



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

# Home Page Newsletter

### More reflections on the Season of Lent...

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

We are now almost two weeks into the Season of Lent, the six weeks that lead up to Easter when we are invited to reflect, repent, pray, and journey with Jesus to Jerusalem in his final days as we prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week and Easter.

On Sunday 2/18, our Director of Christian Education, Rose Koepp, led the time with children and introduced them to the practice of “Burying our Alleluias” for Lent. This means that from now until Easter, we won’t sing any hymns or say any prayers that use the word “Alleluia.” Here’s how Rose described this practice to our kids:

*Today, we are going to talk about putting something away for a while...*

*This week marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. What does that mean?! We aren’t talking about the dryer lint, or pocket lint, or even belly button lint; we are talking about Lent, spelled LENT, which is what we call the 40 days leading up to Easter Sunday.*

*On Easter Sunday we will have a big celebration because we are excited and happy that Jesus rose from the dead, but for the next 40 days we are going to spend some time being more serious and thoughtful.*

*While we are being serious and thoughtful, we are going to think about why we need Jesus and why Jesus’ death and resurrection are so important to us. Sometimes we make mistakes and we don’t love other people the way that God teaches us to, but God loves us and forgives us. These are the things we want to think about as we prepare our hearts and minds for Easter.*

*To help us be a little more serious and thoughtful, we are going to put something away; we are going to put away our alleluias.*

*Have you heard that word before, ‘Alleluia’? Alleluia is a word we say or sing in church sometimes; it means “Praise the Lord!” It’s a very exciting and happy word. So, if we want to spend Lent being a little bit more serious and thoughtful, we are going to put away the word Alleluia for the next six weeks. So, we aren’t going to sing the song “Glory to God” or any songs that use the word “alleluia” and we won’t say it in our prayers either.*

*Today in Sunday school you were given a butterfly to color. On top of that butterfly is the word ‘Alleluia’. We are going to put all of your Alleluias into this box. Then I’m going to take the box, and I’m going to bury it in the ground. On Easter morning, I’ll dig the box back up and bring back our alleluias! On that day, we’ll say “Christ is Risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!” Because we are glad that Jesus is alive!*



*Continued*

*Let's pray:*

*Dear God, we do not always follow and love you like we want to. Thank you for your love and for this season of Lent where we can experience your grace. Help us wait with eagerness for the time we will raise our Alleluias and celebrate your victory and new life! Amen.*

This week, Rose and I actually took an adventure to the church basement underneath the sanctuary. We buried the box of alleluias under the dirt floor, and they will be resurrected with great joy when we celebrate Easter! You can watch the video of us doing that at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bJUtYYJWKS>

In addition to this practice, I want to remind you of the weekly devotional guide we are publishing during the Season of Lent. Each day provides a scripture and a prayer written by Pastor Damen to reflect on. We are including a paper copy in the bulletin on Sunday, and a digital copy is available on our website at this link: <https://fpchastings.org/devotions/>

I continue to pray that the Season of Lent will be a meaningful time of reflection for each of you.

Your Servant in Christ,



Pastor Greg

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## March Communion Offering

### Central Community College Food Pantry

**The Central Community College Food and Hygiene Pantry provides support for CCC Students. Our hope is to offer products to our students in a time of need, including canned food, boxed meals, breakfast items, hygiene items, and simple recipes.**



The Hastings Food Pantry is in need of boxed dinners...  
Hamburger Helper, Rice Dinners, Macaroni and Cheese, etc.  
(Macaroni and Cheese is an especially big hit!)

Donations can be dropped off in the designated bin in Fellowship Hall.

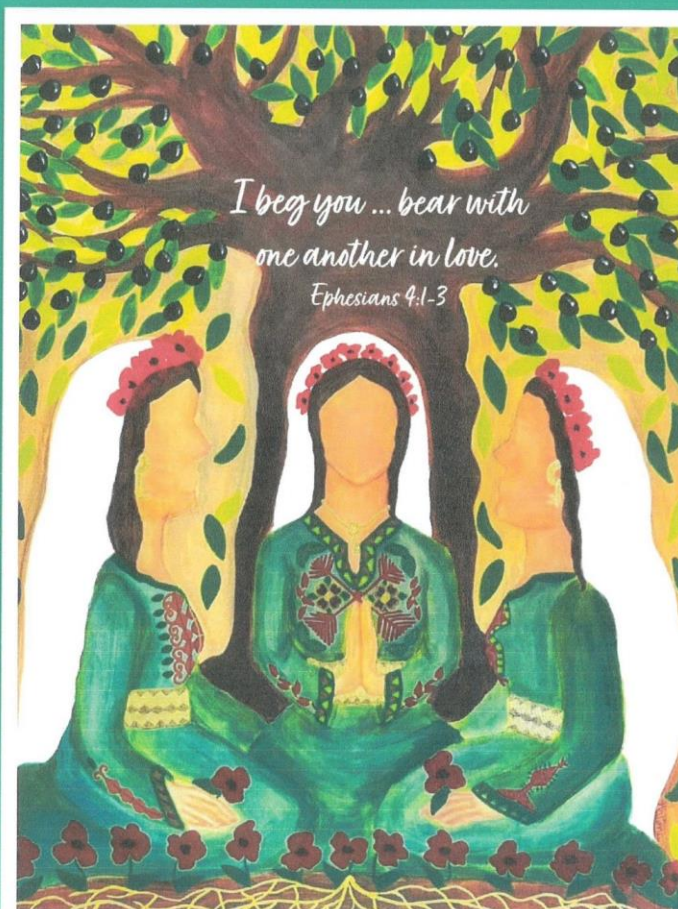
## March Greeters and Ushers

**March Ushers (Team #1)** Captain – Chuck Hastings, Elaine Specht, Kim Creech

### March Greeters

| MARCH          | MEMORIAL ROOM                  | NARTHEX         |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 3              | May & Ira Wierenga             | Katharine Davis |
| 10             | Mary Kay LaMaster, Jean Barber | Melissa Davis   |
| 17             | Cathy & John Pershing          | Mary Fisk       |
| Palm Sunday 24 | Laurie & Brian Johnson         | Stephanie Bliss |
| Easter 31      | Kathy Utter                    | Melissa Davis   |

## World Day of Prayer March 1, 2024



### World Day of Prayer 2024

10 am, Friday, March 1 (Coffee at 9:30 am)  
The Salvation Army, 405 S. Burlington Ave.

**Speaker: Denny Storer**

Prepared by the WDP Committee of Palestine | Published by World Day of Prayer USA  
[www.wdp-usa.org](http://www.wdp-usa.org) | 212.870.2466 | Art by Halima Aziz





## HOUSING FORM

### TABOR COLLEGE/HASTINGS COLLEGE CHOIRS CONCERT

On THURSDAY, MARCH 7<sup>th</sup>, the Hastings College Choir and the Tabor College Choir will combine for an afternoon workshop and present an evening concert in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. **HOUSING IS NEEDED FOR 48 MEMBERS OF THE TABOR COLLEGE CHOIR.** Hosts will meet their guests following the concert, transport their guests to your home, provide a lite breakfast, and transport their guests to the church. Hosts must host a **MINIMUM of TWO MALES OR TWO FEMALES.** *Each student must have their own bed.* **YOUR ASSISTANCE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

HOST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOST ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOST TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

#### STUDENT PREFERENCES:

MALES \_\_\_\_\_

Number you will host (number of beds)

FEMALES \_\_\_\_\_

Number you will host (number of beds)

PETS IN YOUR HOME?? Dog \_\_\_\_\_ Cat \_\_\_\_\_

|                       |          |                                 |   |
|-----------------------|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Tuesday 2/27</b>   | 10:15am  | Staff Meeting                   | In-person   |
|                       | 11:45am  | Habitat for Humanity Board      | Parlor  |
|                       | 12pm     | Bible Study                     | Anderson Room   |
|                       | 7pm      | CCC Dog Obedience               | PEACE NE Classroom  |
| <b>Wednesday 2/28</b> | 12pm     | Noonday Book Club               | <a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link |
|                       | 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 2/29</b>  | 12:30pm  | Dulcimer                        | Lydia Room  |
|                       | 6-8pm    | Mexican Folkloric Dance         | PEACE NE Classroom  |
|                       | 7-8pm    | Cub Scouts                      | Scout Room  |
| <b>Friday 3/1</b>     | 10am     | Mahjong                         | Fellowship Hall   |

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO ROBIN KOOZER AT 1245 TURNER OR E-MAIL TO [rkoozer@hastings.edu](mailto:rkoozer@hastings.edu), OR CALL 402.469.5896 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

|                      |          |  |   |
|----------------------|----------|--|---|
| <b>Sunday 3/3</b>    | 8:30am   | Contemplative Worship Service                    | Chapel  |
|                      | 9:15am   | Sunday School for all ages                       | Various   |
|                      | 10am     | HAW Store Open                                   | Library   |
|                      | 10:30am  | Traditional Worship Service                      | In-person, Facebook, Radio  |
|                      | 11:30am  | HAW Store Open                                   | Library   |
| <b>Monday 3/4</b>    | 1-3pm    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Pres Pickleball                  | PEACE Gym   |
|                      | 1:30pm   | Quilters   | PEACE Quilting Room   |
|                      | 6-8pm    | Mexican Folkloric Dance                          | PEACE NE Classroom  |
|                      | 7-9pm    | Chorus of the Plains                             | Choir Room  |
| <b>Tuesday 3/5</b>   | 10:15am  | Staff Meeting                                    | In-person   |
|                      | 12pm     | Bible Study                                      | Anderson Room   |
|                      | 5:30pm   | United Harvest Board Meeting                     | PEACE NW Classroom  |
|                      | 7pm      | CCC Dog Obedience                                | PEACE NE Classroom  |
| <b>Wednesday 3/6</b> | 11am     | PW Coord Team                                    | Library   |
|                      | 11:45am  | PW Program and Luncheon                          | Fellowship Hall   |
|                      | 12pm     | Noonday Book Club                                | <a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link |
|                      | 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 3/7</b>  | 12:30pm  | Dulcimer   | Lydia Room  |
|                      | 5-9pm    | Tabor College and Hastings College Choir Concert | Sanctuary   |
|                      | 6-8pm    | Mexican Folkloric Dance                          | PEACE NE Classroom  |
|                      | 7-8pm    | Cub Scouts                                       | Scout Room  |
| <b>Friday 3/8</b>    | 10am     | Mahjong  | Fellowship Hall   |
| <b>Sunday 3/10</b>   |          | Daylight Savings Time Begins                     |   |
|                      | 8:30am   | Contemplative Worship Service                    | Chapel  |
|                      |          | NO Sunday School                                 |   |
|                      | 10am     | HAW Store Open                                   | Library   |
|                      | 10:30am  | Traditional Worship Service                      | Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio  |
|                      | 11:30am  | HAW Store Open                                   | Library   |

## 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

Lois Meeske - 1  
 Kade Jorgensen - 1  
 Tony Eddleman - 2  
 Cheryl Lockwood - 2  
 Joan Shaw - 3  
 Kim Hermann - 4  
 Peggy Thompson - 5  
 Audrey Miller - 5  
 Lesa Cropley - 9  
 Evelyn Viglicky - 9  
 Beth Funkey - 10  
 Henry Black - 10  
 Stan Essink - 10  
 Les Seiler - 10  
 Justin Stein - 10  
 Amy Black - 11  
 Phyllis O'Dey - 11  
 Carter Lay - 12  
 Danny Graves - 12



Maggie Nielsen - 12  
 Joshua Brooks - 13  
 Kirk Dielman - 13

Linda Donohue - 15  
 Jennifer Boeve - 15  
 Darlene Payne - 15  
 Kathleen Nelson - 18  
 Bill Boyd - 19  
 Kaela Pumroy - 20  
 Stephanie Adam - 22  
 Dayna Grimmett - 25  
 Hank Little - 26  
 Jenni Welsch - 26  
 Matthew Klug - 26  
 Grace Canady - 27  
 Erik Nielsen - 27  
 Stacey Eddleman - 28  
 Allison Kern - 28  
 Arich Fruehling - 28  
 Maryann Shorey - 31  
 Hannah Jensen-Heitmann - 31  
 Deb Freeburger - 31





# Please pray for

Brad Davis  
Elaine Schumacher  
Dave Schawang  
John Northrop  
Audre Zaroban & family  
Carter Johnson  
Dave Johnson and family  
Tarah Davis & family  
Matt Campbell  
June Nielsen  
Vernon Groves  
Carol Medsker  
Frances Kamler  
Brent Brooks & family  
family of Dave Stewart  
family of Dean Meyer

Pam Canady  
Ashley Ibach  
Virginia Davis & family  
Carl Utley  
Barry Thomson  
Greg Howard  
Ken Fisk  
Everest Beacon (Zabloudil)  
Jim Boeve  
Howard Mathews  
Paul Nuss  
Vicki (Fisk) Nieves  
Dana Odom  
family of Roberta Lloyd  
Bill Beck  
Katharine Davis

# In memory of

Dave Stewart, who passed  
away on 1/30/24  
Dean Meyer, who passed  
away on 2/16/24

Dear Goer & Server!

It's time to commit so we can buy plane tickets to Charlotte, NC for our urban outreach work with Cross Missions (<https://myersparkpres.org/cross/>)! The trip will be July 27-August 3, 2024. We will provide transportation to the airport.

Please send/deliver this form back to the church office with a payment of \$400. Half of this money (\$200) will be returned after you go on the trip (nothing will be returned if we buy you a plane ticket and you do not go). There is no additional cost. If you need assistance with this payment, please contact Damen or Greg.

Questions? Contact Tammie Nowka at 402-469-2440, [nowkat@gmail.com](mailto:nowkat@gmail.com) or Amy Black at 402-469-2968, [ablack1968@gmail.com](mailto:ablack1968@gmail.com).

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RETURN THIS PART TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MARCH 11, 2024:

We need the following information to buy your plane ticket.

Full name as it appears on your ID (must match your official ID like a passport or driver's license if you have one).

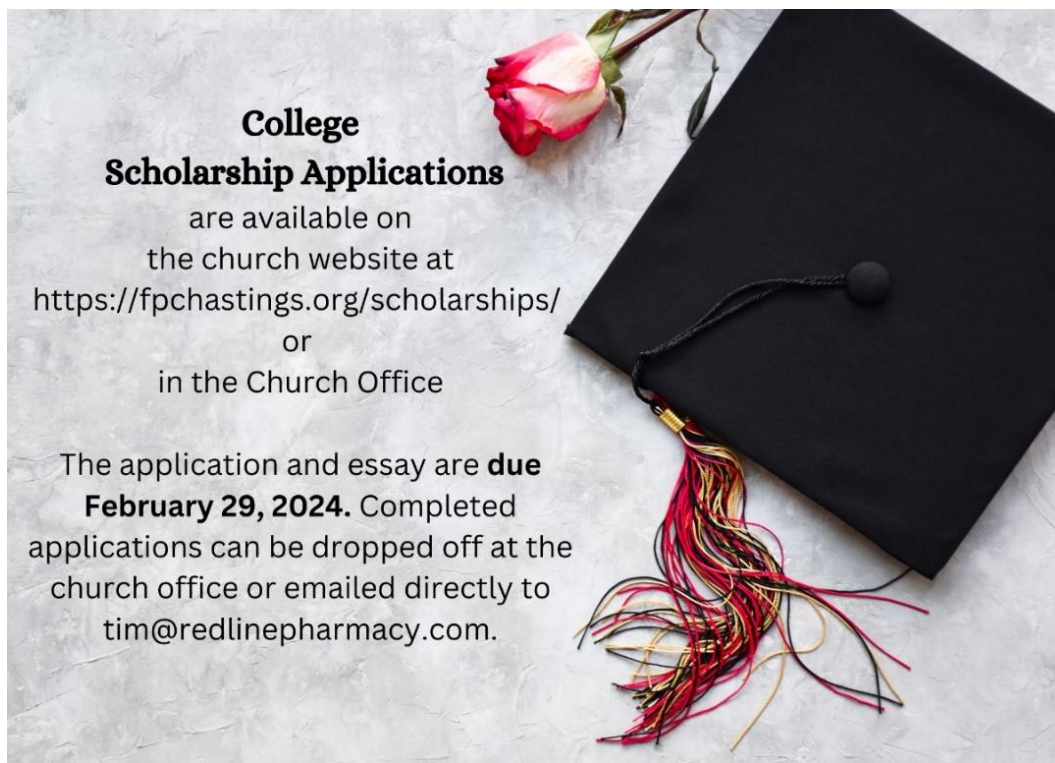
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Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_

Include check for \$400 made payable to First Presbyterian Church with "Go & Serve Trip" in the memo line.

