



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

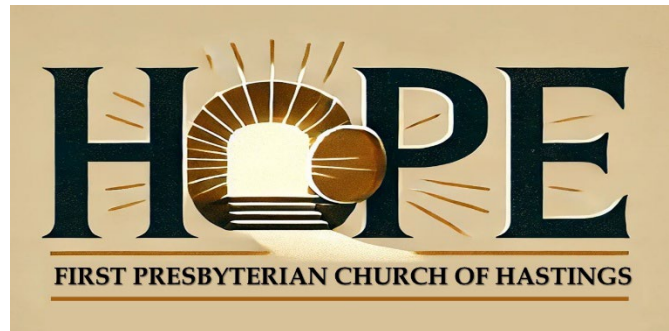
SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Home Page Newsletter

“The Most Hopeful Image in the World”

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

This Easter Sunday, the sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings rang with joy, light, and celebration as more than 500 people gathered in-person and online for our 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services. With glorious music led by our amazing organist Linda, the Chancel Choir, and the Cathedral Brass, we proclaimed once again the central hope of our faith: *Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!*



From the first notes of the prelude to the final “Amen,” and the singing of the “Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel’s *Messiah*, the worship was filled with the beauty and power of the resurrection story. Brass and organ resounded. Voices lifted in praise. Lilies adorned the sanctuary. And together, we remembered that death does not have the final word.

My sermon, titled *“The Most Hopeful Image in the World,”* drew from the resurrection story in Luke 24 and the soaring promises of Isaiah 40. I shared a childhood memory of watching eagles soar above the ponderosa pines of northern Arizona—free, strong, unshaken. That image of the eagle, long associated with hope and renewal, became a central thread in the message. “Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength,” Isaiah writes. “They will soar on wings like eagles.”

But I also acknowledged that hope is not always easy to find. The women at the tomb on that first Easter morning were not expecting resurrection. They were grieving, exhausted, and prepared to anoint Christ’s dead body. But instead, they found an empty tomb—and heard the most hope-filled words in all of history: *“He is not here. He has risen!”*

In that moment, despair turned into testimony. The grief of Friday was answered with the joy of Sunday. And the most hopeful image in the world—a stone rolled away—reminds us that no burden is too great, no valley too deep, no sin too heavy for the God who raised Jesus from the dead.

Continued

In my sermon I reminded us: *“Resurrection is not simply a metaphor or a feel-good ending tacked onto a tragic story. It is the very real and world-changing declaration that God’s love is stronger than death.”*

So, whether you are weary or joyful, full of faith or just hanging on by a thread—know this: the tomb is empty. Christ is alive. And because he lives, there is always hope.

We are so grateful to all who helped make our Easter worship so meaningful—musicians, ushers, greeters, our tech team, all those behind the scenes, and everyone who joined us to celebrate. I also want to thank Rose Koepp, our Director of Christian Education, who has stepped up while Pastor Damen is out on paternity leave. Rose is taking seminary classes and was able to put what she is learning into practice during Holy Week and Easter and did a great job helping to lead our worship services.

May the hope of the resurrection and the empty tomb continue to lift us in the days ahead, just like eagles on the wind. **Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!**

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg

Ushers and Greeters

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

Greeters

April	Memorial Room	Narthex
27	Mary Kay LaMaster	Melissa Davis

May Ushers (Team #3) Captain – Dave Fisher, Andrew Barrows, Phil Odom, Doug Soderquist

Greeters

May	Memorial Room	Narthex
4	Daveta & Dick Brader	Lynette & Paul Krieger
11	Kili & Justin Wenburg	Carolyn & Rich McKenzie
18	Ginny & Will Locke	Dixie & Gale McDonald
25	Jane & Chuck Bauer	Sue Medsker

Your DONATION STATIONS in the Fellowship Hall are missing all of you. We need long-sleeved shirts for our migrant workers coming later this spring, displaced spouses need soaps and shampoos, etc. to lift their spirits (enCourage/SASA), babies and toddlers always need a fresh diaper (Happy Nappies), small children always love a new story book (Brooks' Books), and the Food Pantry always welcomes non-perishables for those in need. All of our bins are clearly marked, and your Mission Committee tries to deliver your contributions promptly. Thanks!

VBS 2025
SCUBA
 Dive into friendship with God!

Join us June 23-26 as we dive into an unforgettable adventure with *Scuba Vacation Bible School!*

Kids will plunge into an ocean of discovery, exploring the depths of God's love through exciting Bible stories, engaging activities, and hands-on fun. Each day, we'll dive deeper into themes of faith, friendship, and the boundless love of Jesus. Don't miss this week of underwater exploration—register today and get ready to make a splash!

Scan the code or visit FPChastings.org to register!

