



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Seventh Sunday of Easter May 17, 2026 - 10:30 am Service

PRELUDE "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" *arr. Clay Christensen*
Organist, Linda Vollweiler

WELCOME Greg Allen-Pickett

BELL INTROIT "A Celtic Ring" (incorporating HOLY MANNA) *Susan E. Geschke*
Chancel Bells, director Byron Jensen
"God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space"....

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Paul's time in Philippi in Acts 16) Dan Deffenbaugh
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
We gather with gratitude and joy in the presence of God.
Like Lydia by the river, we come with open hearts to hear the good news.
God welcomes us, gathers us, and calls us into community.
Like Paul and Silas in prison, we come carrying both our burdens and our songs.
Even in hardship, God is faithful and worthy of praise.
From many places and many walks of life, Christ has brought us together.
We are partners in the gospel, bound together in love and grace.
Come, let us worship God!

*HYMN "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" (vs. 1-2, 4) 275
Summer Postlewait, song leader

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God, you call us into communities of love, hospitality, and mutual care, yet too often we close our hearts to one another. We cling to fear instead of trust, suspicion instead of compassion, and convenience instead of discipleship.

We confess that we have not always welcomed the stranger, encouraged the weary, or stood beside those who suffer injustice. We have failed to sing your praise in difficult moments and have forgotten that your Spirit can shake loose even the chains that bind us.

Forgive us, O God. Open our hearts. Fill us with the affection of Christ Jesus, so that our love may overflow more and more in knowledge, compassion, and grace. Shape us into a community that reflects your mercy and shares your good news with joy.

SILENT CONFESSION

How can I learn from Paul's example to show affection for others and strive for grace and peace?

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news: The God who began a good work in us is faithful to bring it to completion in Jesus Christ.

God's mercy is wider than our failures, stronger than our fears, and deeper than our sin.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free to live as servants of grace and peace.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

"Glory to God"

582

*PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

(Greet one another by sharing the Peace of Christ with those around you.)



Scan to sign-in and let us know you were here.

SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

JOINING OF NEW MEMBERS

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? New Members: **I do**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? New Members: **I do**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love? New Members: **I will, with God's help.**

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

New Members: **I will, with God's help.**

Congregation, will you support these new members by reaffirming your commitment as faithful members of this congregation, sharing in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? Congregation: **We will, with God's help!**

PRAYER FOR NEW MEMBERS

Gracious God, we give you thanks for these new members and for the many ways you are at work in their lives and in the life of this congregation. Knit us together in faith, hope, and love, that we may grow as one body in Christ. Pour out your Spirit upon us all, new members and long-time members alike, so that we may worship with joy, serve with compassion, and follow Jesus with courage. Send us out to be your people in the world, seeking justice, sharing grace, and bearing witness to your love. In the name of Christ, our Lord, Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, by your Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds to your Word this day. As Lydia listened eagerly to the gospel, give us attentive hearts. As Paul prayed with joy for the church in Philippi, knit us together in faith, hope, and love. Speak to us through these scriptures so that we may grow in compassion, courage, and hospitality, and become ever more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – Summary of Acts 16:11-40

ANTHEM

“How Can I Keep from Singing”

*Robert Lowry
arr. Arnold B. Sherman*

*"The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, A fountain ever springing:
All things are mine since I am His—, How can I keep from singing?"*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING – Philippians 1:1-14

SERMON

“Lydia’s welcome, Paul’s wisdom”

Greg Allen-Pickett

*HYMN

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Inspired by Paul's ministry with the Philippians by Greg Allen-Pickett)
We believe in God, who calls people together from every nation, city, and circumstance to become the church of Jesus Christ.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who proclaimed good news to the poor, freedom to the captive, and grace to all who would receive it. He broke down dividing walls, shared table fellowship with all people, and calls us to lives of hospitality, justice, and love.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who opens hearts to faith, strengthens us in times of suffering, and binds us together as partners in the gospel. The Spirit empowers us to sing songs of hope, even in difficult times, and sends us into the world to share the love of Christ.

