

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 25.17 Weeks of August 16 and August 23, 2020

NOTABLE NOTES

FROM PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

We often use the phrase “how are you” as a greeting; it’s not always an authentic question about someone’s well-being. But as people of faith, we are called to care for those around us, and in order to care for those around us, we need to know how they are doing.

So I ask you, “How are you doing?” And I really want to hear the answer. We are now five months into living with COVID-19 as a reality. It has dramatically impacted all aspects of our lives, particularly our ability to interact face to face with one another. So, how are you doing?

When this first started, we set up “care teams” made up of members of our Deacons and members of our Mission Committee. They were assigned to reach out to all of our church members by phone to check in. Initially they were making those calls weekly, and since then they have scaled back a bit. Our hope was that this ministry of care teams would help people stay connected to one another and the church despite the physical distancing guidelines. And as the guidelines have eased, hopefully people are getting more social interaction while continuing to stay safe and healthy. So, how are you doing?

Sunday morning worship was fundamentally altered to, as we went into “stay-at-home” mode. We recognize that some of our members are not able to access the service via the internet, and we are grateful for the radio and television broadcast ministry. But we also know that it just isn’t the same. Sunday services are not just a time to listen to a message, they are a time to share fellowship and check in with one another. They are also a time to sing hymns together; there is something very special and unifying about everyone singing the same words and collectively breathing together. We miss this opportunity to authentically connect with each other; I miss seeing all of you in church. For the month of August we have added a “worship in the park” option every Sunday at 9am, so if you are really missing the social interaction, we hope you might be able to join us for that, but it still isn’t the same when we can’t sing together and our faces are covered by masks. So, how are you doing?

God calls us together into community. God designed us to be social creatures. God calls the church to gather for the purpose of loving and praising God and loving one another. We are missing out on this and it is hard. So, how are you doing?

Know that you have a church family and a church staff who love you and miss you. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you need anything. We are here for you, and we are here to support you. Call the church office if there is anything we can do for you or if you have a prayer request. And challenge yourself to pick up the phone and call or text at least one member of your church family every day. Check in with them and ask them, how are you doing? You may find that it is as much of a blessing for you as it is for the person you reach out to.

Paul wrote in his letter to the Colossians, “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another, and if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg

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, Noble, Zach 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 Cooke
Henry Black (Joe & Amy Black's son)

Gretchen Lainson
Tommy Thomsen
Mike Hahne & family
Jeff Howard
Carol Medsker
Megan Welton

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 First Presbyterian Church, During this season of unrest and change, we depend on our Church, faith, family, and God's grace to see us through. Together, our gifts work to build God's household where all can find shelter, where all can find love. Your generosity helps build a Matthew 25 Church: a home of wholeness for people in need, especially those suffering from the impacts of the current crises, disrupting the cycle of poverty. Your generosity creates a space for justice, dismantling systemic racism, and it enlivens the Church, giving voice to the declaration that we, the Church, are not dying, but are filled with vitality and life. Thank you for your gifts to Special Offerings, for giving

to enable all people to know God's life-giving welcome in Jesus Christ.

With gratitude, Bryce Wiebe, Director, Special Offerings and Appeals PC(USA)

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 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.



Do It Now

If you have work to do,
Do it now.

Today the skies are
clear and blue,

Tomorrow clouds may
come in view.

Yesterday is not for you,
Do it now.

If you have a song to sing,
Sing it now.

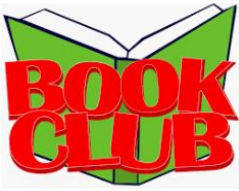
Let the tones of gladness ring
Clear as the song of a bird in spring.
Let each day some music bring;
Sing it now.

Do some kindness while you may,
Loved ones will not always stay,
Say them now.

If you have a smile to show,
Show it now.

Make hearts happy, roses grow,
Let friends around you know
The love you have before they go,
Show it now.

– Charles R. Skinner



Summer Book Club Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh has been guiding a discussion of the book *Heaven and Hell: A History of the Afterlife* by Bart Ehrman. Summer Book Club has been meeting at noon since May 13th and will continue for the next 15 weeks via Zoom Conferencing. 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.



The next Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 1, 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.



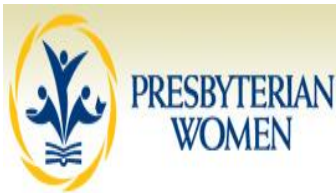
Third Saturday of the Month
Annex Building
Lincoln and 7th St. Hastings

Sponsored by:
First United Methodist Church
First Presbyterian Church

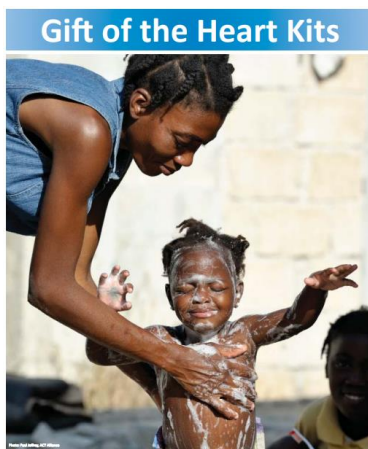
A mobile pantry is a traveling food pantry that delivers food to families in need through a one day distribution. Our goal is to provide food where there is a high need, but resources are limited. The mobile food pantry is available to all free of charge. The institutions providing the food are equal opportunity providers.

September 19, 2020		
M, N, O	May park and get number starting	9:45 AM
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting	10:00 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting	10:15 AM
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting	10:30 AM
A, B	May park and get number starting	10:45 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting	11:00 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting	11:15 AM
I, J, K, L	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.



Presbyterian Women The PW Coordinating team met in August to review the meeting schedule for the fall semester. The decision was made that PW *will NOT meet through the end of 2020. This means there will be NO Circle meetings and no monthly Luncheons.*



Hygiene Kits Needed Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has put out a call for hygiene kits. Presbyterian Women is collecting complete kits to take to Lincoln to the PDA collection center at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church. The deadline to bring kits to the church is September 10. If you don't want to bring them to the church or can't get out, call Nancy Grams, 402-462-4668, or Sue Medsker-Nedderman, 402-984-3545, and they will be glad to pick them up from your house. Following is the list of what should be included in a hygiene kit. Please follow the list exactly, and don't add anything, or put anything of a different size in the kit. Only complete kits will be collected, due to the difficulty of packing the kits during the pandemic. Thanks for your help.

- 1 hand towel (approx. 16" X 28", no fingertip or bath towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 wide-tooth comb (remove from package)
- 1 nail clipper (nail clippers with metal files or emery boards attached are now accepted; remove from package)
- 1 bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)

- 1 toothbrush (in original packaging) - *Do NOT add toothpaste to the hygiene kit. Toothpaste that has an extended expiration date will be added to international hygiene kits just prior to shipment*
- 10 adhesive bandage strips
- Seal all items in a one gallon plastic bag with zipper closure



NOW MORE THAN EVER...

PW in the Synod of the Lakes & Prairies presents:
Beginning to Dismantle Structural Racism



“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.

Learning Together
Weekly Meetings July 13th - August 17th

Join local clergy and congregations this summer as we reflect on race, injustice, and violence in America. Reading groups will meet weekly over Zoom.

For more information, contact Jean at
First Presbyterian Church in Hastings
at 402-462-5147 or
fpc@fpchastings.org
Registration is required!

I'M STILL HERE
BLACK DIGNITY IN A WORLD MADE FOR WHITENESS
AUSTIN CHANNING BROWN

Anti-Racism Conversation Groups

Join your First Presbyterian Church Family in conversation about anti-racism and how our faith calls us to educate ourselves and work to dismantle racism in our society.

