



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Home Page Newsletter

Dear FPC Family,

There is a saying these days among leadership gurus that there are two types of decision-makers. On the one hand, there are the “microwave managers,” those who can survey the dynamics of a problem and arrive at an immediate solution. These people are highly valued in organizations where quick answers mean uncompromised efficiency. On the other hand, there are the “crockpot thinkers,” those who like to take their time reflecting on how new obstacles in an organization’s routine provide new and creative opportunities for growth. The former are advantageous to those who want immediate results, while the latter are more interested in long-term goals.

I have been thinking about this analogy lately as people have asked why our search for a new pastor will take so long. The answer, of course, has to do with Presbyterian polity, with the way we govern ourselves as a local church connected to a nationwide denomination.

In matters of church governance, there are three models: the Episcopal, the Congregational, and the Presbyterian. The first is best represented by the Roman Catholic, Anglican/Episcopal, and Methodist churches with their hierarchical structure. Decisions about pastoral leadership are made from the top down, and while this has the advantage of speed, the local church has limited say in the process. By contrast, Congregational polity allows for complete local autonomy when choosing a pastor, but tends to sacrifice the connectional aspect of denominational identity. Both of these are “microwave models”; they are very efficient in terms of timeliness.

Presbyterians are “crockpot thinkers.” We enjoy a certain measure of local autonomy in that our pastors are not selected for us. But we also recognize that our identity is denominational – that is, we abide by certain uniform standards regardless of geographical location. When it comes to choosing a new pastor, we take our time. We prepare for the feast. We read and reflect on the recipe. We imagine how our family might best be fed. We assemble the best cooks, with experience in the kitchen and an openness to the spirit. We gather and prepare all the ingredients and place them in the crockpot. Then, we set the temperature on low, and wait for the aroma to fill the house.

In the weeks ahead, I hope you will enjoy the smells. It will make the meal all the more satisfying.

P.W. Salad Luncheon

Ever wonder why the remains of Ephesus are better preserved than the ones in Corinth? Or what the difference is between a stoa and an agora? And what did the pilgrims from First Presbyterian Church experience as they followed in the footsteps of Paul last February 26 through March 9?

For the answer to these and other questions you might have, come to hear about their trip to Greece and Turkey at our October PW salad luncheon. As well as the program, a variety of delicious salads prepared by First Presbyterian Women will be served. Please know that any ladies of First Presbyterian Women Church are welcome at our annual **Salad Luncheon** on Wednesday, **October 7, 2026** at **11:45 A.M.**

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/>.

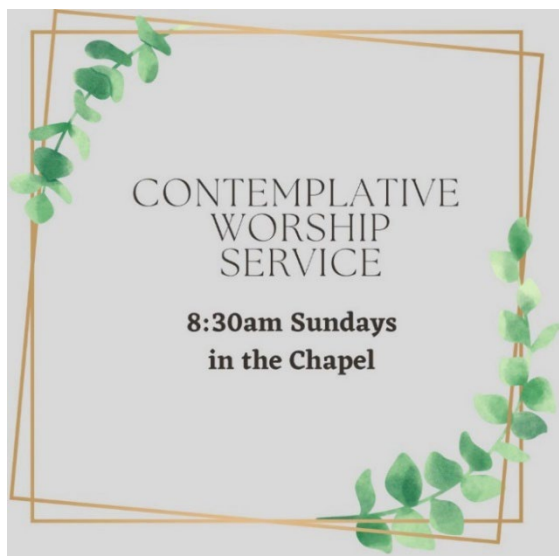


Tues. 9/29	8:30am	Walkers/Coffee Group	PEACE Center
	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	6pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	2 nd Floor Middle School Youth and Choir Rooms
Wed. 9/30	8:30am	Walkers/Coffee Group	PEACE Center
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	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 Room
Thur. 10/1	8:30am	Walkers/Coffee Group	PEACE Center
	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Global Mission Committee	PEACE NW Classroom
	6pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	2 nd Floor Middle School Youth and Choir Rooms
	6pm-8pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6pm-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Fri. 10/2	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room

October Ushers and Greeters

October Ushers (Team #2) Captain – Duane Huber, Steve Illingworth, Daveta & Dick Brader, Lois Hafer

October Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
4	Amy & Joe Black	Melissa Davis
11	Kili & Justin Wenburg	Kathy Utter
18	Kathy & Curtis Reimer	Marnie & Doug Soderquist
25	Damen & LaRaesha Kugal	Melissa Davis



Sun. 10/4	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Faith Enrichment Hour for all ages	Various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, YouTube
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	2pm-3:30pm	Choral Collective Rehearsal	Choir Room
Mon. 10/5	8:30am	Coffee/Walkers Group	PEACE Center
	9am-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Center
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	6pm	WAM Meeting	Anderson Room
	7pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room
Tues. 10/6	8:30am	Coffee/Walkers Group	PEACE Center
	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	United Harvest Board Meeting	PEACE West Classrooms
	6pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	2 nd Floor Middle School Youth and Choir Rooms
	6pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
Wed. 10/7	8:30am	Walkers/Coffee Group	PEACE Center
	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	11am	PW Coord. Team	Parlor
	11:45am	PW Program and Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	5-5:30pm	Dinner/Fellowship	Parking Lot
	5:30pm-6pm	Blessing of the Pets Service	Parking Lot
	6pm-7:15pm	Regular WNL Music and Bible Time	Various
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bell Practice	Bell Room
Thur. 10/8	8:30am	Walkers/Coffee Group	PEACE Center
	9am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Center
	6pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	2 nd Floor M.S. and Choir Ro
	6pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Gym
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Fri. 10/9	9am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Sun. 10/11	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Faith Enrichment Hour for all ages	Various
	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



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!



