

First Presbyterian Church Hastings



November 8, 2020

PRELUDE

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God” *Martin Luther/arr. Diane Bish*
Linda Vollweiler, organist

(The prelude is an opportunity to worship God, a time of prayer, meditation, and reflection.)

WELCOME

Greg Allen-Pickett

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Damen Jensen-Heitmann

The God of our ancestors has led us to this place and gathered us together this morning.

We are witnesses to God’s glorious works.

We have sworn to teach God’s promises to all generations.

We are witnesses to God’s teaching.

God says: Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

We are witnesses to God’s justice and righteousness.

The time is coming when Christ will come again in glory.

We are witnesses to the love of Christ. Come, let us worship and witness together!

*HYMN

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” (vs. 1-4, 6)
Sarah Wolf, Song Leader

687

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Mystery, we want to stay alert and be ready for your surprises, but we often find ourselves tired or overcome with the usual routine.

We want to wait patiently for the fulfillment of your kingdom, but we are frustrated by our need for immediate gratification.

We want to believe your promises from ancient days, but we are overwhelmed with postmodern doubts.

Come to us again, O God. Awaken us with your unexpected grace.

Shock us with your daring mercy. Lift us up from lethargy and set our feet on your path once more.

SILENT CONFESSION & QUESTION FOR CONTEMPLATION

When have I not been aware or alert to what God is doing in my life and in the world around me?

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We will be with the Lord forever.

God's promises are never forgotten.

Do not live or grieve as those who have no hope.

Our hope is in God, and nothing can overcome that hope.

Enter into God's mercy! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and loved!

Alleluia! Amen!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”

582

*PEACE OF CHRIST *(Greet one another by sharing the Peace of Christ with those around you.)*

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Your love, expressed through your Holy Word, has brought us together, and it is your love that sustains us through each day.

We pray that you would open our ears, our minds, and our hearts, so that you would teach us through your word as we watch for signs of your kingdom. Even as we hear about your kingdom this morning, strengthen us to work with you to bring it about, here and now, your reign on earth.

Amen

1ST SCRIPTURE READING – Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-20

ANTHEM

“Shine on Us” Michael W. Smith/arr. Benjamin Harlan
Chancel Choir (pre-recorded 09/30/2018)

2ND SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 25:1-13

MESSAGE

“Staying alert as we wait...”

Greg Allen-Pickett

*HYMN

“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

362

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Excerpts from *Desiring God: An Affirmation of Faith*)

We believe the Church is a body in which each member should find a suitable ministry for God's gifts; it is the household of God in which the Spirit dwells; it is the pillar and bulwark of God's truth in a truth-denying world; and it is a city set on a hill so that all may see the light of its good deeds – especially to the poor – and give glory to the Father in heaven.

We believe in the blessed hope that at the end of the age Jesus Christ will return to this earth in power and great glory and that He will establish His kingdom. We believe that the end of all things in this age will be the beginning of a never-ending, ever-increasing happiness in the hearts of the redeemed, as God displays more and more of His infinite and inexhaustible greatness and glory for the enjoyment of His people.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Larghetto” (from Clarinet Quintet) *W. A. Mozart*

*DOXOLOGY “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” 606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We dedicate these gifts to you, Generous God, even as we dedicate our lives to you. Keep us true to our promise that we may witness to you with all that we are and all that we do. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*HYMN “The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound” 766

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,
The church is not a resting place, the church is a people.
I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we’re the church together!

*POSTLUDE “March” (from Harpsichord Sonata) *Henry Purcell*

Linda Vollweiler, organist

(The postlude serves as a musical blessing for worshippers as they transition out into the world.)

(*Indicates the congregation shall stand as they are able.)

COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP NEXT WEEK &
INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS!

10:30 am Stay-at-Home worship

Broadcast live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings and on KICS 1550 AM

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

***First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
Sharing the love of Christ from the heart of Hastings since 1873***

Head of Church: Jesus Christ

Senior Pastor: Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

Director of Children & Family

Ministries: Stephanie Brader

Organist and Music Coordinator: Linda Vollweiler

Calvin/Westminster Choir Director: Linda Johnson

Praise/Alleluia Choir Directors: Tim and Teresa Canady

Praise/Alleluia Bells Choir Director: Dr. Susan Oliver

Accompanist: Mary Plock

Scholar in Residence: Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh

Ministers: Members of the Church

Associate Pastor: Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Parish Associate: Kili Wenburg

Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Robin Koozer

Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster

Bells Director: Dr. Byron Jensen

Church Office Administrator: Jean Matheny

Facilities Manager: Tony Calhoun

Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey

687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

(Psalm 90)

1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are

hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that

storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
 bears all our years away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the opening day.
- 6 Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 be thou our guard while life shall last,
 and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
 B^b F B^b F B^b F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
 2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
 F B^b E^b B^b Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
 C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
 Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

362 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice! Re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing; re - plen-ish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon he will draw nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, watch with ex - pec - ta - tion; at mid - night comes the cry.
 a - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride - groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

The Latin original of this text based on the parable of the wise and foolish maidens (Matthew 25:1-13) consisted of ten stanzas, but this briefer version is more appropriate for its message of urgency. It is set to a spirited minor Welsh tune named for a Pembrokeshire village.

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures
here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

**Or "God"*

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

766 The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

1 The church of Christ can - not be bound by
 2 True faith will o - pen up the door and
 3 True love will not sit i - dly by when
 4 If what we have we free - ly share to
 5 The church of Christ can - not be bound by

walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and
 step in - to the street. True ser - vice will seek
 jus - tice is de - nied. True mer - cy hears the
 meet our neigh - bor's need, then we ex - tend the
 walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and

love are found, there can the church be known.
 out the poor and ask to wash their feet.
 home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.
 Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.
 love are found, there can the church be known.

This text was the winning entry in a hymnwriting competition seeking new texts dealing with poverty and homelessness, but as the stanza sung at the beginning and end of the hymn makes clear, such specific ministries grow out of an understanding of the church as love in action.

November 8, 2020

The radio broadcast airs during the 10:30 a.m. service on KICS 1550 AM and is given in memory of Dixie & John Kerr by the Kerr family.

Flowers are given in memory of Randall, David, and Richard Fandry by Gayle Fandry and daughter, Mickie Day.

Today's 10:30 "Stay at Home" Worship Service will be broadcast

- live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings (You don't need an account.)
- 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.

A copy of any Sunday service is available on DVD disc upon request at no charge. Contact Jean in the office at 402-462-5147 or jean@fpchastings.org.

FPC Prayers for

Cindy Pickett	Family of Erlene Gessford (Gayle Fandry's sister)	Norris Swan and family
Jim Harrenstein	Family of Kristine Cook (Katharine Davis' sister)	Barry Thomson
Everly Hogan	Connie & Tom Kubicka (Chris Junker's parents)	Carol Medsker
Jeff Howard	Elaine Schumacher (Vicki Howard's mom)	Tommy Thomsen
Gretchen Lainson	Melba Trehern (Lisa Unger's mom)	Family of Vern Kooy
Pastor Greg and family	Chris Wheeler (Carol Wheeler's son)	Craig and JoAnn Williams
	Family of Jim Specht (Elaine Specht's son)	

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.



Giving 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/>

The church continues to play a vital role in responding to this virus, just as we did with the flood relief efforts in Nebraska. Thank you for your continued support and provision in this time.

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: <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/>
- ♥ Vern Kooy, who passed away 10/23/2020. Memorials may be given in his name to the American Civil Liberties Union, www.aclu-il.org, 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.
- ♥ Jim Specht, who passed away 10/30/2020, at his home in Hastings, NE. Jim is Elaine Specht's son. Services will be held at FPC Hastings on Monday 11/09/2020 at 2:00 p.m. and also be available via Facebook live streaming. The direct link is <https://www.facebook.com/fpchastings>
Memorials may be given to Crossroads Rescue Mission of Hastings or Morrison Cancer Center.
- ♥ Erlene Gessford, who passed away 11/05/2020. Private grave side services will be held at Park View Cemetery. Erlene is Gayle Fandry's sister.

November Communion Offering will go to Crossroads Mission.

*thinking
OF YOU*

Thinking of You Notes With COVID-19 on the rise, a number of our retirement communities have closed to visitors again, which can lead to a sense of isolation. We want our members who live in these homes to know that they have a church family that loves them and is thinking about them. One way to do that safely is to send them cards. If you have a few moments, you can drop a card or note into the mail to help them feel connected and remembered. Please contact the church office for names and addresses. Even if you don't know them personally, a card or note can provide a real pick-me-up. Please join us in this important work.

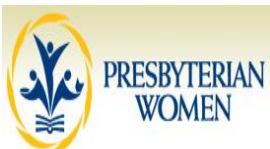
This Week at FPC --- November 9 – November 15, 2020

Session has voted that all in-person meetings must follow the following guidelines 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.

