



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

# Home Page Newsletter

### The Marvel of Mutual Mission

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

One of the most beautiful truths of our faith is that God chooses to work *with* us and *through* us. In 1 Corinthians 3:9, the Apostle Paul writes, “For we are co-workers in God’s service...” That simple phrase, *co-workers in God’s service*, offers a profound theological foundation for what we call *mutual mission*.

Mutual mission is not about one group giving and another receiving. It is not about one church going to “help” another. Mutual mission is rooted in the belief that all of us, regardless of geography, language, culture, or economic circumstance, are invited to participate *together* in God’s mission of love, justice, and reconciliation. It is about giving and receiving, learning and teaching, serving and being served. It is about sharing life, faith, and hope, side by side.

This summer, we experienced the marvel of mutual mission in a truly joyful way, but we need to back up a few months for some context. In October 2024, our congregation sent a delegation of 20 pilgrims to the U.S.-Mexico border to participate in the 40th Anniversary celebration of *Frontera de Cristo*, a Presbyterian border ministry based in Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. That trip was documented in the *Presbyterian Outlook* article I wrote: “[Crossing Borders with Song](#),” It was the continuation of a deepening relationship between our church and our siblings in ministry at the border.

As often happens in mutual mission, one act of hospitality sparked another. Inspired by our October pilgrimage, we brainstormed with our partners on the US-Mexico border and decided together to reverse our trip and bring a delegation from Frontera de Cristo to visit us in Hastings. From July 19 to July 26, a delegation of Frontera de Cristo staff, church members, and leaders from the border came to share in life and ministry with us. And what a joyful, Spirit-filled week it was.

The team arrived on Saturday. On Sunday morning they joined us in worship, with Rev. Joca Gallegos serving as a liturgist and we mixed a little bit of Spanish and English in our liturgy and hymns. (Continued)





On Monday through Thursday, together with the Hastings Community Music Academy, we hosted a **bilingual, bicultural music and arts camp** for children from our church and the broader Hastings community. Voices were raised in Spanish and English, instruments were played, and colorful artwork filled our church halls. Children danced and sang side by side, learning not only rhythms and melodies, but also friendship and understanding.

On Friday, we gathered in Fellowship Hall for a **cooking class**, where we chopped vegetables, stirred sauces, and learned how to make homemade tortillas, delicious chicken *tinga* and salsas under the direction of our guests from the border. The smells were divine, but even more beautiful was the laughter, the teamwork, and the joy of learning each other's culinary traditions.



That evening, we shared a **church-wide dinner**, a feast of flavors and fellowship. People of all ages sat around tables and shared stories, hugs, and second helpings. Barriers of language and culture melted away as we broke bread together and experienced the truth that the table of Christ is wide and welcoming.

(Continued)





The week concluded with a powerful moment that perfectly captured the heart of mutual mission. On **Saturday morning**, the delegation from Frontera de Cristo packed up and prepared to return south to the border. At the same time, our high school *Go and Serve* team was loading vans to head north for a week of urban mission in the Twin Cities. We all gathered, missionaries from the

south and the north, youth and elders, hosts and travelers, pastors and parents, forty people in all, and circled up in the church parking lot. We held hands. We gave thanks. We prayed in English and Spanish. And we remembered that, wherever we go, we are co-workers with God, united in one Spirit, sharing the love of Christ.

This is the marvel of mutual mission: it transforms both the giver and the receiver, and it reminds us that we all have something to offer and something to receive. It is not a one-time event but an ongoing way of life, a holy rhythm of partnership and presence.

Thank you, church family, for embracing this vision. Thank you for opening your homes, your hearts, your hands. May we continue to walk in mutual mission, rejoicing always in the God who calls us together for such a time as this.

*¡Gracias a Dios!*  
*Thanks be to God!*

*Your Servant in Christ,*

*Pastor Greg*

You're invited to our annual:

# Jr High Zoo Trip!

**Thurs, Aug. 7th**  
8am-7pm

Incoming 6th-Graduated  
8th Graders are welcome!

**We will leave the church at 8am and head to Omaha, stopping for lunch. Then we will spend the afternoon at the Henry Doorly Zoo, and be home around 7pm.**

The cost for this trip is \$15; this will cover admission and lunch. Any additional expenses are the student's responsibility.



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



# SAVE THE DATE

**SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF**

**SUNDAY 24 AUG** | **FPC FELLOWSHIP HALL**  
**PREK-12TH GRADE STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

We will: Review Procedures, Expectations, and Schedules; Meet Teachers; Have Acolyte Training; and Go over Bible Presentation



## Christian Ed Summer Events:

<b>JULY 6</b> 5 PM - 7 PM Movie Club @ FPC	<b>JULY 26 - 28</b> Sr High Go & Serve
<b>AUG 3</b> 5 PM - 7 PM Movie Club @ FPC	<b>AUG 7</b> 8 AM - 6 PM Jr High Zoo Trip
	<b>AUG 24</b> 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School Kickoff

Updated July, 2025





## Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher	Mary Lewis	Willis Horton
Carter Johnson	Judd Carrier	Pam Canady
Tarah Davis & family	Alyssa Donley	Kathy (Adams) Carrier
Matt Campbell	Nytha & Dave Glass	Zsuzsanna Fazakas
Janey Nottage-Tacey	Mary & Ken Fisk	Dave Henderson & family
Bob Wolf	Carl Utley	Gayle Struss
KyMani Riek	Barry Thomson	Go & Serve Participants &
Janelle Baideme	family of Dorothy Larabee	Sponsors
Nadine Hunnicutt	Greg Howard	
Jim Harrenstein	Monte Malouf	
Eli Struss	Lexi Longshore	
Carole Pedersen	Don & Marie Rasmussen	



### *Worship in the Park*

**August 3, 10, 17**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Alexander Park**

Please bring your lawn chair

All are welcome!

