

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 25.20 Weeks of September 27 and October 4, 2020

NOTABLE NOTES

FROM PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

Over the last few weeks, I have been reading my Bible and thinking about the themes of Christian discipleship and freedom. Following my study and reflection, I wrote an article last week that was published by the *Presbyterian Outlook*. If you'd like to read the whole article, you can click here: <http://bit.ly/pastorgreg> I'd welcome your feedback. Below is an edited section of the article.

In the New Testament, we find many verses that reflect on freedom: "For freedom Christ has set us free" (Galatians 5:1). What is this freedom Paul is talking about in this newfound Christian community? Paul answers that question a few verses later stating, "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Galatians 5:13-14). Christian freedom is grounded in selfless love for one another.

Jesus makes similar claims throughout the gospels. There are three statements from Jesus that form the basis of the Christian ethical system:

- Some version of the greatest commandment, or the double love command, occurs in all three of the synoptic gospels. Matthew 22:34-40 reads, "When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."*
- John 15:12-14 offers a similar perspective: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you."*
- Matthew 16:24-26 describes what it means to follow Jesus: "Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?'"*

These three of Jesus's sayings sum up what it means to be a disciple. Being a disciple of Christ means that we put the needs of others above our own needs. Jesus uses ἀγάπη (agape, or unconditional love) as the basis for this and makes it clear that the ultimate act of love is to give up your own individual freedom to "lay down your life for your friends." Following Jesus means to deny ourselves, deny our own needs and desires, in order to take up our cross and follow him.

As debates rage on in our country right now, those of us who claim to be Christians are called to ground our response to those debates in the scripture, and the biblical witness is clear. The narrative arc of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation instructs us that we are to prioritize the needs of others in our community, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized, over our own needs. Our discipleship is grounded in selflessly giving up our freedoms for the wellbeing of others. Christian discipleship calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves, lay down our lives for our friends, and deny ourselves in order to follow the way of Jesus.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg

FPC Prayers for:

Erica Brooks and family
Irina Erickson's Mom
Jim Harrenstein
Everly Hogan
Jeff Howard

Kristine Cook (Katharine Davis' sister)
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)

Gretchen Lainson
Carol Medsker
Tommy Thomsen
Family of Irene Lindau
Family of Jim Cooke

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

- ♥ Irene Lindau, who passed away 08/24/2020. A private graveside service officiated by Pastor Greg was held 08/28/2020.
- ♥ Rev. Dr. James Cooke, who passed away 09/05/2020. Graveside services were held on 09/11/2020 at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery, with Pastor Greg officiating. Memorials may be given to First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, American Heart Association, or Hastings Area Habitat for Humanity. A memorial service will be held in the spring.



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 Church Family,

Thank you for all your prayers, thoughts, and notes of encouragement while Cale Henderson was in the service. He is home now.

-Virginia Davis

Update on Giving

We need average giving of \$53,000/month to make our budget for the year. We ordinarily see a big boost in giving in November and

December, as many people pay their whole pledge at once. We do usually see a drop in giving during the summer as people are traveling and not bringing their offerings in, and we are seeing that this summer.

March: \$31,484 April: \$67,795
May: \$66,891 June: \$36,643
July: \$40,345 August: \$39,488
YTD: \$382,889
YTD TOTAL Expense: \$420,998
YTD Budgeted Expense: \$462,296

October Communion Offering will go towards the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.



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 are 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.

Good Things to Remember



1. If you feel far away from God, guess who moved?
2. Fear knocked. Faith answered. No one was there.
3. What you are is God's gift to you. What you become is your gift to God.
4. I am God's melody of life and He sings His song through me.
5. We can never really go where God is not, and where He is, all is well.
6. No matter what is happening in your life, know that God is waiting for you with open arms.
7. God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.
8. Do your best and then sleep in peace. God is awake.
9. God has a purpose and plan for me that no one else can fulfill.
10. The will of God will never take you to where the grace of God will not protect you.
11. We are responsible for the effort, not the outcome.
12. We set the sail; God makes the wind.
13. Begin to weave and God will give you the thread.
14. Sometimes when God says "no", it's because He has something better in store for you.

15. The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us.
16. Prayer: don't bother to give God instructions, just report for duty.
17. It's my business to do God's business and it's His business to take care of my business.
18. Serenity is not freedom from the storm, but peace amid the storm.

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.

