

First Presbyterian Church

GREG ALLEN-PICKETT, SENIOR PASTOR

DAMEN JENSEN-HEITMANN, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Home Page

During the Season of Lent, I preached a sermon series based on the assigned epistles, passages from the letters written by the Apostle Paul. This was a bit of a Lenten discipline for me, usually I preach on the assigned Gospel readings as we journey with Jesus through his earthly ministry to Jerusalem and the cross. Preaching the epistles during Lent proved to be a challenge, but I persevered and discovered some encouraging and hopeful words and ideas that resonated with me and gave me energy to press on, and I want to share my reflections with you this week in my Home Page article.

On the first Sunday of Lent, the lectionary provided Romans 10:8b-13 which starts, "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart." More than anything, this verse gave me reassurance that even when I might not be feeling close to God or I might be feeling disconnected from my faith, God's Word is still near me and in my heart. This assurance that the word is still near, on my lips and in my heart, brought me a sense of peace. The closing passage in this assigned epistle reminds us, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Sometimes my calling on the Lord has come in exasperated frustration, and sometimes in silence, but even in those moments I am reassured of my identity and salvation in Christ.

On the second Sunday of Lent, we read Philippians 3:17-4:1 which opens with, "Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us." This passage invited me to reflect on those who have mentored me in my faith over the years. Who have I sought to imitate and observe? This passage happened to fall on a week where I presided over two funerals, one of a local church member and one of a mentor of mine from the church where I grew up. It was incredibly cathartic to reflect on the life and witness of the people who have disciples me, and I encourage others to do the same if they are feeling drained. The communion of saints surrounds and upholds us. Stopping to reflect on those who have supported us along the way can provide us new and renewed energy when we need it.

On the third Sunday of Lent, we read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, which walks us through the story of all the ways the Israelites misbehaved during their wilderness wanderings. Paul writes, "Do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us." This passage caused me to pause and reflect on some of the patterns of negativity and complaining that I have fallen in to over the past two years. It is easy to focus on the negative, and I think it is human nature. However Paul's words to the Corinthians remind us to learn from the mistakes of our spiritual ancestors. Any criticism we utter aloud must be constructive and let us always remember to speak the truth in love.

On the fourth Sunday of Lent we find Paul's robust call to reconciliation in 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. We are reminded that we have been reconciled to God, and God has given us the ministry of reconciliation, "So we are ambassadors for Christ." Reading this passage caused me to stop and reflect on relationships in my life that have fallen into disrepair, particularly in the last two years, and how I am called to work to reconcile those relationships. This passage opened up space for me to reach out and seek to renew relationships I had neglected. It also reminded me that God calls a whole lot of imperfect people to be ambassadors for Christ, including Paul himself. If God can turn Paul into one of the most effective ambassadors for Christ in the history of the church, there must be hope for me too.

On the fifth Sunday in Lent I encountered Paul's reminder to "press on" in Philippians 3:4b-14. All of us have persevered through a lot over the past two years, but reflecting on Paul's words and his own journey helped me to put it into perspective. Paul was nearly stoned to death at Lystra, he was imprisoned in Philippi, he had to flee Thessalonica because his life was threatened, and he was shipwrecked multiple times. Then Paul was arrested in the temple in Jerusalem and imprisoned again, and he was also imprisoned in Rome, twice! Throughout all of these trials, Paul maintained a sense of joy and a sense of affection for the people he was serving, just read the introduction and conclusion of most of his epistles. The joy that he exuded and the love he had for his community was grounded in the sure and certain knowledge of his identity in Christ and the power of the resurrection. Paul writes, "I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own." This reminder that we have been claimed by Jesus Christ can give us what we need to persevere.

