



**FIRST** a church for all ages  
**PRESBYTERIAN**



## Worship SCHEDULE

### 10 am Worship (will continue through 9/9)

7/1	Psalm 139:1-18 A Soul that is Fully Alive Communion	Rev. Dan Birchfield
7/8	Colossians 3:1-17 Having the Mind of Christ	Rev. Dan Birchfield
7/15	Romans 12:1-12 Transforming the Mind	Rev. Dan Birchfield
7/22	1 Corinthians 9:24-25 Training the Body to Love	Rev. Dan Birchfield
7/29	UP Mission Trip/Youth Sunday	

### Pre-Fall Preaching Theme: Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself

8/5	1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Housing the Holy Spirit Communion	Rev. Dan Birchfield
8/12	Luke 10:25-37 Show Mercy	Rev. Dan Birchfield
8/19	Mathew 5:38-42 Love Even Evil People	Rev. Dan Birchfield
8/26	1 John 3:16-17 Operate Out of Compassion	Rev. Dan Birchfield

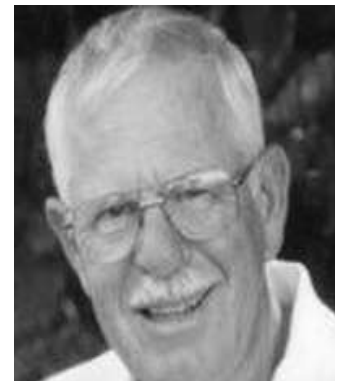
Missed a Sunday? No problem! You can watch on [Truthcasting](#).

July/August 2018  
Newsletter

## Prayer REQUESTS

Russ Standage,  
Shirley Cotant, Becky Bell,  
Beth Kotrba,  
Bill and Brenda Sidney,  
Luke Carpenter,  
Avis Martin, Pearl Stutz,  
Carl and Mary Belson

## In Memoriam



**Art Steward**  
5/18/1922 – 5/22/2018  
Member since 1957  
Elder and Deacon



**Jerry Misko**  
9/22/1933-5/24/2018  
Member since 2010

## Pastor's CORNER

If you are hearing about or reading about our Purple Box Intercessory Prayer Meetings, you need to know you are welcome to attend. We are meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. We meet in the evening at 6:30pm on the first Wednesday, and we meet in the morning at 9:00am on the third Wednesday. Both meetings happen in the church library.

What actually happens when we participate in intercessory prayer? I like to describe it this way. Imagine you and one of your children or one of your grandchildren is on a sandy Florida beach with you. It's that perfect time of day where the tide has gone out and there is a large piece of beach real estate available for castle building. You of course are the primary Architect and General Contractor of the job. However, you invite creative suggestions from the child assisting you in the construction. They may suggest the moat be wider on one side, or they may suggest that there should be a fifth tower. Maybe they want you to help them form the tail of the moat leviathan. And, because you enjoy this time together and giving your young apprentice a chance to design and create, you don't turn down a suggestion.

That's a metaphor for how I see God inviting us into the design and creating process in intercessory prayer. Before we have even bowed our heads and prayed one word God is already reaching out and intervening in the life or lives of those we are about to pray for in that moment. However, God hasn't necessarily considered the project completed. And God is pleased to hear from our heart what we would like to see God add to what God is already doing. No, God doesn't need our suggestions to make his blessings or intervening in circumstances adequate. God can manage to do that without us. However, you or I could probably build a sand castle without needing ideas or assistance from our young apprentices. Yet, we welcome their companionship in the process and we welcome fulfilling their suggestions. God does that no less with us when we participate in intercessory prayer. When we think of how someone recovering from surgery may feel anxious about how quickly they need to recover, we intercede in prayer for them asking that God gives them peace about the unknown length of their recovery. When we think about how that mission team on day five may be feeling exhausted and irritable with each other, we can intercede in prayer for them asking that God gives them additional rest so that their irritability is short circuited. When we think about that person who has lost their employment and how they might be panicking over how the bills will be paid, we might ask God to bring an unexpected windfall of money that covers a bill they didn't know how they would pay. When we pray like this we are partnering with God in a way that God welcomes. And people are being blessed through our prayers. The Apostle Paul writes, "Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere (Ephesians 6:18)."

