



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF HASTINGS**

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Home Page Newsletter

The Way of Love: Walking with Jesus Through Lent

Lent is a season of holy slowing down.

For forty days (not counting Sundays), the Church is invited into reflection, repentance, and preparation for the mystery of Easter. Lent is not a season of gloom for its own sake. It is a season of honesty. A season when we tell the truth about our lives, our fears, our failures, and our hopes — and discover again the depth of God’s love in Christ.

This year at First Presbyterian Church, we are walking through the Gospel of John in our Lenten sermon series: **“The Way of Love: Following Jesus Through the Gospel of John.”** John’s Gospel does not simply tell us what Jesus did; it reveals who Jesus is — and what love looks like when it takes on flesh.

Over the first two weeks of Lent, we have already encountered a love that is far deeper and more powerful than we often imagine.

On the First Sunday of Lent, we stood at the tomb of Lazarus (John 11). Before Jesus called Lazarus out into new life, we were told something stunningly simple: *“Jesus began to weep.”* In a world that often prizes stoicism, strength, and control, we began Lent with a Savior who weeps. God’s love is not distant or detached. It does not hover above our pain. It enters it. It shares it. It transforms it.

Then, on the second Sunday, we knelt in the Upper Room (John 13). On the night of betrayal, Jesus removed his outer robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and washed the feet of his disciples. The one whom we call Lord and Teacher redefined greatness as humble service. In a culture obsessed with power and status, Jesus showed us that true leadership is kneeling love.

As we move deeper into Lent, the road becomes more shadowed — but the love of Christ does not waver.

On March 8, we will enter the courtyard where Jesus is arrested and Peter denies him (John 18:12–27). We will consider what it means to live with our own denials and fears. Lent gives us space to confess honestly — and to remember that even when we falter, Christ’s love remains steady in the shadows.

Continued

On March 15, we will stand before Pilate as Jesus is put on trial (John 18:28–40). Pilate’s haunting question echoes across the centuries: “*What is truth?*” In a polarized world where truth is often distorted or weaponized, we will ask what it means to follow

the One who embodies truth — and whose love refuses to run from hard questions.

On March 22, we will witness the cruelty of mockery, thorns, and sentencing (John 19:1–16). Here we see a different kind of power on display — not domination, but suffering love. Jesus bears the weight of the world, revealing that love does not flinch in the face of pain. This is the cost of love — and, paradoxically, its triumph.

Finally, on Palm Sunday (March 29), we will wave palms and shout “Hosanna!” as Jesus enters Jerusalem (John 12:12–27). But in John’s telling, triumph and tragedy are already intertwined. Jesus knows that “the hour has come.” The way of love leads not around the cross, but through it.

Throughout this series, we are asking a simple but searching question: **What does love look like in real life?**

In John’s Gospel, love is not sentimental. It weeps. It serves. It tells the truth. It stands firm in the shadows. It bears suffering. It enters fully into the brokenness of the world — and refuses to abandon it.

Lent invites us not just to admire that love, but to walk in it.

That may mean allowing God to meet us in our grief.

It may mean serving in quiet, unseen ways.

It may mean confessing where fear has shaped our choices.

It may mean listening for hard truths.

It may mean choosing courage over comfort.

Above all, it means trusting that resurrection is not only a future promise but a present reality breaking into our lives even now.

As we continue this Lenten journey together, I invite you to lean in. Come to worship. Engage the scriptures. Join the conversation. Read our weekly Lenten devotional guide. And let the Gospel of John guide your prayer and reflection throughout the week.

The way of love is not easy. But it is the way of Jesus. And it is the way that leads to life.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Greg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Greg

100th Birthday

Come help us celebrate! 100th Birthday!
 Evelyn Rose Dolezal Viglicky
 will be celebrating her 100th Birthday on March 9th, 2026.
 Her Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren are
 honoring her with an Open House on
 Saturday, March 7th, 2 - 4 p.m.
 Adams County Fairgrounds, Hastings, NE
Please, No Gifts!

