



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

## Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost August 31, 2025 - 10:30 am Service

PRELUDE

“Pastorale in F Major”  
Organist Linda Vollweiler

*J.S. Bach*

WELCOME

Greg Allen-Pickett

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 126 and John 12)      Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy.

***Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,***

Shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying the harvest.

***For unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,***

It remains alone.

***But if it dies, it bears much fruit. Come, let us worship the Lord of the harvest, who brings life out of death and joy out of sorrow!***

\*HYMN

“For the Fruit of All Creation”  
Sarah Wolf, Song Leader

36

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Gracious God, you sow good seed in us, but we confess that we cling to our own ways. We love our contented lives too much to sacrifice them. We guard our comfort and resist surrender. We fear the dying to ourselves that leads to new life in you. Forgive us, Lord. Bury our selfishness, pride, and fear, and raise us up with Christ into lives of service and love. Break us open like seeds in the soil so that we may grow and bear much fruit for your kingdom.***

SILENT CONFESSION

How have I resisted sacrificing for others and clung to my own needs instead?

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news: “If we have been united with Christ in a death like his,

***We shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”***

What is sown in weakness is raised in power. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, transformed, and made new.

***Thanks be to God! 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

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rose Koepp

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***Lord of the harvest, as we hear your Word, bury it deep within us like seed in good soil. Break open our hearts, let your Spirit take root, and bring forth in us the fruit of faith, hope, and love. Through Christ our risen Lord, we pray. Amen.***

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-44

SECOND SCRIPTURE READINGS – John 12:20–26

## SERMON

“Buried to Bear Fruit”

Greg Allen-Pickett

## \*HYMN

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower (Hymn of Promise)”

250

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

***We believe in the God of resurrection, who brings life out of death and hope out of despair.***

***We believe in Jesus Christ, who taught us that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He was crucified, buried, and raised to new life, that we too might walk in newness of life.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, who transforms us day by day, calling us to die to sin and selfishness, and raising us to bear fruit for God’s kingdom.***

***We believe that what is sown perishable is raised imperishable; what is sown in weakness is raised in power. This is our hope, and in Christ it shall be fulfilled. Amen.***

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

“Fuga”

*Beethoven/Richard Brasier*

DOXOLOGY

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

609

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Generous God, you have sown your Word in our hearts and raised us up in Christ to new life. Receive these gifts as seeds of your kingdom. Use them to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, comfort the broken, and build your harvest of justice and peace. Through Jesus Christ, who gave himself so that the world might have life abundant. 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

“God of the Fertile Fields”

714

\*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE “We Are the Church”

*Avery & Marsh*

***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!***

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare”

*Michael Gague*

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP &  
INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS

**Sunday, September 7:**

**8:30am Contemplative Worship in the Chapel**  
**9:15am Sunday School for All Ages**  
**10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary**  
**11:30am Ice Cream Social in the Fellowship Hall**

**Stay-at-Home Broadcast live on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fpchastings](http://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 FLOWERS** are given by First Presbyterian Church of Hastings.

**THE RADIO BROADCAST** is given by First Presbyterian Church of Hastings.

**NURSERY** Kim Bogan

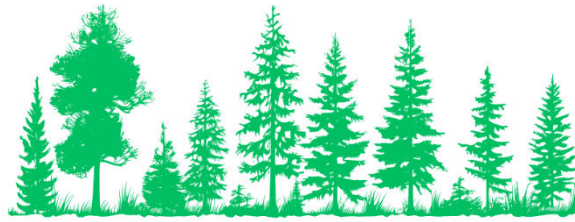
**USHERS (Team #6)** Lynne Friedewald, Chuck Shoemaker, Chanda Essink

**GREETERS**

August	Memorial Room	Narthex
<b>31</b>	Todd Pankratz & Jessica Meeske	Sue Medsker

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

September Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
<b>7</b>	Bonnie & Kenton Grams	Jeni & George Howard
<b>14</b>	Clyde Sachtleben & Carolyn Nowka	Melissa Davis
<b>21</b>	Gayle Fandry	Flossie Sanderson
<b>28</b>	Dixie & Gale McDonald	Jan Bolliger



### **Join the Church Landscape Committee!**

Do you enjoy planning and design? The Landscape Committee is forming to help shape updates to our church grounds. Members will work with landscape designers and nursery staff to create a master plan, with changes beginning in spring 2026.

Interested? Please contact John Nelson at 402-469-6001 or [nelsonjc48@hotmail.com](mailto:nelsonjc48@hotmail.com).

### **PEACE Center Rain Garden – Volunteers Needed!**

The PEACE Center Rain Garden has finally been upgraded with new drains to better handle heavy rains. Now it's time to bring it to life with native plants!

We need volunteers to help with both planting and ongoing care. The initial planting must be completed by mid-September, so we need your help!

Interested? Please contact John Nelson at 402-469-6001 or [nelsonjc48@hotmail.com](mailto:nelsonjc48@hotmail.com) to join the effort.







## CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

**Returns September 7**

**8:30am Sundays  
in the Chapel**



**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Wednesday Night  
Live will start on  
September 3th, 2025**



## **Summer Recap**

Sunday, September 7

9:15am

Lydia Room

Led by: Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

Join us as we recap everything that has happened  
at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings during the  
summer.

FPC AT:

# MELODY ROUND-UP

PARADE

We will be participating in Hastings College's annual "Melody Round-up" parade. We would love to have church members of all ages join us on their bike, scooters, rollerblades, or whatever else!

When: Saturday, September 28th;

Parade starts at 10:30am.

