



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

# Home Page Newsletter

### Beginning our journey in the Season of Lent

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

In an article about the Season of Lent on *Patheos*, author Deborah Arca wrote: “Once considered the liturgical purview of Catholics, Lent – the 40-day period from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday before Easter – has become more and more embraced as a liturgical season with legs within the Protestant churches. With the comfort level of spiritual practices on the rise in mainstream congregations for the past several decades, Christians now regularly claim Lent as a season for deep reflection, prayer, repentance, and overall spiritual growth. So, the question is: How will you walk through Lent this year?”

As a family of faith, we will begin our Lenten journey on Wednesday, February 14 at 7pm with an Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary. We offered a preview of the Season of Lent, as well as a lesson in how we get the ashes for our Ash Wednesday service in a video we showed during worship on Sunday 2/11 that you can rewatch here: <https://youtu.be/WNZj-B2bhpo>

Following our Ash Wednesday service, we will focus on the Season of Lent during our Sunday morning worship services for the next six weeks, starting on Sunday 2/18 when our children will “bury the alleluias” as we enter this season of contemplation, repentance, and transformation.

Each week, we will publish a Lenten devotional guide for the week that includes a daily scripture and prayer. We will include those in the weekly worship bulletin and also publish them on our website and Facebook page. You can find those at this link: <https://fpchastings.org/devotions/>

We have been studying the Gospel of Mark this winter, and it is a great way for us to enter this Season of Lent as we reflect on what it means to follow Jesus. Rev. Fred Plummer says, “It is no mystery why the early followers of Jesus often referred to themselves as people of the way. The Greek word for way is *hodos* which is often translated into English as path or road. The writer of Mark, the first written of the four biblical Gospels, is devoted to explaining what this path was all about. For Mark, it is first and foremost about the importance of discipleship... It is a way that is driven by love rather than fear, even the fear of death. Like so many of the great spiritual teachers throughout history, Jesus understood we are motivated primarily by two energies. One is love and the other is fear. Nothing saps our ability to love and to be loved more than fear. In fact, love and fear are diametrically opposed energies. One who is motivated by love cannot be hampered by fear. For most people this is a different way of living.”

Oftentimes people choose to give up something for Lent like chocolate, coffee, or social media. I would encourage our family of faith to give up fear, and to take up love during Lent.

*Continued*

Jesus invites us onto this path of love so that we can discover a new perspective and a new experience of life. He teaches us that there is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear. (1John 4:18) So during this season, we are invited to journey with Jesus to Jerusalem without fear. If we want to experience the promised new life, we must be willing to take this journey. It will require some deep soul searching and hopefully a willingness to empty ourselves of those things, those thoughts, those emotions we hold onto out of insecurity, our hurts, or our losses. Only when we empty ourselves of fear and negativity can we be filled with love and joy. This is never easy. For many of us, it is a lifetime journey. The Season of Lent offers us a chance to recommit to this way of living. Join us on our Lenten journey this year as we travel with Jesus to Jerusalem and commit ourselves to giving up fear and taking up love.

Your servant in Christ,



Pastor Greg

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## February Ushers and Greeters

**February Ushers (Team #6)** Captain – Jim Harrenstein, Chanda Essink, Lynne Friedewald, Chuck Shoemaker

### February Greeters

FEBRUARY	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX
18	Dan Deffenbaugh	Kim Creech
25	Jane Foote, Mary Fisk	Bonnie & Kenton Grams

# Adult Forum

Sundays @ 9:15 a.m.

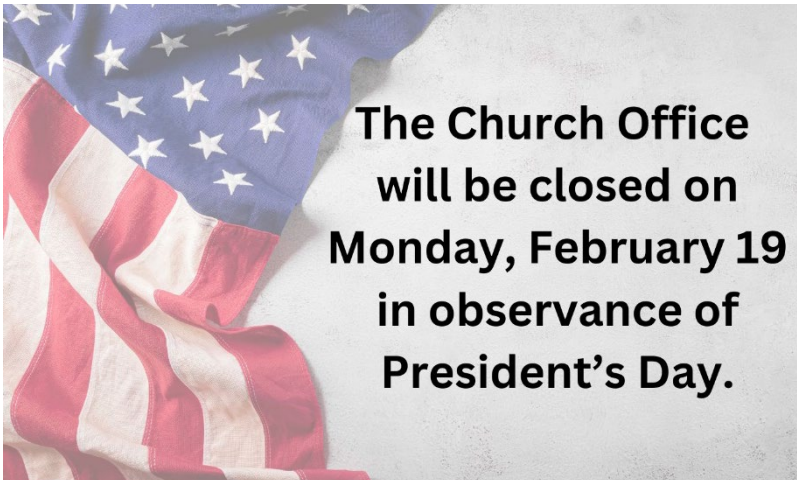
Lydia Room

**February 18, February 25, March 3, March 17, and March 24:**

*How Israel Was Built, Part 2*

(Five Week Lenten Series)

Presenter: Dan Deffenbaugh



Imposition of Ashes Service

Wednesday, February 14

7pm

First Presbyterian Church  
Sanctuary

Dear Members and Friends of FPC:

Thank you for your generous gifts. Many of you are using your investments for the benefit of the church. Sometimes these checks come to the church without the contributor's name. Getting these gifts credited to the appropriate contributor is very important to me but without a name, it is very difficult. In an effort to keep our records correct, when you request your gift be sent to the church, please let myself or Melissa know that it is on its way.

