

## The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175 Vol. 25.23 Weeks of November 8 and November 15, 2020

## NOTABLE NOTES

FROM PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

Session, the leadership council of the church, met to discuss COVID-19 precautions and in-person worship for the month of November. Prior to our meeting, we prayed, read articles, reviewed data, and talked with many of our fellow church members. All of us recognize the pandemic-fatigue that our church family is feeling, we are all feeling it too. We want things to return to "normal." We want to be able to hold in-person worship services. Our Sunday School teachers want to teach Sunday School, they miss the kids! We want to be able to share conversation over cups of coffee. We hear you when you say you want these things too; we recognize that a huge part of our shared life together as a church family includes Sunday morning worship and Wednesday evening activities. These give us opportunities to learn and grow in our faith, and just as important, opportunities for fellowship, for checking in on one another, and for caring for each other.

We also discussed the in-person worship experiences that we have shared over the summer and fall. While worship in our church building has been suspended for 32 weeks, we have held 17 in-person worship experiences ranging from our Palm Sunday parade to drive-in communion worship in May, to our glorious run of 13 worship services in the park starting mid-July that ended last week due to the colder weather. So while we have not been able to hold worship in our building, we have facilitated an in-person worship experience more weeks than we haven't during this time. We recognize that nothing can take the place of gathering in our sanctuary, hearing our organ and choir, singing the hymns, saying the prayers together, and passing the peace of Christ. However we want you to know that your church staff and countless volunteers have worked tirelessly to bring you these worship experiences since March.

We are seeking to balance all of that with the health and safety of our church members and our community. We are listening to the health department and seeking to adapt their guidelines and suggestions for best practices on how to stay safe. In addition to the recommendations from the Health Department, we also looked at the data of new cases over the last month, and we discussed the increase in hospitalizations that is happening in our area.

After reviewing all of this data and talking for more than 45 minutes, your Session voted to continue to suspend in-person worship for the month of November. We will meet again on November 19 to make a decision about December. We recognize that Advent and Christmas are coming up. Please know that we are working diligently to come up with creative ways to celebrate these seasons, even if we cannot gather in-person in our sanctuary.

The bishop of the Lutheran churches in Nebraska, Rev. Brian D. Maas, writes, "We have been wandering in the wilderness of this pandemic for over six months now, and we are all tired of it. Constant reminders of it are wearing, as are the daily headlines of disagreement and outright conflict in the culture around us. It's important to remember that God travels this journey with us and sees that we have all we need to endure until we make our way out of it. This pandemic will end. We will endure and thrive once again, through the presence of the one who says "I will never leave you or forsake you." Be encouraged."

I close with a word of gratitude for all the ways I see each of you strive to witness to the world by your care for and service to others, your unity in the presence of disagreement, your grace in the presence of contention, your generosity in a time of uncertainty, and your faithfulness in all things. I continue to be so grateful for each of you and your steadfast witness to shine the love and light of Christ into the world, particularly in this difficult time. Thank you and I give thanks to God for each of you!

Your Servants in Christ,

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

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

#### FPC Prayers for:

Family of Kristine Cook (Katharine Davis' sister)

Jim Harrenstein Connie & Tom Kubicka (Chris Junker's parents)
Everly Hogan Elaine Schumacher (Vicki Howard's Mom)
Jeff Howard Melba Trehern (Lisa Unger's Mom)

Gretchen Lainson Chris Wheeler (Carol Wheeler's son)

Pastor Greg and family Cindy Pickett

Family of Vern Kooy Carol Medsker Tommy Thomsen Barry Thomson

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

- ◆ 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: <a href="https://www.cancer.org/involved/donate.html">https://www.cancer.org/involved/donate.html</a> The Presbyterian Church (USA) Peace and Global Witness Offering: <a href="http://bit.ly/PresbyPeace">http://bit.ly/PresbyPeace</a> Best Friends Animal Society: <a href="https://bestfriends.org/">https://bestfriends.org/</a>
- ♥ Vern Kooy, who passed away 10/23/2020. Memorials may be given in his name to the American Civil Liberties Union, <a href="www.aclu-il.org">www.aclu-il.org</a>, or First Presbyterian Church of Hastings.
- ♥ Kristine Cook, who passed away 10/28/2020 in Tennessee. Kristine is Katharine Davis' sister. There will be no services at this time.