Mon, Nov 9	8:30a-9:30a 7:00p-8:00p	Walkers in Gym/PEACE Center Troop 200 Scouts in FPC Scout Room “Monday Check-in” Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Nov 10	8:30a-9:30a 10:30a-11:30a 12:00p-1:00p 5:30p-6:30p 6:00p-7:00p	Walkers in Gym/PEACE Center Staff Meeting via ZOOM Conferencing Bible Study via ZOOM Conferencing/Anderson Congregational Life via ZOOM/Parlor Trustees via ZOOM/Anderson
Wed, Nov 11	8:30a-9:30a 12:00 1:00p 7:00p-8:00p 7:00p-8:00p	Walkers in Gym/PEACE Center Noonday Bible Study via ZOOM Conferencing Middle School Youth Group in Youth Rm High School Youth Group in PEACE Center
Thurs, Nov 12	8:30a-9:30a 4:30p-5:30p 5:00p-6:00p 6:00p-7:00p 7:00p-8:00p	Walkers in Gym/PEACE Center Mission Committee via ZOOM/Parlor Personnel via ZOOM/Anderson Mexican Dance Troupe in NE Room/PEACE Center Cub Scouts in Fellowship Hall
Fri, Nov 13	7:00p-8:00p	Spanish Class NW Classroom/PEACE Center
Sun, Nov 15	9:15a-10:15a 9:15a-10:15a 10:30a	Adult Ed Forum via ZOOM Conferencing Heirs Apparent Adult Sunday School via ZOOM “Stay at Home” Worship Service



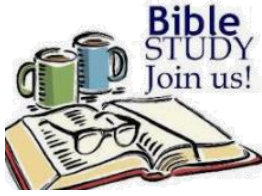
The next Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for **Monday, January 4, 2021** from 12 noon – 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendar now! To donate or volunteer your time, please call Erica Brooks, FPC Parish Nurse, at 402-469-9285 or sign up at www.redcrossblood.org.



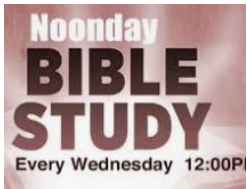
Presbyterian Women PW will **NOT** meet through the end of 2020. This means there will be **NO** Circle meetings and no monthly Luncheons until further notice. Members will receive monthly packets.



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!

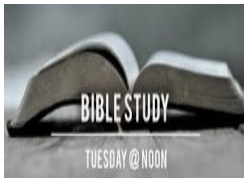


Heirs Apparent Adult Sunday School, with Curtis Reimer leading, has begun meeting via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:15am. They are studying an Adam Hamilton book entitled *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White* that reflects on religion, morality, and politics. If you would like to join this study, 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 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.



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 to 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.

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.

There will be no Sunday morning Sunday School or current 8th Grade Confirmation Class at this time. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!



Love to Walk? During the spring through the early fall, we walk in the beautiful Heartwell Park, from **8:30a-9:30a** Monday through Thursday. Afterwards, we have fabulous Café Justo and good conversation. 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 Hands Around the World Store has ordered more coffee. Stop by the church office to re-stock your supply at \$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 required.



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 (She 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 (tax-deductible) check to United Harvest. No set fee per box; all free-will proceeds will support the great work of United Harvest!



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 www.unitedharvest.org. The institutions providing the food are equal opportunity providers.

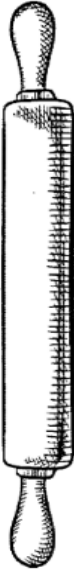
Those interested in volunteering at **United Harvest** can either register on Facebook or show up on the date of the next distribution and check in at the volunteer sign-in table. Volunteer shifts are 9:30-12:00 and 12:00-2:00.

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


Go & Serve Cinnamon Roll Sales



The greatest of all seasons is nearly here: chili season, so make sure you've some cinnamon rolls to go with it! Luckily, Go & Serve has you covered, as we once again be embarking on our cinnamon roll fundraiser. To place an order, please complete the form and return it to the church office. The cinnamon rolls **will be frozen** so you can bake them easily at home! We'll be doing two pick-up Sundays. Please indicate on the form when you'd like to pick-up your rolls. To have your rolls by **Nov. 22**, turn in the form by **Nov. 14**. To have your rolls by **Dec 13**, turn the form by **Dec. 5**. The cost of the rolls is \$12 per pan (please pay at pick-up) and come 6 rolls to a pan. Included 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!



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!

*Loving & Sharing
for such a time as this*

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

We officially concluded our Stewardship Campaign at the end of October; however, we are still taking the pledge cards and “Time and Talent” sheets. If you need a new copy of either of these, please reach out to the church, and we can send you an electronic copy.

We are in the process of creating our church budget for 2021, and it is vital that we receive the pledge cards so we know how to build a faithful budget.

For those of you who have already sent in your pledge cards, THANK YOU! If you haven't done so already, I hope you can sit down with your family today and prayerfully consider how God is calling you to support the work of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings in 2021.

It is vitally important that we do receive your pledge cards so that we can build our church's budget for the coming year.

Thank you for your steadfast support of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings. We hope that the stewardship campaign this year gave you a chance to reflect on all the ways that God has been at work through the church over the last year. May our pledges be a symbol of faith and hope that God is still at work in our church, even in these challenging times.