



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Home Page Newsletter

A Week of Kingdom Moments: Worship, Fellowship, and Fun!

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

This past week at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings was a joyful, Spirit-filled celebration of what it means to be the body of Christ—gathered for worship, scattered for service, and always centered in love.

It all began on Sunday morning, June 22, as we kicked off the week with a special worship service led by Hannah Jensen-Heitmann, who wrote original songs for this year's Vacation Bible School. With guitar in hand and joy in her heart, she taught these songs to the congregation, helping to prepare us for the week ahead. Pastor Damen and Rose Koepp offered a preview of VBS during the message, walking us through the themes our children would explore. The whole service was a joyful invitation into the faith formation journey of our young disciples.

That evening, we took the joy to the pool! Our Water Park Night at the Hastings Aquacourt welcomed more than 75 people from the church and the wider community. We rented out the whole facility and opened the gates with radical hospitality—offering a night of laughter, splashes, and fellowship. It was a simple, beautiful way to be the church in the world.

From Monday through Thursday, June 23–26, Vacation Bible School came to life! Over 40 children participated, nearly half of whom came from outside our congregation. With the help of our energetic youth and dedicated adult volunteers, we shared the good news that *Jesus is a friend we can trust*. Songs were sung, crafts were made, Bible stories were told, and friendships were formed. We were surrounded by the joyful noise of children learning about God's love—and we were all blessed by their energy and faith.



Continued

Thursday evening brought a grand celebration to close out the week. Our VBS finale party included a delicious barbeque, lawn games, music, and an unforgettable foam cannon that left kids and adults alike squealing with delight. Take a look at the photos—we dare you not to smile!

Then on Sunday, June 29, the week culminated with a powerful and moving worship service.

The band *A Brother's Fountain*, who headlined the Flatwater Music Festival at Prairie Loft, joined us in worship and shared their music. I preached a sermon based on their original song *The Birds Don't Worry*, drawing from Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:25–34. We were reminded that instead of being consumed by worry, we are invited to seek first the Kingdom of God—a message that resonated deeply after a week filled with Kingdom glimpses. Throughout the week, from worship to water slides, from songs to sermons, from foam parties to faith lessons, we were living into what it means to be a *Kingdom people*. We worshiped together, played together, learned together, and served together. We welcomed our neighbors, loved our children, and celebrated the joy of being church.

None of this would have been possible without you.

Thank you to everyone who gave of their time, talent, and treasure. To the many volunteers who helped plan, lead, and support VBS and all the related events—thank you. To Hannah for gifting us with her music and creativity—thank you. To Rose Koepp, our extraordinary Director of Christian Education, who poured her heart and soul into every detail of VBS—thank you. And to our congregation, whose tithes and offerings fund this kind of transformative ministry—thank you.

As your pastor, I couldn't be more grateful or prouder. It's weeks like these that remind me just how alive and vibrant the church can be. Together, we are planting seeds of faith, nurturing community, and pointing to the Kingdom of God.

With joy and gratitude,

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett



Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher
Carter Johnson
Tarah Davis & family
Matt Campbell
Janey Nottage-Tacey
Bob Wolf
KyMani Riek
Janelle Baideme
Nadine Hunnicutt
Jim Boeve

Mary Lewis
Judd Carrier
Charlene Cebell
Alyssa Donley
Nathan Lunstrum
Nytha & Dave Glass
Stacey Eddleman & family
Mary & Ken Fisk
Carl Utley
Barry Thomson

Carole Pedersen
Lexi Longshore
Don & Marie Rasmussen
Willis Horton
Pam Canady
Kathy (Adams) Carrier
Monte Malouf
Zsuzsanna Fazakas
Eli Struss
Greg Howard

In memory of

Ron Bourke, who passed
away on 5/9/25



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TAILGATE
HASTINGS SODBUSTERS

Sunday, July 20
5:30pm picnic at Harms Park
6:30pm first pitch @ Duncan Field
\$5.00/ticket (includes meal)
Tickets available at church starting June 29 and in the office

The poster features a baseball graphic with the church name and 'TAILGATE' written around it. Several circular photos of people are arranged in a cluster on the right side.



