

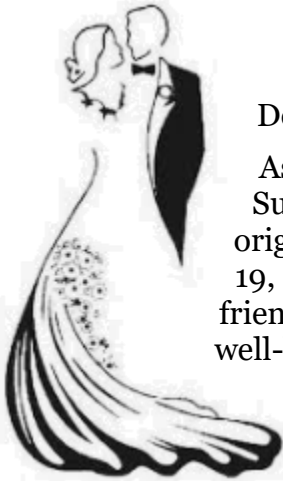
The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 25.18 Weeks of August 30 and September 6, 2020

NOTABLE NOTES

FROM PASTOR DAMEN

Pastor Damen is Getting Married! And You're Invited (kind of)!



Dear Members and Friends of First Pres,

As you may have heard, Hannah Jensen and I will join together in marriage on Sunday, September 6, 2020! We would love for you all to attend the service (and had originally intended to do such a thing), but due to the continued presence of COVID-19, we feel that the most responsible course of action is to encourage our family and friends to stay safe and stay home. We love you all too much to ask you to risk your well-being (not to mention the well-being of others) by joining us in person. It saddens us to not be able to include as many of you as possible, but we feel it is the right thing to do.

Though you cannot join us in person, you are welcome to watch the service at 1:30pm via the Facebook Group, "Hannah and Damen's Virtual Wedding!!" You can access that group by typing the following <http://www.facebook.com/groups/400071480960779/> into the URL of your preferred web browser. Then, please request to join the group, and you will be admitted so you can watch the wedding live! If you do not have a Facebook account, you can still be admitted to the group. If that is the case, please email Hannah (hvjensen10@gmail.com) to make that request.

While you sadly cannot join us in person for the ceremony, you are invited to participate in a "drive-through" reception later that afternoon. If you would like to swing by the church portico and offer a congratulatory honk, wave, or brief conversation, you are welcome to do so from 3:00-5:00pm. We would love to see all of your smiling faces, but please note that you are under absolutely no obligation to stop by. If you'd like an excuse to get out of the house for a bit, we are glad to supply one, but if you'd rather not, that is just fine as well.

For both Hannah and me, it has been a pleasure to be among the loving community known as First Presbyterian Church of Hastings. Whether we see you in person or you join us online, please know that we are happy and honored to be able to share this day of joy in our lives with the church as a whole.

Peace and all good,

Damen

FPC Prayers for:

Alana DeBellis & Family
Jim Duval
Cheryl Ann Elford
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)
Cathy Davis and family

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.

In Memory Of

- Thomas Toms, father of Cathy Davis and father-in-law of Dale Davis, who passed away on 08/14/2020 in York, NE. Services were 08/19/2020.



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.



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' 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.

Lord, Thank You

Lord, thank you for this sink of dirty dishes; we have plenty of food to eat.



Thank you for this pile of dirty, stinky laundry; we have plenty of nice clothes to wear.

And I would like to thank you, Lord, for those unmade beds; they were so warm and comfortable last night. I know that many have no bed.

My thanks to you, Lord, for this bathroom, complete with all the splattered mirrors, soggy, grimy towels and dirty lavatory; they are so convenient.

Thank you for this finger-smudged refrigerator that needs defrosting so badly; it has served us faithfully for many years. It is full of cold drinks and enough leftovers for two or three meals.

Thank you, Lord, for this oven that absolutely must be cleaned today; it has baked so many things over the years.

The whole family is grateful for that tall grass that needs mowing, the lawn that needs raking; we all enjoy the yard.

Thank you, Lord, even for that slamming screen door. My kids are healthy and able to run and play.

Lord, the presence of all these chores awaiting me says You have richly blessed my family. I shall do them cheerfully, and I shall do them gratefully.

And all God's people say... Amen!

-Anonymous

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!!

August 21, 2020

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

Session, the leadership council of the church, met last night to discuss church operations for September and October in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We spent the week leading up to our meeting studying and praying. You can click on this link to see some of what we looked at: <https://bit.ly/32cJog5> Last night we voted unanimously on the following:

Worship Schedule every Sunday August 23 - September 27:

- 9am: Worship in the Park in person. (Alexander Park, Bring your own chair and facemask)
- 10:30am: Stay-at-Home worship broadcast from the sanctuary via Facebook Live, KICS 1550 AM radio and weekly television broadcasts.

This schedule provides an in-person worship opportunity that mitigates the risks of disease spread by being outdoors and encouraging mask usage and social distancing. It also provides a high-quality stay-at-home worship experience, all without overburdening our staff and volunteers.

The one exception to this will be on **Sunday, September 13**, which would be our traditional “Kick-off Sunday.” Unfortunately we can’t have a potluck or the bouncy houses we had last year, but we can worship together with joy and share fellowship with some food trucks after worship in our parking lot! We will hold **One Service in Alexander Park at 10:30am on Sunday, September 13**. We will also distribute bibles to our kindergartners, 3rd graders, and 8th graders on that day. And we may even have bagpipers at the service; stay tuned!

Christian Education Programming for September-October:

- Our PreK-5th grade Christian Education will be offered remotely with lessons available to watch on YouTube and a packet of information sent home to all families with children in that age group.
- Middle School and High School youth groups will meet in person starting on September 16 on Wednesday evenings, 7pm-8pm. Facemasks will be required, and social distancing will be encouraged
- Adult education will be offered primarily remotely and online, but also with some hybrid options for people to meet in person at the church for those who would like to.
- A detailed description of what was decided can be read by clicking on this link: <https://bit.ly/3gjodfG>

All of your Session members and I continue to miss our traditional in-person worship in the sanctuary. We miss the sounds of your voices uniting to recite the responsive prayers and sing the hymns. We miss the joyful buzz in the sanctuary during the passing of peace as we greet one another in the name of Christ. We miss seeing you check in with one another in the Memorial Room before and after services. And how I miss our potlucks! We’ve heard from many of you how much you miss this, too, and how we are all anxious to get back to a sense of normalcy. We also hold those feelings in tension with the concerns we have for the safety of our church family and our community and a desire to preserve and protect health and life, particularly for those who are vulnerable and at risk. It is a difficult tension to live in, but our faith has taught us how to navigate these difficult tensions: with grace, compassion, and love. So we ask for your continued prayers and for grace, compassion, and love as we move forward together.

Your Servants in Christ,

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett and the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

Mary Seiler, Brian Johnson, Kay Georgiana, Mary Fisk, Pat Kern, Kris Horton, Bev Rader, Erik Nielsen, Harold Korb, Joe Black, Neil Riley, Scott Shardelow, Cheryl Lockwood

Kindergarten, 3rd Grade, and 8th Grade Bible Presentation



Alexander Park
September 13---10:30 am



LANGENBERG LESSON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Several years ago, through the generosity of the late Luella Langenberg, the LANGENBERG LESSON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM was established to encourage the youth of our church in their musical pursuits.

- Parents of students in grades 1-12 may apply for up to \$250 per semester to offset the cost of private music instruction.
- Areas of study include piano, voice, guitar, or any band/orchestral instrument.
- Grants are limited to one per child.
- Parents must be members of First Presbyterian Church, and students must be active participants in the church choir/music program.

Application forms are available in the church office and on the church website.
https://fpchastings.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Langenberg-form_Fillable-Fall-2020.pdf

- DEADLINE FOR THE Fall 2020 GRANT PROGRAM IS October 1, 2020.
- ALTHOUGH GRANTS ARE RENEWABLE, PARENTS MUST RE-APPLY EACH SEMESTER.



Hello, FPC Family,

The 17th year of preparing lunches for the Open Table Sack Lunch Program during the month of July is in the books. As with everything else, due to Covid-19 restrictions, it looked a bit different in 2020. It wasn't the boisterous parade of people making their way into fellowship hall after church services on Sundays; rather, it was small groups of people arriving at different times during the month, for one-hour shifts while wearing masks and keeping social distance in respect for each other's safety. However, there was conversation, laughter, storytelling, and words of support as we completed each hour of service.

