



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Home Page Newsletter

Hello, Church Family!

The school year has started, and that means our Christian Education programs are starting soon (this week, actually)!

There are so many exciting things that happen in our church each week, and I'm always surprised by the number of people who don't know what all of our children and youth are up to. So, I thought I'd drop in and give you a little peek behind the scenes!

At First Pres, we believe that the children and youth aren't just the future of the church, they are an active part of the church right now. Our goal in Christian Education isn't simply to teach students Bible stories (although we certainly do that!). We want to help them grow in faith, ask questions, discover what it means to follow Christ, and know that they are deeply loved by God and by this church.

And the best part is, we have a lot of fun doing it!

On Sunday mornings, our Preschool-12th grade students gather for Kids' Church and age-appropriate Christian Education. We follow the Narrative Lectionary, which means that the Scriptures our students are learning about connect with what the rest of the congregation is hearing in worship. Our younger students learn through stories, crafts, games, and activities, while our older students dig deeper into Scripture, theology, and what it means to live out their faith.

Then, there's Wednesday Night Live, where things get a little busier, and a lot louder! We start the night off with a family dinner and then students spread out for Bible study, music, recreation, and fellowship. Our youngest kiddos explore Bible stories through play and hands-on activities, elementary students participate in Bible study and music, and our Jr/Sr high students gather for youth group and music.

Music is an important part of our life together at First Pres, and we are incredibly lucky that our children and youth have the opportunity to use gifts to help lead worship. You'll get to hear them during worship throughout the year!

Christian Education doesn't stop at Bible study and youth group. We have special weekend events ranging from movie nights to 24hr retreats. Our students have opportunities to serve and participate in worship throughout the year, too. There is a lot happening around here, and I could probably go on for several pages, but hopefully this gives you a little glimpse!

Continued

So, next time you hear handbells ringing upstairs, see a group of kids racing down the hallway, or notice a bunch of teens laughing together in the Fellowship Hall, you'll know a little bit about what's going on.

And, if you happen to be around on a Wednesday night, or Sunday morning, come see for yourself! Our Christian Education ministry is made possible by a whole church family that teaches, cooks, sings, rings, serves, listens, encourages, and shows up for our children and youth.

We are so excited for another year of learning, growing, serving, singing, ringing, laughing, and following Christ together. I can't wait to see what this year brings!

In Christ,



Rose Koepf

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/> .

2026-2027 Langenberg Concert Series Brochure
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The 2026-2027 Langenberg Concert Series brochure will be mailed out next week. You will receive two copies of the brochure. You are encouraged to keep one copy and share the other one with a friend, family member, etc.

Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher	family of Evelyn Viglicky
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
Kathy Struss	Francisco Diaz (Beto)
Ken Fisk	Carter Johnson
Pat Kelley	Alyssa Donley
The Stoddard Family	Dana Odom
family of Jim Duval	Don & Marie Rasmussen
Sally Smith	family of Lexi Longshore
Mary Lewis	family of John Meeske
Andy Barrows	family of Duane Ochsner

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

Tues. 9/1	8:30am	Coffee/Walkers Group	PEACE Center gym
	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	United Harvest Board Meeting	PEACE NW Classroom
Wed. 9/2	8:30am	Coffee/Walkers Group	PEACE Center gym
	11am	PW Coord Team	Parlor
	11:45am	PW Program and Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	5pm	WNL Bubbles & BBQ	Parking Lot
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bell Practice	Bell Room
Thur. 9/3	8:30am	Walkers/Coffee Group	PEACE Center gym
	5:30pm	Global Mission Committee Meeting	PEACE NW Classroom
	5:30pm	Youth Christian Ed Meeting	Office Conference Room
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Fri. 9/4	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room

