



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Home Page Newsletter

A Season of Transition: Holding Grief and Hope Together

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

As many of you now know, I have accepted a call to serve as Senior Pastor of Lake Grove Presbyterian Church in Oregon. This decision did not come easily. It has been one of the most difficult decisions of my life, because this church—you—have been such a meaningful part of my life and my family's life.

Over the past nine years, we have shared a remarkable journey together. We have grown in faith, deepened our commitment to being a church that is “welcoming all, living love, and transforming lives,” and walked side by side through seasons of joy and sorrow, challenge and renewal. From strategic planning and congregational growth, to navigating the pandemic, to celebrating our 150th anniversary and completing a transformative capital campaign, God has been at work among us in powerful ways.

We have worshiped with joy, served our neighbors through ministries like the United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry, strengthened global partnerships like Frontera de Cristo, and built a vibrant, growing community of faith. We have welcomed new members, celebrated baptisms and confirmations, and borne witness to God's faithfulness time and time again.

And so, as I shared in my letter, this is a moment where we are called—like on Easter morning—to hold both grief and hope together. There is real sadness in this transition. But there is also deep and abiding hope, because the same God who has guided us this far is not finished with any of us yet.

I want to assure you that we are actively and thoughtfully preparing for this transition. The Session will meet on Thursday, April 30, to begin formalizing a transition plan. Our hope is to have a clear plan coming out of that meeting—one that ensures continuity in worship, ministry, and pastoral care, and that keeps the strong momentum of this church moving forward. You will hear more from Session in the days ahead as those plans take shape.

And in the midst of all of this, I want to remind you of something deeply important:

This is your church.

Continued

Pastors are called to serve for a season—to preach, to teach, to shepherd, and to walk alongside a congregation for a time. But the church does not belong to the pastor. It belongs to Christ—and it is lived out through you, the people of God.

You are the church.

You are the ones called to be the hands and feet of Christ in this community. You are the ones who welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, care for one another, and share the love of Christ in ways both seen and unseen. And that calling does not change in a season of transition—it becomes even more important.

If the past nine years have shown us anything, it is this: God is faithful, and this congregation is resilient, generous, and full of grace.

I have every confidence that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide you, just as the Spirit has guided us together. The story of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings is still being written—and it is a story that you will continue to live and tell.

With deep gratitude, and with both grief and hope,



Pastor Greg

May Ushers and Greeters

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

May Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
3	Kili & Justin Wenburg	Lynette & Paul Krieger
10	Dick & Daveta Brader	Carolyn & Richard McKenzie
17	Dixie & Gale McDonald	Volunteers Needed
24	John & Linda Carllson	Sue Medsker
31	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.

PW May Luncheon

The Presbyterian Women invite all women to attend their May luncheon on Wednesday, May 6, at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We are breaking out our china from our weddings or mothers.

We are pleased to welcome Lisa Ewald, Chaplain at Mary Lanning Health Care, as our guest speaker.

The cost is \$5 per person. Please call the church office with reservations by Monday, May 4th, so we have enough china dusted off for all of you!

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.

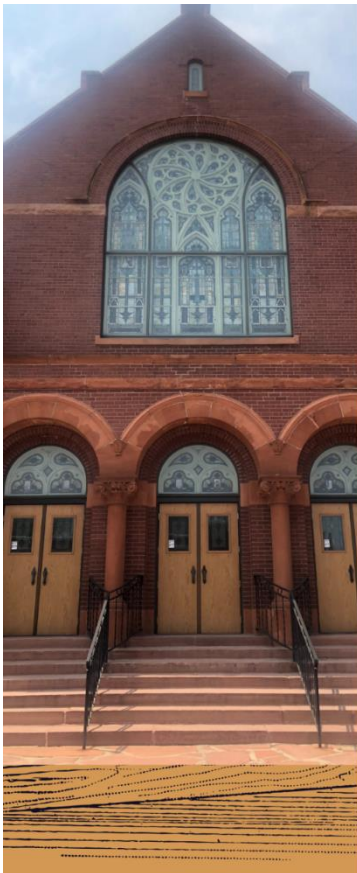


IT'S TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING IN YOUR CLOSET. THE MISSION COMMITTEE IS COLLECTING LONG-SLEEVED SHIRTS FOR OUR MIGRANT WORKERS.

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.



New Members Class

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

April 26

May 3

May 10

Child care will be available.

