



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

PRELUDE

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
Organist, Linda Vollweiler

arr. Clay Christensen

WELCOME

Damen Jensen-Heitmann

INTROIT

“Pilgrims’ Hymn”
Chancel Choir
Director, Miggi Angangco

Stephan Paulus

*CALL TO ORDER

This meeting of members and friends of First Presbyterian Church is called to order.

Our purpose this holy day, is to worship God:

The God who saw Noah through the storm,

The God who protected Joseph in Egypt,

The God who led the faithful through the wilderness,

The God who was and is and shall be.

May God this day help us to find dry ground amid the flood.

May God grant us branches of hope in the midst of doubt.

*HYMN

“All People that on Earth Do Dwell”

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Karen Doerr

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dan Deffenbaugh

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we tend to destroy the things around us. Our selfish ambition turns others into objects in our paths. Our unending consumption degrades the world. Our lack of trust in you causes us to seek redemption and assurance in the lesser things of the world. Forgive us, O God, for our destructive ways. Have mercy for the ways we harm relationships, damage others, and ignore the needs of the vulnerable. Unbind us from our caustic patterns and let love rule our hearts once more.

QUESTION FOR SILENT CONFESSION & CONTEMPLATION
What destruction have you caused? What good is God calling you to build?

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In mercy, God hears the penitent.

In grace, God makes a promise to the faithful:

I am your God. You are my people

We are forgiven. We are loved.



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

*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.)

SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Robin Koozer

(Update on Transition Plan and Presentation of PNC Nominees)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rose Koepp

(As the children are coming forward, the congregation will sing “This Little Light of Mine.”)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Once again, O God, we turn to your holy word. We long to be reminded of your faithful acts. We need to be assured of your continuing sustenance. We turn to your word to encounter your abiding presence. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – Genesis 6:18-22

ANTHEM

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Over and around us lies

Sun and moon and stars of light
Sun and moon and stars of light

Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild
For all gentle thoughts and mild

For the beauty of the hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING – Genesis 8:6-12, 9:11-17

SERMON

“Seen Any Branches Lately?”

*HYMN

“Why Should I Feel Discouraged?”

661

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day, he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

“Down in the River to Pray”

arr. Daniel Gibby

Chancel Bells

Byron Jensen, director

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Candidates to the Pastor Nominating Committee: Chuck Bauer, Constance Malloy, Mary Olsen, Chris Schukei, Ross Struss, Kili Wenburg, Jenni Welsch, Chris Junker (alternate), Danny Graves (alternate)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND BLESSING FOR PNC

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples and, by the Holy Spirit, made them one church to serve you. We thank you for leading these newly elected servants to this time and to this place. Establish them in your truth, and guide them by your Holy Spirit, that in your service they may grow in faith, hope, and love. Guide their discernment that they may hold the whole congregation in their hearts and minds. Reveal to them your will. Assure them of your faithfulness. Let them be always mindful of their calling to love you and their neighbors. 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.

*HYMN

"Give Thanks"

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*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*ADJOURNMENT

*RESPONSE

"We are the Church"

Avery & Marsh

***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"

Mark Anderson

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

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

Sunday, September 20

8:30am Contemplative Service in the Chapel

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

**10:30am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary,
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

THE FLOWERS are given in memory of Dr. Robert McIntire by Marilyn McIntire and in loving memory of our sweet angels, Laynee McCurdy and Ryder Whitcomb, given by Gary and Connie Whitcomb.

