



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

# Home Page Newsletter

### Camp Firelight: A Sparkling Success!

Dear First Presbyterian  
Church Family,

I am thrilled to share a heartwarming recap of our recent Vacation Bible School (VBS), held from June 24-27. This year's program, "Camp Firelight," brought the joyous spirit of summer camp to life, filling our church with laughter, learning, and the light of Christ.



We were blessed to host over 50 children and youth, including 40 eager participants and 10 dedicated middle school and high school volunteers. Their enthusiasm and energy truly made Camp Firelight a shining beacon of faith and fellowship.

Our 23 amazing volunteers were the backbone of this event. Their dedication, time, and unwavering commitment to

sharing the love of Christ made every moment possible. We are deeply grateful for each of them.

Every day began and ended with a lively assembly hosted by Pastor Greg, our charismatic "camp counselor," and Vivian Fong, our talented youth volunteer who brought our delightful firefly puppet, "Lu," to life. Their dynamic duo set a joyful tone and left us all with smiles and inspired hearts.



*Continued*



Pastor Damen and Teresa Canady led us in spirited music sessions, where the children sang and danced with joy, learning songs that reinforced our theme: **"Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in God" (Psalm 56:3)**. This theme echoed through all our activities and lessons, helping the children grow in their faith and trust in God.



Each day, we focused on a different Bible story that illustrated how we can trust God in various aspects of our lives:

Monday: Naomi and Ruth & Jacob's Ladder - Trust God to go with us and lead the way.

Tuesday: Jesus as a Boy in the Temple - Trust God to share wisdom.

Wednesday: Jesus Calms the Seas - Trust God to give us peace.

Thursday: Philip Baptizes the Ethiopian Eunuch - Trust God to spark joy.



The children engaged in crafts, games, and discussions that brought these stories to life, helping them to see how trust in God can transform their lives. The joy and understanding that shone in their eyes were truly heartwarming.



As we reflect on the blessings of Camp Firelight, we are reminded of the incredible community we have within our church. It is my prayer that the love, support, and shared faith we experienced during VBS will continue to illuminate our paths as we move forward together.

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and supported Camp Firelight. Your contributions made this year's Vacation Bible School an unforgettable success!

In Christ's Love,

Rose Koepp, Director of Christian Education





# Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher

Dave Schawang

John Northrop

Carter Johnson

Tarah Davis & family

Matt Campbell

June Nielsen

Bob Wolf

Carol Medsker

Frances Kamler

Jeni Howard

Katharine Davis

Pam Canady

family of Frank Medsker

family of Shirley Gass

Candice Unger

Ashley Ibach

Carl Utley

Barry Thomson

Greg Howard

Ken Fisk

Marcia Hogan & family

Everest Beacon (Zabloudil)

Jim Boeve

Howard Mathews

Vicki (Fisk) Nieves

Dana Odom

family of Dr. Bill Beck

Kathy Amyot

Monte Malouf

David Hauch

KyMani Riek

## In memory of

Shirley Gass, who passed  
away on 5/7/24

Dr. Bill Beck, who passed  
away on 6/10/24

Frank Medsker, who passed  
away on 6/12/24

FPC PRESENTS  
**ELEMENTARY  
MOVIE CLUB**  
**5-7PM**

In-coming Kindergarteners - 5th  
graders are invited to join us for a  
monthly movie showing and related  
Bible lesson.



**FREE  
EVENT**

**JUNE 2**

**JULY 7**

**AUG 4**

**PIZZA AND POPCORN WILL BE PROVIDED**

THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

FOR QUESTIONS, CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (402) 462-5147

## **CAR SHOW** to support

Hastings Middle School  
Shoe Closet



Root  
Beer  
Floats



Wednesday  
July 10, 2024

All Makes & Models Welcome  
Show 6:00p-9:00p

*Freewill Donations for  
car entries and floats*

Hosted by

621 N Lincoln Ave, Hastings



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The First Presbyterian Church Hastings Relay for Life team donated \$1060 for this year's charity toward American Cancer Society. The many names of cancer affected friends and family members were on luminaries at the Relay for Life celebration June 7 at Kearney's Central NE Relay for Life and in our sanctuary Sundays June 9 and June 16.

Our team also raised \$86 from the online silent auction for American Cancer Society.

Thank you from the team members for supporting in the fight against cancer.

Our loved ones are our focus.

Dedicated luminaries were:

### **In Honor Of**

Sarah Allen  
Amy  
Louise Amyot  
Rob Amyot  
Jim Boeve  
Sharon Boschen  
Anne Chambers  
Cindy  
Bill Coyle  
Steve Crisman  
Trisha Dietrich  
Jeanene Dodge  
Gail Dreher  
Polly Feis  
Christian Fruehling  
Sarah Fruehling  
Nancy Grams  
Chris Hand  
Jeri Haussler  
Charles Hermes  
Carolyn Houser  
Greg Howard  
Jeff Howard  
Nan Huey  
Byron Jensen  
Carter Johnson  
Tim Johnson

Ty Johnson  
Mary Lewis  
Ginny Locke  
Will Locke  
Dwight Marsh  
Martha, Leilana,  
Shirley  
Victoria Nieves  
Dana Odom  
Char Parr  
Mary Plock  
Marie Rasmussen  
Helen Schnackenberg  
Bev Stein  
Carol Storer  
Joan Unger  
Carl Utley  
Becky Van de Bogart  
Linda Vollweiler

### **In Memory Of**

Jeanette Adrian  
Tam Babcock  
Pam Bahmfalk  
Alice Baum  
Erin Briggs  
Don Canady  
Dave Cunningham  
Jack Dodge

Keith Dreher  
Molly Gleason  
Nancy Goodrich  
Paul Goodrich  
Dorothy Graham  
Larry Graham  
Michael Graham  
Bernice Kleiber  
Vernon Kooy  
Mike Lind  
Darrel Lloyd  
Toni Mays  
Ruth Mc Kelvie  
Andrew Murray  
Edna Nelson  
Kathy Neveln  
Rich Portwood  
Richard Reimer  
Marilyn Sachtleben  
Julie Soderquist  
Don Schnackenberg  
Hattie Tolle  
Bernie Tushaus  
Rick Waltemath  
Rogene Wenburg  
Roger Williams  
Matt Witt  
Dee Yost



# US-Mexico Border Music and Mission Trip



**October 16-21, 2024**

Please join us as we help Frontera de Cristo celebrate their 40th Anniversary as a Presbyterian Border Ministry.

The cost of the trip is \$200 per person and includes transportation via a charter bus, lodging and food for the trip.



**Frontera  
de  
Cristo**



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If you are interested please call the church office at 402-462-5147 or scan the QR code and fill out the form to let us know of your interest.

## July Ushers and Greeters

**July Ushers (Team #5)** Captain – Ken Stein, Matt Fong, Julie Thomsen

JULY GREETERS	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX
7	Jan Bolliger, Kay Georgiana	Melissa Davis, Erin Gastmann
14	Amy & Joe Black	Jan Bolliger
21	C.L. & Sandra Wimer	Lesla & Steve Cropley
28	Jan Ham	Jenna Jorgensen

The Noonday Book Group will begin a new study on Wednesday, July 10 at, indeed, noon! The new book is *Unbelievable* by John Shelby Spong. Please contact Sharon Brooks at [sbbrooks52@gmail.com](mailto:sbbrooks52@gmail.com) for the link to our online gathering.

All sessions are recorded and offered online for later viewing.



# July Communion Offering

## Crane Trust

### History

The Crane Trust, Inc. was formed in 1978 as part of a court-approved settlement of a controversy over the construction of Grayrocks Dam on a tributary of the Platte River in Wyoming. The state of Nebraska and the National Wildlife Federation objected to the project, claiming it would jeopardize irrigation and wildlife downstream in Nebraska. The settlement satisfied requirements of the Endangered Species Act and allowed the Missouri Basin Power Project, owners of Grayrocks, to complete construction. The Crane Trust was funded by a payment from the Missouri Basin Power Project. The Trust is administered by three trustees who are appointed by the three participants in the settlement.

In 2012, the Crane Trust acquired the Nebraska Nature & Visitor Center to help fulfill its mission by providing a more active gateway and resource for community outreach and education.

The Crane Trust continues our efforts, as we have done for nearly fifty years, to protect and maintain this vital habitat for the cranes that have been coming here for thousands of years.

### Mission

Through land management, scientific research, and education, our mission is to protect and maintain the physical, hydrological and biological integrity of the Big Bend area of the Platte River so that it continues to function as a life support system for whooping cranes, sandhill cranes and other migratory bird species.



**American  
Red Cross**

The American Red Cross and First Presbyterian Church are hosting a blood drive on Thursday, July 11, 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.



## July Means Open Table at FPC

### Open Table 2024

#### Sack Lunch Program

***One sack lunch, per person, per day, no questions asked.***

Join our congregation in fellowship and service as we celebrate our 21<sup>st</sup> year of support for the Open Table Sack Lunch Program. For those of you that are new to our church or community, the Open Table Sack Lunch Program is a community wide program providing free daily sack lunches Monday through Friday from 1:00 to 5:00 pm which are distributed from the Catholic Social Services Office.

Beginning Sunday, July 14, we will be assembling 1,400 lunches a week during the last three Sundays of July in Fellowship Hall preceding or immediately following both Sunday worship services. In addition to Sunday morning assembly, we need drivers to transport sandwiches and sacks to Catholic Social Services when we finish on Sunday. This tradition in our church has been a blessing for the people receiving the lunches, and the people preparing them. We have continuously supported this community wide program every July since its inception.

<b>Tuesday 7/2</b>	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	United Harvest Board Meeting	PEACE NW Classroom
<b>Wednesday 7/3</b>	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6:30pm-9pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
<b>Thursday 7/4</b>		Church Office Closed- Independence Day	
<b>Friday 7/5</b>	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Fellowship Hall



**Coming Soon**  
*Worship in the Park*

**July 7      July 28**  
**July 14    August 4**  
**July 21    August 11**  
**August 18**

**9:00 a.m.**  
**Alexander Park**

Please bring your lawn chair

All are welcome!





<b>Sunday 7/7</b>	9am	Worship in the Park	Alexander Park
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	5pm-7pm	Elementary Movie Club	Fellowship Hall
<b>Monday 7/8</b>	1-3pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Pres Church 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 7/9</b>	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
<b>Wednesday 7/10</b>	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for the link
	6-9pm	Car Show	Parking Lot
	6:30pm-9pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
<b>Thursday 7/11</b>	12pm	Red Cross Blood Drive	Fellowship Hall
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	3-5pm	Youth Group Game Time	Lydia Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Friday 7/12</b>	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Lydia Room
<b>Sunday 7/14</b>	8:30am	Open Table Early Bird Set Up	Fellowship Hall
	9am	Church in the Park	Alexander Park
	9:45am-10:15am	Open Table Meal Packing	Fellowship Hall
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am-?	Open Table Meal Packing	Fellowship Hall
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**TAILGATE**

**HASTINGS SODBUSTERS**

Sunday, July 28  
 5:30pm cookout at Harms Park  
 6:35pm first pitch @ Duncan Field  
 \$5.00/ticket (includes meal)  
 Tickets available at church starting July 7 and in the office

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