We started in June by encouraging the whole church to watch the movie *Just Mercy*. We hosted a discussion group about this movie on July 1.

For the month of July, we invited you to read the book *The Hate U Give*.

For the month of August, we will be reading *I'm Still Here*. For more information or to sign up for a discussion group, please email the church office at fpc@fpchastings.org or call 402-462-5147.

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!



Cultivating
Relationships
and
Understanding
Across Borders

DouglasPrieta Trabaja Celebrates 16 Years of Blessing Families



August 3 FDC Ministry

Update Frontera continues to adapt to the realities of ministry in the time of COVID 19. We are especially proud of our

DouglasPrieta Trabaja, which celebrated its 16th anniversary in July. They continue with their sewing work (which has increased because of the COVID-19-- they were asked by the local hospital to develop and produce a three-layered mask as well as medical gowns). They have now received an order for thousands of them from a local screen

printing company that will personalize them. Of course, gardening is something that can be done well following physical distancing needs. Here is a link to some photos from a FB post last month. We are beginning a ministry with CRREDA and DouglasPrieta in which DPT gives space for CRREDA to grow food and CRREDA will help with some of the work of the coop-- specifically putting up a fence to keep dogs out of the garden. Joca is leading weekly biblical reflection and prayer time with them via zoom.

The garden that Miriam and Roslinda started at the **Migrant Resource Center** is being tended by Don Roberto y Dona Lupe. They are the couple waiting to petition for asylum and are living in the tent by the port of entry (I cook and take breakfast for them each morning). The produce from the garden is being used by the CAME (migrant shelter).

The Children's Enrichment team has developed a wonderful system of keeping in touch with the children and families during this time of physical distancing-- it's kind of like a combination of Stephen's ministry and individual tutoring for the forty families involved from the schools as well as the children and families in CAME (Migrant Shelter)....done via What's App. Over summer break, they are doing reading time using You-Tube and are doing in-house art projects that each child shares virtually.

The Coffee, Conversation, and Compassion campaign has been extended through September. In its first two months, partners bought 338 pounds of coffee and raised over \$2000 for COVID 19 relief (Before this campaign, we already worked with our partners at the church, Douglas Prieta and the Community Center to provide food baskets for families negatively impacted economically.) Many of our partners have expressed a desire to help us in something in addition to prayer. If you are with them, we encourage folks to drink coffee each day and to pray for the farmers as they do so. The purchase of coffee can help support families impacted by the pandemic. Also you can share this fun video recipe for iced coffee

We have had good response to the **Coffee and Conversations** each Thursday at 4 pm. We will begin another 8 week series on Thursday with a virtual tour of Café Justo and conversations with Café Justo founding director Daniel Cifuentes and Adrian Gonzalez, director of customer relations. We hope you and/or others from your church can join. Email office@fronteradecristo.org with "Coffee and Conversations" in the subject line to receive the zoom invitation.

Our **Healing Our Borders Vigil** continues to be done virtually every Tuesday at 5:15 pm (we have actually increased the number of persons participating during this time -- historically we would have between 8 and 10 folks, but now we usually have around 16.)

Mission Education We have enjoyed connecting with our partners to lead Sunday School Classes, youth gatherings, college groups, and preaching. Joca helped lead a virtual youth camp for 68 youth from the Presbytery of Chihuahua. We would be glad to join you for worship or talk with your mission team. Email us if you'd be interested in setting up a zoom meeting.



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 --- August 16– August 29, 2020

Session has voted that all in-person meetings must follow the following guidelines through August 31 for the safety of our congregation and staff and to comply with the State-Directed Health Measures. 1.) 15 or fewer in attendance, 2.) 1 hour or less in length, 3.) Facemasks will be required, 4.) Social distancing of 6 ft. seating. All boards and committees will have to option to meet in person or continue to meet via conference call or some combination of both to be coordinated by the church staff representative.