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

- ➤ live on Facebook at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/fpchastings">www.facebook.com/fpchastings</a> (You don't need to have an account to watch.)
- > on the radio during Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. on KICS 1550 AM.
- > on Channel 181 Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- ➤ at Good Samaritan Village, the service will be broadcast on Channel 3 on Sunday at 12:00 noon and on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

"When working with your attorney to **update your will and estate plan**, please consider including a gift to the First Presbyterian Church Foundation." - Moderator of the Foundation

#### HOSPITAL REMINDER

Due to hospital privacy regulations, for the church to know that either you or a family member will be hospitalized or have been admitted, please take a moment and call the church office at 402-462-5147. Remember, we don't always know what's happening unless you tell us!

A copy of any Sunday service is available on DVD disc upon request at no charge. Contact the church office at 402-462-5147.

**Birth Announcements** If you would like a rose on the pulpit to celebrate the birth of a new child in your family, please notify the office.



Looking for a way to give during our time of "Stay at Home" Church? The church counts on your giving to carry on its work. As you participate in "Stay at Home" Worship, please

#### take time to

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

The family of Shirley M. Lee wish to thank everyone for all the calls, prayers, and cards of concern. We lost my sister Shirley, after a long struggle of health issues on Sept. 12, 2020.

-Darlene Payne



The Hands Around the World Store has ordered more coffee. Stop by the church office to re-stock your supply at only \$10 per bag.

PLUS, the store will be OPEN on Sunday, Nov. 22, and Sunday, Dec 6 from 1:00 – 2:00p. We will follow COVID rules of no more than 15 people at a time and masks will be required.

October Communion Offering will go to Crossroads. Crossroads began in 1983 as a soup kitchen serving one meal a day with only one bed in Hastings. Over the years, our work with the homeless in Central Nebraska has grown! Our location in Hastings now has the capacity to serve 112 people. Our location in Kearney was established in 2012, and in 2018 the Grand Island shelter was opened. Each location provides services that include safe shelter, hot meals, life skills classes, and case management that helps gain guests employment financial independence, stable housing. Crossroads Mission Avenue's mission is to bring glory to God through the helping of people.

Last year, the Hastings shelter served 366 individuals with 22,467 nights of stay. Your needy neighbors were served a staggering 67,401 meals in 2019. Our friends at the First Presbyterian Church and the Hastings community play a vital role in our ongoing support hereat Crossroads, and we can't thank you enough! Please go to our website at <a href="https://www.crossroadsmission.com">www.crossroadsmission.com</a> to find out more about the ministry of Crossroads Mission Avenue.

#### **Dear Partners in God's Mission:**

In writing his second letter to the church of Corinth, the Apostle Paul penned, "The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one wop sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:6-7, NSRV).

For many of our churches, October is the beginning of stewardship season. Many of our churches are working on budgets trying to decide where their priorities are for 2021. As you work on your budget, we thank you for your continued support.

On behalf of the Mission Agency, thank you for your generous and faithful support if the Hunger Fund during September.

> -Yours in Christ, Bill McConnell, Mission Engagement Advisor



**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 <u>brookssbookshelf.org</u>

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram!
-Kindly, Brooks Borrell & Family



FPC has a medical equipment library from which members can borrow equipment that they need on a temporary basis. These items will include walkers, bath chair,

crutches, toilet riser, knee scooter, etc. If you have any equipment cluttering your basement that you would like to donate or if you have a temporary need for such an item, please contact Erica Brooks at ericalynn128@gmail.com.

#### Then I Met You



Instead of Despair, I Thirsted for Triumph, And Then I Met You.

While Feeling Forsaken, I Longed for Peace,



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.



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 (I will take them anytime up to December 10th!).
- 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 (taxdeductible) check to United Harvest. No set fee per box; all free will proceeds will support the great work of United Harvest!

And Then I Met You. In Spite of Misfortune, I Desired a Blessing, And Then I Met You.

