and July 12, 2020

## **NOTABLE NOTES** FROM PASTOR GREG

I'm writing to update you on the status of Pooh Corner, the childcare facility that operates in our building. Pooh Corner was started by some very thoughtful members of our church in the 1970s when there were no licensed daycares in Hastings. From its inception, it was incorporated separately from the church and has an independent board. For the first 20 years, the board had many members of FPC on it and there was a great deal of collaboration between the daycare and the church. Historically it has been a ministry partner of First Presbyterian Church by providing a safe and licensed daycare in the city, particularly for low-income families. In the last 20 years, Pooh Corner has become more independent, not regularly appointing our church members to serve on their board. FPC has continued to support Pooh Corner by providing them space rent free and subsidizing the cost of their utilities. If you'd like more details about this, please feel free to contact me or any of your Trustees.

Pooh Corner closed their operations in mid-March due to COVID-19. They asked the church to reopen on May 26. Your Session took their request very seriously and approached it with care and compassion, trying to balance the liability and safety of the church with their expressed need to reopen for their families and staff. Different from a standalone daycare like Gingerbread or The Ark, Pooh Corner operates in our church building that has other users including our church staff, vendors, volunteers, church members, and other outside groups. Therefore your Session crafted a plan for them to reopen that takes the safety of all users of our building into account including the children and families that come to Pooh Corner and their staff, our own church staff, and the other users of our building.

We wrote a reopening plan that was agreed upon by our Session and Pooh Corner's board. It changed some aspects of Pooh Corner's operations, for example you have probably noticed the construction fence along 7th street which is there to protect the children, families and staff as they walk to an exterior entrance on 7th. It also established requirements based on guidelines from the CDC, state, and local health departments including temperature checks and logbooks and the use of facemasks for staff.

After two weeks of attempting to operate under these new guidelines, Session has determined that it is not possible for Pooh Corner to safely operate in our building for the time being. Pooh Corner staff repeatedly did not follow the agreed upon guidelines that were established for a safe reopening despite multiple conversations with their leadership and opportunities for course correction. We have informed the Pooh Corner board and have given them two weeks notice to find an alternative location, which was agreed upon in our reopening protocols. Pooh Corner has a secondary site in town that they didn't reopen initially. For the sake of their families and staff, we are hopeful that they may be able to continue their operations, but it cannot be safely done in our building at this time. We remain hopeful that, in time, Pooh Corner may be able to reopen at FPC.

This was not a decision that the Session took lightly. We recognize the impact that this will have on the families and staff. However for the safety of all users of our building, this was the decision we made. As we consider what reopening may look like for the church, which the Session is discussing at our meeting on June 18, we realized that there is no way for Pooh Corner to be safely operating in our space at this time.

We are sharing this with you so that you are aware of what is happening. If you hear someone in the community talking about this, we want you to be fully informed. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of your Session or me.

Your servants in Christ, Pastor Greg and The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings Brian Johnson, Kay Georgiana, Mary Fisk, Pat Kern, Kris Horton, Bev Rader, Erik Nielsen, Harold Korb, Joe Black, Neil Riley, Scott Shardelow, Cheryl Lockwood, Mary Seiler

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

Alana DeBellis & Family Jim Duval Cheryl Ann Elfond Irina Erickson's Mom Jim Hahne Jim Harrenstein Everly Hogan 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) Jim & Mary Jeanne Cooke

Gretchen Lainson Tommy Thomsen Mike Hahne & family Jeff Howard

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 <u>www.facebook.com/fpchastings</u> (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.

**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:**

Grace and peace to you and yours through our Lord Jesus Christ, who makes us one.

As we embark on the long, hot days of summer and the uncertainty of life during a pandemic, we give thanks for the faithful support of churches like yours. On behalf of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, please allow me to express our appreciation to you, your pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support. Your church's support changes lives for the sake of the Gospel, not only here, but also around the world. Thank you for your contributions from your church during the month of May towards the Hunger Fund.

Thank you once again for your witness to the Great Commission and your support of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. You are a valued partner in mission.

-Bill McConnell, Mission Engagement Advisor

#### **Mission Committee Update**

• 16 long-sleeved shirts and 14 pairs of slacks were donated to Proteus to be given to migrant farm workers.

**Once a year the Scholarship Committee** has the privilege of granting the Binfield Scholarship and the Essex Scholarship.

This year the award winners for the Binfield Scholarship are Emma Redinger and Julia Reimer. The award winner for the Essex Scholarship is Nina Meyer.

Congratulations and best of luck in your academic pursuits for the coming year.