## August Communion Offering



Threads of Grace is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving children aged birth to 19 years. We stand by those entering foster care and any child in Adams County going through a personal or family crisis. Making a Difference, One Child at a Time. Threads of Grace, we're dedicated to supporting children in need.

Go & Serve trip 7/26/25-8/2/25			
<b>Tuesday 7/29</b>	12pm	Bible Study (cancelled)	Anderson Room
<b>Wednesday 7/30</b>	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers Meet	Basement
<b>Thursday 7/31</b>	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	3-5pm	Summer Youth Group	
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
<b>Friday 8/1</b>	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
<b>Sunday 8/3</b>	9am	Worship in the Park	Alexander Park
	10am-1pm	Hastings College 1965 Class Reunion	Fellowship Hall
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30a	HAW Store Open	Library
	5pm	South Central Nebraska Children's Chorale concert	Sanctuary
<b>Monday 8/4</b>	1-3pm	First 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
<b>Tuesday 8/5</b>	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson
	6pm	WAM Meeting	Anderson
<b>Wednesday 8/6</b>	12pm	Noondav Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers Meet	Basement
<b>Thursday 8/7</b>	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
<b>Friday 8/8</b>	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
<b>Sunday 8/10</b>	9am	Worship in the Park	Alexander Park
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library



### South Central Nebraska Children's Chorale Concert

Sunday, August 3

5 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings  
Sanctuary

All are welcome!



**Join Pack 200**

### Cub Scouts Open House



Thursday, August 21  
7:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church Scout Room  
(located in the basement)



Cub Master  
Jasen Martin  
(402) 519-8518



K-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Fun & lasting friendships

## August Ushers and Greeters

**August Ushers (Team #6)** Lynne Friedewald, Chuck Shoemaker, Chanda Essink

### August Greeters

August Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
<b>3</b>	Jill Kramer	Mary Kay LaMaster
<b>10</b>	Linda & Richard Johnson	Julie Thomsen
<b>17</b>	Carolyn & Rich McKenzie	Jean Barber
<b>24</b>	Lori & Ted Schroeder	Stephanie Bliss
<b>31</b>	Todd Pankratz & Jessica Meeske	Sue Medsker



ATTENTION ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL AND  
WNL VOLUNTEERS:

# Save the Date!

Sun. 8/17; 9:15–10:15 am

OR

Wed. 8/27; 6:00–7 pm

**Mandatory Safety & General  
Training**

*Child Protection Policy*

*Volunteer Roles*

*Emergency Procedures*

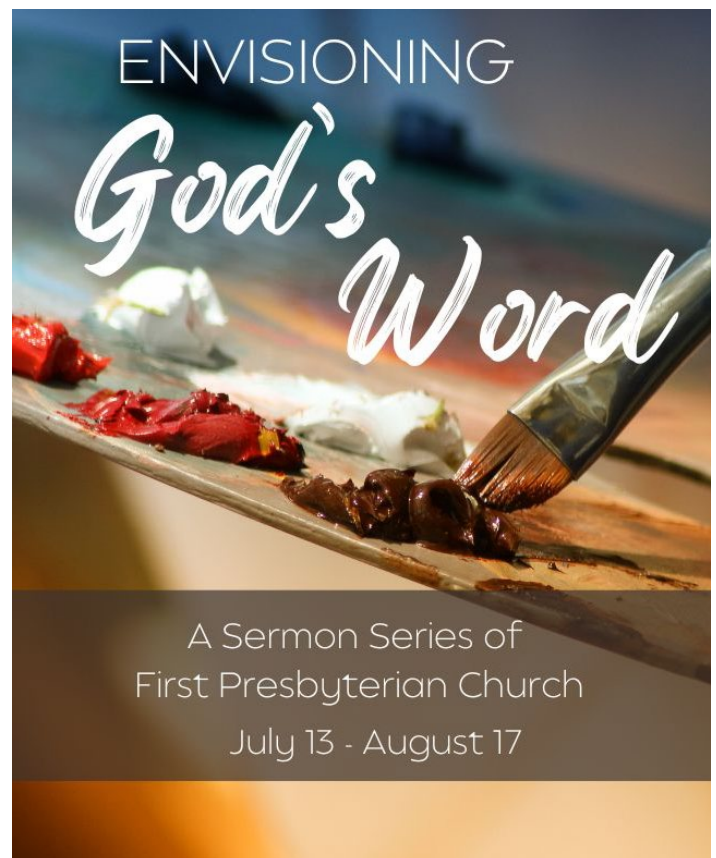
*Curriculum*

\*A meal will be provided at both events.

\*Child Care available for 0-5<sup>th</sup> grade.

\*This will be our primary training event of the year; please make plans to attend one of the dates. If you are unable to make either date work, just let me know! We can schedule something together.

\*More details will be sent out in a few weeks!



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

**Interim Chancel Choir Director:** Dr. Robin Koozer

**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 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