



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

# Home Page Newsletter

### Faith, Science, and the Wonder of God's World

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

There are moments in life when we are invited not just to learn something new, but to see something familiar in a deeper, more wondrous way.

That's what I hope this year's Faith & Science Sunday will be for us.

Too often, faith and science are framed as if they are in conflict—as if we must choose between trusting in God or trusting in discovery, between Scripture and science, between belief and knowledge. But the Christian tradition has long held a different view: that all truth is God's truth, and that the study of the world can deepen our sense of awe for the One who created it.

The psalmist declares, *"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork."* (Psalm 19:1) Science, at its best, is simply another way of paying attention to that handiwork.

That's why I am so excited to welcome our own church member Dr. Jessica Meeske as our guest for this year's Faith & Science Sunday.

Dr. Meeske is a pediatric dentist, an advocate for children's health, and a leader in expanding access to care, particularly for families who rely on Medicaid and other public health resources. She was named the 2023 Pediatric Dentist of the Year by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, and her work has had a profound impact on children and families across the country.

But what makes her visit especially meaningful for us is not only her professional expertise, it is her deep and thoughtful integration of faith and science. As a person of faith, she sees her work not just as a career, but as a calling: a way of participating in God's healing work in the world.

Her visit is part of our ongoing partnership with Hastings College through the **Sachtleben-Throckmorton Faith & Science Symposium**, an annual event that brings together scholars, practitioners, and people of faith to explore the relationship between faith and scientific inquiry. Over the past several years, this symposium has created space for thoughtful conversation, deep learning, and meaningful engagement with big questions at the intersection of faith, science, and vocation. It is one of the ways we live out our shared commitment to loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

The symposium opens on **Friday, April 17 at 2:10 p.m.**, when Dr. Meeske will offer a public lecture in Room 219 of the Morrison-Reeves Science Center (717 N. Ash Avenue) on the campus of Hastings College.

*Continued*

Then on **Sunday, April 19**, she will join us here at First Presbyterian Church—beginning with the Adult Education Forum at **9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**, and then sharing her story during the **10:30 a.m. worship service**.

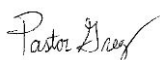
During her time with us, Dr. Meeske will help us explore questions like:

- How can scientific knowledge and advocacy for public health be an expression of our faith?
- How can faith and science work together to help us love our neighbors?
- How do we navigate conversations about health systems and science in a faithful and compassionate way?

In a time when so much of our public life is marked by division, this is an opportunity to come together around something deeper: to rediscover a shared sense of wonder, curiosity, and purpose as we integrate our faith and science.

I hope you will join us for this special weekend. Bring your questions. Bring your curiosity. Bring your sense of wonder.

Your Servant in Christ,



Pastor Greg

## April Ushers and Greeters

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

April Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
<b>19</b>	Lynne Friedewald & Chuck Shoemaker	Jenna Jorgensen
<b>26</b>	Melissa Davis	Susan Cole

## May Ushers and Greeters

**May Ushers (Team #3)** Captain – Dave Fisher, Andrew Barrows, Phil Odom, Doug Soderquist, John Pershing

May Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
<b>3</b>	Kili & Justin Wenburg	Lynette & Paul Krieger
<b>10</b>	Dick & Daveta Brader	Carolyn & Richard McKenzie
<b>17</b>	Dixie & Gale McDonald	Melissa Davis
<b>24</b>	John & Linda Carllson	Sue Medsker
<b>31</b>	Ann & Robin Koozer	Carol Harrenstein



## P.W. Mother's Day Offering

Presbyterian Women collect a Mother's Day offering each year in honor of, or in memory of, our mothers. We will set up in the Memorial Room for 4 Sundays (April 19, April 26, May 3, and May 10). This year the offering will go to help young women in the Revive program.


Revive exists to provide a safe, supportive environment for women who are seeking freedom from addiction and the opportunity to rebuild their lives. Our program focuses on whole-person recovery-supporting women physically, emotionally, and spiritually as they work toward long-term healing and stability. Many of the women who come through Revive have faced significant challenges, including addiction, trauma, unstable housing, and separation from their children. When they enter our program, they are stepping into a new chapter—one that focuses on recovery, personal growth, accountability, and hope for the future.

During their time with us, the women participate in structured recovery programming, life-skills development, mentorship, and community support. We walk alongside them as they rebuild confidence, establish healthy routines, pursue employment and education opportunities, and begin restoring relationships with their families and children.