Love to Walk? During the spring through the early fall, we walk in the beautiful Heartwell Park, which provides about a one-mile loop – and second loops are available at no extra charge. The Walkers are your solution for getting those



19. How come you're always running around looking for God? He's not lost.
20. God put me on earth to accomplish a number of things; right now I'm so far behind I will live forever. — Unknown Author

daily steps in from 8:15 to 9:15 Monday through Thursday.

Afterwards, we have fabulous Café Justo and good conversation, but, hey, that's the bonus option.

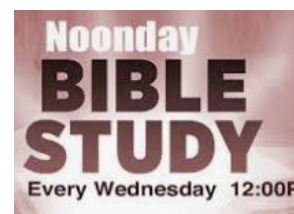
The First Presbyterian Church PEACE Center gym is a great place to walk during the winter months. (Group size limited to 15).

Interested? Call or text Denny Storer at 402 460 8804 for more information on how to join the group and gain access to the PEACE Center on days the weather does not cooperate to walk outside.

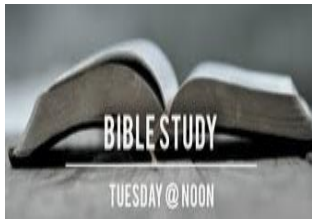


the invitation.

Heirs Apparent Adult Sunday School, with Curtis Reimer leading, is starting soon via ZOOM conferencing. Contact the church office to receive



Bible at Breakfast has a new time and name! Join us for Noonday Bible Study via ZOOM starting on Wednesday, September 16 at noon with Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh as the leader. We will be looking at the Book of Revelation using the text *Revelation & the End of All Things* by Craig R. Koester. To join the study, contact sbbrooks52@gmail.com. All are welcome!



Tuesday Noon Bible Study with Pastor Greg

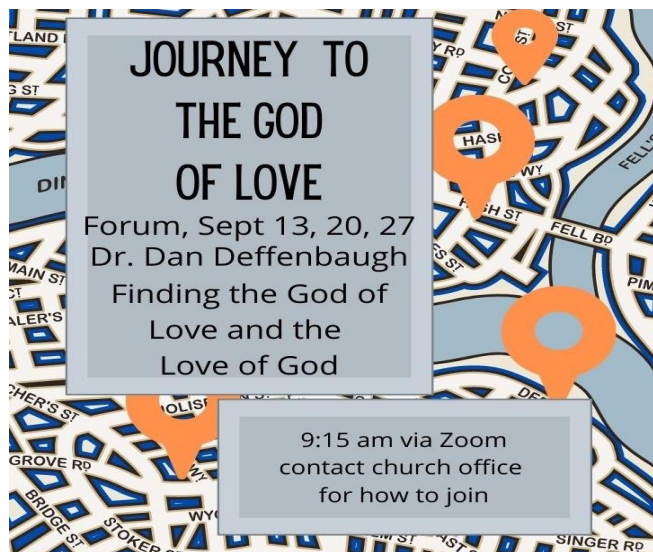
All are welcome to join this weekly study. The focus for the group

discussion and study each week is on the verses to be used on Sunday during worship. The group gathers either by ZOOM Conferencing or in person in the Anderson Room. To join by ZOOM, contact the church office.

Forum Returns on September 13! Our regularly scheduled Adult Enrichment hour known as Forum will begin again at 9:15 on Sunday, September 13th. We won't be meeting in person just yet, but folks can join in the conversation live via Zoom. All Forum sessions will also be recorded and posted to the church's YouTube page so you can watch the session at any time.

We'll begin this year with a three-part series titled "Journey to the God of Love" led by Scholar in Residence, Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh. The series will trace theological development of the love and mercy of God through both Old and New Testaments.

To join in for the discussion, please let the church office know and we'll get you all set up!



Hello First Presbyterian Parents

We wanted to reach out and give you an update on how we are planning to handle Sunday School/Youth Group for the fall.

Pre-K-5th Grades

You will receive a packet of materials in the mail to use as you follow along with video lessons that will be posted weekly on our church website (<https://fpchastings.org/children/>) starting September 13.

6th-8th Grades

We will be hosting in-person 6th-8th Grade Youth Group on Wednesday evenings beginning on **September 16**. We'll plan to meet in the church basement youth room from **7-8pm**. All participants are asked to **wear a facemask**, and we will maintain proper distance from one another. We'll do our usual games, bible study, and fellowship sorts of things. I'm also planning to include a little Presbyterian 101 for the first few weeks.