Lydia Meyer-2
 Tim Johnson-3
 Clyde Sachtleben-4
 Jeremy Struss-4
 Ginny Locke-4
 Shannon Canady-5
 Grady Hogan-5
 Alexis Ahlers-5
 Michael Boeve-5
 William Oliver-5
 Deb Hamburger-6
 Marnie Soderquist-8
 Jake Stokely-10
 Susie Pettit-11
 Sarah Wolf-11
 Rob Kerr-12
 Eldon Rhodes-13
 Jeremy Miles-13
 Maebry Moore-14



Sara Babcock-15
 Hal Overmiller-15
 Wihlma Price-16
 Ashton Essink-17
 Lily Kingsley-17
 Chris Wissing-17
 Vivienne Turner-17
 Kim Borrell-17
 Susan Oliver-17
 Olivia Canady-18
 Dawna Whitcomb-19
 Avery Essink-21

Campbell Schukei-21
 Amanda Boyd-22
 Gatlin Stokely-23
 Callan Stokely-23
 John Northrop-23
 Chuck Hastings-23
 Yvonne Ziemba-25
 Gale McDonald-26
 Lyla Adam-26
 Dick Kleiber-27
 Jackson Graves-27
 Brooke Lofquist-27
 Paula Crozier-28
 Sarah Fruehling-28
 Inde Wissing-29
 Christian Fruehling-29
 Paul Nuss-30
 Damen Kugel-30
 Brad Whitcomb-31



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC.
CWU Celebrations 2025
May Friendship Day

God's Daughters Living Powerful Lives

Celebrations 2025 Theme Scripture

"Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised."

**Friends
 Love
 At All Times**

YOU'RE INVITED - ALL ARE WELCOME!

May Friendship Day Salad Luncheon

DATE: **May 2, 2025**
 TIME: **12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**
 LOCATION: **First Presbyterian Church**
 621 N Lincoln Ave, Hastings, NE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

POINT OF CONTACT:
 Susie Graham
 PHONE: 402-469-2638
 EMAIL ADDRESS:
 kg61532@windstream.net



**May
 Friendship
 Day
 2025**

**Celebration
 Colossians 3:12**

**Sponsored by Church Women United
 of Hastings/Juniata Nebraska**



**IT'S TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING IN YOUR
 CLOSET. THE MISSION COMMITTEE IS
 COLLECTING
 LONG-SLEEVED
 SHIRTS FOR OUR MIGRANT WORKERS.**

**THESE SHIRTS ARE IMPORTANT TO PROTECT OUR
 WORKERS FROM THE SUN AND EXPOSURE TO
 AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS.**

**SHIRTS CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN THE DESIGNATED
 BIN IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.
 THE MIGRANT WORKERS WILL BE ARRIVING IN
 HASTINGS THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY.**

THE MISSION COMMITTEE THANKS YOU.



GAME NIGHT
WNL Fellowship
 A time for adults
 to hang out and
 play games!

*This event is
 FREE for
 everyone*

**Wednesdays
 5:30 - 7 PM**

*Cafeteria-style
 Dinner 5-5:30*



P.W. Mother's Day Offering

Every year for Mother's Day, the Presbyterian Women ask for donations for a special group in honor of, or in memory of all our mothers. This year we are donating to enCourage. Your Mother's Day offering will help meet the immediate needs of the more than 400 survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault served by enCourage each year. About 65% of these individuals are currently parenting children under the age of 19. When survivors flee dangerous situations, they often leave with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Your donations will help enCourage provide immediate necessities like food and personal care items as well as safety related expenses like replacing locks

We will be at a table in Memorial Room April 27, May 4, and May 11, to take your donations. Or you may send a donation to the church addressed to the Presbyterian Women. Checks should be written to Presbyterian Women.

We thank you in advance for all of your donations.

Tuesday 4/22	11am	Victoria Nieves Memorial Service with luncheon to follow	Sanctuary (Memorial Service) Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
	11:45 am	Habitat for Humanity Board	Room 203
	2pm	Staff meeting	In-person
	5:30pm	Columbarium Meeting	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Rain Garden Committee	Fellowship Hall
	6pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	7pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom
Wednesday 4/23	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 th WNL	Various
	5-7pm	Adult Game Night	Fellowship Hall
	5:30pm	Session Meets with Confirmands	Confirmation Room
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers Meet	basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir practice	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells practice	Bell Room
Thursday 4/24	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 4/25	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room

Please pray for

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

In memory of

Jane Tushaus, who passed away on 4/9/25

Saturday 4/27		Faith & Science Sunday	
	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15-10:15am	Sunday School for all ages	Various
	10-10:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	3pm	Faith & Science Lecture by Clay Anderson	Fellowship Hall
Monday 4/28	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	1-3pm	1 st Pres Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5:30pm	Foundation Board Meeting	Anderson Room
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room
Tuesday 4/29	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	6pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	7-8pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom
Wednesday 4/30	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	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
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
Thursday 5/1	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Global Mission Committee	Anderson Room
	6pm-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 5/2	9am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
	12pm	Church Women United	Fellowship Hall
Sunday 5/4		Confirmation Sunday	
	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

Sachtleben-Throckmorton



Faith & Science Symposium

JOIN US FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL SACHTLEBEN-THROCKMORTON FAITH AND SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

Astronaut and Hastings College Alum Clayton Anderson will be joining us at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings on Sunday 4/27 for an exciting conversation, worship service, and free public lecture about the complementary relationship between faith and science.

