



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

# Home Page Newsletter

### **Always Drawing the Welcome Circle Wider: Reflections from Acts 8 & 15**

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

Over the last two weeks, we explored a foundational theme of the early church—how the Holy Spirit constantly pushed the boundaries of belonging, expanding the welcome circle of God’s people. From the wilderness road in Acts 8 to the council chambers in Acts 15, we witnessed a church learning, listening, and ultimately choosing grace over gatekeeping. And through it all, we were reminded of our own call to be a church that is always drawing the welcome circle wider.

On May 11, we heard the remarkable story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch—a story that begins not in a synagogue or sanctuary, but on a desert road. There, Philip meets someone who, by every religious and societal standard of the time, did not belong. The Ethiopian eunuch was an outsider’s outsider. And yet, the Holy Spirit led Philip specifically to him, not with answers, but with a question: “Do you understand what you’re reading?” It was a conversation, not a lecture. A shared chariot ride, not a sermon from a distance. And when the eunuch asked, “What is to prevent me from being baptized?” the answer from the Spirit was clear: Nothing.

Then, on May 18, we fast-forwarded to Acts 15 and the Council of Jerusalem—a pivotal moment when the early church had to decide: would Gentile believers be required to meet certain conditions (like circumcision) before they could be fully included? Or could they belong simply by grace? After deep listening and testimony from Peter, Paul, and James, the church came to a bold conclusion: God’s welcome precedes our approval. And the circle was drawn wider still.

These scriptures aren’t just ancient stories; they are blueprints for the church today. They remind us that God’s Spirit leads us not inward toward sameness, but outward toward difference—toward people who’ve been told they don’t belong, toward those on the margins.

Here at First Presbyterian Church, we are striving to live into that call in tangible ways. One of the most vibrant expressions of our welcome is the PEACE Center, where we are practicing radical hospitality every week:

- Through feeding ministries like Hearts and Hands against Hunger, United Harvest, and the Hastings Community Food Pantry, we share food with neighbors near and far and from all walks of life—no questions asked. There is no “us and them” as we seek to feed our hungry neighbors—just us.
- Our community partnerships with the Raices de mi Pueblo folkloric dance troupe and the South Heartland District Health Department continue to serve immigrants, refugees, and neighbors navigating economic or cultural barriers.

*Continued*

- Our educational partnerships with Central Community College, the Hastings Public Schools Summer Music Program, and more provide we space and welcome to many in the community.
- Every time we open our doors at the PEACE Center or in the church—whether for worship, music, service, or study—we affirm this truth, we are called to draw the welcome circle wider still.

In a polarized world where it's easy to draw lines, Jesus calls us to erase those lines—to extend the table, to expand the invitation, to widen the welcome. I've always loved how this cartoon drawn by Rev. David Hayward, a pastor in Canada, represents the call from Jesus to always invite more people in.



May we, like the early church, be courageous enough to listen deeply, love boldly, and say with joy: There is nothing to prevent you from being part of our community, nothing to stop you from belonging. Nothing to block the grace of God.

Let us be a church that remembers who we are: people welcomed by grace, shaped by love, and sent by the Spirit. Let us be a church that is always—always—drawing the welcome circle wider.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg

## May Ushers and Greeters

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

### May Greeters

May	Memorial Room	Narthex
25	Jane & Chuck Bauer	Sue Medsker

# June Ushers and Greeters

**June Ushers (Team #4)** Captain – George Howard, Susie Graham, Dixie McDonald, Gale McDonald

## June Greeters

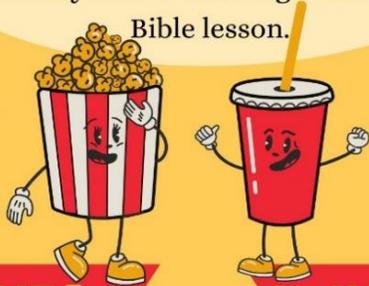
June Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
1	Connie & Richard McClenahan	Andrew Barrows
8	May & Ira Wierenga	Kim Hermann
15	Brent & Erica Brooks	Carol & Jim Harrenstein
22	John & Linda Carllson	Melissa Davis
29	Karen & Roger Doerr	Volunteers Needed

<b>Tuesday 5/20</b>	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	7-8pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom
<b>Wednesday 5/21</b>	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	Fellowship Hall
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	1:15pm	PW Circle 3	Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
<b>Thursday 5/22</b>	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Friday 5/23</b>	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
<b>Sunday 5/25</b>	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
<b>Monday 5/26</b>		Church Offices Closed-Memorial Day	
<b>Tuesday 5/27</b>	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	11:45am	Habitat for Humanity Board	Room 202
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	7pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom
<b>Wednesday 5/28</b>	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers Meet	Basement
<b>Thursday 5/29</b>	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Friday 5/30</b>	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
<b>Sunday 6/1</b>	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	5-7pm	Elementary Movie Club	Basement Youth Room

FPC PRESENTS  
**ELEMENTARY  
 MOVIE CLUB**

**5-7PM**

In-coming Kindergarteners - 5th graders are invited to join us for a monthly movie showing and related Bible lesson.



