



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 25.22 Weeks of October 25 and November 1, 2020

NOTABLE NOTES

FROM PASTOR GREG

What a year it has been! When I sat down to write our stewardship letter last year, we had no idea what this year would hold for us. We were full of hope for our beloved church; Pastor Damen had just started full-time with us; we had added more than 85 new members in three years; our attendance was growing; and our budget was strong thanks to your generosity. The stewardship campaign last year was "Supporting Something Special," and we reflected beautifully on all of the special ways that our church is shining the love and light of Christ into the world. The campaign was successful, thanks to your faithfulness, and we started 2020 in a strong financial and spiritual position and excited for what God had in store for our church.

Then the world changed in March. The virus spread, we suspended in-person worship, and our community went on lockdown. Our own church family was touched by this disease with multiple diagnoses, including my wife. (As a side note, I want to thank you all once again for the way that you wrapped our family in a warm embrace of love during that time.) Even as all of this was happening, I watched our church family rise to this challenge in big and small ways.

- Our Deacons and Mission Committee mobilized to reach out to our church members to care for them and ensure no one was feeling isolated.
- We altered our distribution model for the United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry and changed the way we packed sack lunches for the Open Table food ministry, seeking to continue to feed our hungry neighbors while protecting the health and safety of all involved in these ministries.
- Pastor Damen started a new weekly Bible Study broadcast and a monthly broadcast with local musicians.
- Our Director of Christian Education, Steph Brader, created remote learning opportunities for our children and youth.
- Our broadcast ministry continued to thrive and grow thanks to the incredible volunteer efforts of the Nielsen family and others, which helped to keep our church family connected to one another and to God.
- We started an in-person Worship in the Park service that has run for more than 12 weeks thanks to the Schukei family and others. This allowed us to gather safely in person to praise God and to share fellowship and fun!

These are just a few of the many ways that our church adapted, overcame, and found ways to continue to shine the love and light of Christ into the world, in spite of the global pandemic. I have been blessed to help lead some of these efforts and have often just stood in awe and been a cheerleader for the amazing work that is being done by our church family to share the Good News, particularly in this time.

Our Stewardship Campaign theme this year is "Love and Sharing... for such a time as this." The phrase "for such a time as this" comes from the Old Testament book of Esther. In the biblical narrative, Queen Esther is facing a difficult time for her people, and she becomes scared and starts to lose hope. Her uncle Mordecai challenges her to keep her hope and to overcome her fear; to show love to her people. He says that God has made her queen "for such a time as this."

While our situation is not as dire as the one that Queen Esther faced, this pandemic has given us our share of difficulties and has the potential to dampen our hope. But just like Mordecai challenged Esther, I want to challenge all of you to continue to rise to the occasion. Now more than ever, the world needs the church as a beacon of hope and a witness of love, and we need you to support the work of this church so that we can continue to share the light of Christ in the world.

Please continue to give generously to support the work of our beloved church. On the second page of this letter, you will find information about pledging and tithing, and enclosed is a pledge card. We use your pledges to build the budget for the coming year. I invite you to sit down with your family and prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to love and share... for such a time as this.

Your Servant in Christ, Pastor Greg



Erica Brooks and family
Irina Erickson and family
Jim Harrenstein
Everly Hogan
Jeff Howard
Vern Kooy
Pastor Greg and family

FPC Prayers for:

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)
Cindy Pickett

Gretchen Lainson
Carol Medsker
Tommy Thomsen
Family of Irene Lindau
Family of Jim Cooke
Craig and JoAnn Williams

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

- ♥ Rev. Dr. James Cooke, who passed away 09/05/2020. 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.
- ♥ Shirley M. Lee, who passed away 09/17/2020, and is the sister of Darlene Payne.
- ♥ Irina Belikova-Erickson's mother, who lost her battle with cancer on 10/01/2020.
- ♥ Dean Pickett, who passed away 10/13/20. Dean is Pastor Greg's father. Memorial gifts in his honor may be given to one of three causes he was very passionate about:
The American Cancer Society: <https://www.cancer.org/involved/donate.html>
The Presbyterian Church (USA) Peace and Global Witness Offering: <http://bit.ly/PresbyPeace>
Best Friends Animal Society: <https://bestfriends.org/>



Sunday's 10:30 "Stay at Home" Worship Service is 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.

