



Worship SCHEDULE

9 and 10:30 am Worship

5/6 II Timothy 2:1-2 Rev. Dan Birchfield
Levels of Influence
Communion

5/13 Matthew 9:35-38 Rev. Dan Birchfield
Changing the Climate

5/20 Acts 1:8 Rev. Dan Birchfield
Faith Comes by Hearing

10 am Worship

5/27 Matthew 29:19-20
Redirecting Strengths and Resources
Graduation Sunday

Missed a Sunday? No problem! You can watch on [Truthcasting](#).

Prayer REQUESTS

Luke Carpenter,
Deb Vanderveen,
Becky Bell,
Beth Kotrba,
Bill and Brenda
Sidney,
Avis Martin,
Pearl Stutz,
Carl and Mary
Belson

Community GARDEN

It is spring, and time to think about gardens. If you are interested in helping with the church garden that raises food for the Free Food Initiative please contact:
Dave Allarding
269-948-2934
or
Joann Logan
269-945-9782.

Pancake BREAKFAST

Mark your calendar for the next Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 6, at 10:00 a.m. in-between services. Thanks to your generosity at the March 18 breakfast, the Trustees are more than half-way to the \$3500 goal to replenish the depleted Manse Maintenance budget line item. Bring a friend, bring a neighbor and please plan to enjoy good food with even better fellowship! Thankyou!!

Office HOURS

M-W 8-5 pm
Th 8-4:30 pm

Closed F-Sun
and
Lunch 12-1 pm

Pastor's CORNER

As your pastor, I do not consider myself a world class preacher. So the next suggestion I make is not hubris motivated self-promotion. However, when you like a particular sermon I preach, enough to want to share it with others, please do so. My messages are meant to be shared beyond our congregation.



My sermons are all conveniently available via video through our church website. Visit firstchurchhastings.org, click on resources, and you will find a link for online sermons you can click. The site you will be taken to for viewing the sermon (truthcasting.com) will give you the opportunity to also view my written manuscript.

I pray this free ministry resource that can be shared through the internet is of increasing value to your relationship with Christ, and your ministry in His name. Sermons can serve as helpful discipleship and evangelistic resources.

Also, if you are attempting to invite some folks to attend First Presbyterian Church, you might encourage them to accept your invitation if you let them sample a bit of the preaching first. Send them a sermon or a manuscript, or direct them to our website to find it for themselves. Knowing what the preaching is like diminishes some of the first time visitor nerves. They have a little more understanding of what to expect.

My Mom sent me an email with a link to one of Chuck Swindoll's recent sermons, because she thought it would be a helpful resource of discipleship for me. I look forward to watching it this weekend, and then calling her to talk about the message. Maybe my sermons can facilitate similar conversations between yourself and someone you love.

God Bless!

Pastor Dan

Session MINUTES

Pastor Birchfield opened with prayer and a discussion from the book Organic Outreach. A conference on Organic Outreach will be held in Hudsonville at the end of April.

Session Minutes of 2/26/18 were approved, and the baptism and membership of Nguyen Ho was recorded with joy.

A Jazz Festival in our sanctuary on April 26 was approved. Permission was also granted for use of the sanctuary by NAPS for 5 nights in May/June to present a special Family Literacy series.

The Trustees were approved to hold a Fund-Raiser Pancake Breakfast on May 6th to help offset the cost of manse repairs. With gratitude, the last breakfast netted \$1839 to this cause. A motion to pay for security boots for the sanctuary doors from Capital Funds was supported and carried.

A focus group will look to improve the Sunday bulletin. The Spiritual Prayer Discernment Team will meet to pray, meditate and actively listen in an effort to discern God's direction and vision for our church.

The Student Ministry Team will outline the future job description as the Director position moves from full-time to part-time. Ministry Goals are being formulated for all ministries.

David Logan donated a Security Guidebook to our church library to serve as a resource for Emergency/Security Planning.

Next Stated Meeting: April 23, 2018

Stewardship UPDATE

The following provides a budget update, through the first quarter:

Year-to-Date through March, 2018, budget snapshot:

Receipts

Budgeted Receipts: \$155,965*

Actual Receipts: \$167,685*

Expenses

Budgeted Expenses: \$145,170

Actual Expenses: \$151,497

*includes three months (1/4) of the annual prepaid pledges

Thank you so much for your support!! Please continue to pray as we journey together to reach our community for Christ!!

David Curtis, Stewardship Chair, and Committee Members:

Dave Arnold, Ned Brown, David Logan, Larry Winkler

Family MINISTRIES

Developing Dementia Dexterity. 10am on Saturday May 12th. The program will last 1 - 1 1/2 hours here at FPC. Stay tuned for more information in the church bulletin

Women's Walk-n-Pray, Thursday evenings in May. Put on your walking shoes, fill up your water bottle, get out your spray can of OFF, and join other women for three Thursdays of prayer walking in May. At 6:30 we'll gather under the overhang at the side entrance to the church. Each Thursday evening we'll begin with a devotional and then be given more options for further walking (including walking the labyrinth), praying, and enjoying God's creation. For safety's sake, all walkers must be back in the parking lot at 7:30 or earlier.

