



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

# Home Page Newsletter

### **Holding Grief and Hope Together: A Holy Week Invitation**

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

As we approach Holy Week, we step into the heart of our faith: the story of love stronger than death, hope rising in the midst of grief, and the promise that God is still at work even when the world feels uncertain.

This year, our journey through Holy Week will follow the Gospel of John, culminating in the resurrection story of Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb (John 20:1–18). It is a story that does not rush past grief—but moves through it. Mary comes to the tomb weeping. She believes all is lost. And yet, in the midst of her sorrow, the risen Christ calls her name.

Easter does not erase grief; it meets us in it. And then, gently, powerfully, it transforms it into hope. That is the good news we will proclaim this Easter: that we are an Easter people who can hold grief and hope together because Christ is alive!

It's important that we don't jump straight from Palm Sunday to Easter, but spend some time reflecting on the story of Jesus' last week during Holy Week. I invite you to walk this sacred journey together as a church family:

- We started our journey on **Palm Sunday** with joy and celebration as our children and youth led us in the procession of palms, remembering Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
  - If you want to see the children's and youth choir, click here: <https://youtu.be/UcWPD2zm2Cc>
  - If you want to hear the sermon "Which parade will you join" click here: <https://youtu.be/Tyr7THDfz7M>
  - If you want to experience the whole Palm Sunday Service again, click here: <https://youtube.com/live/NvYbJcklxh8?feature=share>
- Join us on **Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 6:00pm** as we gather for a simple meal, shared table fellowship, and worship as we remember Jesus' last night with his disciples, the night he gave us the command to love one another.
- Join us on **Good Friday, April 3 at 7:00pm** for a contemplative service as we reflect on Christ's trial, suffering, and death. We will hold space for the weight of the cross and the reality of grief in our world.
- Sign up for our **Prayer Vigil that will run from Friday at sunset through Easter at sunrise**. We will join the ancient Christian tradition of keeping vigil, praying through the night with guided stations and quiet reflection. You are

*Continued*

invited to sign up for a time to come down to the church to pray in the chapel, or to pray at home for an hour. Here's the link for that sign-up:

<https://bit.ly/FPCHV>

- Come celebrate the resurrection of Christ on **Easter Sunday, April 5 at 8:30 or 10:30am!** Christ is risen! We gather for joyful worship as we celebrate the resurrection and proclaim the hope that meets us even in our deepest grief. Our service will feature our Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells, the Cathedral Brass, and the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah!

Wherever you find yourself this season—whether carrying joy, sorrow, or a mixture of both—you are invited. Come and walk the story. Come and bring your whole self. Come and hear your name spoken by the risen Christ.

In grace, peace, and gratitude for the resurrection,



Pastor Greg

## April Ushers and Greeters

**April (Team #2) Captain** – Duane Huber, Steve Illingworth, Daveta & Dick Brader, Lois Hafer

April Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
Easter 8:30am 5	Volunteers Needed	Melissa Davis
Easter 10:30am 5	Harold & Milrae Korb	Jan Bolliger
12	Damen & LaRaesha Kugal	Melissa Davis
19	Lynne Friedewald & Chuck Shoemaker	Jenna Jorgensen
26	Jane & Chuck Bauer	Susan Cole

**Easter Greeters and Ushers Needed** We are need of Ushers and Greeters for the 8:30 a.m. service on Easter. Please let the church office know if you are able to help out. Thanks so much!

<b>Tues. 3/31</b>	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
	6pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
<b>Wed. 4/1</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	11-11:45am	PW Coord Team	Parlor
	11:45am	PW Program & Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbooks52@gmail.com">Sbbooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	Various
	5:30pm	Adult Game Night	Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
	7:45pm	Hastings College Sinfonia	Kessler Room & Chapel
<b>Thurs. 4/2</b>	9am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School Youth and Choir Rooms
	6-8pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	6pm	Maundy Thursday Service	Memorial Room
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Fri. 4/3</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
	7pm	Good Friday Service	Sanctuary
	8pm	Easter Prayer Vigil Begins	Chapel/ at home
<b>Sat. 4/4</b>		Easter Prayer Vigil	Chapel/at home

### EASTER LILIES 2026



Easter Lilies are \$12 each. Monies raised above the cost will be donated to Heartland Health.

Lily in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Lily in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

I will take my Lily home after the Easter Sunday services:  Yes  No

I will leave my Lily at the church:  Yes  No



*Holy Week 2026*

**3/29 Palm Sunday**  
 Contemplative Service: 8:30 a.m. in Chapel  
 Traditional Service: 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary  
 with kids and youth choir and bells at 10:30 a.m. service

**4/2 Maundy Thursday**  
 6 p.m. Table Fellowship & Service in Memorial Room

**4/3 Good Friday**  
 7 p.m. Service in Sanctuary

**Good Friday - Easter morning**  
 Easter Prayer Vigil in Chapel

**4/5 Easter Sunday**  
 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Services in Sanctuary  
 with Cathedral Brass, Chancel Choir, and Chancel Bells at both services

**EASTER PRAYER VIGIL**  
 EASTER VIGIL IN THE CHAPEL OR AT HOME  
 GOOD FRIDAY AT 8PM TO EASTER SUNDAY AT 8AM  
 SIGN UP AT T  
 HIS LINK: <https://bit.ly/ChapelVigil>

## Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher	Molly Kammerer and family	Kathy Struss
Tarah Davis & family	Willis Horton	Carter Johnson
Matt Campbell	Carl Utley	Alyssa Donley
Janey Nottage-Tacey	Barry Thomson	Ken Fisk
Bob Wolf	Greg Howard	Sammy Nahorny
KyMani Riek	Lexi Longshore	Mary Lewis
Carole Pedersen	Zsuzsanna Fazakas	Judd Carrier
Charles Hermes	The Unger family	Nytha & Dave Glass
Tony Glenn	Monte Malouf	Pam Canady
Francisco Diaz (Beto)	Lisha Payne	Ramona Shetler
family of Becky Foote	Carol Harrenstein	

## In memory of

Becky Foote, who passed away on 3/18/26

<b>Sun. 4/5</b>	Easter Sunday		
	8am	Prayer Vigil Ends	Chapel/at home
	8:30am	Easter Worship Service	Sanctuary
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Easter Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, YouTube
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
<b>Mon. 4/6</b>	Church Offices Closed-Easter Monday		
	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	1-3pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Pres. Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Center Quilting Room
	6-8pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	6-7:30pm	WAM Meeting	Anderson Room
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room
<b>Tues. 4/7</b>	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	United Harvest Board Meeting	PEACE Center
	6-8pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
<b>Wed. 4/8</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade WNL	Various
	5:30pm	Adult Game Night	Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
	7:45pm	Hastings College Sinfonia	Kessler & Chapel
<b>Thur. 4/9</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School Youth & Choir Rooms
	5:30pm	Mission Committee Meeting	PEACE NW Classroom
	6pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Fri. 4/10</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
	6pm	HSO Rehearsal	Sanctuary
<b>Sat. 4/11</b>	2-3pm	Hastings College Sinfonia Practice	Kessler & Chapel
	4:30pm	Jammies & Jesus	Fellowship Hall
<b>Sun 4/12</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, Radio, YouTube
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	3pm	The String Beans Concert	Sanctuary

## April Communion Offering

PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing



Hands Around the World Store  
has received new items for  
Spring and Easter.

Stop by the store  
and check out  
our new merchandise!

serrv

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

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

Team 1 (March & September)

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.

### **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.

### **Volunteers Needed at the Rain Garden**

The PEACE Center Rain Garden is waking up! Volunteers are needed to help weed the garden and encourage plants and bushes to mature. An attractive garden provides habitat for birds, butterflies, and pollinators, while also creating a colorful landscape. The work can be done at your convenience. If interested, contact John Nelson at 402-469-6001 or njcelk11@gmail.com



The Church Offices will be closed on Monday, April 6 for Easter Monday.



**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>

FPC Presents: A Parents' Night Out Event

# Jammies & Jesus!

SATURDAY,  
11 APRIL 2026  
From 4:30 - 7:30 pm

For students in PreK - 5th grade  
(Please register online so we have an accurate count for food)

Parents get **3 Hours** to themselves!

While Kids: Explore Scripture, Eat Pizza, Make Crafts, And Play Games!

For Questions, email [rose@fpchastings.org](mailto:rose@fpchastings.org) or call the office at (402) 462-5147

**THE** Free Concert!  
**STRING BEANS**

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



www.thestringbeans.com



## Thank You

The Congregational Life Committee would like to thank all the committees that accepted the challenge of providing chili for the Chili Cook-Off! The real winners were all the voters, who enjoyed



sampling such a wonderful variety of chilis. A special thank-you to WAM, Session, Staff, Mission, Presbyterian Women, Deacons, and Congregational Life for making this event such a success. We hope you all had a wonderful time at the Chili Cook-Off—it was great to see so many of you there! We are also grateful to our church family for participating and for your generous support, as \$900 in freewill donations will be sent to the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation to assist those affected by the wildfires in our state.

First Presbyterian Church

621 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Hastings, NE 68901

402-462-5147

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

**Chancel Choir Director:** Dr. Miggi Angangco

**Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster**

**Bells Director:** Dr. Byron Jensen

**Calvin/Westminster Choir Director:** Linda Johnson

**Praise/Alleluia Choir Director:** 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 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