**Church Member Reports for Basic Training:** Cale Henderson safely arrived at Fort Sill, OK, for Army Basic Training on June 16. He has written home already and is doing well. He will be celebrating his birthday on July 2. Please keep him in your prayers. For those who would like to write him, his address is Pvt Henderson Cale O; 2nd Platoon Echo Battery 1-31FA; 5955 Rothwell Road, Fort Sill OK 73503



#### **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.

Check out our Amazon wish list under Brooks's Bookshelf and other places to donate on our website at <u>brookssbookshelf.org</u> 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 <u>ericalynn128@gmail.com</u>.

#### Steps to Happiness <u>Everybody Knows:</u>

• You can't be all things to all people.

- You can't do all things at once.
- You can't do all things equally

#### well.

- You can't do all things better than everyone else.
- Your humanity is showing just like everyone else's.

#### <u>So:</u>

- You have to find out who you are and be that.
- You have to decide what comes first and do that.
- You have to discover your strengths and use them.
- You have to learn not to compete with others

• Because no one else is in the contest of "being you."

#### <u>Then:</u>

- You will have learned to accept your own uniqueness.
- You will have learned to set priorities and make decisions.
- You will have learned to live with your limitations.
- You will have learned to give yourself the respect that is due.
- And you'll be a most vital mortal.



**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, <u>sbbrooks52@gmail.com</u> 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** <u>next</u> **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 <u>402-469-9285</u> or sign up at www.redcrossblood.org.



Sponsored by: First United Methodist Church First Presbyterian Church

to the church office and donated to the cause.

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 <u>free of charge</u>. 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
А, В	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* 

<u>Dare to Believe:</u>That you are a once-in-all-history event.

- That it's more than a right, it's your duty, to be who you are.
- That life is not a problem to solve but a gift to cherish.
- And you'll be able to stay one up on what used to get you down.

-Anonymous



#### **RELAY FOR LIFE, 25th year! UPDATE Virtual Events June through August**

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, while at the same time supporting the American Cancer Society. It looks a bit different this year due to the pandemic.

Our First Presbyterian Church team has participated in the virtual silent auction. Items from Hands Around the World store and from Nancy's Patio Beauty Salon were donated, and bidding was finalized over the weekend.

YOU CAN STILL PURCHASE LUMINARIES (\$10) now through August at <u>relayforlife.org/adamscone</u>

It might be possible to have a modified in person event in August if the COVID-19 situation allows. If you have questions or need help, check Facebook, on line: <u>relayforlife.org</u> Adams Co. or call Susie Graham, team leader, 402-469-2638.

CANCER WON'T STOP, AND NEITHER WILL WE. YOUR DONATIONS WILL TRULY SAVE LIVES.



#### GO & SERVE UPDATE

Given the long history of support for the Go & Serve program, I'm sure many of you have wondered about the status of this year's endeavor. We are committed to making Go & Serve happen in 2020. However, that does come with a few caveats.

Instead of making a big trip, we've decided, due to the continued presence of the Coronavirus, to instead be locally focused. We had planned to head to Montana

but will instead stay at First Presbyterian Church right here in Hastings and do work from here during the week of July 12-19.

The stock sale cards went out the week of June 22 with a return deadline of July 8. If you did not receive a letter and wish to contribute, please contact the office. The stockholders' Luncheon will be served following worship on July 19.

**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-sleeved shirts for Proteus, but please save them for when we are!

#### What's Up with Open Table



For the past 16 years, this is the time of year when we share information and ask for workers and donations for The Open Table Sack Lunch Program. For any new members, our church has a long history of making sack lunches for the Open Table after church services during the month of July. Typically, between four to five thousand sack lunches are prepared in the course of the month. The Open Table Sack Lunch Program is a community program set up to provide one sack lunch per person per day, no questions asked. Various groups prepare the lunches, which are distributed at Catholic Social Services during the week.

We are still going to make and provide sack lunches during the month of July; however, it will be a different format due to COVID-19 restrictions. Instead of our usual large assemblies after church services, we will be preparing sacks and sandwiches in different ways on different days.

The Stay and Serve youth will start the ball rolling the week of July 12th. They will be making the turkey and ham sandwiches for the month. The sandwiches will be stored at Catholic Social Services to be added to the sacks as they are distributed. During the next two weeks, we will be scheduling groups of less than 15 to fill sacks in Fellowship Hall during one-hour blocks at various times of the day while following appropriate protocol for distancing and wearing masks.

Sign up times to fill sacks during the weeks of July 19th to July 31st will be published in the next newsletter or through other communications. We encourage family groups to sign up together when possible, but individuals are welcomed as well.

We hope to make sandwiches and fill sacks with the same joyful spirit in spite of restrictions.

Thank you for all you do to support this ongoing mission.

Jeni Howard and Meg Stewart-Magee on behalf of the Mission Committee

### NOW MORE THAN EVER...



PW in the Synod of the Lakes & Prairies presents:Beginning to Dismantle Structural Racismthrough 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: <u>mmstone52@att.net</u> 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**

Complete the Hymn title with a word from the list below:

1 the Way,	O Zion					
on Me, Breath of God						
3. TheyMy Lord; He Never Said a Mumblin' Word						
4. Good Christians Friends,						
5. O Lord, How Shall I	You?					
6Me, O The	ou Great Jehovah					
7. Every Time I the Spirit						
8. O the King, All Glorious Above!						
9. Hallelujah!Praise to Your Creator						
10. Peoples, Your Hands!						
11. Now the Green Blade						
12Ye Faith	ful,	the Strain				
13. Come Now, You Blessed,	at My	y Table				
14. Savior, Like a Shepherd	Us					
15 Has Con	ne					
16. PeopleE	East					
17 All Who		_ in God				
LOOK	EAT	CLAP				
FEEL	MEET	CRUCIFIED				
PREPARE	BLESS/TRUST	BREATHE				
RISES	SING	LEAD				
REJOICE	WORSHIP	GUIDE				
LOVE	COME/RAISE					
*********	****** Answer	ers found elsewhere in this issue of the Home l	Page			



aredy

rrel

Michael Hall

Wherever You Are



PETER H. REYNOLDS

Mark Your Calendar

<u>Please check the calendar on the church website for the most accurate list of activities.</u> <u>www.fpchastings.org</u>

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

- ✓ 10:30 a.m. on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com/fpchastings</u> (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 --- July 5 – July 12, 2020

Session has voted to suspend all in-person meetings through July 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, July 5	10:30a	"Stay at Home" Worship Service		
Mon, July 6		"Monday Check-in" Communication		
		from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen		
		Sent out via email and social media		
Tues, July 7	Noon-6:00p	Red Cross Blood Drive		
	<del>10:30a-11:30a</del>	NO-Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing		
	<del>12:00p-1:00p</del>	NO-Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing		
Wed, July 8	12:00p-1:00p	Summer Book Club via Zoom Conferencing		
Thurs, July 9	4:30p-5:30p	Mission Meeting via Zoom Conferencing		
	5:00p-6:00p	Personnel via Zoom Conferencing		
Fri, July 10		"Friday Feature" Communication		
		Sent out via email and social media		
Sat, July 11		Go & Serve Begins		
Sun, July 12	10:30a	"Stay at Home" Worship Service		
Mon, July 13		"Monday Check-in" Communication		
		from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen		
		Sent out via email and social media		
Tues, July 14	8:30a-4:30p	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing		
	<del>12:00p-1:00p</del>	NO-Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing		
	5:30p-6:30p	Congregational Life via Zoom Conferencing		
	600p-7:00p	<b>Trustees</b> via Zoom Conferencing		
Wed, July 15	12:00p-1:00p	Summer Book Club via Zoom Conferencing		
Thurs, July 16	5:30p-6:30p	Session via Zoom Conferencing		
Fri, July 17		<b>"Friday Feature" Communication</b>		
		Sent out via email and social media		
Sat, July 18	9:30a-2:00p	United Harvest		
Sun, July 19	10:30a	"Stay at Home" Worship Service		
	11:30a-1:00p	Go & Serve Stockholder's Luncheon		

#### Answers to Hymn Quiz:

1. Prepare	7. Feel	13. Eat
2. Breathe	8. Worship	14. Lead
3. Crucified	9. Sing	15. Love
4. Rejoice	10. Clap	16. Look
5. Meet	11. Rises	17. Bless/Trust
6. Guide	12. Come/Raise	

#### **Gilead Gleanings: A First Pres Summer Reading Project**



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 can join to discuss the novel. 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. Here are the links to the Gilead Gleanings things. Soundcloud

https://soundcloud.com/damenheitmann/062520-gilead-gleanings-asummer-read

Youtube: https://youtu.be/- egyU233vo

First Presbyterian Church 621 North Lincoln Avenue Hastings, NE 68901 Phone: 402-462-5147, Fax 402-462-6818 Email: fpc@fpchastings.org Website: www.fpchastings.org

**Address Service Requested** 

#### **The Home Page**

A publication of First Presbyterian Church 621 N. Lincoln Ave. Hastings, NE 68901

Senior Pastor: Greg Allen-Pickett

**Publishing Guidelines**: The *Home Page* is a twice-monthly publication for the people and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

The newsletter seeks to inform, instruct, and challenge its readers to become engaged in the ministry of FPC.

Articles will be accepted by the Thursday prior to publication. Submissions may be edited for length and suitability. You may send articles to the church office: <u>fpc@fpchastings.org</u> or call 402-462-5147. <sup>2</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul, And forget not all his benefits –
<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins And heals all your diseases,
<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit And crowns you with love and compassion,
<sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 103:2-5