

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 26.07 Weeks of April 11 and April 18, 2021

NOTABLE NOTES

Why is there a Food Truck in the PEACE Center Parking Lot? FROM PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

If you have driven by the church this week, you may have noticed Beto's Tacos, a new food truck, parked in our PEACE Center parking lot. And you may have asked yourself, what is that doing there? Great question! Two years ago, we revised our Mission Statement for the church, and we developed a strategic plan. The mission statement reads like this:

Welcoming all.

Living the love of God and neighbor.

Seeking to transform ourselves, our community, and our world to be more Christ-like through service, worship, prayer, education, and fellowship.

One of the three "Key Action Items" of our strategic plan was ***Service & Outreach***. Through the strategic planning process, our service and outreach efforts emerged as a top priority for our church; we are called to share the love and light of Christ both within our walls and outside our walls, into the community. This is the heartbeat of the church, and we seek to build upon an already strong legacy in this area.

Part of our outreach efforts have included building bridges with our Hispanic and Latino neighbors. We do this through our work with Proteus and the migrant farm workers, through our Spanish Classes offered to our members and the community, through our hosting of *Raices de mi Pueblo*, the Mexican folkloric dance group that rehearses in our building and at worship once a year, and many other ways. Six months ago, we were approached by an entrepreneurial family looking for a place to park their food truck. They identified First Presbyterian Church of Hastings as an ideal site, both because of our location and because of our hospitality and outreach in the community.

Your Session and Trustees received this request and had good conversation about it. One member of Session shared that her daughter lives in Denver and started attending a church because the church hosted food trucks. That got us thinking that this could be a win-win-win situation for our church, the entrepreneurial family, and our community. By letting this food truck park in our parking lot, we can potentially further strengthen our bridge-building with our neighbors, we can become a site of hospitality for the community, and we can raise funds to help pay for parking lot repairs at the PEACE Center through a monthly donation that the food truck gives to the church for using a portion of our parking lot. Given our proximity to Mary Lanning hospital, the largest employer in our city, and our central location in town, we may end up with some great foot traffic. As people are enjoying delicious food, we hope they will look around and see the PEACE Center and our church building and come join us!

If you are curious about the logistics of all of this, feel free to reach out to a member of Session or Trustees or come talk to me. We are starting with a six-month contract to see how this goes. If you have any feedback, please let us know.

I am grateful for the creative minds on our Session and Trustees, who were presented with this opportunity and decided to act upon it. I am grateful for our church and our bridge-building and outreach efforts that led to this opportunity. And I am grateful to God for this church family that seeks to serve our community in so many ways. May we continue to find ways to be a source of light and love in our community!

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Greg

FPC Prayers for:

Lois Hafer	Jack Stinson (Julie Thomsen's dad)	Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ann Elfond
Cindy Pickett	Connie & Tom Kubicka (Chris Junker's parents)	Rachael Lay
Jeff Howard	Elaine Schumacher (Vicki Howard's mom)	Norris Swan
Gretchen Lainson	Melba Trehern (Lisa Unger's mom)	Tommy Thomsen
Carol Medsker	Chris Wheeler (Carol Wheeler's son)	Karen Doerr and family
Rich Portwood	Gayle Fandry	The Tut Ruei family

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.



Sunday's 10:30 In-Person and 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. simulcast on KICS 1550AM and 92.7FM
- 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 11:30 a.m. 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 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 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. Thank you for your continued support and provision in this time.

The April Communion Offering will go SASA, which is a crisis center whose mission is to be a source of help, hope, safety, and inspiration to survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Dear Fellow Partners in God's Mission;

Grace and peace to you and yours through Jesus Christ, who makes us one.

We are entering the reflective season of Lent. In Matthew's gospel, we read, "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, "It is written, "One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God' (4:1-4, NRSV).

As you engage with Presbyterian Mission, you participate in bringing this message of Jesus alive to empower God's people not only to feed their bodies, but also their souls. On behalf of Presbyterian Mission, please allow me to express our appreciation to you, your pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support with your Christmas Joy Offering.

This offering enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

Thank you once again for your support, dedication and partnership in furthering Christ's mission around the world. You are a valued partner.

Yours in Christ,

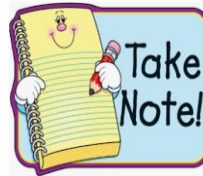
-Bill McConnell, Mission Engagement Advisor, Office of Mission Engagement and Support

Dear friends:

Thank you for your donation. We sincerely appreciate your support and promise to use this donation with the utmost of stewardship, maximizing its yield in aiding local families.

