



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**621 NO. LINCOLN
HASTINGS, NE 68901**

**VOL 26.18
9/12/21 & 9/19/21**

NOTABLE NOTES FROM PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

The Christian Church has always had a focus on ministries of public health and healing. Some of Jesus' most frequent miracles involved healing people, and he passed that ministry along to his disciples in Matthew 10: "Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness." As Christianity grew and expanded around the globe, this call to care for the sick and advocate for public health was central to Christian identity. One of the principal reasons Christianity grew, while Roman paganism waned, in the 1st-4th centuries was because of the mercy Christians displayed toward people who physically suffered, and in particular, how Christians showed mercy during two plagues that ravaged the Roman Empire. 1,000 years later, Christians were on the forefront of providing care to the sick and advocating for public health measures during the multiple "black plagues" that struck Europe. The founder of our Presbyterian faith, John Calvin, served on the Geneva City Council and was responsible for getting sewers put in to help curb the bubonic plague. Churches were often converted into hospitals to help care for the sick. Over the years, as the faith spread around the world, missionaries and pastors built hospitals alongside churches. Our daughter was born in Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center in Denver, a hospital that was started by Presbyterians nearly 100 years ago. Many large cities around the United States have a "Presbyterian hospital," and there are hundreds around the world as well. Caring for the sick and advocating for the health of our community is in the DNA of the church, and at the very heart of what it means to be a Christian.

This focus on ministries of public health and healing by the church continues today. Here in our own church, we host quarterly blood drives for the American Red Cross. We also have a medical equipment library to loan out gently used medical equipment. And we have a volunteer church member, Erica Brooks, who serves as our "Parish Nurse" to help us coordinate these important ministries. In addition to what we do within our walls, we also support various medical and public health ministries and missions around the United States and the world through our mission giving.

In the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, a new opportunity has presented itself to First Presbyterian Church to continue this vital Christ-like ministry of public health. In collaboration with the South Heartland District Health Department and Bert's Pharmacy, we will host a series of COVID-19 vaccination clinics here at our church. The first one will be held on Sunday, September 12, 3pm-4pm, with a follow up clinic on Sunday, October 3, 3pm-4pm. If there is demand for further clinics, we will respond and add additional dates. At these clinics, the Pfizer vaccine will be offered for free to anyone who comes. The current vaccine clinics being run by the South Heartland District Health Department are all on Wednesday evenings; so we are providing an alternative date and time to expand access for people who might not be free on Wednesdays.

Session, the leadership council of the church, voted unanimously to host this vaccination clinic. Our desire, as a church, is to help support the public health of our community. We believe that providing access to the vaccine is one way to do that. Some people have expressed some hesitancy about the vaccine that is related to their faith. We hope that by the church hosting a clinic, it may help alleviate some of those concerns and encourage more people in the community to get vaccinated.

We recognize that some members of our church and our community may have differing opinions on the vaccine. We are not seeking to mandate or force anyone to get this vaccine, we are simply trying to support the health of our community by hosting a vaccine clinic, providing greater accessibility to those who may want to get vaccinated, and helping people overcome potential hesitancy.

In Matthew 25, Jesus says to his disciples, "I was sick and you cared for me." His disciples don't remember doing that and ask Jesus about it, to which he replies, "Whatever you did for the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did for me." We have a call to care for "the least of these" including the vulnerable in our community. Right now, the vulnerable include our children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for the vaccine, as well as our immuno-compromised community members. Providing an opportunity for people to get vaccinated is one way that we can show care for "the least of these." Back in November, at the height of the first surge of this pandemic, Pastor Damen preached on this verse from Matthew 25. He said, "Sometimes the best way to care for the sick is to help prevent people from getting sick." Your pastors and your Session believe that the vaccine is one tool that can help with that, and as the church, we want to support those who are seeking access to it.

Should you have any questions about this, please feel free to reach out to me or any members of your Session. If you are looking for a place to get vaccinated yourself, we would welcome you to join us at these clinics. Thank you for your commitment to the church and the public health and healing ministries that we support.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg

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 & 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: Sarah Allen

Facilities Manager: Tony Calhoun

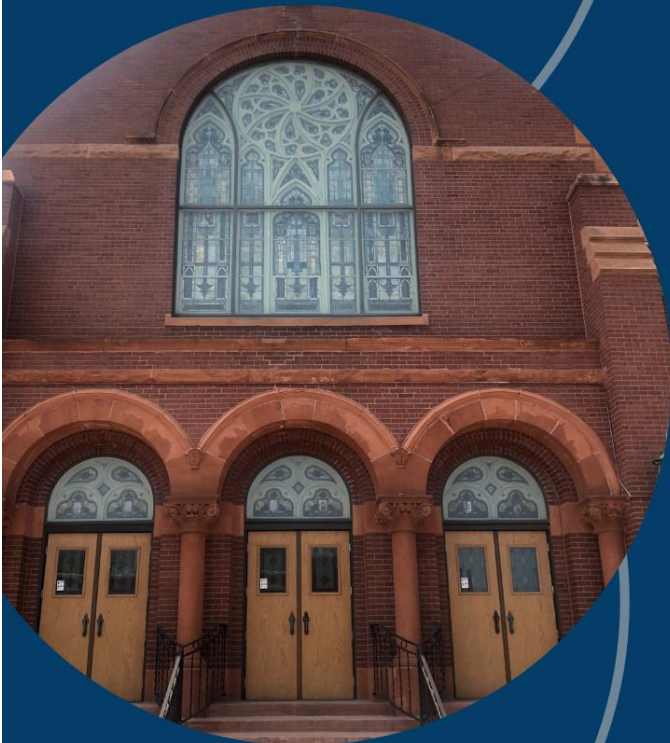
Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey



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.

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic



**Sunday, September 12th &
Follow-Up Clinic Sunday, October 3rd
3:00pm-4:00pm**

**First Presbyterian Church
621 No. Lincoln Ave. Hastings**

Walk-In/No Cost/Open to the Public

**Bring your insurance card OR red, white or blue
Medicare card**

APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Langenberg Lesson Scholarship Program

Program was established to encourage the youth of our church in their musical pursuits through the generosity of the late Luella Langenberg.

- Parents of students ages 6-18 may apply for up to \$250 per semester to offset the cost of private music instruction; one grant per child.
- Applies towards lessons in: piano, voice, guitar, and any band or orchestral instrument.
- Parents must be members of First Presbyterian Church; students must be participants in the church choir/music program.
- Applications are available through church office, 402-462-5147.
- Deadline for the Fall 2021 program is October 1, 2021.
- Grants are renewable; parents must reapply each semester.



The Nursery will be staffed:
Sundays 9:15am-11:30am as long as Sunday School
classes are in session.
(Beginning September 12th)

“Good Reads”

This fall will mark the return of our "Good Reads" Book Club and we'll dive in right where we left off in the summer of 2020. This fall we are inviting folks to read and join in conversations related to *Home* by Marilynne Robinson. *Home* tells the story of Rev. Robert Boughton, his daughter Glory, and his prodigal son, Jack, as they reunite and attempt to heal old wounds. This moving book about families, secrets, and the passing of generations will surely touch your heart. Once again, we will intersperse open conversations (hosted via Zoom) with pre-recorded chats from our local literature experts Anne Bohlke, Constance Malloy, and Jenni Welsch. A limited number of books are available in the church office and one is in the church library. The open conversations will take place at 6:30pm on Thursdays, Sept 30, Oct 14, & 28. If you would like to join those conversations, please contact the church office so that we can provide you with the Zoom link.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRESENTS:**

REBOOKULOUSLY GOOD READS

A Faith & Spirituality Book Group

**OUR FALL READ IS
HOME BY MARILYNNE ROBINSON**

**CONVERSATIONS HOSTED VIA ZOOM
SEPT 30, OCT 14, & OCT 28 AT
6:30PM**



ADULT ENRICHMENT

First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church seeks to enrich the spiritual lives of its members and friends no matter their age. Please join us for any and all of these faith enrichment opportunities this fall.

HEIRS APPARENT

This long-standing fellowship and conversation group meets weekly on Sunday mornings at 9:15am. The group focuses on contemporary issues of faith and what it means to live as disciples of Christ.

FORUM SERIES

This Sunday morning enrichment class features a variety of presenters and topics. This fall, Forum will cover Wisdom Literature, current events, and Advent and the arts. Check the bulletin and newsletter for more information.

GOOD READS

Our spirituality book club makes its glorious return this fall. Hosted via Zoom, we invite the congregation to join in reading *Home* by Marilynne Robinson while we discuss faith, family, and forgiveness.

WEDNESDAY STUDY

Meeting on Wednesdays at noon via Zoom this group tends to examine the more academic side of faith. Led by Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh, participants diligently study scripture, theology, and everything in-between.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Ever wanted to influence a sermon? Here's your chance! Meeting in-person and via Zoom at noon on Tuesdays this group reflects on the biblical narratives and themes for the upcoming Sunday.

MONDAY CHECK-IN

Most every Monday pastors Greg & Damen sit down for a chat about scripture & the life of First Pres. You can find their musings on YouTube and Soundcloud. Like & Subscribe!

FAITH EXCURSIONS

Inspired by our Lenten devotional from 2021 we endeavor to better know our neighbors. Details are still to come but we hope to plan visits with folks from differing faith traditions in order to know and love them better.



First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, NE

Published by Greg Allen Pickett · 18m ·

Please consider donating blood at First Presbyterian Church's September 14 blood drive. There is a critical need for blood right now. All donors will receive this free tshirt. To sign up go to redcrossblood.org. Thank you!!



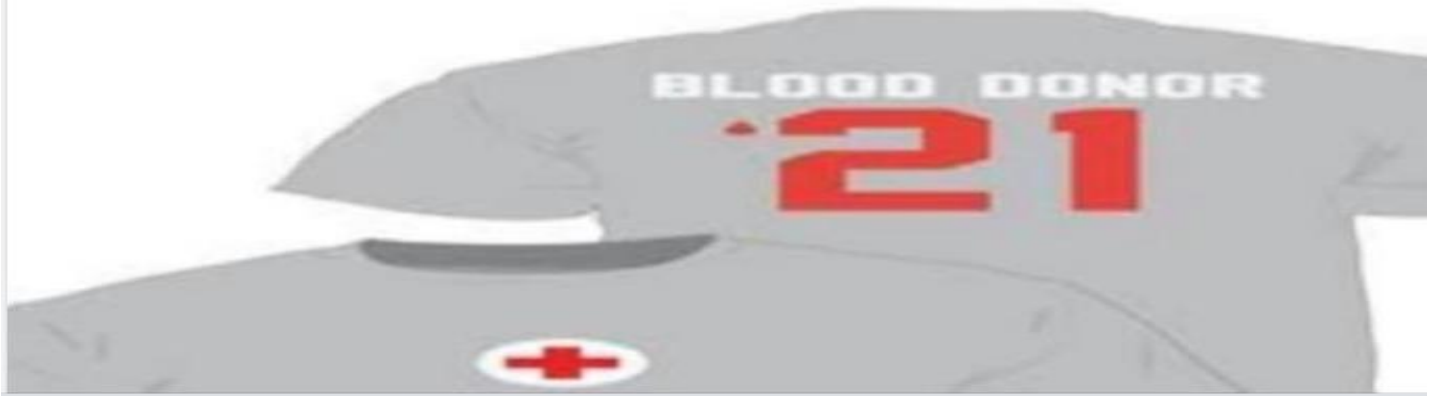
**First Presbyterian
Church of Hastings**

Tuesday, Sept. 14, 12pm-6pm

621 N. Lincoln Ave Hastings, NE

American Red Cross

**BLOOD
DRIVE**



Next distribution day is Saturday, September 18th

To volunteer, send a message to unitedharvestmobilefoodpantry@gmail.com OR call 402-724-0737 OR find United Harvest Hastings NE on Facebook for sign up options.