We believe that God is still at work among us, forming us into a community marked by compassion, generosity, and joy, until the day of Christ Jesus. Amen.



INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

All loose coins in the offering plate will be donated to the PC(USA) Hunger Fund.

OFFERTORY

“Crosswind”

Sondra Tucker

The wind blows wherever it pleases...
So, it is with everyone born of the Holy Spirit. (John 3:8)

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, all that we have comes from you. Like Lydia opening her home in hospitality and like the believers in Philippi sharing in the work of the gospel, we offer these gifts as signs of our gratitude and devotion.

Use them to proclaim good news, to welcome the stranger, to comfort those in need, and to strengthen your church in love and service. May our giving reflect the overflowing grace we have received in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

*RESPONSE

***The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,
The church is not a resting place; the church is a people.
I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we’re the church
together!***

POSTLUDE

“Sing to the Lord a New Song”

arr. Mark Andersen

*(*Indicates the congregation shall stand as they are able.)*

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP &
INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS

Sunday, May 24: Pentecost Sunday!

10:30am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary (Wear red!)

Stay-at-Home Broadcast live on YouTube: www.youtube.com/@FPCHastings

The Worship Service can also be heard live on the radio simulcast
on KICS 1550 AM and on 92.7FM

NEW MEMBERS

Max Vavricka and Holly Wehrman
Kelley Simpson

Stan and Marcy Knudson
Scott and Elizabeth Sensemen

THE FLOWERS are given in memory of Elton and Edith Willcock.

THE RADIO BROADCAST is given by First Presbyterian Church of Hastings.

NURSERY Kim Bogan

USHERS (Team #3) Captain – Dave Fisher, Andy Barrows, Phil Odom, Doug Soderquist, John Pershing

GREETERS

May	Memorial Room	Narthex
17	Dixie & Gale McDonald	Mary Kay LaMaster
24	John & Linda Carllson	Sue Medsker
31	Ann & Robin Koozer	Carol Harrenstein

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 fpchastings.org



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.

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

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.

Sun. 5/17	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, YouTube
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
Mon. 5/18	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room
Tues. 5/19	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School & Choir Rooms
Wed. 5/20	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	PEACE West Classroom
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	1:15pm	PW Circle 3	PEACE West Classroom
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
Thur. 5/21	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCM Room 112
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School & Choir Room
	5:30pm	Session Meets	Anderson Room
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Fri. 5/22	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Sun. 5/24	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	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!





Relay For Life

Relay for Life has been a way for our church family to remember loved ones we have lost to cancer and to honor those who have survived. At the same time, we support the American Cancer Society.

Luminaries can be purchased by filling out a form and submitting it with your donation (\$10 each) to our First Presbyterian Church team through our church office or to our team captain, Susie Graham. (402) 469-2638. Please make checks payable to American Cancer Society.

Luminaries will be displayed in our Sanctuary in early June and at the Relay for Life in Kearney at the Kearney Catholic High School track (110 E 35th St.) on June 5. Thank you.

American Cancer Society
Relay for Life of Central Nebraska

Your name _____

Your Phone # _____

Yes, I would like _____ luminaries at \$10 each.

Name of Individual being honored or remembered In Honor In Memory Donation

Three horizontal lines for entering names and donation types.

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
Pam Canady	Ken Fisk
Francisco Diaz (Beto)	Sammy Nahorny
Pat Kelley	



In memory of

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

 **SAVE THE DATE!**

Sunday, July 12, 2026
Following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
PEACE Center Gym

Please join us for a lunch in honor and in
celebration of the Allen-Pickett family and their
time at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings!



RSVPs ensure we have enough food. Please call or email by
July 5th to let us know you'll be there!
(402) 462-5147 • melissa@fpchastings.org

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 & Youth Bells
Director: Dr. Byron Jensen
Youth Choir Director: Linda Johnson
Kids Choir Director: Teresa Canady
Kids 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