We, here at The Salvation Army, realize that we can offer what we do because our community supports our efforts to aid humanity in all walks of life. Our mission statement reads in part: "...to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in His name without discrimination". Thank you for partnering with us in fulfilling our mission in Adams County.

May God richly bless you this day and forever!
In CHRIST's Service, Dale Brandenburg, Major



Notes for your Information:

1. The 2021 Offering Envelopes are in the Church Office. Stop in and pick one up!
2. The 2021 April/May/June Daily Bread Devotions have arrived, both large print and regular print.



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.

The store will be OPEN again every Sunday morning for 30 minutes prior to and following worship services.

Brooks' 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.

Thank You

Mar. 22, 2021
F.P.C. - Sec. & Staff,
Thank you very much for
your generous donation to the
"Harvard Peoples Project". How
kind of you!
For many, life has been
quite challenging during this -
Pandemic. Thanks to you, we'll
be able to help many in need.
Thanks again for your generous
gift: God bless!
Sincerely,
Harvard Peoples Project
Co-treas - Elaine Almond

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.



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. If you have a few moments, drop a card or note into the mail to help them feel connected and remembered. 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.

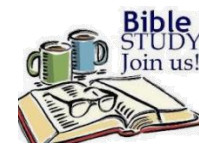


Presbyterian Women PW will not meet until further notice. This means there will be no Circle

meetings and no monthly Luncheons.

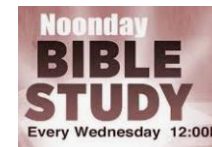
The next PW Gathering will be in Fellowship Hall on April 21 at 9:30 and at 1:30. Each session will be approximately 1 hour. Mask are required and social distancing will be observed.

Church Women United will meet at 1:30 on May 7 at the United Methodist Church for May Friendship Day. Contact Susan Gramms with questions at 402-469-2638.



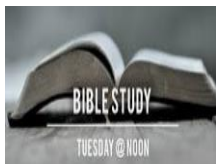
Heirs Apparent Adult Sunday School, with Curtis Reimer leading, meets via Zoom most Sunday mornings at

9:15am. The next study entitled *The Walk: 5 Essential Practices of the Christian Life* by Adam Hamilton, will begin on 4/11/21 and continue for six weeks, ending on 5/15/21. We will meet in the Anderson room and via Zoom. To join this study, please email Curtis at teece4@gmail.com 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 at any time!



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 Our regularly scheduled Adult Enrichment hour meets most Sundays at 9:15. Folks can join in the conversation live via Zoom. All Forum sessions will also be recorded and posted to the church's YouTube page. To join in for the discussion, please let the church office know, and we'll get you all set up! A new study will begin 4/11-5/23/2021 on Resurrection Living.

Previous Forums, can be found on the church YouTube page
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5z7-uePAXhoKVfay2w4g/videos>



Update on Sunday School/Youth Group

PreK-5th Grades: Families will receive packets 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: We will be hosting in-person 6th-8th Grade Youth Group on Wednesday evenings. We'll meet 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-12th Grades: We will be hosting in-person 9th-12th Grade Youth Group on Wednesday evenings. We'll 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.

In-Person Confirmation Class for the current 8th Graders is being held on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner is provided. All participants are required to wear a facemask when not eating and must maintain proper social distancing.



The next Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 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](tel:402-469-9285) or sign up at www.redcrossblood.org.

1st Pres Pickleball Open Gym



The Monday afternoon 1st Pres Pickleball returned to the PEACE Center as of Monday, March 22nd from 1:00-3:00. COVID rules will apply: masks required, 20 or fewer people with social distancing observed.



Are you interested in helping to run the camera, sound board, T.V. on Sunday mornings? Erik Nielson will be training new volunteers. Let him know you want to help. Email Erik at kazgratz@gmail.com



Interested in volunteering at **United Harvest?** You can register on the United Harvest Facebook page. Volunteer shifts are 9:30-12:00 and 12:00-2:00.