In this way, we made and delivered approximately 3,000 sack lunches to be distributed from the Catholic Social Service office. Typically, we make from 4,500 to 6,000 lunches during the month of July; however, for a variety of reasons, there have been fewer people picking up the lunches, so this was the number agreed upon. If the need arises, we may schedule a second assembly date later in the year.

Thank you for continuing to support this ongoing mission of our church through prayers, donations, encouragement, and service. Special thanks to Dave Dirks and Custom Pack for generously providing the wonderful sliced ham and turkey for the sandwiches and to Bev Stein for making hundreds of homemade muffins and cookies to drop into the lunches as they were served. Thanks also to Lily Kingsley for helping to helping to set up, organize, and supervise the assemblies. We also appreciate our church staff for their support, flexibility, and service needed to make this work. We continue to believe this project is a blessing to our church family, as well as a blessing to the people who receive the food.

Gratefully,

The Global Mission and Local Social Witness Committee



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.



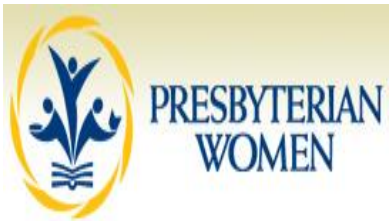
Third Saturday of the Month
Annex Building
Lincoln and 7th St. Hastings

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.*

Gift of the Heart Kits



Hygiene Kits Needed PW is collecting complete kits. The deadline to bring kits to the church is September 10. Bring completed kits to the church or call Nancy Grams, 402-462-4668, or Sue Medsker-Nedderman, 402-984-3545, to pick them up. Following is the list of what should be included in a hygiene kit. 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. 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

Hygiene Kit
bar of soap
toothbrush
washcloth
wide-tooth comb
nail clipper
hand towel
bandages

PDA encourages congregations to participate in the ecumenical Gift of the Heart (GOH) Kits program. Hygiene, baby care, clean-up, and school supplies offer a way to reach disaster survivors and those in need with the hope of Christ.

For hygiene kit details and a list of other GOH kits and contents, visit <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/pda/making-gift-heart-kits/>

PDA IS SUPPORTED BY ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING WWW.PCUSA.ORG/PDA PDA@pcusa.org (888) 728-7228 x5839



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 30 – September 12, 2020

Session has voted that all in-person meetings must follow the following guidelines through September 30 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 30	9:00a	Worship in Alexander Park
	10:30a	“Stay at Home” Worship Service
Mon, Aug 31		“Monday Check-in” Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Sept 1	10:30a-11:30a	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
	12:00p-6:00p	Red Cross Blood Drive Fellowship Hall
	5:30p-7:00p	WAM via Zoom Conferencing
	5:30p-6:30p	United Harvest Board Meeting
Wed, Sept 2	12:00p-1:00p	Summer Book Club via Zoom Conferencing
Thurs, Sept 3	5:30p-6:30p	Christian Ed via Zoom Conferencing
Fri, Sept 4		“Friday Feature” Communication Sent out via email and social media
Sat, Sept 5		
Sun, Sept 6	9:00a	Worship in Alexander Park
	10:30a	“Stay at Home” Worship Service
Mon, Sept 7		“Monday Check-in” Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
	OFFICE CLOSED	Labor Day Holiday
Tues, Sept 8	8:30a-4:30p	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
	5:30p-6:30p	Congregational Life via Zoom Conferencing
	5:30p-6:30p	Trustees via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, Sept 9	12:00p-1:00p	Summer Book Club via Zoom Conferencing
Thurs, Sept 10	4:30p-5:30p	Mission Committee via Zoom Conferencing
	5:00p-6:00p	Personnel via Zoom Conferencing
Fri, Sept 11		“Friday Feature” Communication Sent out via email and social media
Sat, Sept 12		

First Presbyterian Church
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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.