Sun, Aug 16	9:00a	Worship in Alexander Park
	10:30a	"Stay at Home" Worship Service
Mon, Aug 17		"Monday Check-in" Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen Sent out via email and social media
Tues, Aug 18	10:30a-11:30a	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
	6:45p-7:45p	Deacons via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, Aug 19	12:00p-1:00p	Summer Book Club via Zoom Conferencing
Thurs, Aug 20	5:30p-6:30p	Session via Zoom Conferencing
Fri, Aug 21		"Friday Feature" Communication Sent out via email and social media
Sat, Aug 22		
Sun, Aug 23	9:00a	Worship in Alexander Park
	10:30a	"Stay at Home" Worship Service
Mon, Aug 24		"Monday Check-in" Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen Sent out via email and social media
Tues, Aug 25	8:30a-4:30p	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, Aug 26	12:00p-1:00p	Summer Book Club via Zoom Conferencing
Thurs, Aug 27		
Fri, Aug 28		"Friday Feature" Communication Sent out via email and social media
Sat, Aug 29		

Happy Anniversary

09/01/2001	Stephanie & Doug Ourada	09/16/1989	Todd & Shannon Welton
09/01/2007	Kraig & Laurie Lofquist	09/21/1989	Bruce & Jodie Phelps
09/03/2007	Joe & Amy Black	09/21/2002	Jim & Linda Donohue
09/04/1966	John & Lois Meeske	09/22/2001	Tim & Hilarie Redline
09/05/1970	Craig & JoAnn Williams	09/28/1991	Mike & Becky Meyer
09/14/1980	Chuck & Jane Bauer	09/28/2002	William & Susan Oliver



Happy Birthday

09/01	Geraldine Carlson	09/09	Matthew Brooks	09/17	Kaden Grams
09/02	Mike Ziemba		Caroline Echternach		Karen Doerr
	Dalton Adam		Cheryl Schukei	09/18	Sharon Talbert
	Mary Crum		Mary Olsen	09/19	Jeff Howard
09/03	Neil Riley	09/10	Gary Anderson Jr	09/21	Lori Schroeder
09/04	Daveta Brader		Willow Wissing	09/22	Mitchell Benorden
	Hilarie Redline	09/11	Jared Wilson		Delaney Mullen
	Tethloach Duang		James Ellerbee		Jim Hahne
	Raegan Bradley	09/12	Mailani Nieves		Jane Marsh
	Willis Horton		Jane Foote		Trace Haythorn III
09/05	Septer Duang		Cheryl Ann Elfond		Jack Shardelow
	Dave Glass	09/13	Cora Hemje	09/23	Carol Grummert
	Pat Ochsner		Cade Hemje	09/24	Kayla Howe
	Kinnick Pumroy	09/14	Kim Kern	09/25	Ted Schroeder
09/06	Truman Welsch		Lathan Dirks		Shelby Rhodes
	Nyanhial Duang		Neal Hoff		Porter Ourada
09/07	Joe Black		Cheryl Wray	09/27	Chris Olsen
	Sung Shin		Dixie McDonald	09/28	Jeff Ziemba
	Mike Hogan	09/15	Ronald Maul		Tyler Lay
	Weston Mullen	09/16	Teresa Canady	09/29	Jane Johnson
09/08	Constance Malloy		Byron Jensen	09/30	Francis Vineyard
	Bill Talbert		Roger Schukei		Addyson Hermes
	Kerry Brader		Lennon Launchbaugh		Phil Odom
	Jordan Graviette		Nadine Hunnicutt		Carole Pedersen
	Sharon Harvey	09/17	Tim Canady		

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: fpc@fpchastings.org or call 402-462-5147.

PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU;
MY PEACE I GIVE YOU.
I DO NOT GIVE TO YOU
AS THE WORLD GIVES.
DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS
BE TROUBLED
AND DO NOT BE AFRAID.

-JOHN 14:27