9th to 12th Grades

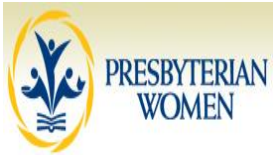
We will be hosting in-person 9th-12th Grade Youth Group on Wednesday evenings beginning on **September 16**. We'll plan to meet in the PEACE Center youth room from **7pm-8pm**. All participants are asked to **wear a facemask**, and we will maintain proper distance from one another. We'll do our usual games, bible study, and fellowship sorts of things.

We will not have Sunday morning Sunday School or current 8th Grade Confirmation Class at this time. That may change in the coming months, but at least for September and October we will do without.

We are hoping this will become a meaningful learning experience for all. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

Stephanie Brader, Director of Education for Children & Youth

Pastor Damen, Associate Pastor



Presbyterian Women PW will NOT meet through the end of 2020. This means there will be NO Circle meetings and no monthly Luncheons.

COMING SOON!

HASTINGS CROP HUNGER WALK



- 2pm Sunday
- October 11, 2020
- Heartwell Park
- Start and end at N. California Ave. in the park
- 25% raised goes to Hastings Middle School Food Pantry

Our CROP walk is virtual, but the need could not be more real. We will walk this year, but to keep everyone safe and healthy, we will walk either alone, with immediate family, or in small groups walking a safe distance apart at Heartwell Park. Look for our registration table in the park by N. California Ave.

Join Our First Presbyterian Church team - virtually - as we continue our shared commitment to stand up for the poor, the forgotten, those left behind. Access crophungerwalk.org/hastings to donate online or make a check to CWS/CROP and send or drop it by the church office or drop box.

Even though we might not walk, we can "Walk in Spirit" and still support our Church World Service programs here and throughout the world.

New Members Class Coming Soon!



This is a great opportunity for people who are interested in learning more about the Presbyterian Church and exploring membership. Please contact the church office or Pastor Greg if you are interested in attending.



The next Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Friday, October 30, 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.

~~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.

October 17, 2020		
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting	9:45 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting	10:00 AM
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting	10:15 AM
A, B	May park and get number starting	10:30 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting	10:45 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting	11:00 AM
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting	11:15 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting	11:30 AM

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

Invites

All God's
Creatures



(and owners!)

to a *Blessing of the Pets Service*

and Worship in the Park

Alexander Park, 9:00 a.m.,

Sunday, September 27, 2020

CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSETS??



The First Presbyterian Church would love to receive your gently used winter coats for our coat distribution to be held October 17th in conjunction with United Harvest

Coats of all sizes are needed for Men, Women, and Children.

(Adult XL and XXL are in high need.)



Donations accepted now through October 14th.

Please bring your gently used coats to Sunday Worship in the Park or to the church office during the week.

"Living Love"

A sermon series that reflects on our call to actively live

love. Studying stories from the Old and New Testaments that demonstrate lived love from God and others that serve as an example for us.

9/6: Love your neighbor, be a light.
Romans 13:8-14

9/13: Forgiveness
Genesis 50:15-21

9/20: Provision
Exodus 16:2-15

9/27: Compassion
Philippians 2:1-13

10/4: Sharing
1 Corinthians 11:18-26



Our church is moving to a new kind of church record keeping solution called REALM.

It primarily serves the administrative needs of our staff, but it also offers some exciting opportunities to support the way you are involved in our church. *Not only will this improve work life for our ministry staff, it will make it easier for our church family to connect with each other, keep up with what's going on, and grow as a connected community of believers.* Watch for more information to come!



HastingsCollege Sunday

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

"Stay at Home" Worship

Sunday, September 27, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Featuring music by The Hastings College Choir

Dr. Rich Lloyd, the new Executive President of Hastings College, will be introduced and serve as liturgist.

Broadcast live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings

(Please note, you do not need a Facebook account to view the service.)

10:30 a.m. service will also be broadcast live on KICS 1550 AM

Happy Anniversary

10/01/1950	Glenn & Nadine Hunnicutt	10/12/1985	Kirk & Karen Dielman
10/01/2005	Richard & Linda Johnson	10/15/1966	Roger & Cheryl Schukei
10/06/1962	Denny & Carole Storer	10/19/2013	Kim & Jeremy Borrell
10/11/1997	Bill & Javae Redinger	10/19/2013	Brett & Dana Miller
10/11/2003	William & Amy Hermes	10/27/2007	Matt & Kaleena Fong



Happy Birthday

10/01	Frank Medsker	10/10	Jade Guiai-Lou	10/20	Margaret Hermes
10/02	Dwight Marsh		Brooks Borrell	10/21	Sabrina Pontine
	Laura Kate Oliver		Scott Kummer		Richard Johnson
	Fiona Eckhardt	10/11	Roger Doerr	10/22	Justin Wenburg
10/03	Paxton Rhodes		Jeff Hermann		Nancy Ziemba
	Molly Gosda	10/12	Tanner Lay		Craig Williams
	Karen Dielman	10/13	Jan Ham	10/23	Zachary Henderson
	Luke Brooks	10/14	Nathan Jensen	10/24	Paige Redline
	Jackson Urrutia		Ryan Barker		Jeanne Reynolds
10/05	Jim Donohue	10/15	Madalynn Redline		Keaghan Rhodes
	LeRoy Echternach		Lucy Nielsen	10/26	Selah Wenburg
10/06	Emma Redinger	10/16	Sally Hatcher		Mark Funkey
	Vonda Essex		Kim Bogan	10/27	Amy Hermes
10/07	Steve Crolley		Nyabong Duang		Ruei Duang
	Virginia Davis		Carter Wenburg		Adair Hall
	Scott Snell	10/17	Grant Hunter	10/28	Matt Fong
	Heather Gosda		Jim LaMaster		Mary Creigh
10/08	Kris Horton		Nan Huey		Jami Shaw
	Sue Horton	10/18	Susan Hoff	10/29	Tim Redline
	Elmer Heeren		Cindy Fricke		Madelynn Gosda
	Junko Jurgena		Tyler Adam		LaVern Franzen
10/09	Patty Kingsley		Chris Schukei		Kristen Eckhardt
	Vicki Howard	10/19	Linda Hall	10/30	Milrae Korb
	Katharine Davis		Bev Rader	10/31	Stephanie Brader

Check the calendar on the church website for the most accurate list of activities. www.fpchastings.org

Calendar
Mark Your



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

- ✓ 10:30 a.m. on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings (FB account not needed)
- ✓ 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 --- September 27 – October 10, 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 the 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, Sept 27	9:00a 10:30a	Worship in Alexander Park & Pet Blessing "Stay at Home" Worship Service
Mon, Sept 28	8:15a-9:15a	Walkers at the PEACE Center "Monday Check-in" Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Sept 29	8:15a-9:15a 10:30a-11:30a 12:00p-1:00p	Walkers at the PEACE Center Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, Sept 30	8:15a-9:15a 12:00 1:00p 6:15p-7:00p 6:45p-7:30p 7:00p-8:00p 7:00p-8:00p	Walkers at the PEACE Center Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal in Memorial Room Choir Small Ensemble Rehearsal Middle School Youth Group in Basement Youth Rm High School Youth Group in PEACE Center
Thurs, Oct 1	8:15a-9:15a	Walkers at the PEACE Center
Sun, Oct 4	9:00a 10:30a	Tentative-Worship in Alexander Park "Stay at Home" Worship Service
Mon, Oct 5	8:15a-9:15a	Walkers at the PEACE Center "Monday Check-in" Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Oct 6	12:00p-1:00p 8:15a-9:15a 8:30a-4:30p 12:00p-1:00p 5:30p-6:30p	Memorial Committee in Kessler Walkers at the PEACE Center Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing WAM via Zoom Conferencing/Anderson
Wed, Oct 7	8:15a-9:15a 10:00a-11:00a 12:00 1:00p 6:15p-7:00p 6:45p-7:30p 7:00p-8:00p 7:00p-8:00p	Walkers at the PEACE Center PW Coordinating Team in Fellowship Hall Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal in Memorial Room Choir Small Ensemble Rehearsal Middle School Youth Group in Basement Youth Rm High School Youth Group in PEACE Center
Thurs, Oct 8	8:15a-9:15a 4:30p-5:30p 5:00p-6:00p	Walkers at the PEACE Center Mission via Zoom and Fellowship Hall Personnel in Kessler
Sat, Oct 10	1:00p	Ben Ore Memorial Service

First Presbyterian Church
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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.