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.

JUNE 1 **JULY 6** **AUG 3**

FREE EVENT

PIZZA AND POPCORN WILL BE PROVIDED
THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
FOR QUESTIONS, CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (402) 462-5147

The poster has a yellow background with a red border. It features illustrations of a popcorn bucket and a soda cup with faces. A starburst graphic is next to the popcorn bucket.

Coming Soon *Worship in the Park*

July 13, 20, 27
August 3, 10, 17

9:00 a.m.
Alexander Park

Please bring your lawn chair

All are welcome!



July Ushers and Greeters

July Ushers (Team #5) Captain- Melissa Davis, Matt Fong, Julie Thomsen, Justin Brader

July Greeters

Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
6	Teresa Luther	Jenna Jorgensen
13	Kay Georgiana	Paula Crozier
20	Lesa & Steve Cropley	Amy & Joe Black
27	C.L. & Sandra Wimer	Jan Ham

July Means Open Table at FPC

Open Table 2025

Sack Lunch Program

One sack lunch, per person, per day, no questions asked.

Join our congregation in fellowship and service as we celebrate our 22nd year of support for the Open Table Sack Lunch Program. For those of you that are new to our church or community, the Open Table Sack Lunch Program is a community-wide program providing free daily sack lunches Monday through Friday from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Lunches are distributed from the Catholic Social Service Office. Beginning Sunday, July 6th, we will be assembling about 1200 lunches on Sundays preceding or immediately following both Sunday worship services until we have completed our donations. In addition to Sunday morning assembly, we need drivers to transport sandwiches and sacks to Catholic Social Services when we finish on Sunday. This tradition in our church has been a blessing for the people receiving the lunches and the people preparing them. We have continuously supported this community-wide program every July since its inception.



**American
Red Cross**

The American Red Cross and First Presbyterian Church are hosting a blood drive on Thursday, July 10, from 12pm-6pm. There is a critical need for donated blood. Please consider making an appointment to give blood during this drive. To make an appointment go to redcrossblood.org, select the drive at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, and make your appointment.



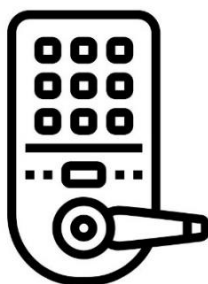
Calendar

July 1, 2025 – July 13, 2025

Tuesday 7/1	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
Wednesday 7/2	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
Thursday 7/3	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	3-5pm	Summer Youth Group	
	5:30pm	Global Mission Committee	Anderson Room
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
Friday 7/4		Church Offices Closed- Independence Day	
Sunday 7/6	9am-10:30am	Open Table Lunch Packing	Fellowship Hall
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	Open Table Lunch Packing	Fellowship Hall
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
Monday 7/7	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	Choir Room
Tuesday 7/8	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
Wednesday 7/9	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
Thursday 7/10	12pm-6pm	Red Cross Bloodmobile	Fellowship Hall
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
Friday 7/11	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Sunday 7/13	9am	Worship in the Park	Alexander Park
	9:30am-10:30am	Open Table Lunch Packing	Fellowship Hall
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	In person, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	Open Table Lunch Packing	Fellowship Hall
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library

Thank You

The Presbyterian Women would like to thank you for your generous contributions to our Father's Day Offering. We were able to collect \$600 to send to Living Waters for the World. Living Waters trains, equips, and supports volunteers in forming global, clean-water mission partnerships. Thank you!



Door Codes

Our door code system has been updated on our church, kitchen, and PEACE Center doors. You will now need your own individual code to access the church after hours. If you need to access the kitchen door or the PEACE Center, please contact the church office to get a code.

July Communion Offering



Proteus, Inc. serves agricultural workers and their families who are experiencing lower socioeconomic statuses and need access to more resources.

Our programs are centered around our mission — providing agricultural workers and their families with affordable health care, education assistance, and job training.

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