Thank you.

Deb Hamburger

Finance Administrator

## Calendar of Events

### February 13, 2024-February 17, 2024

<b>Tuesday 2/13</b>	10:15am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Congregational Life Committee	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Trustees Meet	Confirmation Room
	6:45pm	Deacons	Anderson Room
<b>Wednesday 2/14</b>	12pm-1pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for the link
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Center Quilting Room
	5-6:45pm	PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> WNL	Various
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	7pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Sanctuary
<b>Thursday 2/15</b>	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	5:30pm	Session Meets	Anderson Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Friday 2/16</b>	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
<b>Saturday 2/17</b>		United Harvest	PEACE Center

### Langenberg Lesson Applications

Langenberg Lesson Applications for Spring 2024 are now available. Parents of students in grades 1-12 may apply for up to \$250 per semester to offset the cost of private music instruction. Applicable areas of study include piano, voice, guitar, or any band/orchestral instrument. Grants are limited to one per child. Parents must be members of First Presbyterian Church and students must be active participants in the church choir/music program. Although grants are renewable, parents **MUST RE-APPLY EACH SEMESTER**. Applications are available in the church office or on the church website and are **DUE APRIL 1, 2024**

## Calendar of Events

### February 18, 2024-February 25, 2024

<b>Sunday 2/18</b>	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Sunday School for all ages	Various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	In-person, Radio, Facebook
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
<b>Monday 2/19</b>		<b>Church Office Closed President's Day</b>	
	1-3pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Pres Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5:30pm	Go & Serve Meeting	Parlor
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
<b>Tuesday 2/20</b>	10:15am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	7-8pm	CCC Dog Obedience Class	PEACE NE Classroom
<b>Wednesday 2/21</b>	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	Parlor
	12-1pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a>
	1:15pm	PW Circle 3	Parlor
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade WNL	Various
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
<b>Thursday 2/22</b>	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Friday 2/23</b>	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Church Basement
<b>Sunday 2/25</b>	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Sunday School for all ages	Various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	in-person, Radio, Facebook
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex





## College Scholarship Applications

are available on  
the church website at  
<https://fpchastings.org/scholarships/>  
or  
in the Church Office

The application and essay are **due  
February 29, 2024**. Completed  
applications can be dropped off at the  
church office or emailed directly to  
[tim@redlinepharmacy.com](mailto:tim@redlinepharmacy.com).

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## Langenberg Lesson Applications

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## February Communion Offering Recipient Special Children's Fund

Special Children's Fund Mission is to:

- Assure that every child is able to receive prompt medical treatment
- Reduce financial stress that families may experience during their child's medical crisis
- Prevent delays in medical care
- Promote family unity during times of medical stress

# WNL Schedule February 14

5:00-5:45 Dinner w/ a table craft/lesson about Ash Wednesday and Valentines Day

5:45-6:05 Music Rotation 1

6:05-6:25 Music Rotation 2

6:25-6:45 Bible time

Done at 6:45 so everyone can get to the 7pm service.

\*There will be NO Rec Time.

The Ash Wednesday service will begin at 7:00pm. Please be prompt in picking up your children so that everyone who wishes to go to the service is able to.



**February 17, 2024**

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

United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry is a joint ministry with First Presbyterian Church & First United Methodist Church. We provide a food distribution to 400+ families.

- If you need food, please come at the time indicated based on the first letter of your last name.
- If you would like to volunteer for this distribution, please come to the church at 9:30am to help us with the distribution.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

# REPENT & BELIEVE

Daily Lenten Scriptures and Prayers  
Feb 15-17



## THURSDAY, FEB 15, MARK 9:30-35

"They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

## PRAYER

At the outset of lent, give me a humble heart, a heart that is willing to admit to my shortcomings and mistakes. A heart longing to grow and change. A heart that seeks to serve others before myself. For these forty days, help me to put aside the part of myself that calls for attention, acknowledgement, and prestige. Help me, O God, to be inspired by Jesus and learn once again what it means to love you and my neighbor. Amen.

## What's so good about lent?

"In lent we hold space for joy and sadness at the same time"

Rose Koepp



**FRIDAY, FEB 16, MARK 9: 42-50**

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

**PRAYER**

I think, O God, that I understand the point Jesus is trying to make, even if it does frighten me a little. I should be willing to remove the parts of myself and of my life that keep me from following your ways. Perhaps during lent, I will discover what those parts may be, but I will need courage, nurture, and wisdom to actually remove them from my habits and routines. I confess, O God, that I sometimes avoid the harsh words, the words that ask me to prune and remove. Help me, gracious Lord, to see the blossom that can emerge from such things. Amen.

**SATURDAY, FEB 17, MARK 10:13-16**

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

**PRAYER**

If the last shall be first, then it makes sense that your kingdom belongs to children. Children have little power, control, or influence over the world. They really are at the mercy of others. They live, learn, and grow by the generosity of those around them. You, O God, ask me to see the world differently. You insist that your kingdom operates by different norms: the last are first, the vulnerable are a treasure. Help me, O God, to see the world the way that you do. Amen.

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