God Bless!

Pastor Dan



# Session MINUTES

## Highlights of Session

June 4, 2018

Kristen Laubaugh was approved to serve as Clerk Pro Tem.

The fall mission trip to Costa Rica was unanimously approved by an email vote on 4/24/18.

The baptism of Alice Rose Allerdig on June 3, 2018, was recorded with joy.

The deaths of Hazel Brown, Norma Jean Hitchcock, Arthur Steward, Jerry Misko and John Rase were sadly recorded.

The Trustees received information about replacement/repair of emergency lighting and updated information on the technology support contract. Manse sub-committee will be meeting on June 5.

Planning is going well for Summer Solstice, summer Bible study, and other summer activities.

A number of positive comments were received regarding the single services held recently.

Special thanks to those who participated in Youth Sunday, and to all involved in Graduation Sunday. Both services were true blessings involving our youth.

Pastor Dan shared Karen Koedam's resignation effective June 14<sup>th</sup>. Maggie Marsh will be subbing in the church office until a permanent person is hired. Special thanks to Karen for her 16 years of service to First Presbyterian, and to Maggie for filling in over the summer.

Mission has set a tentative date of October 7-13 for a hurricane relief trip to Texas.

**Next Stated Meeting:** July 23, 2018

## Noah's Ark PRESCHOOL

We wrapped up the school year with a wonderful camp experience for children. Forty children attended over the course of two weeks. They had camp themed activities and snacks, took walks and made games.

During the month of June we were very grateful to have the preschool thoroughly cleaned and the floors waxed. The preschool is all ready for teachers to set up the classrooms for fall.

Teachers will meet throughout the summer to make plans for next school year. We are continuing to focus on enhancing our outdoor classroom area. If you have any household items that could be used to play pretend outside or any gardening tools that you would like to donate, we have a collection basket outside of the preschool.

Currently, we have 82 students enrolled for fall and our goal is 87. Please help us by spreading the word that we have room for three year olds!

## Family MINISTRIES

**Summer Solstice** was an absolute BLAST!!! Thank you to everyone who made our three evenings memorable and fun. Our out-of-the-box VBS experience was a blessing all around! If Summer Solstice 2018 was this much fun, don't you wonder what we could cook up for 2019?!

**Summer Women's Bible Study** continues through July 19. Join us up in the library on Thursday mornings at 9:30. We are using the study, THE GOD WE CAN KNOW: Exploring the "I AM" sayings of Jesus. Debbie Storms is leading the group.

**Summer Women's Book Club** will gather in the library on July 26 and August 16, 6:30. On July 26, we'll be discussing AN EXTRA MILE, the fourth book in the Sensible Shoes series. Copies of AN EXTRA MILE are for sale in the narthex for \$13. Our August book conversation will be centered around THE #1 LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY by Alexander McCall Smith. Copies of that book will be available in the narthex SOON!

**In Children's church** every Sunday this summer we are taking a trip back in time to the days of Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, and the adventures of the Israelites. During our time together we sing, we enjoy the story, and we pray. Children who are older 4's through those in 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome.

**Root beer floats** brought back by popular demand! Sunday, August 12, we'll celebrate FPC Family Ministries during the morning and conclude with root beer floats served on the patio.

**Could you help on Sunday mornings** in our nursery or in Children's Church? Training for both will be offered in August to prepare our teams for Fall responsibilities. Is the Holy Spirit nudging you to investigate further? Talk to Jan DeVos to learn more about what those commitments entail.

**And in the not-too-distant-future:**

**Kick Off Sunday:** Sept. 9

**Journal workshop:** Sept. 20

**Women's Retreat:** Oct. 20

## Facility MANAGEMENT

We are so thankful for all of the volunteers that have helped us out so far this season with the outdoor landscaping. You know who you are and you are appreciated. The grounds look GREAT! We are looking for a few more volunteers that are willing to give about an hour of their time per month or even "just this once." Our goal is to designate a specific task to work on for your desired amount of time this summer and communicate all necessary attire and tools that may be required. If you feel called to help us maintain this beautiful standard on our property, please contact the office to coordinate a time to meet up with Hilby. Thanks all!

## Student MINISTRY

The Youth Summer Mission Trip is coming up in July!! Anyone interested in attending this **AMAZING** week of Building, Fellowship and Sharing Christ's Love with others, is encouraged to contact Dave Allerding ASAP! You don't want to miss this incredible opportunity to build a home for a needy family, while you grow in your faith. This mission demonstrates the scripture shared on Youth Sunday when James speaks of **Faith & Action!**

"Celebrate the **PATH to Summer**" by attending our Youth Activities starting in July. We will meet every-other Sunday evening from 6:00-8:00 PM to share faith, food, fellowship and fun at a number of different venues over the summer. Here is the schedule so far, and the only thing needed for success is **YOUth!**

July 1 - Arnold Cottage on Leach Lake

July 15 - DeCamps Pool & Movie

July 29 - Keller Home on Wall Lake

August 12 - TBD - on Barlow Lake

August 26 - Troy Carlson's Pool Party

Sept 9 - "Olympic Challenge" at Church

Bring a friend, grab your bathing suit, and get ready to ski, tube, wakeboard, or paddle board, as you enjoy Christian fellowship around a campfire of S'mores! *Share your light with the world!!*

## Stewardship UPDATE

The following provides a 2018 budget update, through May:

### Year-to-Date through May 2018, budget snapshot:

#### Receipts

Budgeted Receipts: \$241,468\*

Actual Receipts: \$261,058\*

Annual Budgeted Receipts: \$543,753

#### Expenses

Budgeted Expenses: \$235,584

Actual Expenses: \$229,316

Annual Budgeted Expenses: \$561,102

\*includes five months 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, Jeff Arnold, Ned Brown, David Logan, Larry Winkler

# Your Journey to Peace

## **Step 1. God Loves You and Has a Plan for You!**

The Bible says, “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, (Jesus Christ), that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).”

Jesus said, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly”—a complete life full of purpose (John 10:10).

## **Step 2. Here is the Problem: People are Sinful and Separated from God.**

We have all done, thought or said bad things, which the Bible calls “Sin.” The Bible says, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).”

The result of sin is death, spiritual separation from God (Romans 6:23).”

The good news?

## **Step 3. God sent His Son to Die for Your Sins!**

Jesus died in our place so we could have a relationship with God and be with Him forever.

“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).”

But it didn’t end with His death on the cross. He rose again and still lives!

“Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures (I Corinthians 15:3-4).”

Jesus is the only way to God. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me (John 14:6).”

## **Step 4. Would You Like to Receive God’s Forgiveness?**

We can’t earn salvation; we are saved by God’s grace when we have faith in His, Son, Jesus Christ. All you have to do is believe you are a sinner, that Christ died for your sins, and ask His forgiveness. Then turn from your sins—that’s called repentance. Jesus Christ knows you and loves you. What matters to Him is the attitude of your heart, and your honesty. We suggest praying the prayer below to accept Christ as your Savior.

*“Dear God, I know I’m a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sins and that you raised Him to life.*

*I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.”*

If you prayed this prayer for the very first time please give First Presbyterian Church of Hastings a call and ask to speak with Pastor Dan Birchfield. He would love to know, and to talk further with you about your journey to peace.

## Staff CONTACTS

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## First Presbyterian MINISTRIES



### FAMILY MINISTRY

Jan De Vos x 3005

[jdevos@firstchurchhastings.org](mailto:jdevos@firstchurchhastings.org)

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

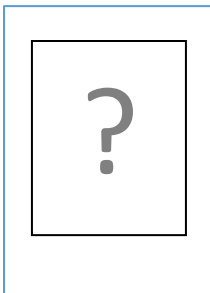


### NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

LeeAnn Miller-Busson x 3008

[noahsark@firstchurchhastings.org](mailto: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

x 3010

[office@firstchurchhastings.org](mailto:office@firstchurchhastings.org)

The program is for students Middle High through College, to encourage the kids to be 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](mailto:twillard@hassk12.org)

[mcallaghan@firstchurchhastings.org](mailto: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



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## Special Birthdays

Denver Kiersey will be 92 on July 2<sup>nd</sup>

Mary Ellen Belson will be 92 on July 11<sup>th</sup>

Margaret Tripp will be **100** on July 19<sup>th</sup> –her family invites you to celebrate her birthday after service on July 29<sup>th</sup>