



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Home Page Newsletter

A Lenten Journey: Walking with Jesus Toward the Cross

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

We are now almost three weeks in to the sacred season of Lent, a 40-day journey alongside Jesus, traveling with Him toward Jerusalem and the cross. Lent is a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal—a season that invites us to slow down, examine our hearts, and draw nearer to God. It is a time to acknowledge our own brokenness and the brokenness of the world, even as we hold fast to the hope of resurrection.

This year, our congregation is journeying through Lent with the help of *Grieving Change and Loss*, a devotional guide that invites us to embrace the wilderness of grief and rediscover the horizon of hope offered by Christ's resurrection. Grief touches every corner of our lives—not just in moments of death but in the quiet farewells, the conflicts that strain relationships, and the changes that unsettle our sense of stability. In a world filled with loss and uncertainty, this devotional and the season of Lent offer us a compassionate space to explore our emotions through the lens of faith.

Rooted in the six stages of grief outlined by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and David Kessler, *Grieving Change and Loss* provides a framework for understanding grief's unpredictable nature. Each week, we explore a different stage—denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance, and finding meaning—through Scripture, prayer, and personal reflection.

Two of the authors, Rev. Ginna Bairby, and Outlook Editor Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott are friends of mine. Along with the other author, Dr. Bobby Hulme-Lippert, they share their own experiences of grief, reminding us that we are not alone in our struggles.

The Season of Lent mirrors the human experience of grief: it is a journey through darkness, a confrontation with suffering, and an invitation to trust in the promise of new life. As we reflect on our own losses and the grief that lingers in our hearts, we remember that Jesus, too, walked a path of sorrow and sacrifice. Yet, through His journey to the cross, He opened the way to resurrection and new life for all of us, which we will celebrate on Easter.

This year I invite you to join us in this Lenten journey. Whether you are grieving the loss of a loved one, facing an unexpected change, or simply longing for deeper connection with God, this season offers a sacred space for healing and renewal. May we walk this road together, supporting one another in faith, and may we find comfort in the promise that beyond the cross, there is resurrection.

Even if you haven't had a chance to follow along these first few weeks of Lent, it isn't too late! You can join us now. Paper copies of *Grieving Change and Loss* are available at the church or electronically at this link: <https://bit.ly/FPCHLent2025>
We encourage you to incorporate this devotional into your daily Lenten practice. Let us embrace

Continued

this journey with open hearts, trusting that God walks with us every step of the way.

I'd like to close with a brief reflection/prayer on Lent. Many people choose to give something up for Lent as a discipline, and I support that. In addition *to giving something up*, I also encourage our church family *to take something up* in this season, so pick a few of the themes in the reflection/prayer below *to give up and take up*. These themes are based on our ongoing study of the Gospel of Luke:

God, please give me the courage, strength, and energy to:

Give up haughtiness.
Take up humility.

Give up hatred.
Take up hospitality.

Give up grudges and grievances.
Take up grace and gratitude.

Give up greed.
Take up generosity.

Give up fear and loathing.
Take up faith and love.

Amen.

Your Servant in Christ,



Pastor Greg



*Journey to
the cross...*
A Lenten Sermon Series

Journey to the cross

- **March 9: Love and Mercy**
 - Luke 10:25-42 The parable of the Good Samaritan
- **March 16: Invite and Welcome**
 - Luke 14 The parable of the wedding feast
- **March 23: Lost and Found**
 - Luke 15:1-32 Parables of lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son
- **March 30: Reflect and weep**
 - Luke 16:19-31 Parable of the rich man and Lazarus
- **April 6: Seek and Save**
 - Luke 18:31-19:10 Healing a blind man, meeting Zacchaeus
- **April 13: Enter and Prepare**
 - Luke 19:29-44 Palm Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem



Brett Erickson 4/3
Wendy Propp 4/4
Will Locke 4/6
Andrea Franzen 4/6
Norma Saathoff 4/6
Ruth Swingle 4/6
Kevin Turner 4/6
Kenton Grams 4/6
Michael Brooks 4/7
Barb Harrington 4/8
Doug Ourada 4/8
Irina Belikova-Erickson 4/8
Launa Epp 4/9
Anne Halbert 4/9
Dennis McPherson 4/9
Cathy Pershing 4/9
John Pershing 4/9
Mattie Eddleman 4/11
Sarah Nottage-Tacey 4/12
William Hermes 4/13
Kevin Junker 4/13