Mother's Day can be a particularly meaningful time for many of the women in our program. Some are mothers working toward reunification with their children, while others are rebuilding their identities and healing from the pain that addiction has caused in their families. Small acts of kindness during this time can remind them that they are valued, supported, and not alone in their journey.

Your willingness to donate something for the women on Mother's day is incredibly thoughtful and will mean so much to them. Gestures like this help encourage them and remind them that their community believes in their recovery and their future.

Thank you again for our generosity and for helping us support the women at Revive. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or if there is anything we can coordinate to make your donation process easier.



# 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.



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 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](mailto:njcelk11@gmail.com)



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.
- If you would like to volunteer for this distribution, please come to the church at 9:30am to help us with the distribution.

## Upcoming Forum

Faith and Science Sunday  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Jessica Meeske  
Sunday, April 19  
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.  
Lydia Room

<b>Tues 4/14</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Congregational Life Meeting	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Trustees Meeting	PEACE West Classroom
	6pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6:45pm	Deacons Meeting	Anderson Room
<b>Wed 4/15</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	PEACE West Classroom
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	1:15pm	PW Circle 3	PEACE West Classroom
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade WNL	Various
	5:30pm	Adult Game Night	Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
<b>Thurs 4/16</b>	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Choir & Middle School Rooms
	5:30pm	Session Meets	Anderson Room
	6-8pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
<b>Fri 4/17</b>	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
	9am-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
<b>Sat 4/18</b>	6pm-8pm	HSO Rehearsal	Sanctuary
		United Harvest	

## Please pray for

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

## In memory of

Becky Foote, who passed  
away on 3/18/26  
Ramona Shetler, who passed  
away on 4/3/26



<b>Sun 4/19</b>		Faith & Science Sunday	
	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
<b>Mon 4/20</b>	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	1-3pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Pres Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6-8pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
<b>Tues 4/21</b>	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room
	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 Room
	6-9pm	PEO-FH	PEACE NW Classroom
	6-8pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
<b>Wed 4/22</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade WNL	Various
	5-6:30pm	Session meets with Confirmands	
	5:30pm	Adult Game Night	Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
<b>Thur 4/23</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School Youth & Choir Rooms
	6pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Fri 4/24</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
	6-8pm	HSO Rehearsal	Sanctuary
<b>Sat 4/25</b>	2-4pm	HSO Rehearsal	Sanctuary
<b>Sun 4/26</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

## Communion Offering Update

The March communion offering raised a total of \$394.

Thank you for your generous support!

# April Communion Offering

PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing



Church Women United, Inc.  
*Agreed to Differ – Resolved to Love – United to Serve*

## May Friendship Day Luncheon 2026

Sponsored by Hastings/Juniata Church Women United



*Psalm 24:1*

*"The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."*

### THEME: "A Place Called Home"

Church Women United invites YOU to attend the

#### May Friendship Day Salad Luncheon.

We will be acknowledging Megan Dwyer as our Outstanding Young Woman

**Friday, May 1, 2026 • 12:00 noon**

**First United Methodist Church**

614 N. Hastings Ave. • Hastings NE 68901

Tickets: \$10.00

(Contact your local Church Women United members for tickets.)

Tickets are also available in the First Presbyterian Church office.



IT'S TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING IN YOUR CLOSET. THE MISSION COMMITTEE IS COLLECTING LONG-SLEEVED SHIRTS FOR OUR MIGRANT WORKERS.

THESE SHIRTS ARE IMPORTANT TO PROTECT OUR WORKERS FROM THE SUN AND EXPOSURE TO AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS.

SHIRTS CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN THE DESIGNATED BIN IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.

THE MISSION COMMITTEE THANKS YOU.

**VBS 2026**  
**THE SEARCH FOR GODLY TREASURES**  
JUNE 22-25 8:30-11:30 AM | INCOMING PREK-5<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS  
Join us for a 4-day adventure to find the treasures of God's Kingdom!  
All are welcome!  
Register online [fpchastings.org](http://fpchastings.org)

First Presbyterian Church

621 N. Lincoln Ave.

Hastings, NE 68901

402-462-5147

[fpc@fpchastings.org](mailto: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

**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

**Custodian:** Keidy Debbe

**Bookkeeper:** Deb Hamburger

**Scholar in Residence:** Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh