



FIRST a church for all ages
PRESBYTERIAN



November 2017
Newsletter

Prayer REQUESTS

Avis Martin,
Matthew Marshall,
Knopp's grandson,
Barb Crummel, Bill
Sidney, Sr.,
Shirley Cotant, Pearl
Stutz,
Norm Noviskey,
Carl and Mary Belson
Jace, John
Resseguie's grandson

Worship SCHEDULE

10 am Worship

11/5 Matthew 16:15 Rev. Dan Birchfield
Why Do You Ask Me About What is Good?
Communion/Stewardship Sunday

9 and 10:30 am Worship

11/12 Guest Pastor Rev. Mike Anton

11/19 Luke 18:21 Rev. Dan Birchfield
What Do You Want Me to Do For You?

11/26 Matthew 22:42 Rev Dan Birchfield
What Do You Think about the Christ?

FPC Care GROUP

The FPC Care Group has been meeting for over two years to provide mutual support for folks who are caregivers and for those who have experienced a significant loss. We think of caregiving as full or part-time in-home care or the care of a loved one in a facility. We would again like to welcome any members or regular attendees of FPC who are facing the challenges of caregiving or grief to join us. We are confidential, fairly unstructured, relaxed, and flexible in attendance. The group meets every three weeks on Tuesday in the lounge from 9:30 to 11:00a.m. with the next meeting scheduled for Nov. 20, 2017. Please feel free to call Pat Cassell at [616-648-6498](tel:616-648-6498) with questions.

Pastor's CORNER



Church Family,

It's the month of gratitude, so what are you thankful for today? I am attempting to be grateful for being able to see the extraordinary in the ordinary. The extraordinary is actually there to be seen in almost every ordinary moment

Two months ago I was about to open the screen door at my home and my eye caught that there was a praying mantis at the bottom of the door. It stood so still almost blending perfectly into the screen that it was gripping. You know what? It really did look like it was praying. It was an ordinary morning, and in an ordinary moment of opening the screen door I encountered the extraordinary. I had never seen a praying mantis in person. Imagine that at 47 years. I have seen walking sticks, but never a praying mantis.

In that moment as I beheld the extraordinary in the ordinary I was grateful that the praying mantis reminds me to pray. Inspired by the praying mantis I went in my home and spent some time in prayer. That made the morning all the more extraordinary.

Since I had taken a photo of the praying mantis, I had an extraordinary idea during my prayer time. Beginning that morning I have texted some family and friends the photo of the praying mantis writing in the text that I am their praying mantis and I want to know how they would like me to pray for them today. The responses to these texts and the requests shared have been extraordinary. I am so grateful for seeing the extraordinary in the ordinary. It has led to more and more extraordinary moments. Thanks be to God for creating the praying mantis, and drawing my attention to it that ordinary morning two months ago.



God bless,

Pastor Dan

Session MINUTES

John Best, General Presbyter, sent a thank you letter to FPC for hosting the Presbytery pension meeting and providing a delicious luncheon. The Per Capita fee will be raised in 2018 to \$28.98.

The Deacons follow-up committee is contacting members who have been absent from worship. The communion procedures are being updated.

A request from the Thornapple Arts Council to hold the Hastings High School Jazz Concert in our sanctuary on 2/8/18, and allow a special offering toward their Scholarship Fund, was approved on motion.

The beautiful Prayer Labyrinth was constructed by Marsh Evans in our courtyard, and a dedication is being planned for Spring 2018.

The Kick-Off picnic was a huge success. Thanks to ALL who helped! Bible studies are underway, and the Women's Retreat is set for October 14. Dave Storms is helping to coordinate the Light Night event, and the Living Nativity is slated for December 8. Many volunteers are needed for both of these community activities.

"Build our Ministries" is the theme for the 2018 stewardship campaign.

NAPS Ark Prize will be held on 11/9/17.

Clean-Up buckets were assembled to provide aid to the victims of the current hurricanes.

Tutors are needed on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to work with three *English as a Second Language (ESL)* students.

Noah's Ark PRESCHOOL

BEING THANKFUL

During the month of November we focus more on being thankful. There are so many wonderful ways to have an "attitude of gratitude"! We are thankful for the blessings of our wonderful school and playgrounds, amazing families and children, and the strong support of you, our congregation! Our Bible verse for the month is: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good" 1 Chronicles 16:43

ARK PRIZE!