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☐ Check HERE if your child does NOT plan to go on this year's Go & Serve trip and please return this form to the church office so we don't wonder if you missed this letter.



## 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).



## EASTER LILIES 2024

Easter Lilies are \$12 each. Monies raised above the cost will be  
donated to "The Hospice Choir."

Lily in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Lily in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

I will take my Lily home after the Easter Sunday services: ☐ Yes ☐ No

I will leave my Lily at the church: ☐ Yes ☐ No

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## 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**

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

# REPENT & BELIEVE

Daily Lenten Scriptures and Prayers  
Feb 26-March 3



## **MONDAY, FEB 26, MARK 10:46-52**

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

## **PRAYER**

Gracious God, let me see again, for my heart has grown cloudy. Let me see as a child with boundless hope and earnest curiosity. Let me see as an elder with wisdom girded by experience. Let me see as a new believer overflowing with thanksgiving. Let me see as an old stalwart knowing I can rely on you. Clear from my heart the distractions of the world. Let me see you again. Amen.

## **What's so good about lent?**

"Lent is an opportunity to reflect, intentionally, on our need for Jesus"

Greg Allen-Pickett



### TUESDAY, FEB 27, MARK 11:12-16

On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see whether perhaps he would find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it. Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves; and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple.

#### PRAYER

I know, O God, what you have asked me to do. I've studied the scriptures. I've heard the prophets. You've asked me to produce not just fruit, but good fruit. I am one of those who you have called to bring peace, kindness, generosity, mercy, and forgiveness into the world. That is the good fruit you've asked me to make. People are hungry for good fruit. I will do my best to make it. Amen.

### WEDNESDAY, FEB 28, MARK 11:20-25

In the morning as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. Then Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you. So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

"Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."

#### PRAYER

I ask, O God, for forgiveness for the times my callousness has caused pain and destruction for others. I ask for mercy for the moments I've put my wants in front of others' needs. I come to you trembling, with an earnest desire to do right by you and others. Forgive the withering I have caused. Help me to bring about new growth in you. Amen.



**THURSDAY, FEB 29, MARK 11:27B-33**

As he was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him and said, "By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority to do them?" Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin? Answer me." They argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But shall we say, 'Of human origin?'" —they were afraid of the crowd, for all regarded John as truly a prophet. So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

**PRAYER**

There is no shortage of people and institutions that would like to direct my living. I am inundated with requests from companies to adhere to their products and buy their things. News organizations implore me to live life by their priorities. Politicians decree that all is lost unless I follow them. All these things and many more want to assert their authority over me. And yet I desire to swear only to you, to let you be the guiding light in my life. Grant me, O God, a humble heart, strong in your will alone. Amen.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1, MARK 12:1-9**

Then he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others."

**PRAYER**

If I am the vines, then help me make good fruit. If I am the tenant, then help hear your word. If I am the one you sent, then help me to follow your way. Amen.



### SATURDAY, MARCH 2, PSALM 118:21-26

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.  
The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.  
This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.  
This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

### PRAYER

Through the mystery of faith, O God, you gave us Jesus the Christ. He came to us. Lived among us. Knew what it was to be human. He taught. He fed. He healed. He cried. He suffered. He died. Through the mystery of faith, he united us with you. For his birth, life, death, and resurrection, we offer you our thanks and praise. Amen.

## Lenten Sermon Series: *"The Call to Serve"*

2/18, Mark 10:17-21: The Upside-down Kingdom  
2/25, Mark 10:32-52: Not to be served, but to serve  
3/3, Mark 12:1-12: Jesus as the community cornerstone  
3/10, Mark 12:28-44: The greatest commandment  
3/17, Mark 13: The call to be watchful and hopeful  
3/24, Mark 11: Humble yet Triumphant, Palm Sunday

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