



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

## Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 14, 2025 - 10:30 am Service

### PRELUDE

Revecy Venir du Printans      *Claude LaJeune, arr. Mills*  
Cathedral Brass Quintet

Louie Eckhardt, trumpet - Erin Beave, trumpet - Amy Schneider, horn  
Nathan LeFeber, trombone - Dan Sodomka, tuba

### WELCOME

Greg Allen-Pickett

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 22 and Psalm 46)      Damen Jensen-Heitmann

In times of trial and testing,

***We cry out to God, who hears our voice.***

When the ground beneath us shakes and all feels lost,

***God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.***

Though we may walk through sorrow, though we may not understand,

***We will trust in the name of the Lord our God.***

Come, let us worship the One who walks with us through every fire and storm.

***We lift our eyes to the Holy One, our hope and our Redeemer! Come,  
let us worship God!***

### \*HYMN

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Organist Linda Vollweiler

Sue Medsker, Song Leader

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***God of mercy and mystery, we confess that we do not always  
understand your ways. When suffering comes, we question your  
love. When we are tested, we resist your call. We confess our desire  
for easy answers and quick escapes. We forget that even with faith,  
we will still walk through valleys and that trust means leaning on  
you when the path is unclear.***

***Forgive us, Lord. Meet us in our doubts, hold us in our grief, and remind us that even in the struggle, we are not alone. Through Christ our companion, we pray.***

SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved of God, even when we walk through the darkest valleys, God's mercy does not abandon us. Christ meets us in the ashes and leads us toward new life.

Hear and believe the good news:

***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and loved. 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

***Gracious God, when the words are hard and the stories uncomfortable, open our ears to hear your voice. By your Spirit, shine light into our confusion, hope into our sorrow, and truth into our questions. Speak, Lord, for we are listening. Amen.***

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – Genesis 22:1–14

SECOND SCRIPTURE READINGS – Job 1:6–22

SERMON

"When Everything Is at Risk"

Greg Allen-Pickett

Part of the series "Wrestling with God: Faith, Suffering, Blessing"

\*HYMN

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

834

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from Romans 8 and the Belhar Confession)

***We believe that nothing: not hardship or distress, not loss or grief, not powers or principalities, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

***We believe that God's grace is present in the midst of suffering, that God walks with us through the fire, and that hope is born even in the struggle.***

***We believe in a God who brings life from death, healing from brokenness, and blessing from ashes. Thanks be to God. Amen.***

## OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY                      Air (from Orchestral Suite No. 3)                      J.S. Bach, arr. Allen

\*DOXOLOGY                      "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"                      609

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Faithful God, you have given us everything we have and everything we are. Even when the road is hard, your grace sustains us. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you, not because we understand all your ways, but because we believe in your goodness. Use what we give to bring healing, hope, and the light of your love to a weary world. In Christ's name, 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                      "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"                      353

## \*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE                      "Morning Prayer"                      Pyotr Illyich Tchaikovsky,  
arr. Eckhardt

POSTLUDE                      "Rondeau"                      Jean-Joseph Mouret, arr. Barnes

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

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

**Sunday, September 21:**  
**8:30am Contemplative Worship in the Chapel**  
**9:15am Sunday School for All Ages**  
**10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary**

**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 in memory of Dr. Robert McIntire by Marilyn McIntire.

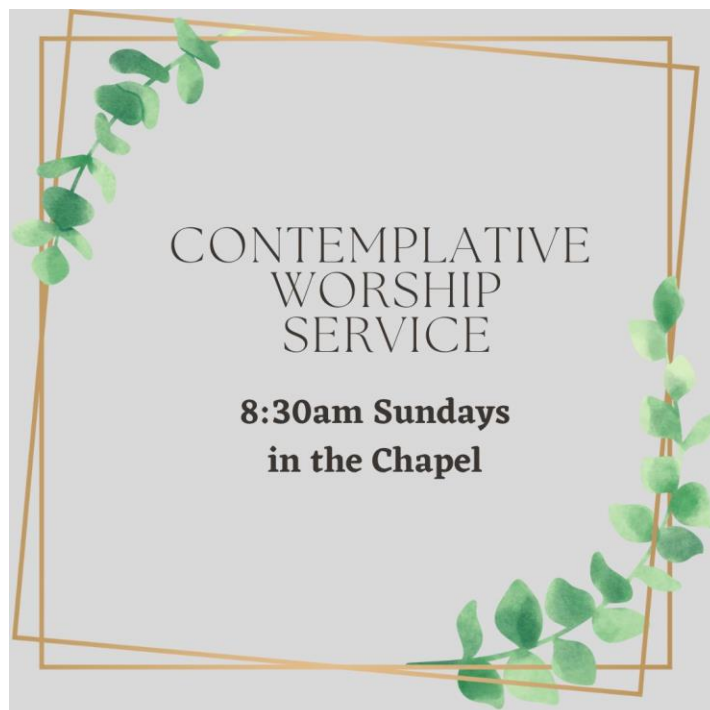
**THE RADIO BROADCAST** is given in memory of Dr. Robert McIntire by Marilyn McIntire.

**NURSERY** Kim Bogan, Peyton Mitchell

**ACOLYTES** Peter Ratzlaff, Lincoln Welsch

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

September	Memorial Room	Narthex
<b>14</b>	Clyde Sachtleben & Carolyn Nowka	Melissa Davis
<b>21</b>	Gayle Fandry	Flossie Sanderson
<b>28</b>	Dixie & Gale McDonald	Jan Bolliger





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](mailto:jsteele@cruiseplanners.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 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

## **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.



## **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).

### *Please pray for*

Elaine Schumacher  
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  
Francisco Diaz (Beto)  
Carter Johnson

Carl Utley  
Barry Thomson  
Greg Howard  
Lexi Longshore  
Mary Kay LaMaster  
Dave Henderson & family  
Zsuzsanna Fazakas  
The Unger family  
Mary Lewis  
Judd Carrier  
Alyssa Donley  
Lynden Hall  
Ken Fisk  
Nytha & Dave Glass  
Adam Brooks



# 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

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



**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.

<b>Sunday 9/14</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	HAW Store Open	Library
<b>Monday 9/15</b>	1-3pm	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 9/16</b>	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm-8:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School Youth & Choir Rooms
<b>Wednesday 9/17</b>	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 <sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Thursday 9/18</b>	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Session Meets	Anderson Room
	5:30pm-8:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School Youth & Choir Rooms
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
<b>Friday 9/19</b>	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Friday 9/19</b>	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
<b>Saturday 9/20</b>	9:45am-11:30am	United Harvest	
<b>Sunday 9/21</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	HAW Store Open	Library



**FPC**  
POTLUCK

**October 12**  
following the 10:30 a.m.  
worship service

Congregation asked to bring food items based on  
the first letter of their last name:

**A-G** Salad or Vegetable

**H-M** Main Dish

**N-Z** Dessert



Presbyterian 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](http://cwskits.org).



VALUE: \$75

PROCESSING FEE: \$3 per bucket



**Langenberg Lesson Scholarship Applications** are available on the shelf outside the Church Offices or on the Church website at:

<https://fpchastings.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Langenberg-form-Fall-2025.pdf>

***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