The children have been very excited to work on art projects here at the Ark! The projects were inspired by several famous art pieces. The children will be sharing their efforts with their families and community at our "fancy" event on November 9 at 6:30 in the fellowship hall!

PARENT AND TODDLER TIME

We will be starting our parent group on November 1st. This group will meet twice a month on Wednesdays from November to March to discuss a wide range of topics from parenting to spirituality while the children have time to socialize.

TID BITS:

Enrollment stands at 88 children! What blessings God has sent to us!

*November 7: Ministry Team meets

*November 16: Young Fives Vip Luncheon

*November 20 to 26 is our Thanksgiving Break!

*November 30: Picture Re-take Day!!

Family MINISTRIES

First, a big HURRAY for the rich experiences of October: among them, Our Women's Retreat with Sharon Garlough Brown, the Light Night Fall festival, and the Communion Conversation. How blessed we are with faithful volunteers, committed staff, a generous congregation, and oh, so many precious children and families! And what does November look like? Lots of good things are happening and are in the works.

Children's Worship time on Sunday mornings: Nov. 5: "God Makes a Covenant with Abram" (Nope, no spelling error; ask your young worshiper about Abram's name!)

Nov. 12: "Abraham's Visitors/Sodom and Gomorrah"

Nov. 19: "Isaac is Born"

Nov. 26: "God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael"

Preschool chapels: Nov. 7: 9:30 "A Tall Tower"

Nov. 14: 9:30 "Inside a Fish"

Adult Bible Studies: Women's and Men's Studies: Thursdays, Nov. 2, 9, 16

Women: 10 am and 6:30 pm. (Leaders will announce any changes)

Men: 9 am and 8 pm (Bible and Brew at Seasonal Grille)

Men: additional Sunday evening time: 6 pm here at church

The Living Nativity at the beginning of December. Woohoo, is this ever going to be FUN! The animals from Critter Country will be coming as will the Hastings Holly Trolley! On Friday evening, Dec. 8, from 6-8, our Living Nativity will be a designated stop for the trolley that evening. VERY SOON a sign up bulletin board will be ready in the hallway outside the gym. We'll need all FPC hands on deck for this wonderful presentation of the reason for the season!

Christmas Pageant: Sunday morning, December 17, we'll be retelling the Christmas story in a way you won't forget! Parents, more information will be coming your way SOON!

Stewardship UPDATE

The following provides a budget update through September 30, 2017:

Month-end September, 2017, budget snapshot:

Receipts

Budgeted Receipts: \$420,129*

Actual Receipts: \$467,795**

*includes nine months (2/3) of prepaid pledges

**includes *Together Campaign* receipts

Expenses

Budgeted Expenses: \$454,787

Actual Expenses: \$436,420

The calendar says Fall has arrived! With Fall, our annual Stewardship Campaign is fast approaching. Please let this be a campaign of prayer as together we are **Building our Ministries on the foundation of Christ** to carry out our many missions of reaching those in need, both locally and abroad. Please keep this in your daily prayers.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support!!

David Curtis, Stewardship Chair, and Committee Members:

Dave Arnold, Ned Brown, David Logan, Larry Winkler

Student MINISTRY



Upcoming Events

November 3rd –Middle School to Craig’s Cruisers- Leaving FPC at 6 pm, and getting back at 9 pm. Cost is \$25 which includes dinner.

November 5th – Trivia Night

November 11th- All the Feels Tour with Needtobreathe – For HS, Leaving FPC at 530 pm, and getting home at 1130 pm

November 19th- PATH Gives Back

December 17th- PATH Christmas

Trivia Night ~ November 5th from 6-8 pm

Get a team together to battle it out for trivia supremacy over a variety of topics. We will find you a team if you need one. Prizes for the top 3 teams. For more information contact Patrick (248) 978-7961.

PATH Gives Back ~ November 19th from 6-8pm

This time of the year we like to reflect on what we are thankful for and what God has provided for us. We will be spending the night on different projects to give back to the community, plus some Thanksgiving themed fun thrown in. Let us be able to give to those in need, as we are thankful for what we have.

Be sure to fill out your student release form on our student ministry page

<http://firstchurchhastings.org/students.html>

Mission COMMITTEE

Over the last two months we’ve received donations designated for hurricane relief = \$1,565 which has been sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

We’ve collected cleaning materials and assembled 54 cleanup kit buckets which have an estimated value = \$4050. These Cleanup Kits were delivered to Church World Service (CWS) collection depot in Elkhart, In. on Tuesday,10/10.