Sun. 9/6	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, YouTube
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	2pm	Choral Collective Rehearsal	Choir Room
Mon. 9/7		Labor Day-Church Offices Closed	
	8:30am	Walkers/Coffee Group	PEACE gym
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE gym
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room
Tues. 9/8	8:30am	Coffee/Walkers Group	PEACE Center gym
	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Red Cross Blood Drive	Fellowship Hall
	12pm	Noon Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Congregational Life Meeting	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Trustee Meeting	PEACE W Classroom
	6pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	2 nd Floor Middle School and Choir Rooms
	6:45pm	Deacons Meet	Anderson Room
Wed. 9/9	8am	Sock Knitters	PEACE W Classroom
	8:30am	Coffee/Walkers Group	PEACE Center gym
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	5pm-7:15pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	various
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells Practice	Bell Choir
Thur. 9/10	8am	Sock Knitters	PEACE W Classroom
	8:30am	Coffee/Walkers Group	PEACE gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	6pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	2 nd floor Middle School and Choir Rooms
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Fri. 9/11	8am	Sock Knitters	PEACE W Classroom
	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Sat. 9/12	8am	Sock Knitters	PEACE W Classroom
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

The church offices will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day

September Ushers and Greeters

September Ushers (Team #1) Captain – Chuck Hastings, Kim Creech, Steve Illingworth, John Pershing on 9/13 & 9/20, Melissa Davis on 9/27

September Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
6	Jill Kramer	Jeni & George Howard
13	Carolyn & Richard McKenzie	Karen Doerr
20	Bonnie & Kenton Grams	Paula Crozier
27	Deb Rasby	Melissa Davis



The American Red Cross and First Presbyterian Church are hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, September 8, from 12pm-6pm. There is a critical need for donated blood. Please consider making an appointment to give blood during this drive. To make an appointment go to redcrossblood.org, select the drive at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, and make your appointment.





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!

FREE ADMISSION

Evening of WORSHIP

AN EVENING TO GATHER THE COMMUNITY OF HASTINGS
AND SURROUNDING AREAS TO LIFT UP THE NAME OF JESUS
CHRIST THROUGH WORSHIP AND THE WORD OF GOD!

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 | 5:30-7:30 PM
CITY AUDITORIUM, HASTINGS NE

Gather  Hastings




WORSHIP LED BY:
CRUCIFORM COLLECTIVE

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES FROM:
COMRON YAZDGERDI, FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES
SR. M. XAVIER, SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF THE MARTYR ST. GEORGE,
FORMER OHIO STATE BASKETBALL STARTER, SWEET 16 CO-CAPTAIN

FOOD AVAILABLE AT 5:00 PM:
LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA
SPECIAL SCOOPS
MICHELLE'S SCRUMPTIOUS BAKERY

Free-will donations will be accepted, with a portion of the
proceeds supporting Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

CONNECT WITH US:
Like & follow
Gather Hastings
on Facebook



Ushers Needed for September

We are looking for volunteers to assist with ushering in September. Please let the church office know if you are able to help out. We appreciate your help.

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.

Congregational Meeting

TO VOTE ON THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

FOLLOWING THE 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

(NAMES OF CANDIDATES WILL BE RELEASED ON SEPTEMBER 6)

ALL MEMBERS CAN VOTE



Communion Offering Update

The August Communion Offering raised a total of \$581 which will benefit the Raices de mi Pueblo Mexican Dance Troupe. Thank you for your generous support.

September Communion Offering



Maryland Living Center

The mission of MLC is to provide an empowering life experience in a stable, safe, and secure living and learning environment, for homeless or transitioning youth. We are a permanent housing facility that aims to successfully transition homeless and aged out youth (ages 16 to 21 years) into independent living within 12 to 18 months.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC.
CWU CELEBRATIONS 2026
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



SHELTER ME

See, Hear, Respect, Protect

Psalm 24:1 (NIV)

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



SEE & HEAR

Theme: Truth is Power
Human Rights Day

Human Rights Awarding to:

Jody Stutzman
Regional Director

proteus SERVICES TO
LEARNERS

proteus25
www.proteus25.net
402.755.2677

September 4 at 10 a.m.
First Congregational Church, UCC
2810 W. 7th St. Hastings, NE

Ice Cream Social

Sunday,
September 13
11:30a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Free

All are
welcome!



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

Executive Administrator & Head of Staff:

Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh

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

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