You're Invited To

FAMILY DINNER

OCT. 11	4:30-6:30 PM
1101 N HASTINGS AVE	

Pastor Damen and Hannah Jensen-Heitmann
would like to invite all families with children and
youth to their home for a cook-out.
Please bring a side to share!

For Questions or to RSVP,
call the Church Office (402)462-5147
(RSVPs are appreciated but not necessary.)

BLESSING OF THE PETS!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Each year at First Presbyterian Church, we hold a service in which we talk about how animals are a wonderful part of God's creation. During this service, we offer a blessing for any pets present.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

We will be holding this special service in place of our typical Wednesday Night Live programming.

5:00-5:30 pm Dinner/Fellowship for everyone

5:30-6:00 pm Service/Pet Blessing

6:00-7:00/15 pm Regular WNL Music & Bible Time

WHAT TO BRING

If you'd like to bring your pet, please do! But please keep it on a leash or in a carrier. You can also bring a picture of your pet.



DONATE

your gently used coats here.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

SUPPORT OUR WINTER COAT DRIVE
AND GIVE THE GIFT OF WARMTH

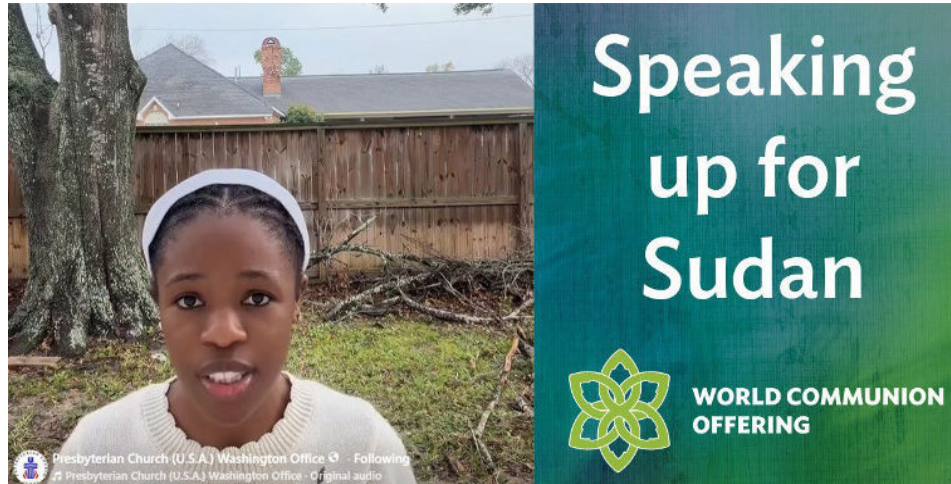
**OCTOBER 17
9AM - 12PM**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

October Communion Offering



Linking Faith, Advocacy and International Solidarity

World Communion Offering Making it Possible!

Philile has big dreams, ones where her faith and her advocacy make the world a better place. She is fulfilling those dreams through her YAV year, serving with the Office of Public Witness. Read about her incredible story and her dedication to raising awareness about marginalized people in Sudan, especially women and children.

[Read Philile's Story](#)

The [World Communion Offering](#) supports racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. The mission and ministry Philile is doing is one example of the impact of this offering.

If you want to [read more stories of impact](#) about the [World Communion Offering](#), be sure to check out the two stories we shared last week.



Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher
Tarah Davis & family
Matt Campbell
Janey Nottage-Tacey
Bob Wolf
KyMani Riek
Carole Pedersen
Tony Glenn
Summer Postlewait and family
Kathy Struss
Ken Fisk
Pat Kelley
family of Jim Duval
Sally Smith
Andy Barrows
Pam Canady

family of Evelyn Viglicky
Zsuzsanna Fazakas
Jason Hafer
Judd Carrier
Carl Utley
Barry Thomson
Greg Howard
Sammy Nahorny
Francisco Diaz (Beto)
Carter Johnson
Alyssa Donley
Dana Odom
family of Lexi Longshore
family of John Meeske
family of Duane Ochsner



In memory of

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



CHICKENS, BEANS AND BIG *Dreams*

CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 11, 2026 @ 2:00 pm
Lake Hastings



Register on the south side of the lake. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the donations goes to the local *United Food Harvest* program. Sponsored by Church Women United. Checks may be written to CWS/CROP.

crophungerwalk.org/

Use the link to the left or scan the QR code on the right to find your local team and donate and/or sign up to walk today!



**Donate or sign up
for your walk today!**



CABARET THEATRE

Vocal Jazz Quartet

Sunday, October 25, 2026

3:00 p.m. | Free Concert

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

Omaha's Cabaret Theatre has been delighting audiences since 1991. With stunning vocal jazz harmonies and sublime solo voices, members of the group have garnered an array of individual and ensemble awards for their artistry at area theaters and local events.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF HASTINGS

621 N. Lincoln Avenue
Hastings, NE 68901

For additional information call:
(402) 462-5147

First Presbyterian Church

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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