All this is made possible by the generosity of the FPC congregation. Thank-you!

Looking forward, we are exploring the potential for a trip (or trips) to hurricane affected areas during the 2018 calendar year.

More information will be made available as plans are developed so, stay tuned!

CROP Walk: The 2017 Barry county CROP Walk took place on Sunday 10/08 in Hastings. First Presbyterian was well represented by 12 walkers & 2 dogs. Our team brought in just over \$1,500! It was a beautiful sunny day for the event and nearly \$11,000 total was raised, with 25% of this money staying in Barry County.

Staff CONTACTS

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First Presbyterian MINISTRIES



FAMILY MINISTRY

Jan De Vos x 3005

jdevos@firstchurchhastings.org

Jan is our Family Ministry Director, and plans education and events within the church for nursery-grade school children, and adults.



NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

LeeAnn Miller-Busson x 3008

noahsark@firstchurchhastings.org

LeeAnn is our Noah's Ark Preschool Director. The preschool is celebrating its 22nd year serving the Hastings Community this school year!



STUDENT MINISTRY

Patrick Tyrrell x 3010

ptyrrell@firstchurchhastings.org

Pat leads the students, Middle High through College. The kids are very active in Sunday School and Youth Group, and get involved in Mission and Fellowship events.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY

Todd Willard and Matt Callaghan x 3006

twillard@hassk12.org

mcallaghan@firstchurchhastings.org

Todd leads the First Presbyterian Praise Team, a contemporary group of musicians and vocalists.



Matt leads the Church Choir in traditional hymns and music during the program year.

All the Ministries of First Presbyterian welcome and rely on the congregation throughout the year. To get more involved, please talk to the Ministry Directors about how you can help.

Click the calendar for the monthly church calendar

NOVEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study 8:00 PM NO PATH Youth Group	30 8:45 AM NAPS Halloween Party 12:00 PM Staff Lunch 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 7:00 PM Knit Wifs - Lounge	31 8:30 AM NAPS Halloween Party 8:30 AM FPC Care Group	1 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 8:30 PM Choir	2 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 8:30 PM Women's Bible Study 3:00 PM Bible and Brew- Seasonal Grille	3 8:15 AM Pickleball - Gym	4 10:30 AM Praise Team
5 Communion Sunday 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study 8:00 PM PATH Youth Group	6 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 7:00 PM Knit Wifs - Lounge	7 8:30 AM NAPS Chapel 12:40 PM NAPS Chapel 8:00 PM NAPS Ministry Meeting	8 Ark Prize Set-up 8:30 AM NAPS Chapel 8:30 PM Choir	9 NO 8:30 pm Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 8:30 PM "Ark" Prize 3:00 PM Bible and Brew- Seasonal Grille	10 8:15 AM Pickleball - Gym	11 10:30 AM Praise Team
12 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study 8:00 PM PATH Youth Group	13 1:00 PM Staff Meeting-Adult Ed 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 8:00 PM Mission and Student Ministry Meetings 7:00 PM Family and Worship Ministry Meetings 7:00 PM Knit Wifs - Lounge	14 8:30 AM NAPS Chapel 12:40 PM NAPS Chapel	15 8:30 AM NAPS Chapel 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 8:30 PM Choir	16 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 8:30 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM Bible and Brew- Seasonal Grille	17 Newsletter Deadline 8:15 AM Pickleball - Gym	18 7:00 AM Birthday Party-VanEngen 10:30 AM Praise Team
19 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study 8:00 PM PATH Youth Group	20 8:30 AM FPC Care Group 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 6:30 PM Stewardship 7:00 PM Family Ministry Team Meeting 7:00 PM Knit Wifs - Lounge 7:00 PM Trustees	21	22 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 8:30 PM Choir	23 Holiday-Office Closed	24 Holiday-Office Closed 8:15 AM Pickleball - Gym	25 10:30 AM Praise Team
26 8:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM NO PATH Youth Group	27 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 8:00 PM Personnel 7:00 PM Knit Wifs - Lounge 7:00 PM Session	28	29 3:30 PM Pickleball-Gym 8:30 PM Choir	30 Narthex/Gym Christmas Decorating	1 8:15 AM Pickleball - Gym	2 10:30 AM Praise Team

Special Birthdays:

Marge Mulder will be 94 on November 17th.

Dwight Hitchcock will be 96 on November 26th.

If you see them, please wish him a very Happy Birthday!