



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Home Page Newsletter

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

When my family and I first arrived in Hastings, you opened your hands and your arms to welcome us. You welcomed us into your church, into your homes, into your stories, and into your lives. You took a risk on me and I will be forever grateful.

You did more than call me to serve as your pastor. You helped teach me how to be one.

You taught me what it means to show up for one another in moments of joy and grief. You taught me what it means to be a church rooted in tradition and still open to the movement of the Spirit. You taught me what it means to be generous, courageous, faithful, and loving. You taught me that the church is at its best when its doors are open, its table is wide, and its hands are busy serving neighbors and strangers alike.

Most of all, you loved my family well. You watched Esther grow up. You welcomed Jessica's gifts. You prayed for us, encouraged us, laughed with us, cried with us, and made room for us. There are no words to adequately express what that has meant to me.

As I prepare to leave, I want you to know that I leave with deep gratitude and great hope. I believe this congregation is in good hands. Your transition team is faithful, wise, and committed to helping guide you through the season ahead. Your staff and leaders care deeply about this church and its mission.

But even more than that, I believe this congregation is in good hands because it is in your hands.

You are the church.

The church has never been one person, one pastor, one program, or one

Continued

season of ministry. The church is the body of Christ, gathered and sent. The church is every meal prepared, every prayer offered, every child welcomed, every stranger received, every grieving person accompanied, every neighbor served, every song sung, every act of courage and compassion offered in the name of Jesus Christ.

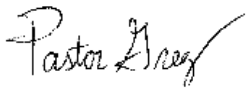
That work continues.

Your call has not changed. You are still called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. You are still called to love boldly, serve generously, welcome widely, and bear witness to the hope of the gospel. You are still called to seek justice, practice mercy, walk humbly with God, and embody Christ's love in Hastings and beyond.

I have been blessed beyond measure to serve as your pastor. Thank you for trusting me. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for loving my family. Thank you for helping me become the pastor I am today.

And thank you, most of all, for being the church.

With deep gratitude and abiding love,



Greg

July Ushers and Greeters

July Ushers (Team #5) Captain – Melissa Davis, Matt Fong, Julie Thomsen, Justin Brader

July Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
12	Jill Kramer	Jean Stinnette
19	Kay Georgiana	Volunteers Needed
26	Amy & Joe Black	Margaret & Charles Hermes

July 7, 2026 - July 20, 2026

Tues 7/7	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm-6pm	Red Cross Blood Drive	Fellowship Hall
	12-1pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
Wed. 7/8	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	6:30pm-9pm	Woodcarvers	Church Basement
Thur. 7/9	3-5pm	Summer Youth Group	Basement Youth Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
Fri. 7/10	10am	Mahjong	Basement Youth Room
Sun. 7/12	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, YouTube
	Following Worship	Special Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
	Following Worship	Luncheon to celebrate and honor the Allen-Pickett family	PEACE Center Gym
Mon. 7/13	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room
Tues. 7/14	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
Wed. 7/15	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers Meet	Basement
Thur. 7/16	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	3-5pm	Summer Youth Group	Basement Youth Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
Fri. 7/17	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Sat. 7/18		United Harvest	
Sun. 7/19	9-9:45am	Open Table Set-Up	Fellowship Hall
	9:45am-10:30am	Open Table Early Bird Assembly	Fellowship Hall
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, YouTube
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	11:30am-12:30pm	Open Table Assembly	Fellowship Hall
Mon 7/20	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Center Quilting Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room

Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher	Mary Lewis
Tarah Davis & family	Zsuzsanna Fazakas
Matt Campbell	Pam Canady
Janey Nottage-Tacey	Jason Hafer
Bob Wolf	Judd Carrier
KyMani Riek	Carl Utley
Carole Pedersen	Barry Thomson
Tony Glenn	Greg Howard
Summer Postlewait and family	Sammy Nahorny
Lexi Longshore	Francisco Diaz (Beto)
Nytha & Dave Glass	Carter Johnson
Kathy Struss	Alyssa Donley
Ken Fisk	Henry Black
Pat Kelley	



Presbyterian Women would like to thank everyone for your very generous donations to the Father's Day offering. We were able to collect \$2375 for the Nebraska Sandhill Rancher Fire Relief. Victims of natural fires in the counties of Garden, Morrill, Arthur, Keith, and Grant will be able to apply for grant assistance. I know some of you have family or friends in those areas and it was a very personal cause. Thank you so very much.