Feeling So Lonely, I Yearned for A Friend, And Then I Met You. ~Kim Thomas Mills





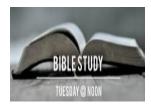
Bible STUDY Join us! Sunday School, with Curtis Reimer leading, has begun meeting via Zoom on Sunday

mornings at 9:15am. They are studying an Adam Hamilton book entitled *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White* that reflects on religion, morality, and politics. If you would like to join this study, please email or call the church office to get the Zoom link.



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 <a href="mailto:sbbrooks52@gmail.com">sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a>. 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



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 <u>free of charge</u>. The institutions providing the food are equal concurributy providers.

	November 21, 2020	
S, T, U	May park and get number starting	9:45 AM
	May park and get number starting	10:00 AM
А, В	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

know, and we'll get you all set up!



# **Update on Sunday School/Youth Group for the fall**

Pre K-5<sup>th</sup> 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 <a href="https://fpchastings.org/children/6th-8th Grades">https://fpchastings.org/children/6th-8th Grades</a> 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.

**9**<sup>th</sup> **to 12**<sup>th</sup> **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 Monday, January 4, 2021, 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 or sign up at www.redcrossblood.org.

Our October 30 blood drive collected 28 units for the Red Cross. Thank you to the following donors for giving: Daveta Brader, Brenda Krajewski, Neil Heckman, William Oliver, Sue Medsker-Nedderman, David Dirks, Jim Wenburg, Patty Pedroza, Renae Henrichs, Amy Janzen, Danna Wolford, Bob Nedderman, LeEtta Petersen, Adam Jacobus, Harold Korb, Mary Plocke, Beatriz Marino-Joachim, Ronald Drudik, Janet Lancaster, Linda Cooke, Jasmine Wengler, Jamie Bender, David Glass, Mark Vorhees, Nytha Glass, Kristin Lukow, Ruth Nielsen, Joan Shaw, Ryan Burns, Justin Brader,

Jana Klusman, Julie Thomsen, and Kristi Sheehy.

Also, a huge thanks to Runza for donating mini runzas and Andy Barrows for supplying his delicious chocolate chip cookies. The next blood drive will be Monday, January 4 from noon to 6pm. To make an appointment go to redcrossblood.org.



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

program will allow you to

- Look up members in our church directory
- Update your personal information
- Give online one time & recurring gifts
- View giving history & print giving statements
- Make & keep track of pledges

Why is this important to know?

- We need correct contact information: let us know when you move, change phone numbers, or emails
- You will be able to update your own information as well
- You will be able to view your giving history

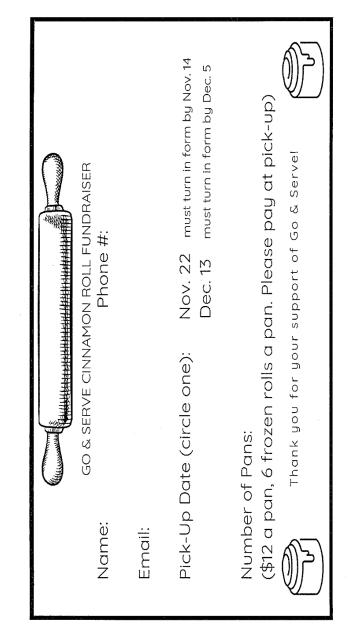
Please review the most recent statement you received in the mail for accuracy. If you notice anything that needs to be changed, or if you have a question, please contact our Finance person, Deb, at <a href="mailto:deb@fpchastings.org">deb@fpchastings.org</a> so we can get it corrected as soon as possible.

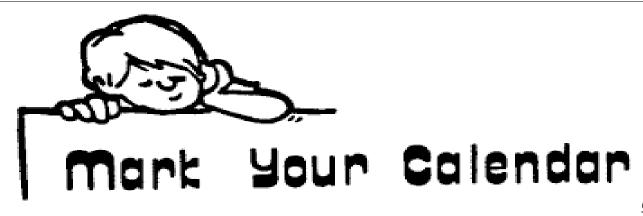


Go & Serve Cinnamon Roll Sales The greatest of all seasons is nearly here: chili season. You'd better make sure you've some cinnamon

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

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

<u>calendar on the church website for the most accurate list of activities. www.fpchastings.org</u>
Broadcast live "Stay at Home" Sunday Worship at 10:30

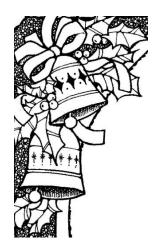
- ✓ 10:30 a.m. on Facebook at <a href="www.facebook.com/fpchastings">www.facebook.com/fpchastings</a> (FB account not needed)
- ✓ 10:30 a.m. service on KICS 1550 AM
- ✓ on Channel 181 Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.
- ✓ Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

#### What's Happening at FPC --- November 8 – November 22, 2020

Session has voted that all in-person meetings must follow the following guidelines through 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, Nov 8	9:15a-10:15a	Adult Ed Forum via Zoom Conferencing
	9:15a-10:15a	Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	9:15a-10:15a	19/20 Confirmation Class in Fellowship Hall
	10:30a	"Stay at Home" Worship Service
Mon, Nov 9	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers at the PEACE Center
	7:00p-8:00p	Scouts Troop 200 in Scout Room
		"Monday Check-in" Communication
		from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Nov 10	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers at the PEACE Center
	10:30a-11:30a	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
	5:30p-6:30p	Congregational Life via Zoom/Parlor
	6:00p-7:00p	Trustees via Zoom/Fellowship Hall
Wed, Nov 11	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers at the PEACE Center
	12:00 1:00p	Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
	7:00p-8:00p	Middle School Youth Group in Basement Youth Rm
	7:00p-8:00p	High School Youth Group in PEACE Center
Thurs, Nov 12	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers at the PEACE Center
	4:30p-5:30p	Mission via Zoom/Parlor
	5:00p-6:00p	Personnel via Zoom/Anderson
	6:00p-7:00p	Mexican Dance Troupe PEACE Center/NE Classroom
	7:00p-8:00p	Cub Scouts Fellowship Hall
Fri, Nov 13	7:00p-8:00p	Spanish Class PEACE Center/NW Classroom
Sun, Nov 15	9:15a-10:15a	Adult Ed Forum via Zoom Conferencing
	9:15a-10:15a	Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	10:30a	"Stay at Home" Worship Service

Mon, Nov 16	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers at the PEACE Center
,	7:00p-8:00p	Scouts Troop 200 in Scout Room
	·	"Monday Check-in" Communication
		from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Nov 17	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers at the PEACE Center
	8:30a-4:30p	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
	6:45p-7:45p	<b>Deacons</b> via Zoom/Fellowship Hall
Wed, Nov 18	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers at the PEACE Center
	12:00 1:00p	Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
	7:00p-8:00p	Middle School Youth Group in Basement Youth Rm
	7:00p-8:00p	<b>High School Youth Group</b> in PEACE Center
Thurs, Nov 19	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers at the PEACE Center
	5:30p-6:30p	Session via ZOOM/Fellowship Hall
	7:00p-8:00p	<b>Cub Scouts</b> in Fellowship Hall
	6:00p-7:00p	Mexican Dance Troupe PEACE Center/NE Classroom
Fri, Nov 20	7:00p-8:00p	Spanish Class PEACE Center/NW Classroom
Sat, Nov 21	9:30a-2:00p	United Harvest
	9:00a	TENTATIVE Hanging of the Greens
		Many hands make light work!
	Hanging of the Greens	We need you! Bring a snack to share
Sun, Nov 22	9:15a-10:15a	Adult Ed Forum via Zoom Conferencing
	9:15a-10:15a	Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	10:30a	"Stay at Home" Worship Service



#### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CORNER

The Christmas Season is rapidly approaching! Mark your calendar with these special church family events!

- **♥** Church Family Advent Devotionals mailed the week of Nov. 16
- **♥** Hanging of the Greens

TENTATIVE Saturday, November 21 @ 9:00am – More details to follow

- **♥ Christmas Caroling** Still to be Determined
- **▼ First Sunday of Advent** November 29
- **▼** Second Sunday of Advent December 6
- **▼ Third Sunday of Advent** December 13
- ▼ Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20
- ♥ Christmas Eve Services December 24<sup>th</sup> DETAILS STILL TO BE DETERMINED

2:00p	at College View Retirement Home
5:30	Family Service
7:30	Traditional Service
11:00	Evensong Service in the Chanel

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: <a href="mailto:fpc@fpchastings.org">fpc@fpchastings.org</a> or call 402-462-5147.