April 17, 2021		
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting at:	9:45 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting at:	10:00 AM
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting at:	10:15 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting at:	10:30 AM
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting at:	10:45 AM
A, B	May park and get number starting at:	11:00 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting at:	11:15 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting at:	11:30 AM

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

Broadcast live In-Person and 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 simulcast on KICS 1550AM and 92.7FM
- ✓ on Channel 181 Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.
- ✓ Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

What's Happening at FPC --- April 11 – April 25, 2021 *Session has voted that all in-person meetings must use the following guidelines for the safety of our congregation and staff. 1.) 20 or fewer in attendance, 2.) No time limit, 3.) Facemasks will be required, 4.) Social distancing of 6-ft. seating. All boards and committees 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, Apr 11	9:15a-10:15a	Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	9:15a-10:15a	Forum Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	10:00a-10:30a	Hands Around the World Store OPEN
	10:30a	Stay-At-Home and In-Person Worship Service
Mon, Apr 12	11:30a-12:30p	Hands Around the World Store OPEN
		“Monday Check-in” Communication from Greg and Damen
Tues, Apr 13	12:00p-1:00p	Memorial Committee in Fellowship Hall
	1:00p-3:00p	1st Pres Pickle Ball Open Gym
	7:00p-8:00p	Scout Troop 200 in Scout Room
	10:30a-11:30a	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, Apr 14	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study-Anderson /Zoom
	4:30p-5:30p	Mission-Parlor/Zoom
	5:30p-6:30p	Congregational Life-Fellowship Hall/Zoom
	6:00p-7:00p	Trustees-Anderson/Zoom
Thurs, Apr 15	12:00 1:00p	Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
	5:00p-7:00p	Confirmation Class
	7:00p-8:00p	Chancel Bells Upstairs Ed Wing
	7:00p-8:00p	6th-8th Grade In-Person Youth Group Church youth room
Sat, Apr 17		9th-12th Grade In-Person Youth Group PEACE Center youth rm
	5:30p-6:30p	Session-Fellowship Hall/Zoom
Sun, Apr 18	6:00p-7:00p	Mexican Dance Class-NE Classroom/PEACE Center
	7:00p-8:00p	Cub Scouts Fellowship Hall
Mon, Apr 19	9:30a-2:00p	United Harvest
	9:15a-10:15a	Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	9:15a-10:15a	Forum Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	10:00a-10:30a	Hands Around the World Store OPEN
Tues, Apr 20	10:30a-11:30a	Stay-At-Home and In-Person Worship Service
	11:30a-12:30p	Hands Around the World Store OPEN
Wed, Apr 21		“Monday Check-in” Communication from Greg and Damen
	1:00p-3:00p	1st Pres Pickle Ball Open Gym
	7:00p-8:00p	Scout Troop 200 in Scout Room
	10:30a-11:30a	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing
Thurs, Apr 22	12:00p-1:00p	Noon Bible Study Zoom/Anderson
	5:30p-6:30p	Deacons-Fellowship Hall/Zoom
	12:00 1:00p	Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
	5:00p-7:00p	Confirmation Class
Sun, Apr 25	7:00p-8:00p	Chancel Bells Upstairs Ed Wing
	7:00p-8:00p	6th-8th Grade In-Person Youth Group Church youth room
Mon, Apr 19	7:00p-8:00p	9th-12th Grade In-Person Youth Group PEACE Center youth rm
	6:00p-7:00p	Mexican Dance Class-NE Classroom/PEACE Center
	7:00p-8:00p	Cub Scouts Fellowship Hall
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First Presbyterian Church
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Address Service Requested

The Home Page

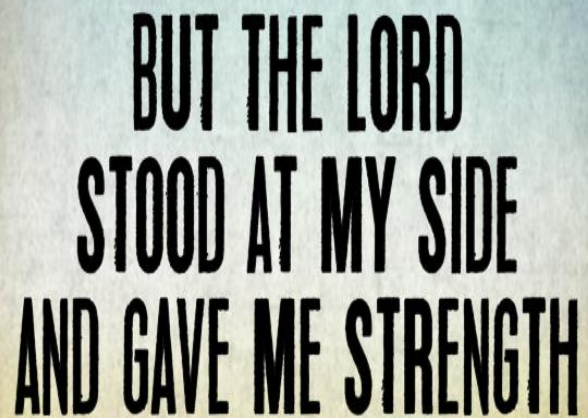
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Senior Pastor: Greg Allen-Pickett

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.



**BUT THE LORD
STOOD AT MY SIDE
AND GAVE ME STRENGTH**

2 TIMOTHY 4:17