Anderson graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Hastings College, Nebraska, in 1981. He had Dr. Sachtleben and Dr. Throckmorton as his professors. He went on to work for NASA as an engineer for 15 years and then became an astronaut for 15 years, going on two space flights, and spending 167 days in space.

Anderson will talk about his time as a scientist and astronaut and how that connects with his faith. *“To see God’s creation from that vantage point did give me a different perspective. What I really took away from this experience was that my life and all its accomplishments are gifts from God. And viewing Earth from space showed me that none of this is random. My faith was only strengthened by my time in outer space.”*

Schedule for Sunday, 4/27

- 9:15am Conversation at the Adult Ed Forum in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:30am Worship with a reflection by Clay Anderson in the Sanctuary
- 3:00pm Free Public Lecture in the Sanctuary

2025 Easter Lilies



In Memory Of:

Jake & Marietta Vollweiler given by Linda Vollweiler
Walter & Lula Buhr given by John & Linda Carllson
Dean Pickett given by the Allen-Pickett family
Our Grandparents given by the Allen-Pickett family
Ome & Honor Shoemaker given by the Shoemaker/Friedewald family
Al & Dorothy Friedewald given by the Shoemaker/Friedewald family
Rogene Wenburg given by Justin, Kili, Carter, and Selah Wenburg
Jack & Barbara Stinson given by Julie Thomsen
Stephanie Pershing given by John & Cathy Pershing
Our Parents given by John & Cathy Pershing
Brandon Brader given by Dick & Daveta Brader
Our Parents given by Dick & Daveta Brader
My Parents, Dale & Pauline Moomey given by Marilyn Nielsen
Gretchen & Hal Lainson given by the Hermes, Olsen, Bliss, and Overmiller families
Mark Bliss given by the Jorn Olsen family
Virginia & Roger Davis given by Pamela & Peter Lainson and family
Phyllis & John Lainson given by Pamela & Peter Lainson and family
Gretchen & Hal Lainson given by Pamela & Peter Lainson and family
Our Parents given by Doug & Marnie Soderquist
Julie Soderquist given by her family
Bob Foote given by the Foote family
Our Parents given by Mike & Carol Kleppinger
Merle & Annabelle Hafer and Boyd & Mary Lou Leymaster given by Charlie & Lois Hafer
David E. Northrop given by the Northrop family
Frank W. Northrop given by the Northrop family
Michele L. Northrop given by the Northrop family
Ryan Struss given by Kathy & Gayle Struss
Mark Bliss given by Steph, Lauren, Matt, Rosie, Hal, and Bliss
Mike Kneale and Richard Reimer given by Curtis & Kathy Reimer
Our Parents given by Carolyn & Richard McKenzie
Our Parents given by Colleen & George Adam
Our Parents and daughter Nicole given by Deb & Byron Jensen
Howard & Helen Mathews given by Susan, William, Eleanor, Laura Kate, and Meredith Oliver
Ken Stein given by Bev, Kim, Brooks, Briella, and Justin
Willard & Della Stein and Lyle Davis given by the Stein & Davis family

2025 Easter Lilies



In Honor Of:

Susan and Neal Hoff given by your grandchildren
FPC Hastings Church Family given by the Allen-Pickett family
FPC Staff given by the Allen-Pickett family
FPC Volunteers given by the Allen-Pickett family
Our Parents given by the Allen-Pickett family
The Lunstrums given by the Allen-Pickett family
FPC Staff given by John & Cathy Pershing
Our 3 Children, Dara, Mike, and Doug given by Don & Marie Rasmussen
Our Children and Grandchildren given by Charlie & Lois Hafer
Mary M. Northrop given by John Northrop
Justin & Kili Wenburg given by John Northrop
Our Children, Scott & April, Ross & Melissa, and grandchildren, Emily, Evan, Jeremy, and Eli given by Kathy & Gayle Struss
Patty Kneale and Judy Reimer given by Curtis & Kathy Reimer
David William Jensen-Heitmann given by Deb & Byron Jensen



May

Kris & Shawn Norris 5/2/2008
Nancy & Robert Grams 5/6/1972
Caroline & LeRoy Echternach 5/9/1969
Ashley & Riley Mullen 5/10/2003
Mary Kay & Jim LaMaster 5/14/1983
Jeanne & Chuck Hastings 5/18/1974
Deborah & Jeremy Miles 5/19/2001
Stephanie & Tyler Adam 5/19/2007
Beth & Mark Funkey 5/20/1988
Melissa & Ross Struss 5/24/2015
Mary & Dick Plock 5/24/2003
Lois & Charles Hafer 5/26/1973
Phyllis & Don O'Dey 5/27/1967
Sarah & Christian Fruehling 5/28/1994
Kathy & Jim Duval 5/29/2013
Nan & Jon Huey 5/29/1981

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