



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF HASTINGS**
LIVING A LEGACY OF LOVE

Home Page Newsletter

Reflecting on the sacraments: Outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace!

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

Sunday, November 5, was a very special day in the life of our church. We concluded our Capital Campaign by collecting the pledge cards and saying a prayer of dedication and blessing over them. We will tally those pledge cards and **announce the total on Sunday, November 19**, so stay tuned! And if you didn't get your pledge card in, we are still taking them. You can bring them to the church office or pledge online at this link: <https://bit.ly/FPCHCapitalCampaign>

In addition to the dedication of our pledges, we celebrated both of our sacraments on Sunday: Baptism and Communion. The sacraments provide a picture of God's promises to us. Fourth-century theologian **St. Augustine called them "outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace."**

Following his lead, 16th-century reformer John Calvin said sacraments are "visible words" that help strengthen faith and nurture discipleship. While the written words of Scripture teach us about God's redemptive work in Jesus Christ, the sacraments **express God's grace in tangible ways**. Presbyterians recognize two sacraments — baptism and the Lord's Supper — because they are rooted in the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life, and provide a form of proclamation of the good news.



I delight in the celebration of the sacraments at our church. Here are three reasons that the sacraments are so significant in our life of faith:

1. Sacraments are grounded in Scripture

Both baptism and the Lord's Supper draw on multiple New Testament images. Jesus' baptism is part of a call to renew the covenant between God and Israel. Jesus is declared as God's beloved son, and that identity as children of God is extended to all of us through the sacrament of baptism. Similarly, the Lord's Supper draws from meal images in multiple biblical passages. As part of his public ministry Jesus ate with disciples, sinners and outcasts — a significant broadening of customary table practices that can inform our own communion celebrations.

2. Sacraments define the church

Sacraments are one of the identifying marks of the church. Calvin linked the sacraments to the life of the congregation, replacing private baptisms with community baptismal celebrations that included congregational vows. Likewise, he urged frequent gatherings of the faith community around the table to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Continued

3. Sacraments connect us to Christ

The role and purpose of the sacraments are grounded in a firm belief that the sacraments connect us to Christ through the presence of the Holy Spirit. With the Spirit's blessing, in the baptism waters, we gain a new identity as followers of Jesus Christ. As Jesus was declared God's beloved Son at his baptism, so too at our baptism we are declared to be God's beloved children. At the communion table the Spirit's presence in the gifts of bread and cup and in our lives brings about a community that follows in the way of Jesus Christ.

Baptism and communion are connected practices, not independent acts. Baptism begins a lifelong journey of discipleship, and communion sustains us on that journey. That is one of the many reasons we were so blessed to celebrate both of our sacraments on Sunday.

The grace that is present in the sacraments leads us to a life of gratitude. I am thankful for our incredible church family and the generosity you share. Have a blessed week and I hope to see you soon!

Your Servant in Christ



Pastor Greg



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

FALL FORUM

HOW ISRAEL WAS BUILT Topic: Exploring the ancient and modern history of Israel Dates: Oct. 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12 Presenter: Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh	BEARERS OF THE DIVINE Topic: Learn all about the original cantata premiering at FPC Dec. 10 Dates: Nov. 19, Dec. 3, 10 Presenter: Hannah Jensen-Heitmann
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**SUNDAYS @ 9:15 A.M.
LYDIA ROOM**

First Presbyterian Church

Hanging of The Greens

Sunday, November 19

11:30am

All are welcome



November Communion Offering

HPS Foundation Elementary Playgrounds

November Greeters

NOVEMBER	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX
12	Connie & LaVern Franzen	Melissa Davis
19	Melissa Davis	Sue Medsker
26	Jane & Chuck Bauer	Erica & Brent Brooks

November Ushers

Team #3 – Captain- Dave Fisher

Andrew Barrows

Phil Odom

Doug Soderquist



Hastings Community Music Academy



HASTINGS COMMUNITY MUSIC ACADEMY



COMMUNITY
Holiday Band

**TUESDAYS, NOVEMBER 7, 14, 28,
DECEMBER 5, 12**
TIME: 5:00-6:00 PM

Performance at the Celebration of Lights - Nov. 16th
End of session concert - Dec. 12 - 6:00pm

For all ages who play a band instrument (need to have played at least a year) come learn and perform some holiday classics!

FREE - suggested \$20 donation
Some instruments provided, or bring your own!

Register online at
www.hastingsmusicacademy.com



HASTINGS COMMUNITY MUSIC ACADEMY

**HOLIDAY
SIGN LANGUAGE CHOIR**

**MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 13, 14, 16**
6:00-7:30PM
\$30 - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
AGES 6 AND OLDER

**Learn your favorite
holiday songs in Sign
Language!**

**PERFORMANCE AT THE
CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

Register online at
www.hastingsmusicacademy.com



Youth Stay and Serve

1. ELF HELP

Need some Elf Help? High school youth will bring your holiday decorations from the basement or the attic for you on November 19th in the afternoon. These same elves will cart your boxes back to where they came from on the afternoon of January 7th. Sign up to have a visit from these handy elves with the church office. You can have them visit November 19, January 7, or both!

2. BLANKET WITH LOVE

The youth plan to make fleece tie blankets with at least one memory care unit in January or February.

11/7/23 - 11/10/23

Tuesday 11/7	10:15am	NO Staff Meeting	
	12pm	NO Tuesday Noon Bible Study	
	5:30pm	WAM Meeting	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	United Harvest Board Meeting	PEACE NW Classroom
	7pm-8pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom
Wednesday 11/8	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	Various
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
Thursday 11/9	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	5pm	Personnel Committee	As needed
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 11/10	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room

Farmer Bill's

PINE RIDGE RESERVATION WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE



Collecting new or gently used items for all ages and sizes.
Special needs for warm blankets & men's coats in size large and up.

Donations may be dropped off in the designated basket in Fellowship Hall through Sunday, November 12.

Monetary donations will go towards transportation costs and purchasing blankets and coats

GoFundMe search keyword Pine Ridge Drive Winter 2023, <http://gofund.me/5df27a84> or scan the QR code.



thrivent

Hearts & Hands for Maui

Volunteer to pack
70,000 life-saving meals

The deadly wildfires in Maui have left a path of destruction and devastation. Join forces with Hearts & Hands Against Hunger and Thrivent to help those in need. We will take 80 volunteers each shift, 240 volunteers are needed.

Reserve your spot

Help us reach our goal of packing all 70,000 meals donated by the Thrivent Member Network. To register, scan the QR code or visit <https://HeartsHandsForMaui.eventbrite.com>

Questions? Call 402-249-1104 or email NebraskaTMN@thrivent.com.



Support disaster response

Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023
12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

PEACE Center,
Hearts & Hands Against
Hunger of Hastings
622 N. Lincoln Ave.,
Hastings, NE 68901



Sign up for a two-hour shift.

No products will be sold. Hearts & Hands Against Hunger of Hastings and the Orphan Grain Train are not affiliated with or endorsed by Thrivent.

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11/12/23 - 11/19/23

Sunday 11/12		All Saints Day	
	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am-10:15am	Sunday School for all ages	Various
	10am-10:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	12pm-6pm	Hearts and Hands Food Packing Event	PEACE Center
Monday 11/13	1-3pm	1 st Pres Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm-3:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5:30pm	Global Mission Committee	PEACE NW Classroom
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tuesday 11/14	10:15am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Congregational Life Meeting	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Trustees Meet	Confirmation Room
	6:45pm	Deacons Meet	Anderson Room
	7-8pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom
Wednesday 11/15	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	Parlor
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	1:15pm	PW Circle 3	Library
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	Various
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
Thursday 11/16	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	5:30pm	Session Meets	Anderson Room
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 11/17	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Saturday 11/18		United Harvest	
	9am	Coat Drive	Memorial Room
Sunday 11/19	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am-10:15am	Sunday School for all ages	various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	Hanging of the Greens	

Thank you



FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS
"SHE IS CLOTHED WITH STRENGTH AND DIGNITY
AND ON HER TONGUE IS KINDLY COUNSEL...
HER CHILDREN RISE UP AND PRAISE HER.
MANY ARE THE WOMEN OF PROVEN WORTH.
BUT YOU HAVE EXCELLED THEM ALL...
THE WOMAN WHO LOVED THE LORD IS TO BE PRAISED.
GIVE HER A REWARD FOR HER LABORS. O LORD
AND LET HER WORKS PRAISE HER AT HEAVEN'S GATES."

Dear First Presbyterian Friends,

On behalf of our entire family, Robin and I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your love and support during the recent loss of my mother, Julia. The cards, kind words, thoughts, and prayers were greatly appreciated and were a source of strength and comfort. We are grateful for her long life and for the example of faithful service to the church she set.

Special thanks for the beautiful flowers delivered by Linda Kluwe.

THE FAMILY OF JULIA McDUGAL
ACKNOWLEDGES WITH GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

YOUR KIND EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY
Many thanks for everything love, peace, joy to you all.
Ann Kooser



First Presbyterian Church -

We would like to thank you for the beautiful flowers that Lois Hafer delivered during the church service last Sunday. And most importantly thank you for keeping Paul in your prayers. Paul & Belinda Nuss



Please pray for



Brad Davis
Elaine Schumacher
Dave Schawang
Renee Miller
family of Rich Portwood
Shirley Gass
Audre Zaroban
Carter Johnson
Scott Johnson
Tarah Davis & family
Matt Campbell
June Nielsen
Neil Kerr and family
Vernon Groves
Carol Medsker
Frances Kamler

Pam Canady
Ashley Ibach
Reta & Lowell Johnson
Carl Utley
Barry Thomson
Stephen Gass
Greg Howard
Ken Fisk
Mary Wolf
family of Julie McDougal
Everest Beacon (Zabloudil)
Jacob Shin
Jim Boeve
family of Peter Duang
Brett Epperson and family
family of Joyce Mefford

Paul Nuss
Vicki (Fisk) Nieves
Dana Odom
John Carllson
Mary Giesler

In memory of

Julie McDougal, who passed
away on 9/27/2023
Rich Portwood, who passed
away on 10/5/2023
Joyce Mefford, who passed
away on 10/8/2023



**Donations may be dropped off
at the Hurley-Mac center on
the Hastings College campus.**



Winter Coats Available for Those in Need

**First Presbyterian Church
7th and Burlington
Saturday, November 18th at 9am**

All Sizes Available for Adults and Children



THANKS GIVING *Meal Backpacks*

Food4thought is a Hastings College student run program that helps give elementary students in need food for meals not eaten at school.

**FOOD4THOUGHT IS ASKING FOR
DONATIONS FOR OUR THANKSGIVING
MEAL BACKPACKS.**

FOOD ITEMS:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| • Instant Mashed Potatoes | • Macaroni and Cheese |
| • Canned Yams | • Canned Soup |
| • Canned Beans | • Graham Crackers |
| • Canned Veggies | • Marshmallows |
| • Canned Fruit | • Pudding Mix |
| • Stuffing Mix | • Broth (chicken/beef) |
| • Canned Pumpkin | • Canned Gravy |
| • Canned Cranberry Sauce | • Canned Chicken |
| • Pie Crust | • Corn Bread Mix |

NONPERISHABLES ONLY

**BAGS WILL BE PACKED ON
NOVEMBER 15TH. PLEASE DELIVER
BY NOVEMBER 13TH.**



First Presbyterian Church

621 N. Lincoln Ave.

Hastings, NE 68901

402-462-5147

fpc@fpchastings.org

Return Service Requested

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

Organist and Music Director: Linda Vollweiler

Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Brett Epperson

Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster

Bells Director: Dr. Byron Jensen

Calvin/Westminster Choir Director: Linda Johnson

Praise/Alleluia Choir Directors: Tim and Teresa Canady

Praise/Alleluia Bells Choir Director: Dr. Susan Oliver

Accompanist and Music Coordinator: Mary Plock

Ministers: Members of the Church

Associate Pastor: Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Director of Children & Family

Ministries: Rose Koepp

Church Office Administrator: Melissa Davis

Facilities Manager: Tony Calhoun

Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger

Scholar in Residence: Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey