



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Home Page Newsletter

Music, Invitation, and Church Growth

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

In the coming week, every household in our church family will receive a special mailing that includes two copies of the 2025–2026 Langenberg Concert Series brochure. One copy is for you and your family. The other copy is for you to share. Why? Because one of the very best ways for people to discover our church is through a personal invitation.

Church growth experts and research groups like Barna have consistently found that the majority of people first came to church because someone they knew invited them. It wasn't usually a pastor, a billboard, or a social media post that got them there; it was a friend, a neighbor, or a family member saying, "*Come with me.*" Some studies suggest well over 80% of people who become connected to a church do so because of a personal invitation.

That's why this mailing includes an extra brochure. It's a simple tool to help us practice the ministry of invitation. The concerts are free, open to the public, and full of beauty and joy. When you hand that brochure to someone you know like a coworker, a neighbor, or a friend, you're not just inviting them to a concert. You're inviting them to experience the warmth of our community and the vibrancy of a church that loves God, loves music, and loves people.

Imagine the ripple effect if each one of us extended just one invitation this season. Our sanctuary would not only be filled with music but also with new relationships, new energy, and perhaps even new discipleship journeys.

So, when the brochure arrives in your mailbox, keep one for yourself. But don't tuck the second one away in a drawer. Pray about who you might give it to. Then, with courage and kindness, extend the invitation. Together, we can share the gift of music and the greater gift of Christ's love with Hastings and beyond.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg

September Ushers and Greeters

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

Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
14	Clyde Sachtleben & Carolyn Nowka	Melissa Davis
21	Gayle Fandry	Flossie Sanderson
28	Dixie & Gale McDonald	Jan Bolliger

Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher	Carl Utley
Tarah Davis & family	Barry Thomson
Matt Campbell	Greg Howard
Janey Nottage-Tacey	Lexi Longshore
Bob Wolf	Mary Kay LaMaster
KyMani Riek	Dave Henderson & family
Janelle Baideme	Zsuzsanna Fazakas
Jim Harrenstein	The Unger family
Gayle Struss	Mary Lewis
Carole Pedersen	Judd Carrier
Willis Horton	Alyssa Donley
Pam Canady	Lynden Hall
Kathy (Adams) Carrier	Ken Fisk
Francisco Diaz (Beto)	Nytha & Dave Glass
Carter Johnson	



9:45am-11:30am

**Third Saturday of each month
at the PEACE Center**

United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry is a joint ministry with First Presbyterian Church & First United Methodist Church. We provide a food distribution to 400+ families.

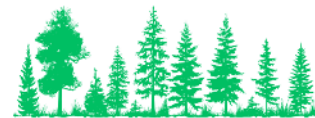
- If you need food, please feel free to come. The distribution is on a first-come, first-serve basis effective with the September 2025 distribution.
- If you would like to volunteer for this distribution, please come to the church at 9:30am to help us with the distribution.

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 to join the effort.



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.

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**

September Communion Offering

The Zone (through the YWCA)

The Zone is a free After School Program providing a safe, fun, drug and alcohol free environment for local middle school students.

Students who attend the Zone can take advantage of our free dinner program, homework tutoring, arts and crafts, sports games, classes and lessons, academic enrichment opportunities, and community service learning projects.

August Communion Offering Update

The August communion offering raised a total of **\$739.00**, which will benefit **Threads of Grace**. Thank you for your generous support.

Tuesday 9/9	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	12-6pm	Red Cross Blood Mobile	Fellowship Hall
	5:30pm	Congregational Life Committee Meeting	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Trustee Meeting	Middle School Youth Room
	6:45pm	Deacons Meet	Anderson Room
Wednesday 9/10	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	5pm-7:15pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	Various
	5:30pm	Adult Game Night at FPC	Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers Meet	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells Practice	Bell Room
Thursday 9/11	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 9/12	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room

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 27th;
Parade starts at 10:30am.