A Message from the Nominating Committee

Two vacancies exist on our leadership boards and the Nominating Committee will present Susan Cole for a two-year replacement term on the Deacons and Mike Meyer for a two-year replacement term on the Session.

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, July 12

Following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

A meeting to dissolve Pastor Greg's call



July Communion Offering



Habitat for Humanity is a movement of people in your local area and around the world, working together to build more prosperous and vibrant communities by making sure everyone has a safe, affordable place to call home.

Since our founding in 1976 as a Christian organization, **together we have helped more than 65 million people in countries around the world build their futures on their own terms** through access to decent housing. We've done that by working alongside people of all walks of life to:

- Build, repair, and finance their homes.
- Innovate new ways of building and financing.
- Advocate for policies that make constructing and accessing housing easier for everyone.

Together, we build homes, communities, and hope.

June Communion Offering Update

The June Communion Offering raised a total of \$1,818.32,
which will benefit Open Table.
Thank you for your generous support.



Worship in the Park

July 26	August 16
August 2	August 23
August 9	August 30

9:00 a.m.

Alexander Park

Please bring your lawn chair

All are welcome!

Welcoming Workers to Hastings

Each summer, migrant farm workers come to our area to help with the harvest. Our church welcomes them by collecting long-sleeved shirts and hats and helping with an annual community dinner.

You're invited to support this year's welcome dinner on **July 10 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Hastings Lake picnic area. If you'd like to donate chips, salads, or desserts, please bring them to the church by **4:00 p.m. on July 10** and label them "**Farm Workers' Meal.**" Everyone is welcome to attend the dinner.

Thank you to Jody Stutzman for coordinating our efforts through her work with Proteus. For more information, please contact Jody.

Gratefully,

The Mission Committee



July Means Open Table at FPC

Open Table 2026 in Fellowship Hall

One sack lunch, per person, per day, no questions asked.

Please join our congregation in fellowship and service as we celebrate our 23rd year of support for the Open Table Sack Lunch Program.

For those of you who are new to our church or community, the Open Table Sack Lunch Program is a community-wide program providing free daily sack lunches that are distributed from the Catholic Social Services Office Monday through Friday from noon to 5:00 pm at their new location on 124 South Colorado Avenue. This year, we will make 2,000 sack lunches on Sunday, July 19th, and 2,000 on Sunday, July 26th, immediately after the church service. We will also provide fresh chef salads or an alternative meal to serve twice during those last two weeks of July. In addition to the stable items in the sacks, we will provide sandwiches, fresh fruit, vegetables, string cheese, yogurt, and other healthy, less stable food items that can be added to the sacks on the day they are distributed.

For our regulars from previous years, there will be some changes to the Sunday morning routine, due to less freezer space at CSS and more freezer space at our church. We will not be delivering the sacks and sandwiches on Sunday, but rather storing them at the church, and CSS will pick them up in their truck on Mondays.

Volunteer opportunities for 2026 include

Sundays (Always fun). Assembling sacks and making sandwiches

Early-Bird Assembly: 9:45 to 10:30 after early service

Set-Up Crew: 9:00 to 9:45 Help to prepare tables for assembly

Group Assembly: 11:30 to 12:30 after second service

Weekdays or Saturdays:

Friday: Pick up order of loaves of bread from Russ's IGA and transport to Fellowship Hall (Volunteers call or text Meg, 402-902-9330)

Other weekdays (to be determined): Help prepare special meals and pick up food items to drop into lunches (Contact Jeni, 402-469-1500)

Donations: Donations of fresh vegetables or fruits, healthy snacks, and financial support are always welcome.

Prayers!

This tradition in our church has been a blessing for the people receiving the lunches and for the people preparing them. We have continuously supported this community-wide program every July since its start, and every year, there have been different challenges, blessings, and expectations; however, most of all we are grateful for the constant support of our church family.

Gratefully,

The Mission Committee

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 & Youth Bells

Director: Dr. Byron Jensen

Youth Choir Director: Linda Johnson

Children's Choir Director: Teresa Canady

Children's 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

Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger

Scholar in Residence: Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh