



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

# Home Page Newsletter

### The call to serve...

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

During this Season of Lent, we have been studying the gospel of Mark with a sermon series entitled “The Call to Serve.” This is based on Mark 10:45 when Jesus says, *“...Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.”* Damen preached a thoughtful and faithful sermon on this passage two weeks ago which you can watch here: <https://fb.watch/qM6RLV4oDZ/> The sermon begins at 32:45.

Last week I preached on “The Greatest Commandment,” in Mark 12:28-31 when Jesus summarizes all the law and prophets by reminding us to love God with all our being and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This call to love God and neighbor is simple to understand, but not always easy to follow.

This week, we will turn our focus to Mark 9 with a similar teaching of Jesus. We read, *“Jesus sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.’ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’”*

This call to service, love, and to offer welcome to the vulnerable is at the very core of how we practice our faith. This Sunday, 3/17, we will have a special musical offering with a choir and string quartet that will invite us to reflect on that call. It is a piece entitled “To the Hands” written by Caroline Shaw in 2015. She was moved by the refugee crisis in Syria, and the number of displaced refugees around the world.

Some of the lyrics in the music quote and reflect on the poem “The New Colossus” which was written by American poet Emma Lazarus and is found at the base of the Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island, where refugees and immigrants used to arrive in the United States. I’ve been reading and reflecting on that poem this week as my own Lenten practice, and I want to share the poem with you. Close your eyes and imagine boats full of immigrants and refugees arriving in New York Harbor, and picture the Statue of Liberty standing as a beacon of hope for those who arrive and then read this short poem:

continued

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
 With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
 Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
 A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
 Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name:  
 Mother of Exiles.  
 From her beacon-hand Glows world-wide welcome;  
 her mild eyes command  
 The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.*

*"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
 With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
 Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
 The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
 Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
 I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

I'm always on the lookout for theological insight from unusual and different places. This poem reminds me of the clarion call in our faith to offer welcome and hospitality to our neighbors and our strangers, and to remember that Jesus invites us to love and serve one another. May we make this the foundation of our faith, not just during this Season of Lent, but every day.

Your Servant in Christ,



Pastor Greg

## March Greeters and Ushers

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

### Greeters

MARCH	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX
17	Cathy & John Pershing	Mary Fisk
Palm Sunday 24	Laurie & Brian Johnson	Stephanie Bliss
Easter 31	Kathy Utter	Melissa Davis

<b>Tuesday 3/12</b>	10:30am	Staff Meeting	Fairgrounds
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Congregational Life Committee	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Trustees Meet	Confirmation Room
	6:45pm	Deacons Meet	Anderson Room
	7-8pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom
<b>Wednesday 3/13</b>	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
		NO WNL	
	6:30PM	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
<b>Thursday 3/14</b>	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	5pm	Personnel Committee	as needed
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Friday 3/15</b>	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Fellowship Hall
<b>Saturday 3/16</b>		United Harvest	

## 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



### 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

<b>Sunday 3/17</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	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
<b>Monday 3/18</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 Choir Room	Choir Room
<b>Tuesday 3/19</b>	10:15am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	7pm-8pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom
<b>Wednesday 3/20</b>	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	Parlor
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	1:15pm	PW Circle 3	Library
	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 3/21</b>	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	5:30pm	Session Meets	Anderson Room
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Friday 3/22</b>	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Fellowship Hall
<b>Sunday 3/24</b>		Palm Sunday	
	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Sunday School for all ages	various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, Facebook
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library





The American Red Cross and First Presbyterian Church are hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, March 26, from 12pm-6pm. There is a critical need for donated blood. Please consider making an appointment to give blood during this drive. To make an appointment go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), select the drive at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, and make your appointment.



## One Great Hour of Sharing

For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

For more information please visit the link below.

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/story/one-great-hour-of-sharing-brings-hope-and-healing/>

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## 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

# hos·pi·tal·i·ty

/ˌhəspəˈtælədē/

*noun*

1. the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.

*The FPC Worship/Arts/Music Committee extends its appreciation to the following church members and friends for opening their homes to singers, directors, and instrumentalists from the Tabor College Choir during their recent tour and visit to Hastings.*

Sarah and Todd Allen  
John Bohmfalk  
Janet and Gary Brandt  
Dan Deffenbaugh  
Brett Epperson  
Barb Harrington  
Susan and Neal Hoff  
Deb and Byron Jensen  
Pat and Richard Kleiber  
Ann and Robin Koozer

Lynette and Paul Krieger  
Chelsea LeMar  
Jessica Meeske and Todd Pankrantz  
Cathy and John Pershing  
Joan Shaw  
Marnie and Dough Soderquist  
Kili and Justin Wenburg  
Jim Wenburg  
Joy and George White

## Ushers and Greeters

We are need of Ushers and Greeters for the 8:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday. Please let Melissa know if you are able to help out.  
(402-462-5147 or  
[melissa@fpchastings.org](mailto:melissa@fpchastings.org))

Thank You





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.

March 16, 2024		
F, G, H	May park and get number starting at:	9:45 AM
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting at:	10:00 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting at:	10:15 AM
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting at:	10:30 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting at:	10:45 AM
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting at:	11:00 AM
A, B	May park and get number starting at:	11:15 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting at:	11:30 AM

- 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.

## Please pray for

Brad Davis	Pam Canady
Elaine Schumacher	Don Canady
Dave Schawang	Ashley Ibach
John Northrop	Virginia Davis & family
Audre Zaroban & family	Carl Utley
Carter Johnson	Barry Thomson
Dave Johnson and family	Greg Howard
Tarah Davis & family	Ken Fisk
Matt Campbell	Everest Beacon (Zabloudil)
June Nielsen	Jim Boeve
Vernon Groves	Howard Mathews
Carol Medsker	Paul Nuss
Frances Kamler	Vicki (Fisk) Nieves
Brent Brooks & family	Dana Odom
family of Dave Stewart	Bill Beck
family of Dean Meyer	Jill Kramer (death of her brother)
Katharine Davis	

## In memory of

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





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# REPENT & BELIEVE

Daily Lenten Scriptures and Prayers  
March 11-16



## MONDAY, MARCH 11, MARK 13:1-2

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

## PRAYER

The grass withers. The flowers fade. But your word endures forever. Steeples tumble. Doors shudder. But you love abides eternally. Beauty vanishes. Bodies perish. But your grace is unending. Help us, O God, to put our trust and our very selves into the things of eternity. Grant that in this season of lent we may move our minds away from the things that fade and towards your perpetual mercy and calling. Amen.

## AT A GLANCE

### THEMES

- Impermanence
- God's love
- Calling

### SCRIPTURE

- Mark
- Joel
- Isaiah
- Psalms

## What's so good about lent?

"Honesty is key to any relationship. Our relationship with God is no different."

Damen Jensen-Heitmann



**TUESDAY, MARCH 12, MARK 13:9-13**

"As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

**PRAYER**

Jesus asked his disciples to travel a difficult path, and they faced difficult situations. I offer you my thanks, O God, for all of those who offered testimony to you and your vision even in the midst of animosity and persecution. I thank you for those who spoke of love when the world called out for hatred. I thank you for those who cried out for justice when the world demanded segregation. I thank you for those who called for peace when the world sought vengeance. I thank you for those today who ask for sustainability in an ocean of consumption, mutuality in a field of individualism, and understanding in a world of talking heads. Though it may be challenging, help me to offer testimony to you and your kingdom of love and service. Amen.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, JOEL 2:12-14**

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

**PRAYER**

It is a fact that I cannot escape. I have sinned. I do sin. I shall sin. I have ignored your commands. And I can guarantee that at some point I will be uncharitable in my thoughts and deeds. I have not lived up to the standards set by your son. I have not earned your grace, and I will not earn your grace. But still, I will do my best to return to you after every misstep, after every moment when I move away from your heart. Have mercy, O God. Relent and grant your grace once more. Amen.

## REPENT & BELIEVE

### THURSDAY, MARCH 14, ISAIAH 56:6-9

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

### PRAYER

You, O God, have placed a calling upon my heart. You have asked me to be your ambassador. You have asked me to help, as best as I am able, to bring about faith, hope, and love in the world. During this season of lent, help me to find ways to bring about justice, mercy, and kindness. Help me to join in the holy fast that brings redemption to the lives of others. Dust that I am, let me reflect your holiness in the world. Amen.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 15, MARK 13:21-23

And if anyone says to you at that time, 'Look! Here is the Messiah!' or 'Look! There he is!' —do not believe it. False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be alert; I have already told you everything.

### PRAYER

A lot of people and a lot of things pretend to be my savior. But really they just want attention. All they really want is for me to tell them how great they are. They want the crowds. They want the cheers. They want the power. Help me always to remember that your son proclaimed repentance, not prosperity; humility, not pride; and self-sacrifice, not self-aggrandizement. Give me eyes to see and ears to hear those who proclaim and live by such truths. Amen.



## REPENT & BELIEVE

### SATURDAY, MARCH 16, PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

### PRAYER

I am parched, O God. Give me living water. I am lonely, dear Lord. Give me your presence. I am lost. Come and find me. I am adrift. Give me direction. I am overwhelmed. Calm the storms. I am afraid. Hold me in your arms. I have fallen. Lift me. I am your child. Grant me love. Amen.



 [www.facebook.com/fpchastings](https://www.facebook.com/fpchastings)  
(you do not need a Facebook account to view)

Radio broadcast KICS 1550 AM and 92.7 FM

### Palm Sunday, March 24

In-Person Worship at 8:30 & 10:30am  
(10:30am with palms and a joyful procession!)  
10:30am also on radio and Facebook

### Maundy Thursday, March 28

Communion Service at 7:00pm  
In-Person and on Facebook

### Good Friday, March 29

Worship at 7:00pm  
In-Person and on Facebook

### Easter Sunday, March 31

In-Person Worship at 8:30 & 10:30am  
Organ, Choir, Handbells, Cathedral Brass  
10:30am also on radio and Facebook

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