

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025 - 10:30 am Service

PRELUDE

“From Everlasting to Everlasting”
Chancel Handbell Choir, director Byron Jensen

Julie Turner

WELCOME

Greg Allen-Pickett

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Come, people of God, gather in grace and truth. Come, drawn by the Spirit who welcomes all.

We come to celebrate the wideness of God’s mercy!

Last week, we heard the eunuch ask, “What is to prevent me from being baptized?” And we heard the Spirit say: “Absolutely nothing.”

Today we will remember the council at Jerusalem— how the early church listened, discerned, and declared: “We should not put barriers in the way of those God has welcomed.”

Here in this place, the waters of baptism flow wide and deep. Here, the welcome circle grows wider still.

Come, let us worship God, who gives the Holy Spirit to all—without condition and without distinction!

*HYMN

“In Christ Called to Baptize”
Organist Linda Vollweiler
Tyler Koepp, Song Leader

297

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you have broken down dividing walls and thrown open the doors of your Church, but we confess that we are slow to let go of our own barriers. We draw lines—between insiders and outsiders, between worthy and unworthy, between those like us and those we fear.

Forgive us for the ways we resist your widening welcome. Forgive us for forgetting that we, too, have been welcomed by grace not earned by merit. Remind us that the waters of baptism wash away not only our sins but also the walls we build to keep others out. Create in us open hearts and open minds, so that all may find a home in you.

SILENT CONFESSION

When have I limited my welcome of people different from me? How can I do better?

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news! God, who knows the human heart, has made no distinction. God has poured out the Holy Spirit on all people, cleansing our hearts by faith, welcoming us with open arms into a wide and generous grace.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and loved! Alleluia! Amen!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”

582

*PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also, with you!

(Greet one another by sharing the Peace of Christ with those around you.)



Scan to sign-in and let
us know you were here.

SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

BAPTISM

Eli Struss

Parents Ross and Melissa Struss

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God: Your Word has always stretched your people— toward welcome, toward courage, toward grace.

As we reflect on the promises made in baptism and we hear the story of the council in Jerusalem, open our ears to listen deeply, open our hearts to discern your will, and open our lives to be transformed.

May your Spirit speak through the scriptures and into our community, so that we may truly draw the welcome circle wider. Amen.

1ST SCRIPTURE READING – Acts 15:1-6

ANTHEM “Come, Thou Fount of Ev’ry Blessing” arr. Cathy Moglebust

2ND SCRIPTURE READING – Acts 15:7-18

SERMON “Drawing the welcome circle wider – Part 2” Greg Allen-Pickett

*HYMN “Let us Build a House” 301

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Written by Greg Allen-Pickett)

We believe in one God, whose love has no boundaries, whose mercy overflows, and whose Spirit moves where it will.

We believe that in Jesus Christ, God came not to condemn the world, but to draw the circle wider—welcoming sinners, strangers, seekers, and surprising even the faithful with grace.

We believe that through baptism, we are claimed by God and joined to the body of Christ— a people bound together not by background but by the grace of God.

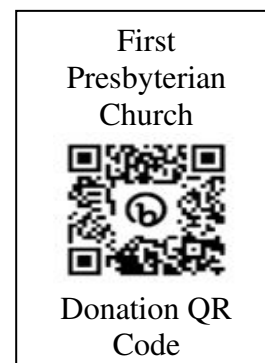
We believe the Holy Spirit is still speaking, still breaking down dividing walls, still calling the Church to listen, to learn, and to love more deeply.

We believe that nothing can prevent God's welcome—not our doubts, not our rules, not even our fears.

We believe that we are children of God, made in the image of God and saved by the grace of God. We belong to God, and by God's grace, so does everyone else.

OFFERING

(All loose coins in the offering plate will be donated to the PC(USA) Hunger Fund.)



OFFERTORY “Grazioso” Arnold B. Sherman

*DOXOLOGY “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” 609

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, from the abundance of your welcome, we bring our gifts—our offerings, our lives, and our promises.

Bless these gifts, and bless us, that we may be a community shaped by baptismal grace: a people who live your welcome, who speak your truth in love, and who give freely as we have received.

Use these gifts to build a church where every person knows they belong. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN

“Draw the Welcome Circle Wider”

Insert

*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (The congregation will sing and then the bells will play)

***The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,
The church is not a resting place; the church is a people.
I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we're the church together!***

“We Are the Church”

Avery & Marsh/arr. Byron W. Jensen

POSTLUDE

“Ayer”

arr. Wolff

(*Indicates the congregation shall stand as they are able.)

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AS WE CONTINUE THE SEASON OF EASTER &
INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS

Sunday, May 25:

10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary with the celebration of baptism!

Stay-at-Home: Broadcast live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings

(Please note, you do not need a Facebook account to view the service.)

The Worship Service can also be heard live on the radio simulcast
on KICS 1550 AM and on 92.7FM

THE RADIO BROADCAST is given by First Presbyterian Church.