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.



take time to

1. mail your donation in,
2. drop by the church and leave your offering in the 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.



Crop Hunger Walk, Thank You!

Church Women United say thank you to those who participated and

donated to the Hastings CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, October 11, 2020.

This year's walk was a big success and with beautiful, but windy, weather. Local churches combined donations at the walk which will be given to Church World Service. Twenty-five percent will remain here in Hastings to support the new Hastings Middle School Pantry.

Donations continue to be collected in our church office and online at crophungerwalk.org/hastingsne

Our First Presbyterian team has successfully supported this walk for many years. Thank you!

Frank Medsker, now 95 years old, has walked for over 50 years and once again has met his donation pledge goal and once again done the walk. He is a real inspiration to all of us!



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.



Why would God want ME?

I'm not perfect. I have all kinds of problems. I have no ability. I have no gifts. I'm just not worthy. Why would

God want me?

Well, did you know that

Moses stuttered.

David's armor didn't fit.

John Mark deserted Paul.

Timothy had ulcers.

Hosea's wife was a prostitute.

Amos' only training was in the school of fig-tree pruning.

Jacob was a liar.

David had an affair.

Solomon was too rich.

Jesus was too poor.

Abraham was too old.

David was too young.

Peter was afraid of death.

Lazarus was dead.

John was self-righteous.

Naomi was a widow.

Paul was a persecutor of the church.
 Moses was a murderer.
 Jonah ran from God's will.
 Miriam was a gossip.
 Gideon and Thomas both doubted.
 Jeremiah was depressed and suicidal.
 Elijah was burned out.
 John the Baptist was a loudmouth.
 Martha was a worry-wart.
 Noah got drunk.
 Did I mention that Moses had a short fuse?
 So did Peter, Paul - well, lots of folks did.
 But God doesn't require a job interview for salvation. He's our Heavenly Father. He doesn't look at financial gain or loss. He's not prejudiced or partial, not judging, grudging, sassy, or brassy, not deaf to our cry, not blind to our need. He knows who we are and what

we are and loves us in spite of ourselves
 SATAN SAYS, "YOU'RE NOT WORTHY."
 JESUS SAYS, "SO WHAT? I AM."
 SATAN LOOKS BACK AND SEES OUR MISTAKES.
 GOD LOOKS BACK AND SEES THE CROSS.
 He doesn't calculate how you failed in '99. It's not even on the record.
 Sure, there are lots of reasons why God shouldn't call us. But if we are in love with Him, if we hunger for Him, He'll use us in spite of who we are, where we've been, what we have done, or the fact that we are not perfect!

~Author unknown



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 daily steps in from **8:30a-9:30a** 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).

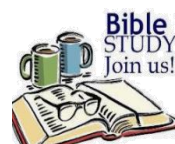
Interested? Call or text Denny Storer at 402 460 8804 for more information on how to join the group and gain access to the PEACE Center on days the weather does not cooperate to walk outside.



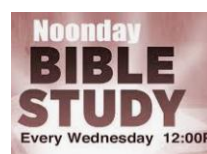
**Want some help wrapping your Christmas gifts?
 Want to support the United Harvest ministry?
 Here's a way to accomplish both at the same time!!**

- Judy Hoch will gladly and beautifully wrap your Christmas gifts in exchange for a free will donation to United Harvest.

- Simply call Judy at 402-460-0832 to set up a drop off day/time (MUST BE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 10!).
- Deliver your gifts to Judy with TO/FROM sticky notes on each. She will provide the box, wrapping, and beautiful bows. You then pick them up and write a (tax-deductible) check to United Harvest. No set fee per box; all free will proceeds will support the great work of United Harvest!

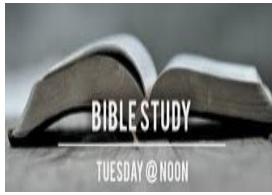


Heirs Apparent Adult Sunday School, with Curtis Reimer leading, is starting soon via ZOOM conferencing. Contact the church office to receive the invitation.