March Ushers and Greeters

March Ushers (Team #1) Chuck Hastings, Kim Creech, **Volunteers Needed**

March 2026 Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
8	Carolyn & Richard McKenzie	Melissa Davis
15	Margaret & Charles Hermes	Sue Medsker
22	Clyde Sachtleben & Carolyn Nowka	Melissa Davis
29	Kay Georgiana	Volunteers Needed

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers who would like to serve as additional Ushers for 2026.

Team 1 (March & September)

Team 3 (May & November)

Team 5 (January & July)

Team 6 (February & August)

Please let the Church Office know if you are able to help out.

We appreciate any help we can receive.

Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher
Tarah Davis & family
Matt Campbell
Janey Nottage-Tacey
Bob Wolf
KyMani Riek
Carole Pedersen
Charles Hermes
Tony Glenn
Francisco Diaz (Beto)
Kathy Struss
Carl Utley

Carter Johnson
Alyssa Donley
Ken Fisk
family of Elmer Heeren
Sammy Nahorny
Mary Lewis
Bruce Batterson
family of Yvonne Ziemba
Molly Kammerer and family
Willis Horton
Kathy Reimer
Apostle Paul Cruise Participants

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

In memory of

Elmer Heeren, who passed away on January 17, 2026



Tuesday 3/3	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE gym
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School Youth and Choir Rooms
	5:30pm	United Harvest Board Meeting	PEACE NW Classroom
	6-8pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE gym
Wednesday 3/4	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE gym
	11-11:45am	PW Coord. Team	Parlor
	11:45am	PW Luncheon and Program	Fellowship Hall
	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 Meet	Basement
		NO Chancel Choir Practice	
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells Practice	Bell Room
Thursday 3/5	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School & Youth Rooms
	5:30pm	Youth Christian Ed. Meeting	Office Workroom
	6-8pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 3/6	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE gym
	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room

Upcoming Forum

The Word Becomes Art

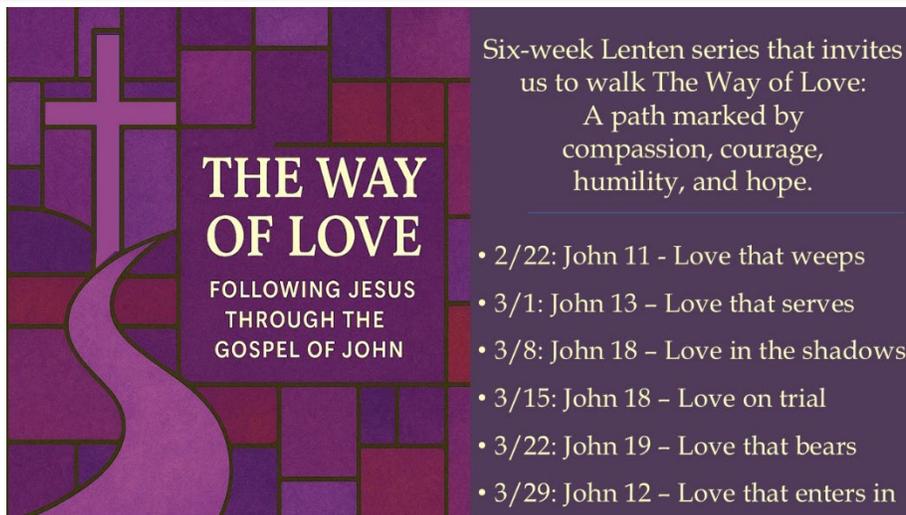
February 22, March 1, 8, 22, 29

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

Lydia Room

Instructor: Dan Deffenbaugh

The Gospel of John emphasizes the importance of the incarnation, God made manifest in Christ. This class will look at various ways God's Word can also be known through visual art.



THE WAY OF LOVE
FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Six-week Lenten series that invites us to walk The Way of Love: A path marked by compassion, courage, humility, and hope.