**FREE  
 EVENT**

**JUNE 1**

**JULY 6**

**AUG 3**

**PIZZA AND POPCORN WILL BE PROVIDED**

THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

FOR QUESTIONS, CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (402) 462-5147

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](http://FPCHastings.org) to register!



*Christian Ed*  
 Summer Events:

**JUNE 1**

5 PM - 7 PM  
 Movie Club @ FPC

**JUNE-JULY THURSDAYS**

3 PM - 5 PM  
 Youth Group Game time @ FPC

**JUNE 8**

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
 Gather Hastings @ Brickyard Park

**JUNE 22**

7 PM - 9 PM  
 FPC WaterPark Night Aqua Court

**JUNE 23-26**

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
 Scuba! VBS

**JUNE 27**

7 PM - 9 PM  
 END of VBS Activity Night (Location TBD)

**JULY 6**

5 PM - 7 PM  
 Movie Club @ FPC

**JULY AUG 26 - 2**

Sr High Go & Serve

**AUG 3**

5 PM - 7 PM  
 Movie Club @ FPC

**AUG 7**

8 AM - 6 PM  
 Jr High Zoo Trip

**AUG 24**

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM  
 Sunday School Kickoff

Updated April, 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 INVITES YOU TO

**WATERPARK NIGHT**

**SUN. JUNE 22**

**7-9 PM**

**HASTINGS AQUACOURT**

The church has reserved the waterpark from 7-9pm. Bring your family and friends to a fun evening at the pool!

This event is FREE to the Community!



### Relay For Life

Relay for Life has been a way for our church family to remember loved ones we have lost to cancer and to honor those who have survived. At the same time we support the American Cancer Society.

Luminaries can be purchased by filling out a form and submitting it with your donation (\$10 each) to our First Presbyterian Church team through our church office or to our team captain, Susie Graham. (402) 469-2638. Please make checks payable to American Cancer Society.

Luminaries will be displayed in our Sanctuary in early June and at the Relay for Life in Kearney at Harmon Park on June 6. Thank you.

American Cancer Society  
Relay for Life of Central Nebraska

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like \_\_\_\_\_ luminaries at \$10 each.

Name of Individual being honored or remembered                      In Honor                      In Memory                      Donation

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



FREE ADMISSION

# Evening of WORSHIP

AN EVENING TO GATHER THE COMMUNITY OF HASTINGS AND SURROUNDING AREAS TO LIFT UP THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH WORSHIP AND THE WORD OF GOD!

SUNDAY

JUNE 8, 2025 | 5:30-7:30 PM

📍 BRICKYARD PARK, HASTINGS NE

Gather :: Hastings

SPEAKERS:

- NOLAN KOHMETSCHER - FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES
- JONATHAN BARRIOS - YOUTH FOR CHRIST

FOOD TRUCKS AT 5:00 PM:

- MEAN BONE BBQ & BURGERS
- IRMA'S AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD
- SPECIAL SCOOPS

MUSIC:

- OUR COMMUNITY PRAISE BAND THAT LED WORSHIP AT GATHER25!

*Free will donations will be accepted with a portion of the proceeds donated back to FCA and Platte Valley YFC.*

Save the DATE

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 | 5:30-7:30 PM

📍 BRICKYARD PARK, HASTINGS NE



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF HASTINGS

PRESENTS



*Daniel Christian*

*Saturday, June 7, 2025*

*7 p.m.*

*First Presbyterian Church  
of Hastings*

*Sanctuary*



Daniel Christian is a Nashville recording artist known for his heartfelt lyrics, storytelling, and Americana charm. A former high school English teacher, he's spent over a decade touring nationally, performing at venues like the Bluebird Cafe and SXSW. Daniel has opened for acts including The Fixx, Selah, and Montgomery Gentry, and earned two National Country Music Festival awards along with nine Omaha Entertainment Award nominations. A member of NARAS, the Nebraska Arts Council, and a founding member of NSAI Nebraska, he continues to write, record, and inspire audiences across the country.