Summer Solstice, a different kind of Vacation Bible School experience

We are going to have so much fun June 19, 20, and 21! Our community families, friends, and neighbors are invited to two nights of Bible Times fun (Tuesday and Wednesday) and one night of "Mission Impossible!" (Thursday). It all starts with supper at 5:30 in the gym and then fun explodes all over our church campus—and all this fun is FREE!

***Tuesday evening's theme is "The Lord is my shepherd," from Psalm 23.** Laugh and learn with the shepherding duo, Dan and Dave. Take guided tours of our church trails, led by experienced trail blazers. Make your own sheep in our snazzy craft room. Our Tuesday evening special: Mary's Country Critters Petting Zoo. You are free to pick and choose which events you'd like to do with your family and friends. Parents travel with their children throughout the evening. Remember: Supper is served at 5:30 in the gym. All campus fun ends at 7:30.

***Wednesday evening's theme is "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth," from Psalm 100.** Sit with shepherds Dan and Dave for more shepherding wisdom. Make your own musical instrument in our snazzy craft room. Run off extra energy in races and chases at and around the pavilion. Our Wednesday evening special: Praise Team Concert presented twice for your enjoyment. Remember: Supper is served at 5:30 in the gym. All campus fun ends at 7:30.

***Thursday evening's theme is "Putting feet on our faith!"**

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: Packaging more than 10,000 meals in 2 hours.

This event is open to adults and children age 5 and up when accompanied by a registered adult.

PLEASE NOTE: THURSDAY PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER ONLINE AHEAD OF TIME.

GO TO THE CHURCH WEBSITE FOR REGISTRATION LINK.

Supper: 5:30 sharp.

Mission instructions begin at 5:45

The mission begins at 6:00: Packaging more than 10,000 meals in 2 hours

Noah's Ark PRESCHOOL

MAY-The end of another great year! We have had a wonderful year! I am so very grateful for all the help and support of the congregation and ministry team as I complete my second year as director! There are always new things to learn and re-learn and I am truly appreciative of the continued support. Our last week of school will be May 14-17th. The year has sped by so quickly!

The teachers have been busy planning for our summer Explorer's Camp. This year's theme is "Woodland Wonders- Exploring God's World". The children will be with us for three days from 8:30am to 11:30. During that time they will be exploring the great outdoors with hiking trips behind the church and making projects each day.

End of the Year Celebrations: This year, each classroom is doing something different to celebrate the end of the year. Mrs. Pena's class is going to Boulder Ridge on May 9. Mrs. Lumbert and Mrs. Walsh's classes are having a Popsicle party on the last day. The teachers have also been busy getting those beloved Memory Books ready to give as Year End Gifts! Those are something the parents can treasure for a lifetime!

Upcoming Dates:

May Ministry Meeting: May 1th

Last Week of Preschool: May 14th

Final Staff Meeting: May 21th

Camp Dates: May 29-31 & June 4-6

Student MINISTRY

In Levi Lusko's book, Through the Eyes of a Lion, Lusko states "Here is the game-changing perspective: it's so much better to look forward to eternal life than it is to live fearing death" (Lusko, 2015). In the days before the new world was discovered, the official motto of Spain was *Ne Plus Ultra*, or "Nothing more beyond." The Spaniards believed that the Strait of Gibraltar was the end of the earth and that they had already explored as far as you can go. Once Christopher Columbus sailed on his journey, the *Ne* disappeared, and to this day on the Spanish coin is the humble acknowledgement that there is in fact more beyond.

When hearing the phrase, *Plus Ultra*, is a reminder to me that this life is not all there is. There is a hereafter. When we leave this world, we get to go home. And the way we live here has a direct impact on what we experience when we arrive there. We all have unlimited potential, but this potential is perishable. The shelf life of this potential is short. There are things that God wants to do in your life, and if you don't seize them they can pass you by.

This is why Jesus said in John 9:4, "I must work...while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work." There are things you can do on earth that will be impossible one minute after you die. Bringing comfort to the discouraged, feeding the hungry, sharing the gospel-these are things that will be impossible to do in heaven but we can do right now. God is for you, not against you. He has planted dreams in your heart and protection around your life. You are both loved and unstoppable in the will of God. But what you do with all that is up to you. I pray that you use your potential, and it does not go to waste. You use what God has given you to make a difference.

Lusko, L. (2015). *Through The Eyes of a Lion: Facing Impossible Pain Finding Incredible Power*. Nashville: W Publishing Group

UP Mission Trip 2018 - Mark down on your calendars July 8th-July 14th, we are headed to Marquette to work with Habitat for Humanity for the week. Cost is \$75. Student release form, habitat for humanity form, and money are due by June 3rd to secure your spot. All forms are available on the FPC website under Student Ministry (www.firstchurchhastings.org/students).

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 month for the church calendar



Special Birthdays:

Art Steward will be 92 on May 18th

Please wish him a Happy Birthday!