



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Home Page Newsletter

Building the beloved community together

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

This summer, as I was planning out my sermon themes for the year, I felt a nudge of the Holy Spirit to seek to address some of the polarization we are facing as a community and a nation. I put together a sermon series entitled “Building the Beloved Community in an age of polarization.” For seven weeks, we will be reflecting on these themes in our preaching, our worship, and in small groups, which we hope you will consider joining. Here are links to the first two sermons in the series if you missed them or would like to watch them again:

9/1/24: They’ll know we are Christians by our love: <https://bit.ly/BCSermon1>

9/8/24: Bearing the image of God: <https://bit.ly/BCSermon2>

During this season, I want to provide some additional reflections on these themes in my newsletter articles as well. As we journey through life, one of the most profound truths of our faith is found in the opening pages of the Bible. Genesis 1:26-31 reminds us that we are created in the image of God — the *imago Dei*. But what does this mean for us today, especially in an age where division and polarization often define our interactions?

This foundational belief shapes our relationships with God, one another, and the world. Being made in God's image is not merely about physical likeness or intelligence but about embodying the very nature of God. And at the heart of God's nature is love, as 1 John 4:8 tells us, “God is love.”

To bear God's image is to reflect God's love in everything we do. We are called to love sacrificially, selflessly, and without conditions. This kind of love is radical, especially in today's polarized world. Yet, it is our calling as followers of Christ.

Recognizing the image of God in others transforms our relationships. Whether we’re looking at a friend, a stranger, or someone whose views differ from ours, we are called to see them as bearers of God's image. Imagine how our communities would change if we all interacted with one another through this lens — recognizing the divine in everyone. Even in the midst of disagreement, God’s image remains.

We recognize that the image of God is love, and we are called to be a reflection of that love in the world. But is not merely enough for us to reflect love, we have to put that love

Continued

in action. Two weeks ago, we studied the epistle of James where we were challenged to be "doers of the word, and not merely hearers." Our faith must be expressed in action, particularly through love. Love is central to our identity as Christians, and as Jesus commanded in John 13:34-35, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Throughout history, Christians have stood out because of their love in action. From the early church caring for the sick during plagues to believers today serving their communities, it is this love that sets us apart. We are reminded that our faith is not just about words, but about living out God's love in real, tangible ways.

As we navigate a world of divisions, we are called to build a beloved community, a term popularized by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is a vision of a world where all people are cared for, free from poverty, hate, and division. Here at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, we believe that by embracing our identity as image-bearers of God and living out Christ's love, we can be part of this transformative work.

Let us move forward together through the coming months, bearing the image of God and embodying God's love in our actions, words, and relationships.

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
15	Gayle Fandry	Flossie Sanderson
22	Dixie & Gale McDonald	Melissa Davis
29	Jan Bolliger	Susan Hoff

Please pray for

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



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



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*.



Wanted: Participants for Melody Roundup Parade

When: September 28, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Where: Beautiful Downtown Hastings

Decorate your bike! Decorate the stroller! Wear your walking shoes! Join First Presbyterian Church in participating in the Melody Roundup Parade to support Hastings College and our community.

Please RSVP to the church office by September 20th so we know how many will be participating.

LANGENBERG LESSON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM was established to encourage the youth of our church in their musical pursuits through the generosity of the late Luella Langenberg.

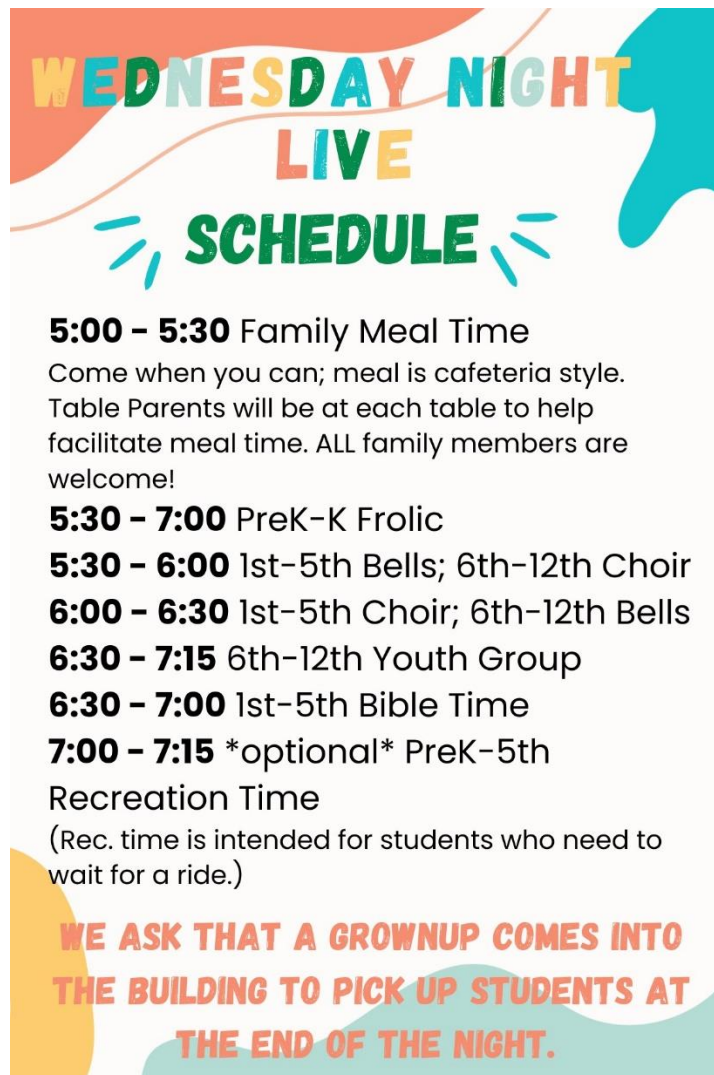
- Parents of students in grades 1-12 may apply for up to \$250 per semester to offset the cost of private music instruction. Grants are limited to one per child.
 - Areas of study include piano, voice, guitar, or any band/orchestral instrument.
 - Parents must be members of First Presbyterian Church, and students must be active participants in the church choir/music program.
- Application forms are available in the church office and on the church website.

- *DEADLINE FOR THE Fall 2024 GRANT PROGRAM IS November 1, 2024.*
- GRANTS ARE RENEWABLE; PARENTS MUST RE-APPLY EACH SEMESTER.

Applications are available on the shelf outside the Church Offices or on the Church website at:

<https://fpchastings.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Langenberg-form-Fall-2024.pdf>





WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE SCHEDULE

5:00 – 5:30 Family Meal Time
Come when you can; meal is cafeteria style.
Table Parents will be at each table to help
facilitate meal time. ALL family members are
welcome!

5:30 – 7:00 PreK-K Frolic

5:30 – 6:00 1st-5th Bells; 6th-12th Choir

6:00 – 6:30 1st-5th Choir; 6th-12th Bells

6:30 – 7:15 6th-12th Youth Group

6:30 – 7:00 1st-5th Bible Time

**7:00 – 7:15 *optional* PreK-5th
Recreation Time**
(Rec. time is intended for students who need to
wait for a ride.)

**WE ASK THAT A GROWNUP COMES INTO
THE BUILDING TO PICK UP STUDENTS AT
THE END OF THE NIGHT.**

Tuesday 9/10	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm-6pm	Red Cross Blood Drive	Fellowship Hall
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Trustees Meet	Confirmation Room
	5:30pm	Congregational Life Meets	Anderson Room
	6:45pm	Deacons Meet	Anderson Room
Wednesday 9/11	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	Various
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells Rehearsal	Bell Room
Thursday 9/12	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 9/13	10am	Mahjong	TBD

Sunday 9/15	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
Monday 9/16	1-3pm	1 st Pres Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm-3:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5:30pm	Go & Serve Meeting	
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	"Building the Beloved Community in an age of polarization" conversation	Steeple Brewing
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room
Tuesday 9/17	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	7-8pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom
Wednesday 9/18	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	TBD
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	1:15pm	PW Circle 3	TBD
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	various
	6:30pm	Woodcarver's	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells Rehearsal	Bell Room
Thursday 9/19	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Session Meets	Anderson Room
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 9/20	10am	Mahjong	TBD
Saturday 9/21		United Harvest	
Sunday 9/22	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Sunday School for all ages	Various
	10:00am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	In-person, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library

Thankyou

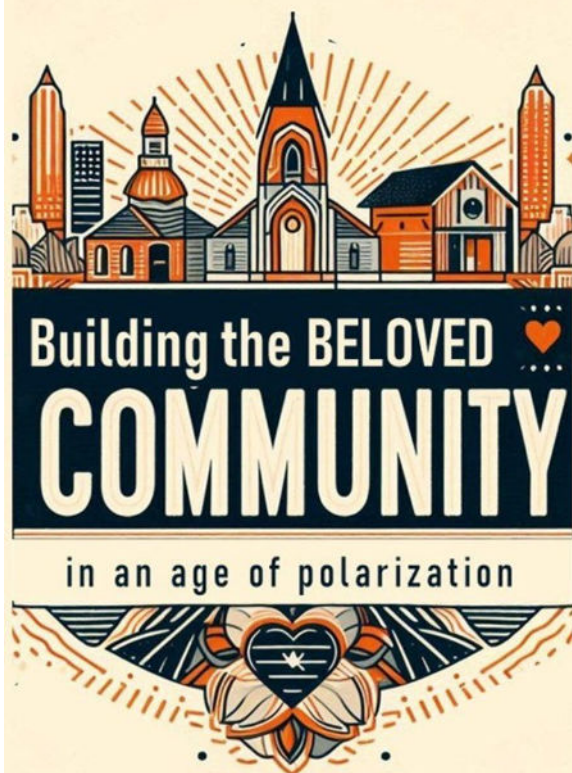
I would like to thank the amazing office volunteers that come in and help with mailings and help cover the office when I am away. I would also like to thank my amazing co-workers, who also help out in my absence. I appreciate you all very much!

In Christ,
Melissa

Congratulations!



Jeni Howard was chosen by Church Women United to receive its Human Rights Award at its celebration on September 6. She was chosen because of her organizing Open Table, United Harvest, and for many other church related and community deeds, giving her love and generosity. Congratulations Jeni!



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

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.

September 21, 2024		
A, B	May park and get number starting at:	9:45 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting at:	10:00 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting at:	10:15 AM
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting at:	10:30 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting at:	10:45 AM
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting at:	11:00 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting at:	11:15 AM
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting at:	11:30 AM

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