THE FLOWERS ON THE PULPIT are given in memory of Elton and Edith Willcock by family.

SPECIAL FLOWERS are given in honor of the baptism of Eli Struss from grandparents Gayle and Kathy Struss and Mike and Jeanette Hinemire.

ACOLYTES Student Volunteers

NURSERY Kim Bogan

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

GREETERS

May	Memorial Room	Narthex
18	Ginny & Will Locke	Dixie & Gale McDonald
25	Jane & Chuck Bauer	Sue Medsker

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



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 All are welcome!



"Campfire Folk Music" Sunday

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

Featuring:

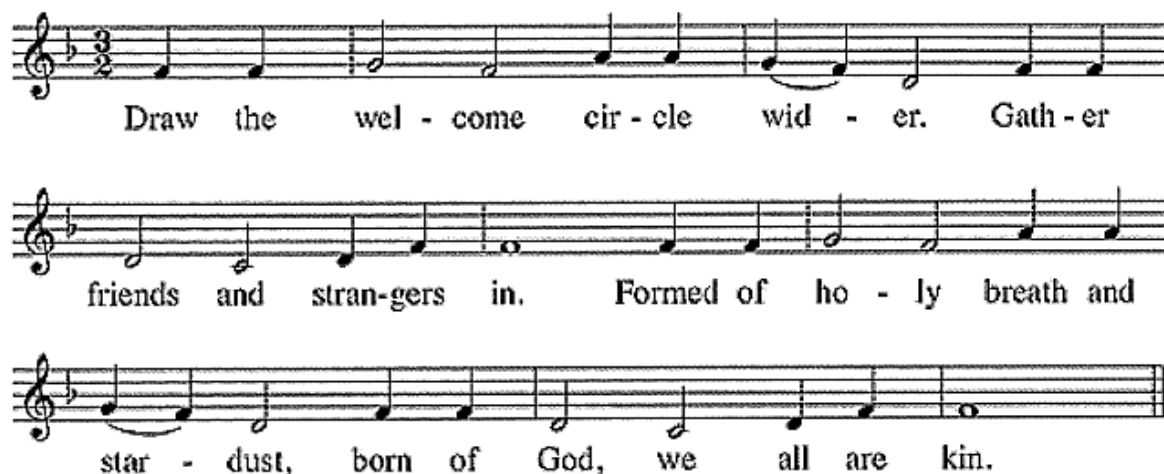


Join us at 10:30am on Sunday, June 29 – All are welcome!

In-person, on KICS 1550 AM or on Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/fpchastings

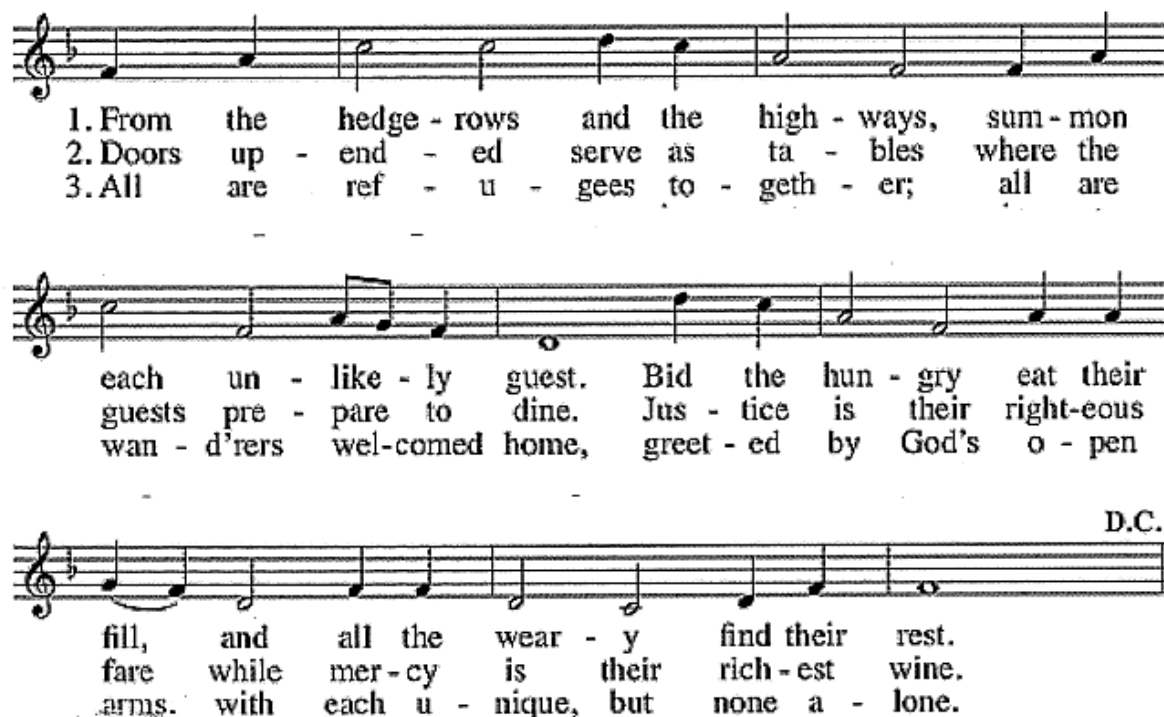
Draw the Welcome Circle Wider

Refrain



Draw the wel - come cir - cle wid - er. Gath - er
friends and stran - gers in. Formed of ho - ly breath and
star - dust, born of God, we all are kin.