- 2/22: John 11 - Love that weeps
- 3/1: John 13 - Love that serves
- 3/8: John 18 - Love in the shadows
- 3/15: John 18 - Love on trial
- 3/22: John 19 - Love that bears
- 3/29: John 12 - Love that enters in

Sunday 3/8	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
		NO Sunday School for PreK-12 th Grades	Various
	9:15am	Adult Forum and Heirs Apparent	Forum-Lydia Room Heirs Apparent-Anderson Room
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, YouTube
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
Monday 3/9	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE gym
	12pm-6pm	American Red Cross Blood Drive	Fellowship Hall
	1-3pm	1 st Pres Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6-8pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room
Tuesday 3/10	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 and Choir Rooms
	5:30pm	Trustees Meet	PEACE West Classroom
	5:30pm	Congregational Life	Anderson Room
	6-8pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE gym
	6:45pm	Deacons	Anderson Room
Wednesday 3/11	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE gym
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
		NO WNL	
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
Thursday 3/12	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School Youth and Choir Rooms
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 3/13	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE gym
	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Sunday 3/15		Senior Recognition Sunday	
	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	PreK-12 th Grade Sunday School	various
		NO Adult Forum or Heirs Apparent	
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	11:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, YouTube
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library



Happy Nappies



Your Mission Committee is always collecting diapers for our “Happy Nappies” project. Please place your donations in the bin in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your help in serving the most vulnerable in our community! Size 4 and 5 diapers are much appreciated! Thanks!

LANGENBERG LESSON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM was established to encourage the youth of our church in their musical pursuits through the generosity of the late Luella Langenberg.

- Parents of students in grades 1-12 may apply for up to \$250 per semester to offset the cost of private music instruction. Grants are limited to one per child.
- Areas of study include piano, voice, guitar, or any band/orchestral instrument.
- Parents must be members of First Presbyterian Church, and students must be active participants in the church choir/music program. Application forms are available in the church office and on the church website.

• *DEADLINE FOR THE Spring 2026 GRANT PROGRAM IS April 1, 2026.*

• **GRANTS ARE RENEWABLE; PARENTS MUST RE-APPLY EACH SEMESTER.**

Applications are available on the shelf outside the Church Offices or on the Church website at:

<https://fpchastings.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Langenberg-form-Spring-2026.pdf>

Wells Fargo Checks

We have received two checks in the mail from Wells Fargo that didn't have names on them. With them not having names we don't know who to credit them to. Please let the church office know if you have had checks sent to the church from Wells Fargo.



World Day of Prayer 2026



World Day of Prayer (WDP) is a global ecumenical movement of Christian women from diverse faith traditions who unite each year in prayer and action on the first Friday in March. Each year, a different country prepares the WDP worship service, interpreting Scripture within their own cultural context and highlighting the challenges and hopes of women and children around the world. Upholding the motto “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action,” World Day of Prayer seeks to foster peace, justice, and equality for women everywhere through prayer, partnership, service, and celebration.

World Day of Prayer 2026

March 6, 9:30 a.m. coffee; 10 a.m. Service

Grace United Methodist Church

1832 W. 9th St., Hastings, NE.

Hannah Jensen-Heitmann will be the soloist, pianist and song leader.

**March
Communion
Offering**
Heartland Health
Center

Heartland Health Center provides Medical, Dental, and Behavioral care to patients on a sliding fee scale and is able to serve patients with or without insurance as well as those on Medicaid and Medicare.

**February Communion
Offering Update**

The February Communion Offering raised a total of **\$745** which will benefit **Catholic Social Services for help with utilities**, Thank you for your generous support.



You're Invited
To a Chili Cook-off!!!
Hosted by:
Congregational Life Committee

»»»»»
Sunday March **22**  **12** PM Fellowship Hall
»»»»»

Come enjoy chili that has been prepared by our various Church Committees, and vote for your favorites!



THE Free Concert!
STRING BEANS



Event	Concert
Date	Sunday, April 12
Time	3:00 p.m.
Location	FPC Sanctuary



www.thestringbeans.com

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's Choir Director: Teresa Canady
Children's Bells 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