



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Home Page Newsletter

Wrestling with God – The book of Job: Faith, Suffering, and Blessing

Adult Education & Sermon Series with Culminating Jazz Concert

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

Why do bad things happen to good people? This age-old question has perplexed believers for centuries, and it's at the heart of one of the most profound books in Scripture: The Book of Job. This fall, we invite you to wrestle with this question together through a two-week adult education forum, a sermon series, and a special musical event.

Pre-Reading Opportunity

We have ordered copies of Rabbi Harold Kushner's classic book *The Book of Job: When Bad Things Happen to a Good Person*. You are invited to pick up a copy in the church office and do some pre-reading before the series begins. Pre-reading is not required to participate, but this book is a deeply insightful resource that will enrich your reflection on suffering, faith, and God's presence in the midst of trials.

**The Book
of Job**
When Bad
Things
Happened
to a Good
Person
**Harold S.
Kushner**

Adult Education Forum

Join us in the adult forum during the Sunday school hour (9:15–10:15 a.m.) on September 14 and 21 as we dive into the themes of Job, Kushner's insights, and our own lived experiences of faith and hardship. These classes will be taught by our scholar in residence, Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh.

Sermon Series: Wrestling with God—Faith, Suffering, and Blessing

I will preach a two-part sermon series that explores Job's trials alongside stories from Genesis, helping us reflect on how people of faith wrestle with God in times of testing and loss.

- **September 14: "When the Test Comes"**

Job 1:6–22 & Genesis 22:1–14

Abraham and Job both face unthinkable tests. How do we respond when we cannot see the purpose behind the pain?

- **September 21: "Suffering and Blessing"**

Job 29:1–11 & Genesis 27:1–40; 28:10–17

Job laments lost blessings, while Jacob gains one through deception. What does it mean to be blessed when life feels broken?

Continued

Culminating Concert: *Job's Trials—A Jazz Song Cycle*

On **Thursday, September 25**, our series culminates in a free concert: *Job's Trials: A Jazz Song Cycle* by bassist and composer Dan Loomis. This evocative work brings Job's story to life through the dynamic power of jazz. Loomis' music explores the universal human cry of suffering, resilience, and the daring act of holding God to account—all with soulful artistry and spiritual depth.

Together, let's wrestle honestly with God and discover anew the presence of grace in the midst of life's hardest questions.

Your Servant in Christ,



Pastor Greg

August & September Ushers and Greeters

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

August Greeters

| Greeters | Memorial Room | Narthex |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 31 | Todd Pankratz & Jessica Meeske | Sue Medsker |

September Ushers (Team #1) Captain – Chuck Hastings, Elaine Specht, Kim Creech

| Greeters | Memorial Room | Narthex |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 7 | Bonnie & Kenton Grams | Jeni & George Howard |
| 14 | Clyde Sachtleben, Carolyn Nowka | Susan Hoff |
| 21 | Gayle Fandry | Flossie Sanderson |
| 28 | Dixie & Gale McDonald | Jan Bolliger |



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 0-5th 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!

CONGREGATIONAL
LIFE
PRESENTS:

September
3, 2025

Game Night at FPC



JOIN US FOR:

Dinner
Games
Fellowship

Dinner 5-5:30
GAMES
5:30-7:00

**This event is intended for adults. Students will be at their regular WNL activities.

For Questions, contact the office: (402) 462-5147

Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher
Carter Johnson
Tarah Davis & family
Matt Campbell
Janey Nottage-Tacey
Bob Wolf
KyMani Riek
Janelle Baideme
Jim Harrenstein
Gayle Struss

Carole Pedersen
Willis Horton
Pam Canady
Kathy (Adams) Carrier
Zsuzsanna Fazakas
The Unger family
Mary Lewis
Judd Carrier
Alyssa Donley
Lynden Hall

Nytha & Dave Glass
Ken Fisk
Carl Utley
Barry Thomson
Greg Howard
Lexi Longshore
Mary Kay LaMaster
Dave Henderson & family

Deacon



**MEET
AND
GREET**



The Congregational Life Committee has planned an Ice Cream Social following worship on Sunday September 7th. We encourage you to stay for ice cream and use the opportunity to meet your Deacon and enjoy fellowship with other Parish members. If you are unsure which Parish you are in or who your Deacon is, check out the list below (grouped alphabetically by the first three letters of your last name.)

| DEACON | PARISH # | PARISH MEMBERS (alphabetical by last name) | DEACON | PARISH # | PARISH MEMBERS (alphabetical by last name) |
|---------------------|----------|---|----------------|----------|---|
| Betty Johnson Smith | 1 | Ada...Bor... | Brady Rhodes | 9 | Loc...Med |
| Lois Hafer | 2 | Boy...Cza... | Milrae Korb | 10 | Mee...Nor |
| Neil Kerr | 3 | Dav...Ess | Laurie Johnson | 11 | Not...Pic |
| Melissa Karloff | 4 | Fan...Gos | Linda Johnson | 12 | Plo...Sch |
| Lisa Unger | 5 | Gra...Hem | Byron Jenson | 13 | Schi...Spe |
| Lois Meeske | 6 | Her...Hun | Chris Schukei | 14 | Ste...Utt |
| Janet Brandt | 7 | Hunt...Ker | Chris Wray | 15 | War...Zie |
| Mary Plock | 8 | Kin...Lit | | | |



**American
Red Cross**

The American Red Cross and First Presbyterian Church are hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, September 9, 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.

