



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

# Home Page Newsletter

### Eschewing idols and leaning into love

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

We are on the last week of our sermon and adult education series, "Building the Beloved Community in an Age of Polarization." We have spent the last month reflecting on the call to live faithfully amidst division, drawing lessons from the biblical stories we've explored in worship and in our adult ed classes and discussion groups. Our world, much like the biblical world, is rife with competing loyalties, fear, and unrest. Yet, Scripture offers us guidance on how to navigate this polarized landscape, calling us to resist idolatry and embrace the true freedom found in Christ—a freedom defined by love, service, and unity.

On Sunday, we addressed the danger of idolatry. In Exodus 32, the Israelites, fearing Moses' prolonged absence, crafted a golden calf to worship. Though it might seem like a distant and irrelevant story, the pull toward idolatry is just as real today. Instead of golden calves, our idols may take the form of wealth, power, and political allegiances. In our sermon on October 6th, we explored how political factions and personal grievances can become modern-day idols, pulling us away from God and dividing us from one another. These idols are exacerbated by cable news networks and social media, and they destroy the beloved community, tempting us to demonize those we disagree with rather than seeing the image of God in everyone.

We reflected that Paul's letter to the Galatians offers us another vision—one where freedom is not about pursuing individual desires but about love. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:13, "Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another." True freedom is relational; it calls us to love and serve our neighbor, not retreat into self-serving autonomy. In a world that encourages division, we are called to a freedom that empowers us to resist the forces that seek to fracture our communities.

A week earlier, we reflected on what it means to be set apart as God's people. In Exodus, the Israelites are set apart by the blood of the lamb during the Passover, marking their homes as belonging to God. Yet, they are not called to escape the world but to live faithfully within it, trusting God's redemption. Similarly, 1 Peter calls us to be "living stones," building a spiritual house centered on Christ, the cornerstone. Our identity as Christians is rooted in our connection to one another and our shared purpose of proclaiming God's love. Our behavior of love and compassion towards all, even those we disagree with, should make us "set apart" as disciples of Jesus Christ in today's polarized and broken world.

Continued

This series has reminded us that building the beloved community requires intentionality and faith. We must reject the idols that divide us and live into the freedom that unites us in love. As we move forward together, may we continue to embrace our calling to be set apart, not in isolation, but as agents of God's reconciling love in the world.

Our sermon and adult education series continues for one more week. We hope you will join us in worship on Sunday, October 13, as Rev. Bill Nottage-Tacey concludes the sermon series with a sermon entitled, "A People of Ultimate Hope Living in a Pen-ultimate World." This sermon will reflect on the trial of Jesus in John 18 and The Barmen Declaration, a confessional statement in our Presbyterian Book of Confessions that was written

My hope and prayer is that the study and reflection we have done in the last month empowers us to go forth, guided by Christ's love, committed to building a community where division gives way to unity, and where all are welcomed and valued as beloved children of God.

Your Servant in Christ,



Pastor Greg

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### USHERS AND GREETERS

**OCTOBER USHERS (Team #2)** Captain – Duane Huber, Steve Illingworth, Daveta Brader, Lois Hafer, Dick Brader

OCTOBER GREETERS	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX
13	Kathy Utter, Kim Creech	Laurie & Brian Johnson
20	Kathy & Curtis Reimer	Carolyn & Rich McKenzie
27	Marnie & Doug Soderquist	C.L. & Sandra Wimer



## CROP Hunger Walk



Church Women United of the Hastings area is announcing this year's CROP Hunger Walk scheduled for Sunday, October 13, 2024, at 2pm, at Lake Hastings. The walk will raise funds to help Church World Service stop hunger both locally and globally.

Twenty-five percent of the proceeds collected from the walk will come back to us and serve Open Table. To register, start a team, join a team, and/or donate online go to [crophungerwalk.org](http://crophungerwalk.org) or donate in our church office.

We are honoring the late Frank Medsker and his family. Frank participated each year since CROP Hunger Walk started and donated his age in dollars. Help us to honor Frank's memory by walking and donating for him.

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*Pastor  
Appreciation  
Month*

THANK YOU  
PASTOR GREG AND  
PASTOR DAMEN  
FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR OUR  
CONGREGATION

**FPC**  
POTLUCK

**Rescheduled Date**  
**October 13**  
**following 10:30**  
**worship service**

Congregation asked to bring food items based on  
the first letter of their last name:

**A-G** Dessert

**H-M** Salad or Veggie

**N-Z** Main Dish

# October Communion Offering



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



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.

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

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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.



## 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.



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## 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*.

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### CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSETS??



The First Presbyterian Church  
would love to receive your gently  
used winter coats for our coat drive  
that

will be held on October 19.  
Coats of all sizes are needed for  
Men, Women and Children.  
(Adult XL and XXL are in high need)

Donations are being accepted  
at these Hastings locations:  
First Presbyterian Church,  
Pershing Orthodontics.  
Thank you in advance!!


**Langenberg Lesson Scholarship 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> The deadline is November 1, 2024.



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.

<b>Sunday Worship</b> 8:30 & 10:30 Sept. 15, 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13	<b>Book Club</b> Wednesdays @ Noon Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16
<b>Bible Study</b> Tuesdays @ Noon Sept. 17, 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15	<b>Adult Forum &amp; Heirs Apparent</b> Sept. 15, 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13

**Conversation @ Steeple Brewing Company**  
7 p.m. - Sept. 16, 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14



Dear Friends of Calvin Crest,  
We here at Calvin Crest want to express our thanks and gratitude for your continued financial support of the ministry of your camp. It enables us to reach out to the youth of our churches, but also to reach out to our area communities. Again Thank You.

Yours in Christ  
Rev Stephen S Niles  
Calvin Crest Camp Board Member

First Presbyterian Church Presents:

# PUMPKINS & PJS!



Saturday, Oct. 26th  
5:30 - 8:30 PM



All students 3yrs - 5th grade are welcome!  
Please register so we have an accurate count for food.

**KIDS WILL:**

- LEARN ABOUT SAMUEL'S CALL
- LEARN THAT GOD CHOOSES THEM!
- HAVE A YUMMY DINNER
- MAKE CRAFTS
- PLAY GAMES
- DO SCIENCE EXPERIEMENTS

**3 HOURS**  
FOR PARENTS TO GO ON A  
DATE, BINGE A NETFLIX  
SHOW, GO GROCERY  
SHOPPING, ETC.!

For Questions, email [rose@fpc-hastings.org](mailto:rose@fpc-hastings.org) or call the office at (402) 462-5147

## Please pray for

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

## In memory of

Dave Schawang, who passed away on 8/18/24

<b>Monday 10/7</b>	1-3pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Pres Pickleball	TBD
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room
	7-8pm	"Building the Beloved Community" Conversation	Steeple Brewing
<b>Tuesday 10/8</b>	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Congregational Life Meeting	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Trustee Meeting	Middle School Youth Room
	6:45pm	Deacons	Anderson Room
	7pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom
<b>Wednesday 10/9</b>	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> grade WNL	Various
	5:30pm	Mexico Mission Trip Choir Practice	Sanctuary
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers Meet	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
<b>Thursday 10/10</b>	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Friday 10/11</b>	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room

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.

**October 19, 2024**

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

<b>Sunday 10/13</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	Potluck	Fellowship Hall
	11:45am	Mexico Mission Trip Choir Practice	Choir Room
	2pm	Crop Walk	Lake Hastings
<b>Monday 10/14</b>	12pm	Memorial Committee	Anderson Room
	1-3pm	FPC Pickleball	TBD
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
	7-8pm	"Building the Beloved Community" Conversation	Steeple Brewing Company
<b>Tuesday 10/15</b>	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	7-8pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom
<b>Wednesday 10/16</b>	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	TBD
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	1:15pm	PW Circle 3	TBD
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade WNL	Various
	5:30pm	Mexico Mission Trip Choir Practice	Sanctuary
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
<b>Thursday 10/17</b>	<i>October 17-20 US/Mexico Mission Trip</i>		
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Friday 10/18</b>	10am	Mahjong	Basement Youth Room
<b>Saturday 10/19</b>	9am-12pm	Coat Drive	Memorial Room
		United Harvest	
<b>Sunday 10/20</b>	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library



## Presbyterian Women Hurricane Helene Relief Drive

Presbyterian Women will be in the Memorial Room on Sundays following worship, doing a drive to help with disaster relief from Hurricane Helene. The following items are being requested. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase the items to assemble the kits.

### Cleanup Kits

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If reused, please scrub clean. Do not use a bucket that has held chemicals of any kind. No screw lid. Advertisement on the outside acceptable.)
- One 4-8oz. pump spray air freshener
- Five scouring pads (No stainless steel or pads with soap in them. Remove from packaging.)
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush (With or without handle.)
- 18 reusable, lightweight multipurpose dry cleaning towels (No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels. Remove from packaging.)
- One 32-64oz. or two 25oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-34oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-40oz. bottle of liquid concentrate household cleaner that can be mixed with water (No spray bottles.)
- One package of 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100ft. clothesline (Cotton or plastic line.)
- Five dust masks (N95 particulate respirator dust masks preferred; No surgical masks.)
- Two pairs of heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (Latex-free, non-surgical. Durable for multiple-use. Remove from packaging.)
- One pair of work gloves (Cotton with leather palm or all leather.)
- 20-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll (Remove from packaging.)
- One 6-9oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent (Pump spray bottles must have protective covers. Packs of 10-20 insect repellent wipes also acceptable.)

**Value:** \$75

All cleaning items must be new, and all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Please place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packaged securely to avoid damaged during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packaging tape. Please do not enclose cash or checks inside of the kits or the boxes.

### Hygiene Kits

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
  - Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth
  - No pocket combs or picks
  - Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)
- One bath-size bar of soap in the original package
- One toothbrush in the original package
- Ten standard size Band-Aids
- Wide-tooth Comb

**Value:** \$15

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon Ziploc type bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing.

Please Do NOT add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its final journey.

### CWS Period Pack

#### (Menstrual Hygiene Kit)

- One 1-gallon size re-sealable bag
- Two 2oz bottle hand sanitizer
- Three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags
- One travel pack of Wet Ones
- 5 regular Tampons
- 5 super absorbency Tampons
- 10 Pads (Unscented. Long super ultra-thin.)
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger. No Ivory or Jergen's soap. Do not remove from packaging.)
- One pack of flushable wipes (Unscented. 42 count)
- Six fragrance-free laundry sheets (placed in small, Ziploc bags)

Please place all items in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal. All items must be new.

Do not enclose personal notes, money, or extra items in the kits.

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