Verses



1. From the hedge - rows and the high - ways, sum - mon
2. Doors up - end - ed serve as ta - bles where the
3. All are ref - u - gees to - geth - er; all are
each un - like - ly guest. Bid the hun - gry eat their
guests pre - pare to dine. Jus - tice is their right - eous
wan - d'ers wel - comed home, greet - ed by God's o - pen
fill, and all the wear - y find their rest.
fare while mer - cy is their rich - est wine.
arms. with each u - nique, but none a - lone.

Sunday 5/18	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
Monday 5/19	1-3pm	1 st Pres Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tuesday 5/20	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	7-8pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom
Wednesday 5/21	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	Fellowship Hall
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	1:15pm	PW Circle 3	Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
Thursday 5/22	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 5/23	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Sunday 5/25	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library

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

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
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.



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!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
621 N. LINCOLN AVE
HASTINGS





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.

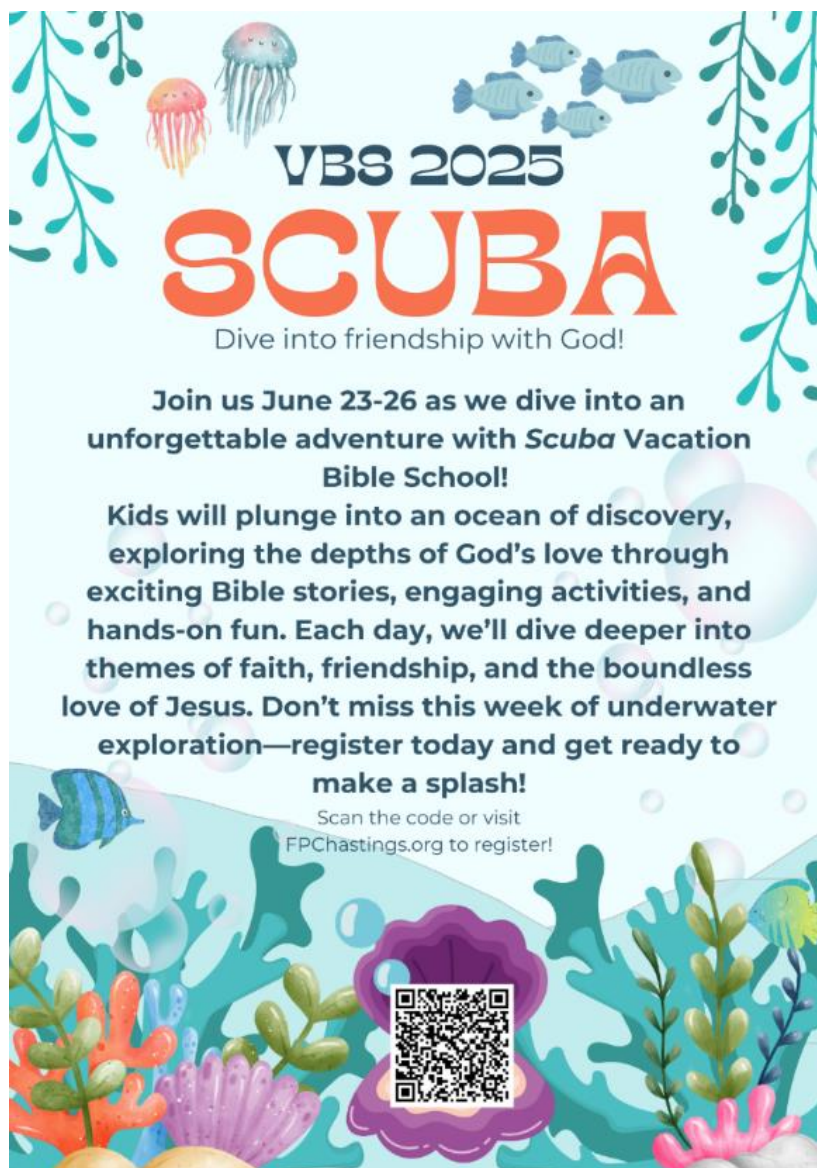
American Cancer Society
Relay for Life of Central Nebraska

Your name _____

Your Phone # _____

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

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

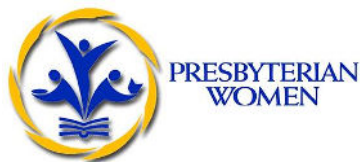
JUNE 1 **JULY 6**

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



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.

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