THE RADIO BROADCAST is given in memory of Dr. Robert McIntire by Marilyn McIntire

NURSERY Kim Bogan

USHERS (Team #1) Captain – Chuck Hastings, Kim Creech, Steve Illingworth, John Pershing

GREETERS

September	Memorial Room	Narthex
13	Carolyn & Richard McKenzie	Karen Doerr
20	Bonnie & Kenton Grams	Paula Crozier
27	Deb Rasby	Melissa Davis



Pastoral Search Process

Transition Period (continues until a new pastor is called)



- Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh becomes “Executive Administrator” to oversee staff, budgets, facilities, and help with pastoral care and adult ed
- Pastor Damen and DCE Rose will take on expanded leadership roles, continuing to support our congregation and lead the day-to-day life of the church

PNC Formed Elected by congregation (FALL 2026)



- The Nominating Committee of FPC Hastings will convene to recommend a slate for the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC)
- The PNC is elected by the congregation as the search team for a the new pastor
- PNC begins their work by writing a job description (called a Ministry Discernment Profile - MDP)

Pastoral Search Conducted by PNC with the guidance of presbytery



- PNC posts the job description (MDP) and begins reviewing candidates
- PNC conducts virtual interviews, reviews sermons, and contacts references
- PNC invites 2-5 candidates for confidential in-person interviews in Hastings
- PNC identifies top candidate who comes to FPC Hastings for a candidating weekend

New Pastor



- Pastoral candidate's profile is shared with church
- Candidate is introduced and preaches
- Congregation receives report from PNC and votes on call.
- New Pastor begins and is installed.
- Transition Period is concluded

MINUTES OF A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

First Presbyterian Church

Hastings, Nebraska

July 12, 2026

A meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, Nebraska was held on July 12, 2026 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. A call to worship and a call to order were given by Pastor Damen Jensen-Heitmann. A quorum was declared by Karen Doerr, Clerk of Session.

MINUTES: *Upon a motion and a second, the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on February 1, 2026 were approved as distributed.*

UPDATED TERMS OF CALL FOR PASTOR DAMEN JENSEN-HEITMANN

For the duration of the transition the following is presented:

New temporary salary \$79,833

New health & pension benefits \$39,385

New travel and professional expenses: \$2,500

Total New Terms of Call \$121,718

Motion and a second to approve the new terms of call for Pastor Damen Jensen-Heitmann for the duration of the transition. Upon a voice vote, motion approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett presented a slate of officers to be elected: Mike Meyer for a 2-year term on Session, Susan Cole for a 2-year term on Deacons and Rose Koepp for service as an Elder during the transition.

Motion and a second to approve the slate as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF TRANSITION TEAM AND PLAN: Members of the transition team, Dan Deffenbaugh, Pastor Damen Jensen-Heitman and Rose Koepp were recognized. The duties and responsibilities of each member were explained.

Church Nominating Committee chair, Robin Koozer explained that this committee is accepting applications from those interested in serving on a Pastor Nominating Committee. A congregational meeting will be held to elect individuals to the Pastor Nominating Committee.

DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP: Just as a congregation has to vote on the acceptance of a pastor, it also has to vote to dissolve the relationship.

Motion by Polly Deppen-Williams, Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk, to dissolve the call of Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett with the First Presbyterian Church of Hastings. There was a second and upon a voice vote, the motion carried.

It was then asked of Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett, "Do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with this congregation?" He answered, "I do with thanks to God."

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Pastor Damen Jensen-Heitmann asked and received a moment of personal privilege to reflect on the title "Reverend." He invited the congregation to extend the "beloved status" of Reverend to the Reverend Greg Allen-Pickett. With a standing ovation, this status was extended.

ADJOURMENT: Pastor Damen Jensen-Heitmann closed the meeting with prayer.

Fall 2026 Adult Ed Forum – 9:15 a.m. Sundays – Lydia Room

Covenant: A Love Story (September 13 through October 11)

Presbyterians refer to themselves as a "covenant community." We will explore the beginnings of this idea in the books of Genesis and Exodus and consider why it is so important to our faith.

Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical World (October 25 through November 22)

Continuing our focus on covenant, we will reflect on a recently published book that considers "what it means to be truly evangelical in a time of theological and cultural distortion." Copies of the book will be made available to those who would like to read along. See <https://www.wjkbooks.com/bookproduct/0664269273-being-presbyterian-in-a-dysvangelical-america/>.

Noonday Book Club

The Noonday Book Group is beginning a new book study, Elaine Pagels' book *Miracles and Wonders: The Historical Mystery of Jesus*. Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh leads the weekly conversations online. All are welcome to log in at 11:55 a.m. every Wednesday. Please contact Sharon Brooks at sbbrooks52@gmail.com or Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh at ddeffenbaugh425@gmail.com for more information about connecting online.



WALKERS AND COFFEE GROUP

Lace up your sneakers
and join us for a little
exercise, coffee, and
fellowship.

Monday through Thursday
8:30 a.m.
PEACE Center Gym

All are Welcome!

THE CENTRAL NEBRASKA PRESBYTERY YOUTH COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

Sr High Retreat!

9th-12th Grade

SAVE THE DATE!
November 6-7,
2026

**The Crossing
Retreat Center
Lexington, NE**

More info coming soon!!



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.

Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher	family of Evelyn Viglicky
Tarah Davis & family	Zsuzsanna Fazakas
Matt Campbell	Jason Hafer
Janey Nottage-Tacey	Judd Carrier
Bob Wolf	Carl Utley
KyMani Riek	Barry Thomson
Carole Pedersen	Greg Howard
Tony Glenn	Sammy Nahorny
Summer Postlewait and family	Francisco Diaz (Beto)
Kathy Struss	Carter Johnson
Ken Fisk	Alyssa Donley
Pat Kelley	Dana Odom
The Stoddard Family	Don & Marie Rasmussen
family of Jim Duval	family of Lexi Longshore
Sally Smith	family of John Meeske
Andy Barrows	family of Duane Ochsner
Pam Canady	

In memory of

Jim Duval, who passed
away on 7/24/26

Lexi Longshore, who passed
away on 8/15/26

Evelyn Viglicky, who passed
away on 8/18/26

John Meeske, who passed
away on 8/20/26

Duane Ochsner, who passed
away on 8/24/26

Sun. 9/13	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Sunday School Opportunities for all ages	Various
	10:am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service followed by Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary, Radio, YouTube
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	11:30am	Ice Cream Social	Fellowship Hall
	2pm	Choral Collective Rehearsal	Choir Room
Mon. 9/14	8:30am	Walker/Coffee Group	PEACE Center
	1:30-3pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	6pm	WAM Meeting	Anderson Room
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room
Tues. 9/15	8:30am	Walker/Coffee Group	PEACE Center
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	6-8pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School Youth and Choir Rooms
Wed. 9/16	8:30am	Walker/Coffee Group	PEACE Center
	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	PEACE Center NW Classrooms
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	1:15pm	PW Circle 3	PEACE NW Classrooms
	5pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	Various
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir
	7:30pm	Chancel Bell Practice	Bell Room
Thur. 9/17	5:30pm	Session Meets	Anderson Room
	6-8pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School Youth and Choir Rooms
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
Fri. 9/18	10am	Mahjong	Basement Youth Room
Sat. 9/19	9:45am	United Harvest	PEACE Center
Sun. 9/20	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

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
Sharing the love of Christ from the heart of Hastings since 1873

Head of Church: Jesus Christ

Executive Administrator & Head of Staff:

Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh

Organist and Music Director: Linda Vollweiler

Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Miggi Angango

Chancel Bells & Youth Bells

Director: Dr. Byron Jensen

Youth Choir Director: Linda Johnson

Director of the Langenberg Legacy

Program: Dr. Robin Koozer

Ministers: Members of the Church

Associate Pastor: Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Director of Christian Education: Rose Koepp

Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger

Church Office Administrator: Melissa Davis

Children's Choir Director: Teresa Canady

Children's Bells Choir Director: Dr. Susan Oliver

Accompanist and Music Coordinator: Mary Plock