The discipline of preaching through the epistles during the Season of Lent provided me motivation, perspective, and a renewed sense of calling. It reminded me of my identity as a follower of Jesus and an ambassador for Christ. It encouraged me to reflect on mentors who have disciplined me over the years. And it gave me the energy to persevere. In this time where many of us feel worn down, I encourage you to press on and seek inspiration in unlikely places. Sometimes even the less frequently read passages in the Bible can provide us a bit of insight and joy as we seek to proclaim our hope as resurrection people.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Greg

5.1.22 | 5.8.22 | VOL. 27.8
621 N. LINCOLN AVE | HASTINGS, NE 68901 | 402-462-5147



Please Pray For:

Bob Johnson
Mary Lewis
Joan Shaw
Barry Thomson
Stephen Gass
Bev Stein
Stan Essink
Greg Howard
Tommy Thomsen
Irina Belikova-Erickson
Rich Portwood
Shirley Gass
Carl Utley
Ramona Shetler

Taralyn Davis and family
Dave Schawang
Lanae Hall and family
Elaine Schumacher
Melba Trehern
Chris Wheeler
Cheryl Ann Elfond
Anne Bohlke
Tut Ruei's family
Brad Davis
Jenni Welsch
Marie & Don Rasmussen
Michael Hahne
Selah Wenburg and family

In Memory of:

Rachel Lay passed 3/5/22

May Communion Offering: **OPEN TABLE**



CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSETS??



The First Presbyterian Church would love to receive your gently used winter coats for our coat drive that will be held in October.

Coats of all sizes are needed for Men, Women and Children.

(Adult XL and XXL are in high need)



Donations accepted now through October at these Hastings locations:
First Presbyterian Church,
Pershing Orthodontics.

Thank you in advance!!

Ecotheology

A Three-Part Forum Series with

Dr. Dorothy Dean

April 24: Ecofeminist Theology

May 1: Theology & Animals

May 8: Christianity & The
Climate Crisis





Start using Realm for the directory



Instant Church Directory will be expired



First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
20, 2022
621 N Lincoln Ave
Hastings, NE 68901



Dear Friends in Christ,



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Please allow me to express my thanks & appreciation for your recent gift of \$1,541.00 to Orphan Grain Train for Ukrainian Relief Efforts. As you can imagine, OGT has many needs, & you are helping us meet this one.

I am reminded of our theme verse. **"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."** (John 14:18) From the very beginning, Orphan Grain Train has had a vision for providing relief for the destitute, including widows & orphans, both here & abroad. Many of God's people, moved by the Lord, enable us to fulfill that vision.

Thank you! Thank you for your gift. Please, pray for the Lord to provide relief for the millions who are suffering. Pray for our efforts to provide for these victims. Pray for Him to put an end to this crisis.& thank you for your encouragement. May Christ continue to bless you so that you, in turn, may be a blessing to others.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Ray S. Wilke, President

Meals On Wheels

Thank you for the Minute for Mission donation to the Meals on Wheels program.

This money will go a long way in helping those in need in our community. Your generosity is very much appreciated!
Senior Action, Inc.
Meals on Wheels staff





PRIDE



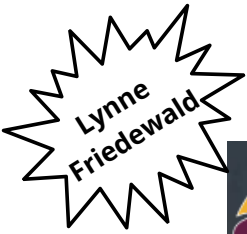
Presbyterians



Prairie Loft Center for Outdoor and Agricultural Learning

April 25 at 7:38 PM · 🌐

Congratulations to our Associate Director, Chris Junker! Tonight, Chris received a 2022 "Tribute to Women" award at YWCA Adams County. It is a privilege to work with this super hero!



Last year we had seven volunteers who each donated more than 50 hours to the Museum. Our heartfelt thanks go to: **Aiden Aldrich, Lynne Friedewald, Emma Kvetensky, Raena Northrup, Yesi Lara Pantoja, Jordyn Pracht, and Thea Wahl.** We appreciate you so much!

Hastings College Honors Convocation recognizes students, faculty

April 28, 2022

Members of the academic honorary Alpha Chi selected **Dr. Bob Amyot**, professor of political science, as the Alpha Chi Outstanding Faculty.

Kim Graviette, director of career services, received the Anderson Mentoring and Advising Award, a new award that's presented to an employee who has advised, mentored or made a significant difference in the life of a Hastings College student.

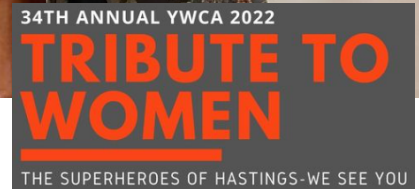


Hastings College announces 2022 Bronco Awards, Who's Who recipients

April 28, 2022

During its day-long Celebration of Excellence April 27, Hastings College announced three Bronco Award recipients during its annual Honors Convocation — **Jackie Gilbert** of Chandler, Arizona; **DaeRon Jones** of Kansas City, Missouri; and **Julia Reimer** of Hastings, Nebraska.

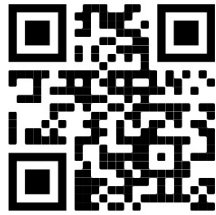
Established in 1924, the Bronco Award is the College's highest non-academic award granted to students. Recipients of the Bronco Award and the accompanying Who's Who list are determined through a vote of their peers and a student-faculty committee.



Vacation Bible School



Join us for a Food Truck Party VBS where we will explore what it means for God to "give us our daily bread" and learn how to turn to God in prayer for our daily needs. Together with the Top Chef and DJ Cupcake, students will learn key truths that make up the common meal-time prayer:



"God is Great, God is Good,
Let us thank God for our Food!
By God's Hands, we all are Fed!
Give us, Lord, our Daily Bread!"

*Pre-Registration
Now Open!*

DATE: Monday, June 27th – Wednesday, June 29th

TIME: 8:30 am – 11:30 am

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church

621 N Lincoln, Ave

AGES: *Pre-School – 6th grade

(This is the grade they are entering in August 2022)

***Preschoolers MUST be potty trained**



To Register: Scan this QR code with the phone on your camera or go to our website www.fpchastings.org



BE PART OF SOMETHING BIG. GIVE BLOOD.

Blood Drive
First Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 24, 2022
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For an appointment, contact Erica @ 463-0402



Stick to it! Come to give May 20-31 for an exclusive 20-oz. Red Cross aluminum water bottle and sticker set, while supplies last. You can customize your bottle to show your donor pride and stay hydrated for your next donation.



A Benefit Concert for UKRAINE



May 10th, 7pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
621 N LINCOLN AVE.,
HASTINGS, NE 68901

Join us for an evening of music provided by HC students and faculty. Free-Will donations are welcome and will benefit the Sunflower for Peace Organization.

Refreshments provided by SAI.





"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go visit you?' The King will reply 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:37-40

April 18, 2022

First Presbyterian Church
Attn: Clerk of Session
621 N. Lincoln Ave.
Hastings, NE 68901

Thank You!

Dear Clerk of Session,

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

On behalf of Presbyterian Mission thank you for your congregation's commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ through the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Your gift makes a difference in the lives of people here in the United States and abroad in over 70 different countries. We are encouraged by God's faithfulness, signaled by the recent support we have received from you. Because of you, the world is waking up to new possibilities in Jesus Christ.

The generosity of your congregation has provided the following support: On March 16, 2022, we received \$745.00 for CJ999999 Christmas Joy Offering; on March 16, 2022, we received \$17.10 for H999999 Hunger Fund.

Thank you for your commitment and partnership in furthering God's mission around the world. Please let me know how I can support your efforts.

Yours in Christ,

Bill McConnell
Mission Engagement Advisor
Office of Mission Engagement and Support
(502) 569-5027
william.mcconnell@pcusa.org



Congratulations to our Confirmands 5/1/2022



Grace Brader

McKain Ratzlaff

Norah Snell

Ashton Essink

First Presbyterian Church
621 N. Lincoln Ave.
Hastings, NE 68901
402-462-5147
fpc@fpchastings.org

Return Service Requested

Mail To:



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

Head of Church: Jesus Christ
Senior Pastor: Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett
Director of Children & Family
Ministries: Rose Koepf
Organist and Music Coordinator: Linda Vollweiler
Calvin/Westminster Choir Director: Linda Johnson
Praise/Alleluia Choir Directors: Teresa & Tim Canady
Praise/Alleluia Bells Choir Director: Dr. Susan Oliver
Accompanists: Mary Plock
Scholar in Residence: Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh

Ministers: Members of the Church
Associate Pastor: Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann
Parish Associate: Kili Wenburg
Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger
Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Robin Koozer
Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster Bells Director: Dr. Byron Jensen
Church Office Administrator: Sarah Allen
Facilities Manager: Tony Calhoun
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey