



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Home Page Newsletter

Dear Church Family,

At the beginning of worship this past Sunday I began by welcoming those gathered into the new year. I do truly hope that you are all doing well as the new year begins. And please know that if you are not, you have an entire church family that you can rely on for strength and support. We may not be able to fix everything for you but we can certainly make sure that you don't face it alone. May the new year treat us all kindly and bring us peace.

One thing that we can be sure the new year will bring to us is a new lectionary cycle. The lectionary cycle offers suggestions for scripture to be studied on Sunday mornings throughout the year and as we move into 2026, we also move into a prolonged study of the Gospel of John.

Among the four gospels found in the Bible, the Gospel of John stands out. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are often collectively referred to as the Synoptic Gospels. Word sleuths among us can already tell you that synoptic quite literally means "viewed together" and the term illustrates that these three (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) have a very similar viewpoint. While there is material and emphasis that is unique to each narrative, these three generally tell the same stories in the same sequence. They can (sometimes to their detriment and our confusion) be viewed together.

John really cannot be lumped in with the others. This is due to a variety of factors. For example, in the Gospel of John the miracles of Jesus are often referred to as signs and their main function is to draw people into belief in Jesus and recognition of his identity as God's Messiah. Whereas, in the Synoptic tradition Jesus' miracles do not reveal Jesus' identity, but rather signify the nearness of the Kingdom of God. Really the entire Gospel places a heavy emphasis on the identity of Jesus. Look no further than the first chapter and you will find a completely different kind of birth narrative that contains no references to dates or time or places and instead focuses entirely on Jesus' identity as the Word of God made flesh.

The use of artistic, poetic, and double-meaning language, like that found in the opening chapter, is another reason that John has such a distinct flavor. The narrative is filled with extended conversations between Jesus and others in which Jesus frequently uses symbolic imagery and language dripping with double meaning to convey his thoughts. These conversations often leave people confused or saying things that they themselves do not understand.

Another frequent motif in the Gospel, which adds to the focus on Jesus' identity, is Jesus' use of "I am" statements. Throughout the narrative Jesus will use this phrase to define

Continued

himself by way of objects from everyday life such as bread, light, a door, a good shepherd, and the true vine. In other moments Jesus will say that he is, more abstractly, the resurrection, the way, the truth, and the life. The Synoptic Gospels, by contrast, contain stories which reveal the nature of God's Kingdom. In those narratives Jesus will often use the phrase, "The Kingdom of God/Heaven is like" before telling an illustrative parable. In the Gospel of John Jesus reveals himself first and then, by extension, the nature of God's rule.

The Gospel of John is enigmatic, poetic, and full of cross meaning and double talk. It is a Gospel that is brimming with questions and which often draws a sharp contrast between those who believe and those who do not. Already within the Gospel we have heard Jesus ask Andrew and others "What are you looking for?" while inviting them to "Come and see" where he is staying. As we move into and through the new year, I am excited to be spending more time with this puzzling Gospel as we, together, come and see who Jesus is and what he is up to.

Peace and all good,



Pastor Damen



Six-week Epiphany series that traces a journey of awakening, revelation, and transformation through key stories in the Gospel of John.

- January 11: John 2 – Grace poured out
- January 18: John 2 – A Zeal for Justice
- January 25: John 3 – The Spirit Enters
- February 1 – John 4 – Seen and Known
- February 8 – John 4-5 – Rise and Walk
- February 15 – John 9 – Open eyes & Hearts

Tuesday 1/6	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-7:30pm	WAM Meeting	Anderson Room
Wednesday 1/7	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	Various
	5:30pm	Adult Game Night	Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells Practice	Bell Room
Thursday 1/8	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Global Mission Committee Meeting	Anderson Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 1/9	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Sunday 1/11	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Sunday School for all ages	Various
	10am-10:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, You Tube
	11:30am	Go & Serve Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library



Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher
Tarah Davis & family
Matt Campbell
Janey Nottage-Tacey
Bob Wolf
KyMani Riek
Janelle Baideme
family of Jim Harrenstein
family of Gayle Struss
Carole Pedersen
Charles Hermes
Tony Glenn

Carl Utley
Barry Thomson
Greg Howard
Lexi Longshore
family of Dave Henderson
Zsuzsanna Fazakas
The Unger family
Judd Carrier
Nytha & Dave Glass
Elladee Ronhovde
Carol Harrenstein
Pam Canady

Carter Johnson
Alyssa Donley
Ken Fisk
Jean Stinnette
Gary & Connie Whitcomb
Sammy Nahorny
Mary Lewis
Bruce Batterson
family of Yvonne Ziemba
Molly Kammerer and family
Willis Horton
Francisco Diaz (Beto)

