

THE MESSENGER

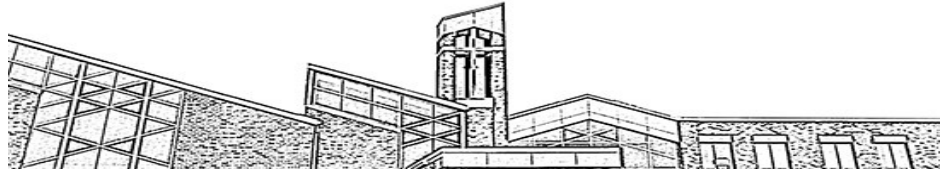
March 2025

The First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, MI

405 N. M-37 HIGHWAY - HASTINGS, MI 49058 Phone 269 945-5463

WELCOME

We are so blessed to know you, and to serve alongside you! We hope The Messenger brings everyone closer together, and helps YOU to stay connected at FPC!



Worship Schedule

March 2	Uncovered Faces 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Communion Sunday	Rev. Nick Marlatt
March 5	Ash Wednesday Community Service Nazarene Church of Hastings 6PM	
March 9	God Moves...into the Desert Luke 4:1-13	Rev. Nick Marlatt
March 16	God Moves...Past All Obstacles Luke 13:31-35	Rev. Nick Marlatt
March 23	God Moves...Over the Fence Luke 13:1-9	Rev. Nick Marlatt
March 30	God Moves...Down the Road Luke 15:11-32	Rev. Nick Marlatt

UPCOMING EVENTS

3/5

Ash Wednesday Service

3/7

World Day of Prayer

3/9

Daylight Savings Begins

3/12, 3/19, 3/26

Lenten Soup Supper

3/17

St. Patrick's Day

3/20

First Day of Spring

DEADLINES

Bulletin - Wednesdays by noon

Newsletter- 3rd Wednesday

Ministry Minutes- 3rd Wednesday



Live services can be reached if you click on image above or go to the church's website, www.firstchurchhastings.org. Look for, and click on, the Facebook image.

Click on the calendar to see upcoming events and meetings.



Pastor's Corner

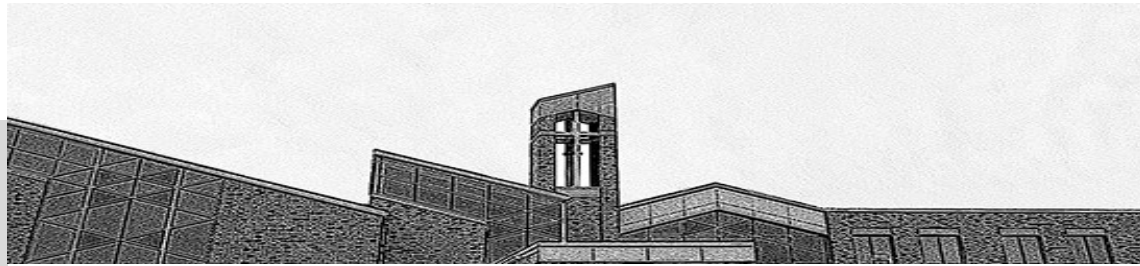


Pastor Nick Marlatt x3003
nmarlatt@firstchurchhastings.org

If you would like pastoral care, counseling, spiritual direction, aid, assistance, or a request added to the prayer chain, please call the church during business hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am - 4:00pm. Speak to Julia. We will connect you to the correct person within the church or community for your specific request.

Emergencies occurring after normal business hours, please contact Pastor Nick at (360) 927-3782

We can lend a helping hand if you reach out. We are here for you.



Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves.

-John Calvin

To all God's beloved children at First Presbyterian Church,

John Calvin begins his magisterial *Institutes of Christian Religion* with the above sentence. From that beginning, he elaborates by saying that when we truly look at ourselves, we will recognize that all our gifts, everything that is good in beautiful in us finds its source in God. Additionally, that which is shameful, selfish and wicked are opportunities to send us toward God. Calvin writes, "the knowledge of ourselves not only arouses us to seek God, but also, as it were, leads us by the hand to find him." And it is this knowledge of God which gives us a clear knowledge of, and understanding of ourselves. Again, Calvin writes, "it is certain that man never achieves a clear knowledge of himself unless he has first looked upon God's face, and then descends from contemplating him to scrutinize himself." The knowledge of God helps us to know ourselves more deeply and as we learn more about ourselves we are driven to God. Each type of knowledge leads us into a deeper, more profound knowledge of the other in a virtuous spiral into spiritual maturity and closeness with God.

The season of Lent, which begins on Wednesday, March 5 provides a yearly opportunity to grow intentionally in knowledge of self and knowledge of God as a way of maturing in our Christian faith. We do this through gathering for worship as a community, through prayer, through fellowship, through service. Throughout the Lenten season we will provide opportunities to participate in all these actions. During our Lenten soup suppers on Wednesday evenings we will learn about a tool that will help us learn more about ourselves and our relationship with God. It is called the Enneagram. The Enneagram is an amazing resource and tool to illuminate a person's heart to see if it is aligned with the gospel, misaligned to some degree, or out of alignment entirely. It will help you see where you are misunderstanding others and then use that to transform your relationships. In short, it is a tool to help us love God and love neighbor more fully. Additionally, the Hastings Area Ministerial Association (HAMA) is organizing Wednesday Lenten Lunches at various congregations in town with different ministers providing a brief reflection to go along with lunch. Details are in the newsletter. And speaking of HAMA, we are providing one, community Ash Wednesday service as a way of growing in unity as the Body of Christ. This year we will all gather at the Hastings Church of the Nazarene on North Broadway on Wednesday, March 5 at 6pm. Again, details are in the newsletter.

I look forward to gathering together with you as we all grow in Christlikeness this Lenten season.

In Christ,

Pastor Nick

THE MESSENGER

FPC Announcements

MARCH Birthdays

Kevin Beck
Audrey Deming
Beckett Johnson
Jeanne Pugh
David Allarding
Mark Lute
Michael Wilkinson
Emma Wilkinson
Dan Carpenter
Gary Kimble

Bonnie Schiedel
Don Granner
Sharon Morgan
Gerry Smith
Susan Brooks
Lisa Brown
Curt Harig
Carley Laubaugh
Marsh Evens
Deb Snyder

MARCH Anniversaries

John and Debbie Rang
John and Joanne Rutzen
Curt and Susan Harig



Daylight Savings Time begins at 2am on March 9th.

2025 Lenten Soup Suppers

THE ENNEAGRAM
6-7:30 pm in the Narthex.



Wednesday, March 12 through Wednesday, April 9.

Sometimes life is like living in eternal quicksand, we respond to life's ups and downs with unhealthy strategies and fall into the same patterns that feel impossible to escape. The truth is, we can't overcome anything on our own. But by God's grace and mercy, He pulls us out of the pits we fall into, restores us, and gives us hope and clarity.

While the Gospel alone brings healing, the Enneagram is an amazing resource and tool to illuminate a person's heart to see if it is aligned with the gospel, misaligned to some degree, or out of alignment entirely. It will help you see where you are misunderstanding others and then use that to transform your relationships. This can prove to be a significant turning point in your personal and spiritual life when you approach others with more empathy, compassion, and grace.



The Deacons will once again be taking orders for Easter flowers to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and to also take to our homebound friends. You will have the option to order daffodils or tulips. Orders and payment will be due by Monday, March 31st. Flowers will be \$11 each this year. Order form will be in bulletin on March 9th or pick one up from the Connection Point. Orders and money may be turned into the office or the Connection Point. Please contact Sue Harig with questions smharig24@gmail.com or (216-402-6263).

FPC Announcements



When: March 5

What: Ash Wednesday Community Service

Where: Nazarene Church of Hastings 6PM



Hastings Area
MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE



Wednesdays 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Schedule of Locations and Devotional Speakers

March 12 at Green Street Church; Pastor Ken Scheck

March 19 at First Presbyterian; Fr. Jeff Hanley

March 26 at St. Rose; Pastor Danny Quanstrom

April 2 at Hastings Nazarene; Pastor Nick Marlatt

April 9 at Grace Lutheran; Pastor Bryce Feighner

Mission Committee

One Great Hour of Sharing is the annual offering from our church to the PCUSA Special Offerings. These funds help to support three focus areas: Disaster Assistance, Hunger Programs, and Self-Development of People. **The insert and envelopes will be available in the upcoming bulletins, and collection will be Easter Sunday!** Children also have the chance to give using the fish coin boxes that have been available in Children's Church.

Repairing the breach

ISAIAH 58

Please give generously—
for when we all do a little,
it adds up to a lot.

MARCH 5 - APRIL 20, 2025



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

FPC Announcements



Thank You for Your Willingness to Serve FPC Elders and Deacons Who Have Ended Their Service January 2025

Elders

Dave Allarding
Scott Allarding
Sally Keller

Deacons

Deb Carpenter
Kristen Laubaugh
Susan Pachulski

On March 30th we will honor these individuals with cake after service.

Scan Me



To Give Electronically

This QR code will take you to our electronic giving platform. Thank You for all your continued support for our ministries here at FPC!

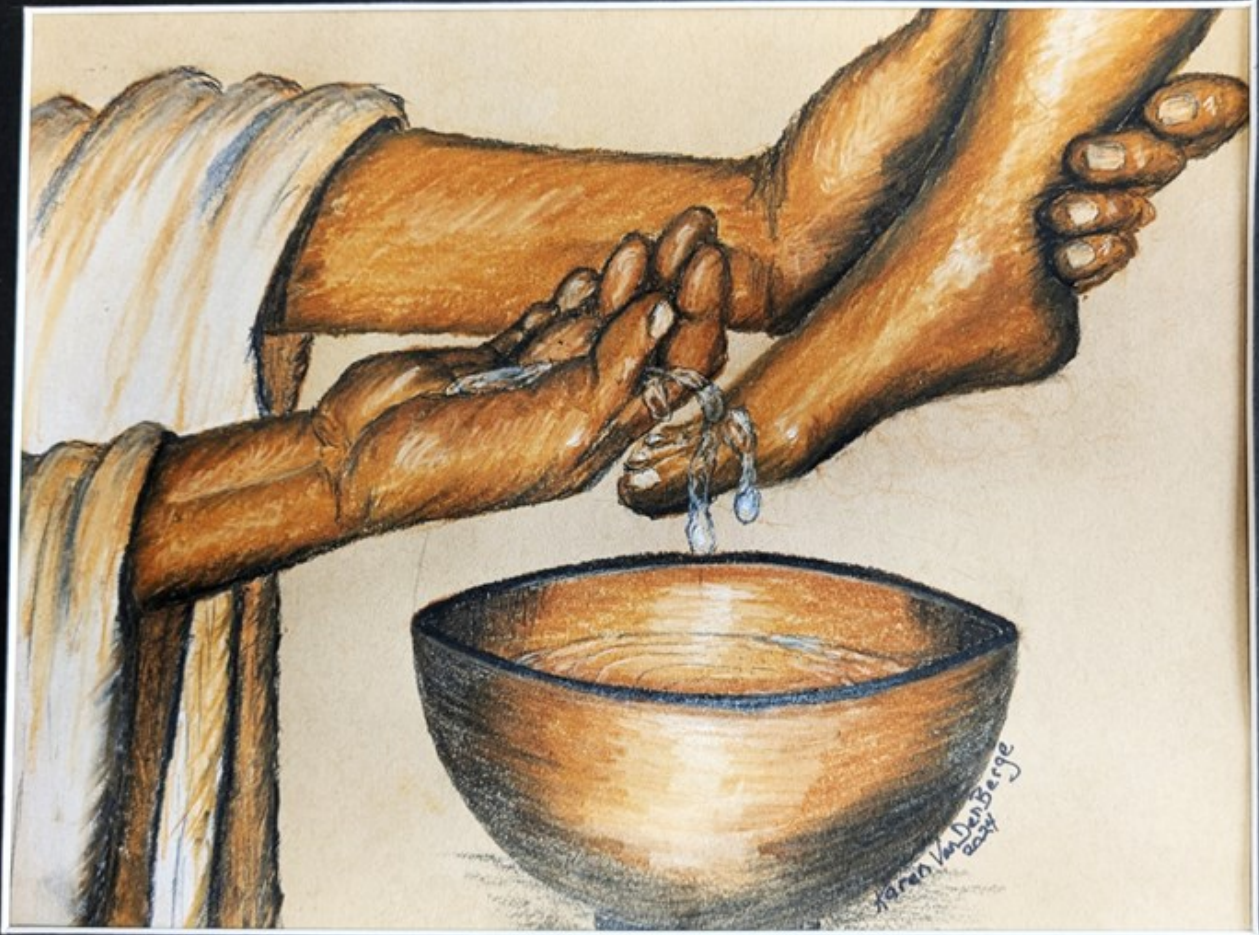


OUR DAILY BREAD

personal and family devotions for March, April, and May are located at the Connection Point. Please take a copy if interested.



FPC Announcements



FPC is excited announce the 4th annual CALL TO ARTISTS

Submission forms can be found in the office or at the Connection Point. Art submissions can be brought to the office with a completed submission form.

Artists of all ages, and all creative disciplines are called to use their God given talents to create and participate in the worship and ministry of FPC. All artwork must be submitted and approved for worship before it can be displayed and will be on display in the Sanctuary or Narthex during the Lenten Season, March 5 through Easter Sunday, April 20. Please email Karen Vandenberg for more information, karenv422@gmail.com



The Worship and Work of the First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, MI Minutes of the February 24th, 2025 Regular Session Meeting

The meeting was held at the Church, 405 N-M37 Highway, Hastings MI in the Adult classroom.

In attendance were Elders Sunny Anderson, Gary Kimble, Kim Bosma, Carl Lickley, Sandra Billingsley, Debbie Rang, Cindy Preston, Celeste Wolverton, Steve Laubaugh, John Johnston Dan Carpenter and Moderator Rev. Nick Marlatt. Excused: Elder Linda McGuire.

A quorum was established and Pastor Nick opened the meeting with a responsive prayer called "A Liturgy to Begin a Purposeful Gathering" at 7:00. The minutes from the January Meeting, February's Congregations meeting and tonight's agenda were approved.

Clerk's Report- The Annual Statistical report was filed with the Presbytery on February 6th, 2025. The 2025 Session is made up of twelve Elders, 5 Men and 7 Women, 6 who are over 70 and 6 who are between 50 & 70. There was no correspondence received this month. John Solmes and Samantha Pennington, both of Hastings, were married here on February, 8th 2025 by Pastor Nick. It will be recorded in the rolls.

Pastor's Report- The Expectations of Session Members were reviewed; a leadership retreat is being planned from 9-12 Saturday March 22nd. Kim asked to be excused. A soup sign up list was circulated for March 12th, at 6:00 pm. as was the Communion Servers sign up list.

Personnel Report- Carl Lickley- meetings have been set up for the year and rooms reserved, He will give employee performance reviews completed by Sally to staff in April, a nursery attendant was interviewed. There was only 1 applicant.

Trustees -Dan Carpenter- The water fountains that use filters will cost \$3500 each. Trustees are discussing when we need to have that by. They are sorting through the Trustees closet. The NAPS grant is still on so the intercom system has been quoted at \$56,000. One of our 2 boilers is leaking and therefore losing water pressure, which causes no heat in part of the building, Dan is getting quotes, but this is a huge expense roughly estimated at \$100,000 per boiler. (\$70,000 for just the heating unit exchange) Dan will seek comparison quotes and once he has them will let us know for an email vote so this can be done in a timely matter. It will likely take about 6 months once we are contracted until they are installed.

Worship and Music -Kim Bosma- No Action Items, some dates coming up, including Messy Church in March, We are using the 5th Sundays for some change up things, and Karen VanDenBerge will lead us in creating an easy participation, congregational piece of art March 30th. The next 5th Sunday happens in June, perhaps that will be worship outside. The Hastings Church of the Nazarene is hosting the Ash Wednesday Community service, March 5th at 6:00 pm

NAPS- Sunny Anderson- Valentines programs were delayed a week because of the weather, but they went off well. We did have a Teacher's Aide resign. The have interviewed and have a replacement candidate. Reminder NAPS has policies about not posting groups of NAPS kids online. (Only your own child's photo can be posted)

Family Ministries- Celeste Wolverton- Graduating Sunday is planned, Zoey is prepping for VBS and they are planning quarterly congregational events. So this Saturday is the first one from 4-6 it's a chili cook-off with BINGO (the COA is loaning us their bingo machine) and there will be prizes. If you have great ideas for future events let Celeste know. BUNCO was suggested.

YOUR 2025 FPC

SESSION:

2025

Sunny Andersen
Sandy Billingsley
Kim Bosma
Cindy Preston

2026

John Johnston
Gary Kimble
Steve Laubaugh
Linda McGuire

2027

Dan Carpenter
Carl Lickley
Debbie Rang
Celeste Wolverton



Deacons/Mission –Steve Laubaugh- The dates for the Costa Rica Trip have been moved due to ticket pricing, it will now be Sept 27-Oct 4th. The youth UP trip to Marquette will be August 3rd – 9th.

Stewardship – Gary Kimble - We are ahead of what we were at last year in contributions. No meeting was held Monday.

Nominating Committee - Cindy Preston and Kim Bosma were elected to serve on the 2025 Nominating Committee. Cindy will be the chair. Nick will make sure the Deacons elect a Nominating committee representative.

As for other committee assignments Celeste will remain on Family Ministry, Dan will head Trustees, Debbie will serve on Family Ministries as well, and Carl will head Personnel. John will serve on Worship and Music, and Linda on NAPS. The rest of the Elders remain where they were.

The camping sites for the Barry Roubaix race were discussed; we will be using the soccer field area and bringing in port a pottys, Nick will let them know to put us on their registration page nearer the end of March, based on weather.

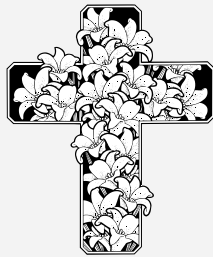
Nick is communicating with the race directors. They have a lodging section on their webpage. We will be good neighbors and let our neighbors know once we know for sure what is happening. We're also considering holding a breakfast that morning for the racers.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by John Johnston at 8:30 pm

FPC Announcements

****Order Forms will be available beginning March 9th. ****

Easter Flower Order Form 2025



Name _____

Phone _____

Please indicate the number of plants you would like:

Tulip _____

Daffodil _____

In Memory of _____

Or

In Honor of _____

Are you taking your flower home (please circle)? Yes No

If yes, please pick up your flower from the church narthex by Tuesday, April 22nd

Please return this form and a check for **\$11** to the church, for each flower ordered. Drop orders off at the connection point or in the church office.

Please make checks payable to **First Presbyterian Church**.

Contact Susan Harig (616-402-6263) or smharig24@gmail.com with questions.

YOUR HUT IS BURNING

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements and in which to store his few possessions. But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened, everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger.

"God, how could you do this to me," he cried.

Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers.

"We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

It is easy to get discouraged when things are going bad. But we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember, the next time your little hut is burning to the ground - it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.

For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it.

You say: It's impossible! God says, all things are possible. (Luke 18:27)

You say: I'm too tired. God says, I will give you rest. (Matt. 11:28)

You say: Nobody really loves me. God says: I love you (John 3:16 & John 13:14) You say: I can't go on! God says: My grace is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9 & Psalm 91:15) You say: I can't figure things out. God says: I will direct your steps. {Proverbs 3:5-6} You say: I'm not able. God says: I am able (2 Cor. 9:8)

You say: It's not worth it. God says: It will be worth it. {Romans 8:28}

You say: I can't forgive myself. God says: I forgave you {1 John 1:9 & Romans 8:1} You say: I can't manage.

God says: I will supply all your needs. (Phil. 4:19)

You say: I'm not smart enough. God says: I give you wisdom (1 Cor. 1:30)

You say: I feel all alone. God says: I will never leave you or forsake you {Heb. 13:5}

You say: I'm always worried and frustrated. God says: Cast your cares on ME (1 Peter 5:7) You say: I don't have enough faith. God says: I've given everyone a measure of faith. (Romans 12:3)



405 N. M-37 Highway
Hastings, MI 49058
www.firstchurchhastings.org

The MESSENGER

Visit with us at

www.firstchurchhastings.org

Watch us on Facebook Live



2025

Newsletter