CALL 402-462-5147
FOR DETAILS
AND TO REGISTER FOR THE NEW
MEMBERS CLASS.
ALL ARE WELCOME!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF HASTINGS
SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1875



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."

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

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.

Lydia Meyer-2
 Tim Johnson-3
 Clyde Sachtleben-4
 Jeremy Struss-4
 Ginny Locke-4
 Shannon Canady-5
 Grady Hogan-5
 Alexis Ahlers-5
 Michael Boeve-5
 William Oliver-5
 Deb Hamburger-6
 Marnie Soderquist-8
 Jake Stokely-10
 Susie Pettit-11
 Sarah Wolf-11
 Rob Kerr-12
 Eldon Rhodes-13
 Jeremy Miles-13



Maeby Moore-14
 Hal Overmiller-15
 Wihlma Price-16
 Ashton Essink-17
 Lily Kingsley-17
 Chris Wissing-17
 Vivienne Turner-17
 Kim Borrell-17
 Susan Oliver-17
 Olivia Canady-18
 Dawna Whitcomb-19
 Avery Essink-21

Campbell Schukei-21
 Amanda Boyd-22
 Gatlin Stokely-23
 Callan Stokely-23
 John Northrop-23
 Chuck Hastings-23
 Gale McDonald-26
 Lyla Adam-26
 Dick Kleiber-27
 Jackson Graves-27
 Brooke Lofquist-27
 Paula Crozier-28
 Sarah Fruehling-28
 Inde Wissing-29
 Christian Fruehling-29
 Paul Nuss-30
 Damen Kugel-30
 Brad Whitcomb-31

HAPPY

May
Anniversary

<p>Kris & Shawn Norris 5/2/2008 Nancy & Robert Grams 5/6/1972 Caroline & LeRoy Echternach 5/9/1969 Ashley & Riley Mullen 5/10/2003 Mary Kay & Jim LaMaster 5/14/1983 Jeanne & Chuck Hastings 5/18/1974 Deborah & Jeremy Miles 5/19/2001 Stephanie & Tyler Adam 5/19/2007</p>	<p>Beth & Mark Funkey 5/20/1988 Melissa & Ross Struss 5/24/2015 Mary & Dick Plock 5/24/2003 Lois & Charles Hafer 5/26/1973 Phyllis & Don O'Dey 5/27/1967 Sarah & Christian Fruehling 5/28/1994 Kathy & Jim Duval 5/29/2013 Nan & Jon Huey 5/29/1981</p>
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VBS 2026
THE SEARCH FOR GODLY TREASURES

JUNE 22-25
8:30-11:30 AM

INCOMING PREK-5TH GRADERS

Join us for a 4-day adventure to find the treasures of God's Kingdom!
 All are welcome!
 Register online fphastings.org

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

Stop by the store
 and check out
 our new merchandise!

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Tues. 4/28	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In person
	11:45am	Habitat for Humanity	Room 203
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	2 nd floor Middle School Youth and Choir Rooms
	6-8pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
Wed. 4/29	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 Meet	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
Thur. 4/30	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	2 nd floor Middle School Youth and Choir Room
	6-8pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
Fri. 5/1	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
Sat. 5/2	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
	11:30am	Elmer Heeren Funeral with Luncheon to follow	Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall

Please pray for

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

In memory of

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

Sun. 5/3		Confirmation Sunday	
	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	New Members Class	2 nd floor Confirmation Room
	9:15am	Sunday School for all ages	Various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, YouTube
	11:30am	Confirmation Reception	Fellowship Hall
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
Mon. 5/4	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5:30pm	Columbarium Meeting	Lydia Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	6-7:30pm	WAM Meeting	Anderson Room
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tues. 5/5	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 NW Classroom
Wed. 5/6	11-11:45am	PW Coord. Team	Parlor
	11:45am	PW Program and Luncheon	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
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
Thur. 5/7	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	4-5pm	HC Baccalaureate Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School Youth and Choir Rooms
	5:30pm	Global Mission Committee	PEACE NW Classroom
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Fri. 5/8	10am	Mahjong	Basement Youth Room
	6pm	HC Baccalaureate	Sanctuary
Sun. 5/10	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Sunday School for all ages	Various
	9:15am	New Members Class	2 nd floor Confirmation Room
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, YouTube
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library

May Communion Offering
Hastings Middle School Garden

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

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