Marty Hoch 4/14
Monroe Runcie 4/15
Harold Korb 4/15
Collin Hermes 4/16
Jaxen Mitchell 4/17
Doodle Harris 4/17
Evelyn Smidt 4/18
Belinda Nuss 4/20
Robert Grams 4/20
Kathy Warriner 4/21
Kenny Graham 4/22
Jenni Bauer 4/22
Marsha Nelson 4/23
Norah Snell 4/24
Elaine Specht 4/26
Brett Miller 4/26
Thomas Kerr 4/27
Curtis Reimer 4/27
Dave Johnson 4/27
Kristan Manske 4/29
Julia Reimer 4/30



March Ushers and Greeters

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

March Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
30	Clyde Sachtleben & Carolyn Nowka	Volunteers Needed


April Ushers and Greeters

April Ushers (Team 2) Captain – Duane Huber, Steve Illingworth, Daveta Brader, Lois Hafer, Dick Brader

April Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
6	Kay Georgiana	Melissa Davis
13	Jan Ham	Volunteers Needed
Easter 8:30 a.m. 20	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Easter 11:30 a.m. 20	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
27	Lynne Friedewald & Chuck Shoemaker	Jill Kramer

College Scholarship Applications
are available on the church website at
<https://fpchastings.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/FPC-Scholarship-Application-2025-2026-school-year.pdf>
or
in the Church Office

The application and essay are **due April 1, 2025**. Completed applications can be dropped off at the church office or emailed directly to rstruss@hastings.edu.



Tuesday 3/25	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	11:45am	Habitat for Humanity Board	Room 203 (Middle School Youth Room)
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
Wednesday 3/26	1-3pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	Various
	5-7pm	Adult Game Night	(5pm-5:30pm meal in Fellowship Hall, 5:30pm-7pm games in Fellowship Hall)
	5-7:30pm	Heartland District Health Department Event	PEACE NE Classroom
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers Meet	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
Thursday 3/27	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Christian Ed. Committee	Fellowship Hall
	6pm-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6pm-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 3/28	9am-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Saturday 3/29	1-3pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym

Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher	Carl Utley	John Pershing
Carter Johnson	Barry Thomson	Doug Rasmussen
Tarah Davis & family	Greg Howard	Judd Carrier
Matt Campbell	Pam Canady	Jane Tushaus
Janey Nottage-Tacey	Kathy (Adams) Carrier	Charlene Cebell
Bob Wolf	Darcie (McDonald) Brink	Linda Carllson and family
KyMani Riek	David Hauch	Kim Hermann and family
Ken Fisk	Monte Malouf	Karla Malouf and family
Howard Mathews	Eli Struss	Alyssa Donley
Vicki (Fisk) Nieves	Louie Eckhardt and family	
Janelle Baideme	family of Wayne Ganow	
Willis Horton	Carole Pedersen	
Jim Boeve	Lexi Longshore	
Candice Unger	Ashley Ibach	
Nytha & Dave Glass	family of Jane Johnson	
Bev Stein	Mary Lewis	

In memory of

Jane Johnson,
who passed away
on 2/11/25

Sunday 3/30	Senior Recognition Sunday		
	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Sunday School for all ages	various
	10am-10:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	11:30am	Potluck	Fellowship Hall
Monday 3/31	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	1-3pm	1 st Pres. Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tuesday 4/1	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
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	7-8pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom
Wednesday 4/2	11-11:45am	PW Coord Team	Parlor
	11:45am	PW Program and Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	1-3pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	Various
	5-7pm	Adult Game Night	Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers Meet	basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
Thursday 4/3	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Mission Committee Meeting	PEACE NW Classroom
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
Friday 4/4	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Saturday 4/5	1-3pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6:30pm	Nebraska Festival Singers Concert	Sanctuary
Sunday 4/6	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

The South Heartland District Health Department is pleased to offer **FREE** workshops options to support efforts to strengthen adolescent digital wellbeing. Erin Walsh M.A. from Spark & Stitch Institute, will explain brain science and research related to child and adolescent development. Erin uses easy-to-understand language and will cut through conflicting Information about kids and technology.

Erin Walsh's workshops are designed for anyone that strives to enrich the lives of youth of all ages.

The workshops options are listed below:

iBrain: Learning in the Age of Distractions

Educator Workshop, Ideal for all Types of Educators

4:00 - 5:30pm, Thursday, April 10th, Hastings City Auditorium, 400 N Hastings Ave, Hastings, NE

It's Complicated: Kids, Teens, Screens, and Mental Health

Community Keynote, For Parents and Youth Serving Professionals

6:30 - 8:00pm, Thursday, April 10th, Hastings City Auditorium, 400 N Hastings Ave, Hastings, NE

Status Update: Adolescents, Technology, and Mental Health

Professional Development Workshop for Mental Health Professionals and Youth Workers
10:00 - 12:00pm, Friday, April 11th, YWCA Adams County, 2525 West 2nd Street, Hastings, NE

The complete workshop flier and registration can be found attached or at: <https://tinyurl.com/y5ksft7a>. Please pass this information on to the appropriate staff, community members, parents, and grandparents in your area! If there is anyone that you would like me to send this information to, please let me know.

For more information or if you have any questions, contact me, Chris Junker at South Heartland District Health Department, 402-462-6211, chris.junker@shdhd.ne.gov.

FPC
POTLUCK

March 30, 2025
following the 10:30 a.m.
worship service

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

A-G Main Dish
H-M Dessert
N-Z Salad or Vegetable



NEBRASKA FESTIVAL SINGERS CONCERT

NEBRASKA FESTIVAL SINGERS IS A CHOIR SELECTED BY AUDITION EACH YEAR. MEMBERS COME FROM ALL VARIETIES OF PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS, BUT MANY ARE EDUCATORS AND MUSIC PROFESSIONALS.

DR. MARQUES L.A. GARRETT IS THE FOUNDER AND CONDUCTOR OF NEBRASKA FESTIVAL SINGERS. STACIE HANELINE IS THE CHOIR'S COLLABORATIVE PIANIST.

NEBRASKA FESTIVAL SINGERS MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO WORSHIP AT FIRST PRES THE MORNING OF SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH.

APRIL 5, 2025
6:30 P.M.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS SANCTUARY

621 N. Lincoln Ave.
Hastings, NE



The concert is free!
All are welcome!



Two Months of Sacred Music at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings



March 2025

Sunday, March 2, 10:30am:

Cathedral Brass

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 7pm:

Chancel Choir & Bells

Sunday, March 9, 10:30am:

Women's Choir and String Quartet

Sunday, March 16, 10:30am:

Men's Choir singing "De Profundis"

Sunday, March 23, 10:30am:

Children's Choir and Bells

Sunday, March 30, 10:30am:

Youth Choir

April 2025

Sunday, April 6, 10:30am:

Nebraska Festival Singers

Palm Sunday, April 13, 10:30am:

Children and Youth Choirs

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7pm:

Chancel Choir

Good Friday, April 18, 7pm:

Contemplative Worship

Easter Sunday, April 20, 10:30am:

Chancel Choir and Cathedral Brass

Sunday, April 27, 10:30am:

Bach Cantata & Chamber Orchestra

CONGREGATIONAL
LIFE
PRESENTS:

**MARCH
26, 2025**

Game Night at FPC



JOIN US FOR:

Dinner

Games

Fellowship

Dinner 5-5:30

**GAMES
5:30-7:00**

**This event is intended for adults. Students will be at their regular WNL activities.

For Questions, contact the office: (402) 462-5147

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 Spring 2025 GRANT PROGRAM IS April 1, 2025.*
 - **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/2025/01/Langenberg-form-Spring-2025.pdf>

EASTER LILIES 2025



Easter Lilies are \$12 each. Monies raised above the cost will be donated to Leapfrog Village, a free early childhood family engagement program that provides meals, fun activities, and access to resources so that families can focus their time, hearts, and attention on engaging with each other and strengthening their relationships.

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

Holy Week at First Presbyterian
Palm Sunday 4/13 at 8:30 and 10:30am
Maundy Thursday 4/17 at 7pm
Good Friday 4/18 at 7pm
Prayer Vigil 4/18-4/20 in the Chapel
Easter Sunday 4/20 at 8:30 & 10:30am

All services held at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, 621 N. Lincoln Street – www.fpchastings.org
Good Friday & Easter 10:30am service will be livestreamed at www.facebook.com/fpchastings

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