**KEN STEIN**

**MEMORIAL PARADE**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025**  
Parade begins at 10:00am

Check in starts at 9am @ Corner of 4th Street and Hastings Ave  
Pre-Entry forms can be picked up at 2975 S Baltimore Ave  
Not responsible for any accidents

## Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher  
Carter Johnson  
Tarah Davis & family  
Matt Campbell  
Janey Nottage-Tacey  
Bob Wolf  
KyMani Riek  
Janelle Baideme  
John Pershing  
Susan Oliver and family  
Jim Boeve

Carl Utley  
Barry Thomson  
Greg Howard  
Pam Canady  
Kathy (Adams) Carrier  
Monte Malouf  
Eli Struss  
Carole Pedersen  
Lexi Longshore  
Doug Rasmussen  
Willis Horton

Mary Lewis  
Judd Carrier  
family of Jane Tushaus  
Charlene Cebell  
Alyssa Donley  
Nathan Lunstrum  
Nytha & Dave Glass  
Ashley Ibach  
Stacey Eddleman & family  
Mary & Ken Fisk

## In memory of

Jane Tushaus, who passed away on 4/9/25  
Ron Bourke, who passed away on 5/9/25

# Happy June

## Anniversaries

Sharon & John Brooks- 1  
 Chanda & Stan Essink- 1  
 Lindsey & Ethan Stout- 2  
 Lynette & Paul Krieger- 2  
 Ginny & Will Locke- 3  
 Cheryl & Ed Lockwood- 6  
 Connie & LaVern Franzen- 7  
 Jamie & Patrick Hickok- 8  
 Kathy & Curtis Reimer- 10  
 Bonnie & Kenton Grams- 11  
 Michelle & Rob Kerr- 12  
 Erica & Brent Brooks- 14  
 Kristen & Louie Eckhardt- 19  
 Linda & Dave Cooke- 23  
 Sandra & C.L. Wimer- 24  
 Diane & Doug Phelps- 24  
 Mary & Jerry Seiler- 26  
 Mary & Jim Lewis- 27  
 Gary & Carol Grummert- 27  
 Joyce & Thomas Moore- 30  
 Katie & Sung Shin- 30

# Happy June Birthdays

Peter Lainson- 1	Charles Hafer- 13	Keira Erickson- 21
Jenna Jorgensen-1	Laurie Lofquist- 13	Neil Kerr- 22
Cathy Mitzelfelt- 2	Bruce Phelps- 14	Bob Amyot- 22
Dick Christensen- 3	Tenley Hermann- 14	Doug Oakeson- 23
Ashley Hermann- 4	Janna Johnson- 14	Claire Schwarz- 23
Wanda Williams- 4	Kris Norris- 15	Jan Schawang- 24
Bev Stein- 6	Sam Boyd- 15	Connie Hansen Golter- 25
Pam Lainson- 6	Julia Boyd- 15	Tom Kreager- 25
Jeni Howard- 8	Nathan Kerr- 16	Jill Kramer- 26
Andrew Barrows- 8	Courtney Junker- 16	Colleen Schukei- 26
Dave Cooke- 8	Everly Hogan- 16	Rory Stout- 26
Jody Stutzman- 8	Lorri Oakeson- 16	Jim Boeve- 26
Alexis Longshore- 9	LaJeanne Boehler- 16	Carol Harrenstein- 26
Joyce Ore- 10	Sally Smith- 18	Jim Lewis- 27
Genna Little- 10	Amanda Turner- 18	Jodie Phelps- 28
Shawn Norris- 10	Leah Ratzlaff- 18	Kelsey Kamarad- 28
Deb Johnson- 10	Ian Erickson- 18	Dianne Christensen- 29
John Carllson- 12	Eric Brader- 18	Gabriel Snell- 30
Rikki Nielsen- 12	Judy Hoch- 19	Ruth Nielsen- 30
Kaleena Fong- 12	Rebecca McPherson-21	

Featuring:  
*Gracie's Uncles*

First Presbyterian  
Church of Hastings presents:

**Bluegrass/Americana Worship!**

Sunday, June 15, 2025 at 10:30am  
621 N. Lincoln Street

Join us in-person, on KICS 1550 AM radio,  
or on Facebook Live at [www.facebook.com/fpchastings](http://www.facebook.com/fpchastings)

First Presbyterian  
Church of Hastings  
Presents:

**Singer/Songwriter Hannah Jensen-Heitmann**

Leading us in worship and teaching us original new songs  
from Vacation Bible School!

Sunday, June 22  
10:30am

In-person, on KICS 1550 AM or on Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/fpchastings](http://www.facebook.com/fpchastings) All are welcome!

**"Campfire Folk Music" Sunday**

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

Featuring:

Join us at 10:30am on Sunday, June 29 – All are welcome!

In-person, on KICS 1550 AM or on Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/fpchastings](http://www.facebook.com/fpchastings)



## Presbyterian Women Father's Day Offering

Presbyterian Women will be collecting a Father's Day Offering. We will be set up in the Memorial Room on Sundays, May 18, May 25, June 1, and June 15 to take donations. You may donate in honor of a father or in memory of a father. Proceeds will go to Living Waters for the World.