Bible at Breakfast has a new time and name! Join us for Noonday Bible Study via ZOOM 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.



The Forum Our regularly scheduled Adult Enrichment hour known as Forum meets most Sundays at 9:15.

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

WHEN FAITH MEETS POLITICS
A Two-Part First Pres Forum



Part One
"Polarization: An Examination"
Presented by Dr. Bob Amyot
Sunday, Oct 25, 9:15am



Update on Sunday School/Youth Group for the fall

Pre K-5th Grades: Families should have received 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/>
6th-8th Grades Youth Group is meeting in-person on Wednesday evenings in the church basement 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.

9th to 12th Grades Youth group is meeting in-person on Wednesday evenings 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.

There will be no 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!



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





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.



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!



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

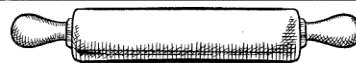
Sponsored by:

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.

November 21, 2020		
S, T, U	May park and get number starting	9:45 AM
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting	10:00 AM
A, B	May park and get number starting	10:15 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting	10:30 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting	10:45 AM
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting	11:00 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting	11:15 AM
P, Q, R	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.



GO & SERVE CINNAMON ROLL FUNDRAISER

Name: _____ Phone #: _____
 Email: _____
 Pick-Up Date (circle one): Nov. 22 must turn in form by Nov. 14
 Dec. 13 must turn in form by Dec. 5

Number of Pans: _____
 (\$12 a pan, 6 frozen rolls a pan. Please pay at pick-up)



Thank you for your support of Go & Serve!



Go & Serve Cinnamon Roll Sales

The greatest of all seasons is nearly here: chili season. You'd better make sure you've some cinnamon rolls to go with that bowl! Luckily, Go & Serve has you covered as we once again be embarking on our cinnamon roll fundraiser. Let your hearts and taste buds rejoice! If you'd like to place an order, please complete the form below and return it to the church office. As with last year, all of the cinnamon rolls **will be frozen** so that you can bake them whenever you'd like. They bake easily at home for your enjoyment! Also, we'll be doing two pick-up Sundays. Please indicate on the form when you'd like to pick-up your rolls. If you'd like your rolls by **Nov. 22** then you must turn in the form by **Nov. 14**. If you'd like your rolls by **Dec 13** then you must turn the form by **Dec. 5**. The cost of the rolls is \$12 per pan (please pay at pick-up) and they come 6 rolls to a pan. Included with each pan is a bag of frosting. With your support, Go & Serve continues to play a vital role in the faith formation of our senior high students. Thank you for all you do on behalf of our youth!



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

Broadcast live "Stay at Home" Sunday Worship at 10:30

- ✓ 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 --- October 25 – November 8, 2020