September's Communion Offering
goes to

SPECIAL SCOOPS!

237 N. St. Joseph Ave, Hastings

Sunday, September 19th



10:30am Hastings College Sunday

Hastings College keeps to its Presbyterian roots with this traditional Hastings College Sunday Service at FPC. Please join!

11:30am Fine Arts Hall of Fame Brunch

Join the HC Fine Arts Department and Alumni Association in the induction of remarkable alumni that are making a difference in their communities through the use of their talents. Robin

Koozer, '76 and FPC Chancel Choir Director will be honored and inducted for his service through music. For more information call the HC Alumni Association 402-461-7363 OR email Molly Johnsen mjohnsen@hastings.edu.

11:30am Fellowship, Conversations & Meals

Lunch with international students, 11:30am location details to be announced closer to the date.

HASTINGS COLLEGE
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**FELLOWSHIP,
CONVERSATION &
MEALS...**

and open your home to the world.

Every year Hastings College welcomes international and music students to the Hastings community. We are inviting you to be a part of this cultural experience as a host or host family through a partnership in ministry with First Presbyterian Church. As a host, one must be able to offer support and conversation to students navigating their way into the Hastings community. Families will offer meals at designated dates over the course of the Fall 2021 semester and as needed will offer spiritual guidance, help with integration to college life, and in general offer words of mentorship & support, engagement and fellowship. In addition to this, the role of a host or host family requires flexibility as students navigate their college experience and ever changing schedules. We hope your commitment in this ministry will be welcomed.

Questions?

N. Grant Hunter
Director of International Programs
email: ghunter@hastings.edu

Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett
Senior Pastor
email: greg@fpc Hastings.org

Pastor Damen Jensen-Heitmann
Associate Pastor
email: damen@fpc Hastings.org



Important Dates:

- August 15th - Kick
- September-19th
- October -17th
- November - Thanksgiving Meal

*All meals will be held at
First Presbyterian Church
Following 10:30AM Worship
Service*

First Presbyterian Church Hastings

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

HASTINGS COLLEGE

Sun 9/12	8:30a-9:30a	Worship in the Park	Alexander Park
	9:15a-10:15a	Forum Series	Lydia/Zoom
	9:15a-10:15a	Sunday School All Ages	Various
	10:00a-10:30a	Hands Around the World OPEN	Narthex/Memorial Room
	10:30a-11:30a	Traditional Service	Sanctuary/Various
	11:30a-12:00p	Hands Around the World OPEN	Narthex/Memorial Room
	3:00p-4:00p	COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic	Fellowship Hall
Mon 9/13	8:30a-10:00a	Walkers/Coffee <i>Mon-Thurs</i>	PEACE Gym/NW Class
	1:00p-3:00p	1 st Pres Pickleball Open Gym	PEACE Gym
Tues 9/14	10:30a-11:30a	Staff Meeting	Zoom
	12:00p-6:00p	Red Cross Blood Drive	Fellowship Hall
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study w/pastor	Anderson/Zoom
	4:30p-5:30p	Global Mission Committee	Parlor
	5:30p-6:30p	Congregational Life Committee	Parlor
	6:00p-8:00p	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	7:00p-8:00p	CCC Dog Obedience Class	PEACE NE Class
	8:15p-9:15p	CCC Dog Obedience Class	PEACE NE Class
Weds 9/15	9:30a-10:30a	PW Circles	Fellowship
	12:00p-1:00p	Noonday Bible Study w/Dan	Zoom
	1:15p-2:15p	PW Circles	Fellowship
	4:00p-6:45p	1 st -5 th Grades WNL	
	6:00p-6:45p	WNL Family Meal Time	Fellowship Hall
	6:20p-7:30p	6 th -12 th Bell and Choir rotations	
	7:30p-8:30p	6 th -12 th Youth Group	LL Church
	6:45p-7:30p	Chancel Choir rehearsal	Portico
	7:30pm-8:15p	Chancel Bell rehearsal	Bell Room UL Church
	6:30p-9:00p	Wood Carvers	LL Church
Thur 9/16	5:30p-7:30p	Session Meeting	Anderson
	6:00p-8:00p	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6:00p-8:00p	Mexican Dance Class	PEACE NE Class
Fri 9/17	10:00a-12:00p	Mahjong Ladies	LL Church
Sat 9/18	9:45a-2:00p	United Harvest	PEACE Parking Lot
Sun 9/19	8:30a-9:30a	Worship in the Park	Alexander Park
	9:15a-10:15a	Forum Series	Lydia/Zoom
	9:15a-10:15a	Sunday School All Ages	Various
	10:00a-10:30a	Hands Around the World OPEN	Narthex/Memorial Room
	10:30a-11:30a	HC Sunday Traditional Worship	Sanctuary/Various
	11:30a-1:30p	HC International Students Meal	TBD
Mon 9/20	8:30a-10:00a	Walkers/Coffee <i>Mon-Thurs</i>	PEACE Gym/NW Class
	1:00p-3:00p	1 st Pres Pickleball Open Gym	PEACE Gym
Tues 9/21	10:30a-11:30a	Staff Meeting	Zoom
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study w/pastor	Anderson/Zoom
	6:00p-8:00p	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6:45p-7:45p	Deacons Meet	Fellowship
	7:00p-8:00p	CCC Dog Obedience Class	PEACE NE Class
	8:15p-9:15p	CCC Dog Obedience Class	PEACE NE Class
Wed 9/22	12:00p-1:00p	Noonday Bible Study w/Dan	Zoom
	4:00p-6:45p	1 st -5 th Grades WNL	
	6:00p-6:45p	WNL Family Meal Time	Fellowship Hall
	6:20p-7:30p	6 th -12 th Bell and Choir rotations	
	7:30p-8:30p	6 th -12 th Youth Group	LL Church
	6:45p-7:30p	Chancel Choir rehearsal	Portico
	7:30pm-8:15p	Chancel Bell rehearsal	Bell Room UL Church
	6:30p-9:00p	Wood Carvers	LL Church
Thur 9/23	6:00p-8:00p	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6:00p-8:00p	Mexican Dance Class	PEACE NE Class
Fri 9/23	10:00a-12:00p	Mahjong Ladies	LL Church

Our next **SYNOD FALL GATHERING** is just around the corner, this September in Minden. We will be assembling CWS School Kits (Christian World Service) and have set up a table for donations in the Memorial Room. The desired items are listed below, anything you can supply is appreciated.

CWS School Kits

School kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning.



Here's what you'll need

- One pair of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip, only)
- Three 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter / 12" ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener removed from the package
- One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers)
- Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers (please remove pencils from the package)
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- One 12"x14" to 14"x17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with handles (solid color or kid-friendly fabric, no logos, reusable shopping bags or backpacks)

All items must be packed inside of the bag. The MyShopAngel website has an affordable CWS Kit bag for bulk purchase. Visit cwskits.org/bag to order. Or, [download our school bag pattern](#) and make your own!

Optional: Loose school kit items may be placed in a large Ziploc type bag to keep them together. Remove the air, seal the bag and place inside of the cotton/canvas bag.

Value: \$15.00

Processing fee: \$2.00 per kit

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

621 No. Lincoln Ave.
Hastings, NE 68901

Phone: 402-462-5147

Email: fpc@fpchastings.org

Website: www.fpchastings.org

Address Service is Requested

YOU'RE INVITED!

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PRES-FEST PICNIC

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We're having a picnic
September 12 | 11:30ish
Alexander Park
More details to follow