Where: Downtown Hastings - gather spot TBD

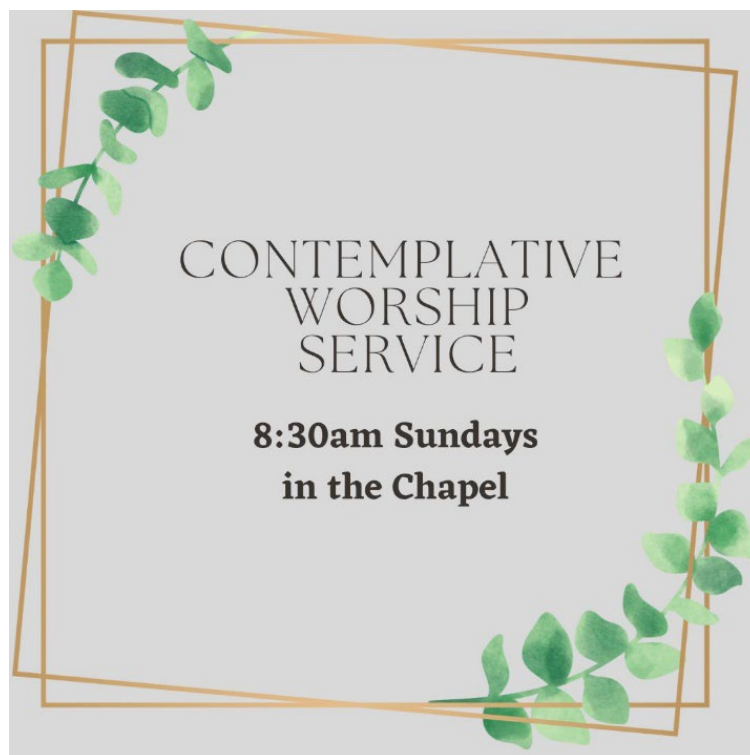
Who can come: Anyone is welcome to join us!

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

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

(402) 462-5147

Sunday 9/14	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	HAW Store Open	Library
Monday 9/15	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 9/16	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
Wednesday 9/17	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	Fellowship Hall
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks5@@gmail.com for link
	1:15pm	PW Circle 3	Fellowship Hall
	5pm-7:15pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	Various
	5:30pm-7pm	Adult Game Night	Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bell Practice	Bell Room
Thursday 9/18	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Session Meets	Anderson Room
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 9/19	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Saturday 9/20	9:45am-11:30am	United Harvest	
Sunday 9/21	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	HAW Store Open	Library



BLESSING OF THE PETS!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Each year at First Presbyterian Church, we hold a service in which we talk about how animals are a wonderful part of God's creation. During this service, Pastor Greg offers a blessing for any pets present.



 **WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 1ST**

We will be holding this special service in place of our typical Wednesday Night Live programming.
5:00–6:00 pm Dinner/Fellowship for everyone
6:00–6:30 pm Service/Pet Blessing
6:30–7:00/15 pm Regular WNL Bible Time

WHAT TO BRING

If you'd like to bring your pet, please do! But please keep it on a leash or in a carrier. You could also bring a picture of your pet.



For questions, call the church office
(402) 462-5147

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

CONGREGATIONAL
LIFE
PRESENTS:

Wednesday
Evening

**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

PW Women will be in the in the Memorial Room September 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12 collecting items or monetary donations for CWS Clean Up buckets. Please make checks payable to Presbyterian Women.



CWS CLEANUP BUCKET

UPDATED

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ☐ One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If reused, please scrub clean. Do not use a bucket that has held chemicals of any kind. Brand labels on the outside are acceptable)
- ☐ Five scouring pads (No stainless steel or pads with soap in them. Remove from packaging)
- ☐ Seven sponges, including one large
- ☐ One scrub brush (With or without handle)
- ☐ 18 reusable, lightweight multipurpose cleaning towels (Not paper towels. Remove from packaging)
- ☐ One 16-34oz bottle of liquid dish soap (antibacterial preferred)
- ☐ One 12-40oz bottle of liquid concentrate household cleaner that can be mixed with water (No spray bottles)
- ☐ One 50-100 ft clothesline (Cotton or plastic line)
- ☐ Five dust masks (N95 particulate respirator dust masks preferred; No surgical masks)
- ☐ Two pairs of heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (Latex-free preferred. Durable for multiple use. Remove from packaging)
- ☐ One pair of heavy-duty, reusable work gloves (Such as Nitrile, cotton with leather palm, or all leather)
- ☐ 20-28 heavy-duty or contractor-type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll (Remove from packaging)

All cleaning items must be new and all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.



For more information, including where to ship or drop off your CWS Kits, how to support the Shipping and Processing Fund to help get CWS Kits to their final destinations, and answers to other Frequently Asked Questions, scan this QR code or visit cwskits.org.



VALUE: \$75

PROCESSING FEE: \$3 per bucket

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