In memory of

Gayle Struss, who passed away on November 7, 2025
Yvonne Ziemba, who passed away on November 13, 2025



Sunday 1/11	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Sunday School for all ages	Various
	10am-10:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, You Tube
	11:30am	Go & Serve Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
Monday 1/12	9am-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am-3pm	PEO-GK	Fellowship Hall
	1-3pm	FPC Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6-10pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tuesday 1/13	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School Youth & Choir Rooms
	5:30pm	Congregational Life Meeting	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Trustees Meeting	Basement Youth Room
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6:45pm	Deacons	Anderson Room
Wednesday 1/14	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12pm	Noonday Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	5pm-7:15pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	Various
	5:30pm	Adult Game Night	Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
Thursday 1/15	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	2 nd floor Middle School Youth & Choir Rooms
	5:30pm	Session Meets	Anderson Room
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 1/16	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am	PEO Chapter G	Fellowship Hall
	10am	Mahjong	Basement Youth Room
Saturday 1/17	9:45am-11:30am	United Harvest	PEACE Center
	8:30am-3pm	HSO Young Artist Competition	Various
Sunday 1/18	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, Radio, You Tube
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	3pm-9pm	HC Honor Choir & Band Rehearsal	various

Jens Korndörfer, Organ

Concert: Saturday, January 24 @ 3:00 pm
Worship: Sunday, January 25 @ 10:30 am



Dr. Jens Korndörfer is the Bowden Professor of Music and Associate Professor of Organ at [Baylor University](#) in El Paso, Texas and is regularly invited to perform and teach at prestigious venues and festivals around the world. Praised as “a virtuoso in the grand Romantic tradition” who creates “performances that are deeply musically satisfying as well as exciting” (The American Organist).

Korndörfer’s performances include Davies Symphony Hall, the Cadet Chapel in West Point, Duke University Chapel, Cathedral-Basilica, Montreal Bach Festival, Cathedrals in Washington, Berlin, Bremen, Paris, Salzburg, Oslo, and Moscow, Westminster, the Royal Chapel in Versailles, the Frauenkirche in Dresden.



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.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 AT 11:30AM, FPC SANCTUARY

Annual Congregational Meeting

ANYONE CAN ATTEND, ALL MEMBERS CAN VOTE



January Ushers & Greeters

January Ushers (Team #5) Captain – Melissa Davis, Matt Fong, Julie Thomsen, Justin Brader

January 2026 Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
11	Erica & Brent Brooks	
18	Cheryl & Ed Lockwood	Mary Kay LaMaster
25	Karen Doerr	Jan Bolliger

A Free Tax Preparation Clinic will be taking place in Hastings for several days in February and March to help families complete their taxes and **we need volunteer Tax Preparers!** No experience is needed and you will receive training to help people complete simple returns. This is a rewarding opportunity to volunteer for over one or several days to help families receive Tax Credits they are eligible for. We are looking for Volunteers to be Greeters as well! Go to <https://tcan.unl.edu/> to learn more and to sign up.

GO & SERVE SOUP LUNCHEON

Sunday, January 11, 2026
Following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
in Fellowship Hall

Free Will Donation



Hastings College Honor Choir & Band Concert

Monday, January 19
5:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary



The Church Offices will be
closed on
Monday, January 19 in
observance of
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January Communion Offering



The primary purpose of Royal Family KIDS Camp is to give foster children ages 7–11 a week of positive memories and royal treatment in a Christian camp environment. Adult Camp Counselors give attention and encouragement to his/her “Big Camper” during their time at camp. In addition, each Camper is exposed to a variety of fun activities, designed for their success and to build self-esteem. For most of these children, it’s the best week of the year—a special time when they can focus on having fun and enjoy being a kid.

Camp Directors, Staff and Counselors go through intensive training. This includes a study of the dynamics of child abuse and neglect, facilitated by recognized professionals in these fields. There is also an intensive screening process for Counselors and Staff. Two Children—and only two—are assigned to each Camp Counselor. In addition, there is generally a “back-up” Staff person for each Counselor, so the actual Staff-to-Camper ratio is often one to one.



Between the Testaments

led by: Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh

January 11, 18, 25

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Lydia Room

How did we get from the Old Testament to the New Testament? Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh will explore the time period and theological developments that took place in ancient Israel between the compilation of the Older Testament and the New Testament. In what is sure to be a very interesting series Dan will trace how we get from the writings of the Old to the New.

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 & Youth Bells
Director: Dr. Byron Jensen
Youth Choir Director: Linda Johnson
Children Choir Director: Teresa Canady
Children Bells Choir Director: Dr. Susan Oliver
Accompanist and Music Coordinator: Mary Plock

Ministers: Members of the Church
Associate Pastor: Rev. Damen Jensen-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