BIBLE PRESENTATIONS

AUGUST 24, 2025

Kindergarten

Lennon Ellerbee
Elise Koepp
Jeremy Struss

3rd Grade

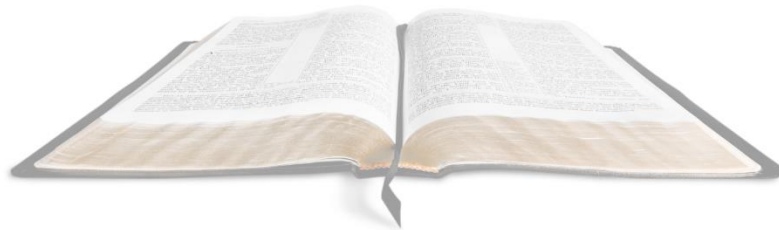
Briella Borrell
Maebry Moore
Addalyn Randone
Rory Stout

8th Grade

Ian Erickson
Vivian Fong
Madilyn Graves
Raegan Welsch



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF HASTINGS**
SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC.
CWU Celebrations 2025
Human Rights Day

HELP OTHERS AT ALL TIMES

Human Rights Day

Psalm 82:3

People Helping People



Celebration

Friday, September 5, 2025
10 a.m.

First Congregational United Church of Christ
2810 W. 7th St. Hastings, NE
Human Rights Special Recognition
Jayson Stoddard
All are Welcome!

GUEST SPEAKER
Rev. Wes Olds



FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 9, 2026
PAUL'S JOURNEYS
Cruise

10 Nights Aboard Celebrity Infinity • Round Trip from Piraeus, Greece

with Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett



Jimmy Steele | STS Travel | 904-513-0085 | jsteele@cruiseplanners.com

Info Sessions in the Anderson Conference Room:
Thursday, 8/28 at 12noon & Sunday 9/7 at 12noon
For more information visit: <http://bit.ly/PaulCruise>

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|--|--|
| Tuesday 8/26 | 10:30am | Staff Meeting | In-person |
| | 11:45am | Habitat for Humanity Meeting | Room 203 |
| | 12pm | Bible Study | Anderson Room |
| Wednesday 8/27 | 12pm | Noonday Book Club | Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link |
| | 6pm | Sunday School & WNL Volunteer Training | Fellowship Hall |
| | 6:30pm | Woodcarvers Meet | Basement |
| | 6:45pm | Chancel Choir Practice | Choir Room |
| | 7:30pm | Chancel Bells Practice | Bell Room |
| Thursday 8/28 | 12pm | Cruise Information Session | Anderson Room |
| | 12:30pm | Dulcimer | HCMA Room 112 |
| | 6-8pm | Mexican Folkloric Dance | PEACE NE Classroom |
| | 7-8pm | Cub Scouts | Scout Room |
| Friday 8/29 | 10am | Mahjong Ladies | Basement Youth Room |



Wrestling with God: Faith, Suffering, and Blessing

This September, join us for a special two-week adult education and sermon series on the Book of Job where we ask the questions: “Why do bad things happen to good people?”

We’ll gather during the adult forum on **Sundays, September 14 & 21** to explore this theme together, followed by sermons in worship that dig into Job’s story. Copies of Rabbi Harold Kushner’s book *The Book of Job: When Bad Things Happen to a Good Person* are available in the church office if you’d like to do some pre-reading (optional but encouraged!).

The series culminates on **Thursday, September 25** with a free jazz concert: *Job’s Trials—A Jazz Song Cycle* by Dan Loomis, an inspiring musical journey into Job’s story through the language of jazz.

Pick up a book • Join the forum
Worship with us • Come to the concert!

The Book of Job

When Bad Things Happened to a Good Person

Harold S. Kushner

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|---|---|
| Sunday 8/31 | 10am | HAW Store Open | Library |
| | 10:30am | Traditional Worship Service | Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio |
| | 11:30am | HAW Store Open | Library |
| Monday 9/1 | | Church Offices Closed-Labor Day | |
| Tuesday 9/2 | 10:30am | Staff Meeting | In-person |
| | 12pm | Bible Study | Anderson Room |
| | 6-7:30pm | WAM Meeting | Anderson Room |
| Wednesday 9/3 | 11am-11:45am | PW Coord Team | Parlor |
| | 11:45am | PW Program and Luncheon | Fellowship Hall |
| | 12pm | Noonday Book Club | Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link |
| | 5pm-7:15pm | PreK-12 th Grade WNL activities | Various |
| | 5pm-7pm | Adult Game Night (meal 5-5:30pm and Games 5:30-7pm) | Fellowship Hall |
| | 6:30pm | Woodcarvers Meet | Basement |
| | 6:45pm | Chancel Choir Practice | Choir Room |
| | 7:30pm | Chancel Bells Practice | Bell Room |
| | | | |
| Thursday 9/4 | 12:30pm | Dulcimer | HCMA Room 112 |
| | 5:30pm | Global Mission Committee Meeting | Anderson Room |
| | 6-8pm | Mexican Folkloric Dance | PEACE NE Classroom |
| | 7-8pm | Cub Scouts | Scout Room |
| Friday 9/5 | 10am-12pm | Mahjong Ladies | Basement Youth Room |
| Sunday 9/7 | 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 | Ice Cream Social | Fellowship Hall |
| | 11:30am | HAW Store Open | Library |
| | 12pm | Cruise Information Session | Anderson Room |



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