



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

# Home Page Newsletter

### **Building the Beloved Community in an age of polarization**

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

As we enter the fall season, we will embark on a new sermon series and adult education opportunities that seek to address one of the most pressing issues of our time: polarization. Our five-week series, titled "Building a Beloved Community in an Age of Polarization," will explore how the stories of the Old Testament, our belief in Jesus Christ, and our faith can guide us in becoming builders of the beloved community—a community grounded in love, justice, and unity, even amidst deep divisions.

#### ***Sermon Series Overview***

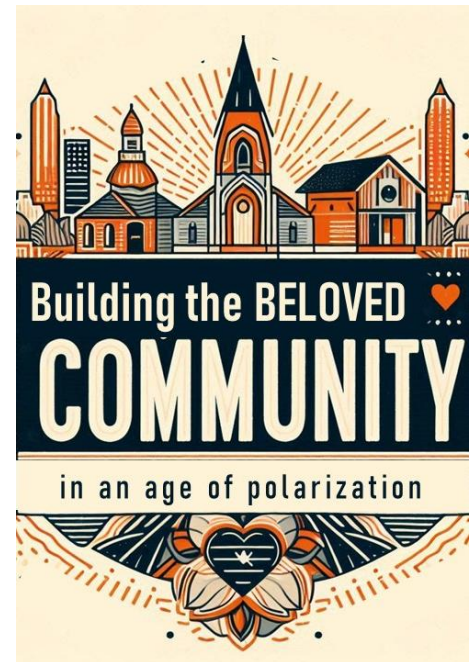
Over five weeks from September 15 to October 13, we will delve into the rich narratives of the Old Testament, discovering timeless truths about God's call to justice, mercy, and love for all people. These stories, combined with the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, will provide us with the spiritual tools we need to bridge divides, foster understanding, and work towards a community where everyone is valued and respected.

Each Sunday's sermon will focus on different aspects of community building including: focusing on hope over fear, our call to humility and forgiveness, how we are set apart as followers of Christ, and our call to love. We will draw upon biblical wisdom to offer practical insights for our lives today. We invite you to join us for worship as we explore these important themes together.

#### ***Opportunities for Deeper Engagement***

In addition to our Sunday sermons, we are offering several ways for you to engage more deeply with these topics throughout the week:

- **Conversation at Steeple Brewery:** Join us on Monday nights at 7 pm for casual conversations as we reflect on the sermon and share our thoughts on building community in today's world.



Continued

- Tuesday Noon Bible Study: Gather with us on Tuesdays at noon as we dive into the Bible, exploring the connections between the ancient text and our modern challenges.
- Wednesday Noon Book Group: On Wednesdays at noon, we'll meet to discuss a selected book that complements our sermon series, offering new perspectives and insights.
- Sunday Morning Adult Education Forum: Each Sunday morning, before worship, join us for a forum where we will engage in thoughtful discussion on the week's theme with our scholar in residence, Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh.
- Sunday Morning "Heirs Apparent" Adult Bible Study Class: This class will provide an opportunity for an in-depth study of the themes related to our series, helping us apply the lessons to our lives.

***The "After Party" Curriculum***

All of these groups will be utilizing the "After Party" curriculum, which is designed to help us think critically and engage thoughtfully with the themes of polarization and community building. This curriculum offers a structured way to discuss how we can move beyond division and towards unity in Christ. You can learn more about the curriculum by clicking here: <https://redeemingbabel.org/the-after-party/>

We are looking forward to this journey together as we seek to become a beloved community that reflects God's love in a polarized world. Let us commit to growing in faith, understanding, and love as we navigate these challenging times together.

Your servant in Christ,



Pastor Greg

**September Ushers & Greeters**

**SEPTEMBER USHERS (Team #1)** Captain – Chuck Hastings, Elaine Specht, Kim Creech

SEPTEMBER GREETERS	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX
1	Stephanie Bliss, Sue Medsker	Bonnie & Kenton Grams
8	Jeni & George Howard	Clyde Sachtleben, Carolyn Nowka
15	Gayle Fandry	Flossie Sanderson
22	Dixie & Gale McDonald	Melissa Davis
29	Jan Bolliger	Susan Hoff

## *Please pray for*

Elaine Schumacher	Ashley Ibach	Pam Canady
John Northrop	Carl Utley	Candice Unger
Carter Johnson	Barry Thomson	David Hauch
Tarah Davis & family	Greg Howard	Monte Malouf
Matt Campbell	Ken Fisk	Darcie (McDonald) Brink
Bob Wolf	Marcia Hogan & family	Jim Boeve
KyMani Riek	Everest Beacon (Zabloudil)	Howard Mathews
Frances Kamler	family of Dave Schawang	Vicki (Fisk) Nieves
Jeni Howard	family of Frank & Carol Medsker	Kathy Amyot

## *In memory of*

Vernon Groves, who passed away on 7/10/24  
Carol Medsker, who passed away on 7/15/24  
Dave Schawang, who passed away on 8/18/24

## **US-Mexico Border Music and Mission Trip**

**Frontera  
de  
Cristo**



**October 16-21, 2024**

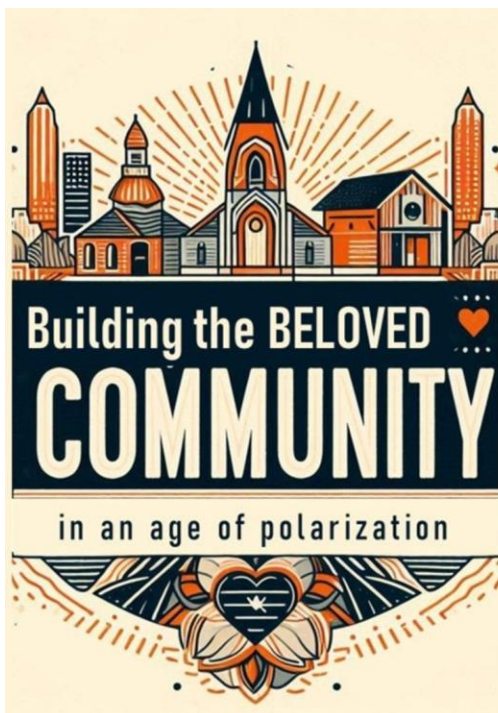
Please join us as we help Frontera de Cristo celebrate their 40th Anniversary as a Presbyterian Border Ministry.



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

**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.**





Putting our faith before our politics.  
 Building the beloved community amid polarization.  
 Beginning Sunday, Sept 15 please join in conversation  
 during this 5 week study.

*Sunday Worship*

8:30 & 10:30  
 Sept. 15, 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13

*Bible Study*

Tuesdays @ Noon  
 Sept. 17, 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15

*Book Club*

Wednesdays @ Noon  
 Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16

*Adult Forum &  
 Heirs Apparent*

Sept. 15, 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13

*Conversation @ Steeple Brewing Company*

7 p.m. - Sept. 16, 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14

<b>Sunday 8/25</b>	9:15am-10:15am	Sunday School Kickoff	Fellowship Hall
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	11:30am	Go & Serve Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
<b>Monday 8/26</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 Rehearsal	Choir Room
<b>Tuesday 8/27</b>	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	11:45am	Habitat for Humanity Board	PEACE NW Classroom
	12pm-1pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
<b>Wednesday 8/28</b>	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells Rehearsal	Bell Room
<b>Thursday 8/29</b>	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Friday 8/30</b>	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Lydia Room
<b>Sunday 9/1</b>	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library

<b>Monday 9/2</b>		Labor Day - Church Offices Closed	
<b>Tuesday 9/3</b>	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	United Harvest Board Meeting	PEACE NW Classroom
	6-7:30pm	WAM Meeting	Anderson Room
<b>Wednesday 9/4</b>	11am	PW Coord. Team Meeting	
	11:45am	PW Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a>
	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 9/5</b>	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Global Mission Committee Meeting	PEACE NW Classroom
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Friday 9/6</b>	10am	Mahjong	Lydia Room
<b>Sunday 9/8</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
	11:30am	Ice Cream Social	Fellowship Hall



# September Communion Offering



Our Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.

Thank you for your participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!



The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.




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**WAYS TO GIVE**

  
Through your congregation

  
Donate by credit card online at [pcusa.org/peace-global](https://pcusa.org/peace-global)

  
Text PCUSAPEACE to 41444 or scan this QR code for more information.



COVER: SOWER OF THE SEEDS - ANNELI ANDERSON - STUDIOANNELI.COM





## Exciting News: New restrooms off the sanctuary now open!

We are pleased to announce that the new restrooms off the sanctuary are now open for use. These are *family restrooms*, meaning they are single-seat restrooms with locking doors that can be used by anyone, just like the bathrooms in our houses. This design is the industry standard for new restrooms, for example you will see all of the public restrooms at the College View Retirement Community are this way.

These family restrooms provide added flexibility and convenience, especially for those assisting loved ones with dementia, mobility issues, or for parents helping young children. We hope these new facilities will enhance the sense of welcome at our church for our members and the community.

By September 8, the former women's restroom off the sanctuary will be converted into a "Wiggle Room" for families with small children that will also include one additional single seat family restroom with a locking door and a changing table.

We will also be updating the restrooms behind the fellowship hall with new flooring, tile, and fixtures. Those will continue to be a *Men's Room* and a *Women's Room*.



## THANK YOU

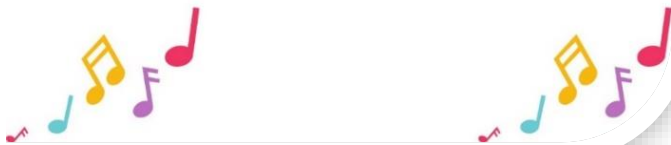
A big THANK YOU! to students in the Langenberg Lesson Program who provided special music for summer worship.

Peyton Mitchell

Laura Kate Oliver  
Henry Black  
Madelyn Koepf  
Truman Welsch  
Wilson Welsch  
Raegan Welsch  
Rory Stout  
Jaxen Mitchell

Lincoln Welsch  
Meredith Oliver  
Caleb Schukei  
Esther Allen-Pickett  
Vivian Fong  
Peter Ratzlaff  
Jacob Shin  
Charlie Stout

In appreciation,  
The Worship, Arts, and Music Committee



## Ice Cream Social

Sunday,  
September 8

11:30a.m.

Fellowship Hall



## Cub Scout Open House

Pack 200 Cub Scouts will be holding an open house on August 29 at 7 p.m. for any children in Kindergarten through 5th grade and their adult partners that are interested in joining.

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