Living Waters for the World (LWW) **trains volunteers** to establish and lead water mission teams that partner with communities to **implement and operate** sustainable water purification systems and health education programs.

[LWW Networks](#) come alongside water teams and partners throughout every phase of a water project. They provide essential support for **sustainable** water systems that produce **clean water for a generation**.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Living Waters for the World. Unlike organizations that rely on paid staff to initiate and execute water projects, Living Waters for the World relies on volunteer teams trained by volunteer instructors working within volunteer-led networks. LWW's small staff of 3 full-time and 3 part-time employees exists to facilitate the activity and long-term impact of this volunteer force.

Over 2,000 individuals have trained at [Clean Water U](#), and they have engaged an estimated 10,000+ volunteers as members of LWW water teams. Volunteers have also guided the establishment of international networks, the development of Clean Water U's curriculum, and much more!

Volunteers have made LWW what it is today and will play an integral role in ensuring clean water for generations in the communities LWW serves.

The Presbyterian Women would like to thank all of you for your support of our 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. We have recently seen many stories in the news of these women who need help. Through your generosity we have collected \$1,081, to help these victims. Thank you so very much for helping these families.

## WHO WE ARE

Café Justo is a coffee grower cooperative in Chiapas, Mexico, that grows, roasts, packages, and ships its own coffee. From seed, to roasting, to exporting, every pound of coffee receives the highest level of quality control.

## FOUNDED BY FARMERS

In the 1990s, a 400% drop in international coffee prices forced many farmers to leave their fields to find jobs. Café Justo was founded in 2002 by 26 coffee farming families to address the root causes of migration from our community.



Because Café Justo sales directly benefit the growers and the roasters, members of our cooperatives

need not leave their homes to provide for their families. Our coffee growing families benefit from sustainable wages and environmentally sound growing practices, and they are able to stay together on their lands.

## BENEFITS TO FARMERS

Fair Trade is a good start. But it's only a start. Most of the profit in coffee comes from roasting the beans, not growing them. Because Café Justo roasts our own coffee, we can provide our farmer members prices that are higher than Fair Trade prices. Members of Café Justo cooperatives are paid 27.5% of the cost of a pound of retail coffee (and 35.5% of wholesale), roughly three times what growers are typically paid by standard commercial operations.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

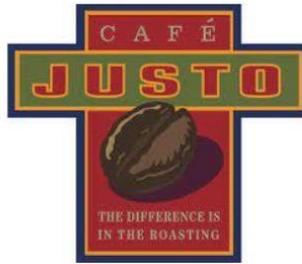
## HANDS AROUND THE WORLD STORE

Open Sunday mornings before and after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

The beautiful and unique handcrafted Fair Trade items in our store are made and produced by artisans and farmers from around the world. By purchasing their works, you are helping support their families and provide hope for their future. Each month, a portion of revenue goes to the local mission, United Harvest, helping to support our local community. Your purchase makes a difference!

serrv

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
621 N. LINCOLN AVE  
HASTINGS



Café Justo coffee can be purchased on Sunday mornings in the Hands Around the World Store or throughout the week in the Church Office.

## QUALITY ORGANIC COFFEE

High mountain plots. Volcanic soil. Shade-grown plants. Hand-picked, high-quality beans. Delicious blends. Café Justo coffee tastes better because we grow it that way.

We grow our coffee under taller shaded trees because it produces a better bean and nourishes the soil. It's gentler on the land than practices like clear-cutting, which causes erosion, leeches nutrients from the soil, and does irreparable damage. We do everything we can to protect the environment. Our coffee farms provide habitats for birds and wildlife. The soil's low acidic content results in delicious coffee.

Arabica beans are delicate, aromatic, and flavorful. But if you like an extra-caffeinated kick, try Robusto. And for those who prefer less octane, our water processed decaf is the perfect choice. Choose the bean or blend that's right for you.

## DIRECT RELATIONSHIPS

By retaining the value -added in our communities, we have been able to help revitalize our community, bring our families back together, and see our children and grandchildren go on to higher education. The majority of our founders were in their 50s, 60s, and 70s when they founded the cooperative with the hopes that their children could return home to raise their families. Indeed, many of those children have returned, and many of the founders have been able to retire, knowing their land and your coffee are in good hands.

We are grateful to have been joined by partner churches, farmers markets, universities, and small businesses across the United States that are striving to make a positive impact on both sides of the border.



Our commitment adds up to more than dollars or pesos. It adds up to strong futures.

All of the growers and employees of Café Justo cooperatives receive medical benefits and a pension plan. Café Justo also provides coffee to all families in the community for 3 days following a death in a coffee growing family.

Profits from Café Justo support migrant shelters and drug rehabilitation centers, as well as community development projects, both in Chiapas where the coffee is grown, and in Agua Prieta where the coffee is roasted, packaged, and shipped.



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