Sun, Oct 25	9:15a-10:15a 9:15a-10:15a 10:30a 11:30a	Adult Ed Forum via Zoom Conferencing 19/20 Confirmation Class in Fellowship Hall "Stay at Home" Worship Service Worship in Alexander Park (NEW TIME)
Mon, Oct 26	8:30a-9:30a 5:30p-6:30p 7:00p-8:00p	Walkers at the PEACE Center Foundation via Zoom Conferencing/Fellowship Hall Scouts Troop 200 in Scout Room "Monday Check-in" Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Oct 27	8:30a-9:30a 10:30a-11:30a 12:00p-1:00p	Walkers at the PEACE Center Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, Oct 28	8:30a-9:30a 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 NO-Choir Small Ensemble Rehearsal Middle School Youth Group in Basement Youth Rm High School Youth Group in PEACE Center
Thurs, Oct 29	8:30a-9:30a 6:00p-7:00p 7:00p-8:00p	Walkers at the PEACE Center Mexican Dance Troupe PEACE Center/NE Classroom Cub Scouts Fellowship Hall
Fri, Oct 30	Noon-5:00p 7:00p-8:00p	Red Cross Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall Spanish Class PEACE Center/NW Classroom
Sat, Oct 31	MIDNIGHT	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
Sun, Nov 1	9:15a-10:15a 9:15a-10:15a 10:30a	Adult Ed Forum via Zoom Conferencing 19/20 Confirmation Class in Fellowship Hall "Stay at Home" Worship Service
Mon, Nov 2	8:30a-9:30a 7:00p-8:00p	Walkers at the PEACE Center Scouts Troop 200 in Scout Room "Monday Check-in" Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Nov 3	8:30a-9:30a 8:30a-4:30p 12:00p-1:00p 5:30p-6:30p 5:30-6:30p	Walkers at the PEACE Center Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing WAM via Zoom Conferencing/Fellowship Hall United Harvest Board PEACE Center/NW Classroom
Wed, Nov 4	8:30a-9:30a 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 NO-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, Nov 5	8:30a-9:30a 5:30p-6:30p 7:00p-8:00p 6:00p-7:00p	Walkers at the PEACE Center Christian Ed (Youth) via ZOOM/Parlor Cub Scouts in Fellowship Hall Mexican Dance Troupe PEACE Center/NE Classroom
Fri, Nov 6	7:00p-8:00p	Spanish Class PEACE Center/NW Classroom
Sun, Nov 8	9:15a-10:15a 9:15a-10:15a 10:30a	Adult Ed Forum via Zoom Conferencing 19/20 Confirmation Class in Fellowship Hall "Stay at Home" Worship Service

Happy Anniversary

11/04/1972	Dave & Barbara Fisher	11/22/1974	Tim & Deb Johnson
11/10/2001	Stephanie & Justin Brader	11/23/1979	Roger & Karen Doerr
11/11/1989	Frank & Kay Georgiana	11/23/1991	Mark & Stephanie Bliss
11/12/2011	Brad & Dawna Whitcomb	11/25/1951	Don & Marie Rasmussen
11/15/1974	Jim & Deb Freeburger	11/26/1960	Arnold & LaJeanne Boehler
11/16/1996	Bill & Sharon Talbert	11/27/2004	Kristen & Chris Schwarz
		11/29/1968	John & Cathy Pershing



Happy Birthday

11/01	Bill Nottage-Tacey	11/09	Matthew Welton	11/20	Ethan Stout
11/02	Malcolm Eckhardt	11/12	Gary Bauer		Ross Struss
11/02	Linda Cooke		Dennis Asmus		Chuck Bauer
	Grace Brader		Marcia Hogan	11/21	Kim Graviette
11/03	Flossie Sanderson		Lori Wright		Roger Sunderman
	Megan Launchbaugh		Erikka Rhodes		Melissa Karloff
	Katherine Sachtleben		Laurie Johnson	11/22	Rich Portwood
11/04	Raegan Welsch	11/13	Lexi Lofquist		Colleen Adam
	Kraig Lofquist		Sydney Kerr		Marcia Sovereign
	Charlie Ratzlaff	11/14	Jean Barber		McKain Ratzlaff
11/05	Mary Kay LaMaster		Julie Thomsen		Wilson Welsch
	Neil Jurgena		Lily Black		Bonnie Grams
	Moses Rhodes	11/15	Sarah Snell	11/23	Lois Hafer
	Lanae Hall		Sue Medsker-Nedderman	11/24	Gwen Weber
	Scott Hobson		Greg Allen-Pickett		Duang Tang
	Monte Malouf	11/17	Sherry Behrens		Delia Miles
11/06	Susie Graham		Jane Tushaus	11/25	Jan Bolliger
	Betty Kooy		Tammy Lay		Thomas Freetly
	Lauren Bliss		Nora Hogan		Willy Kummer
11/07	Stacy Kerr	11/18	Mary Northrop		Lennon Ellerbee
	Vernon Groves	11/19	Stuhrling Osborne	11/28	Deborah Miles
11/08	Teresa Luther		Peter Ratzlaff	11/30	Heather Morgan
					Turner
11/08	Eldon Mitzelfelt		Kruzann Osborne		Mark Bliss
	Pat Kern		Joy White		Ron Wissing
11/09	Ken Stein		Jim Hoffman		

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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

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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.