Where: Downtown Hastings - gather spot TBD

Who can come: Anyone is welcome to join us!

What to bring: Your bike, scooter, your family...

RSVP: Call the church office to let us know you'll be joining!

(402) 462-5147

# 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			





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

Celebrity X Cruises

Jimmy Steele | STS Travel | 904-513-0085 | [jsteele@cruiseplanners.com](mailto: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>

### **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 question: "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**

<b>Sunday 8/31</b>	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
<b>Monday 9/1</b>		Church Offices Closed-Labor Day	
<b>Tuesday 9/2</b>	11am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	6-7:30pm	WAM Meeting	Anderson Room
<b>Wednesday 9/3</b>	11am-11:45am	PW Coord Team	Parlor
	11:45am	PW Program and Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	5pm-7:15pm	PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Thursday 9/4</b>	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
<b>Friday 9/5</b>	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
<b>Sunday 9/7</b>	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







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](http://redcrossblood.org), select the drive at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, and make your appointment.

CONGREGATIONAL  
LIFE  
PRESENTS:  
**September  
3, 2025**

# Game Night at FPC

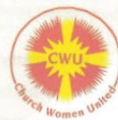
**JOIN US FOR:**

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**



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

**HELP OTHERS AT ALL TIMES**

**Human Rights Day**

**Psalms 82:3**

People Helping People



## Celebration

**Friday, September 5, 2025  
10 a.m.**

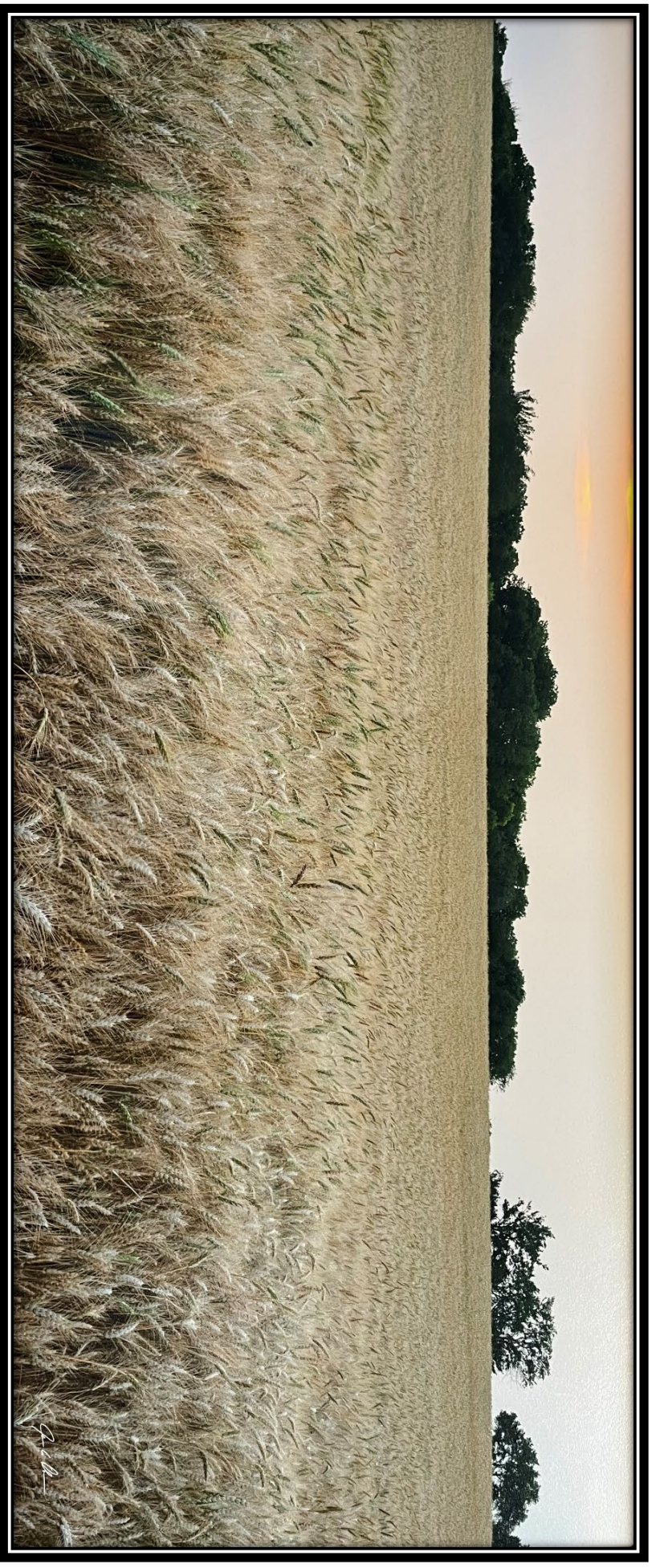
First Congregational United Church of Christ  
2810 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Hastings, NE

**Human Rights Special Recognition**

**Jayson Stoddard**

**All are Welcome!**





### ***"On the Thresher's Threshold"***

Photograph by Jørn Olsen - Taken 6/22/13 in Jefferson County, Nebraska

*"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain;  
but if it dies, it bears much fruit."  
(John 12:24)*

This image of ripened wheat reminds us of Christ's promise:  
that what feels like loss or burial can become the beginning of new life.  
Just as the thresher's work transforms the harvest into bread for the world,  
so too God transforms our sacrifice into abundant fruit.



## 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

## Ice Cream Social

Free

Sunday,  
September 7

All are  
welcome!

11:30a.m.

Fellowship Hall



### *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