

# THE MESSENGER

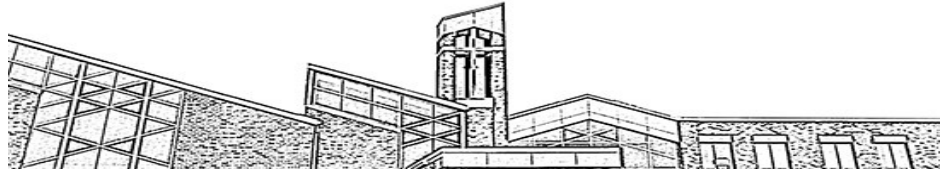
April 2025

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

<b>April 6</b>	<b>TBD</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b>	<b>Rev. Kyle Kooyers</b>
<b>April 13</b>	<b>The Very Stones Would Cry Out</b> <b>Luke 19:28-40</b>	<b>Rev. Nick Marlatt</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>A New Commandment?</b> <b>Service begins at 7pm</b>	<b>Rev. Nick Marlatt</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>Good Friday</b> <b>Service begins at 7pm</b>	<b>Rev. Nick Marlatt</b>
<b>April 20</b>	<b>God Moves...Out of the Tomb</b> <b>Luke 24:1-12</b>	<b>Rev. Nick Marlatt</b>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>God Moves...Down the Road</b> <b>Luke 15:11-32</b>	<b>Rev. Nick Marlatt</b>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**4/2 & 4/9**

Lenten Soup Supper

**4/13**

Palm Sunday

**4/17**

Maundy Thursday  
Service @7pm

**4/18**

Good Friday  
Service @7pm

**4/20**

Easter

**4/22**

Earth Day

## 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](http://www.firstchurchhastings.org). Look for, and click on, the Facebook image.



*Click on the calendar to see upcoming events and meetings.*

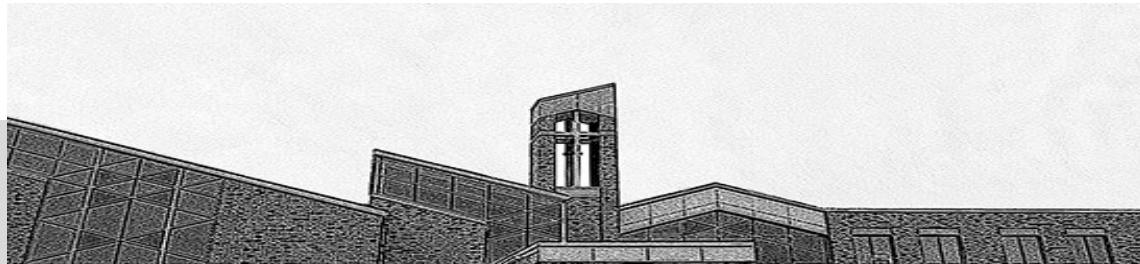
## Pastor's Corner



**Pastor Nick Marlatt x303**  
[nmarlatt@firstchurchhastings.org](mailto: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.



God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of man's mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals His love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of His love.

*-The Confession of 1967*

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

This statement comes from one of the confessions of our church, the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is a good beginning in trying to articulate the mystery of God's goodness and love. It is a mystery that God continually seeks us rebellious humans. We have done nothing to deserve this great mercy and there is nothing inherent in our sinful natures that is acceptable to God. Yet, God keeps pursuing us. Praise be to God that He does, for without His sovereign love, we would be completely cut off from all love, truth and life.

As we come to the end of the Lenten season and as Easter greets us at the middle of the month, my prayer is that we would spend a little extra time meditating upon God's gracious and sovereign love. My prayer is that we would spend an extra few moments in prayer, thanking God for His power, wisdom and love; asking the Holy Spirit to transform us more and more into Christ's likeness, so we may be a servant people, bearing our crosses each day as we follow Christ, and reaching out to our neighbors—regardless of who they are—in love. I know if we do this, if we continually pray each day for the Holy Spirit to empower us and strengthen us, we will grow closer and closer to our Redeemer and we will experience abundant life. As we grow up into Christ, we will live joy-full lives, giving praise and glory to God. In this way, we will participate in Christ's renewal of the world and in the Kingdom of God.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Nick

## 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 Sunday School.

# 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

## 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.

## APRIL Birthdays


Pat Cassell  
David Triick  
Gina McMahon  
Wade Nitz  
Harper Johnson  
Larry Winkler  
Jeanne Floria  
Lauren Arnold


Steve Laubaugh  
Liz Allerding  
Jim Spindler  
James Stob  
Jill Lickley  
Darla Bloom  
Mari McIwian  
Jim Bruce

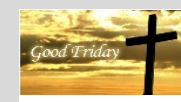
## APRIL Anniversaries

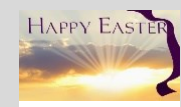
Joe and Patti LaJoye  
Corey and Jenna Grassmid  
Dan and Deb Carpenter  
Gary and Wendy Kimble  
Don and Sue Granner

## Holy Week Schedule

 Sunday April 13, **Palm Sunday @10 a.m.** – Open your hearts to welcome Jesus as we recall our Lord's celebratory entrance into Jerusalem.

 Thursday April 17, **Maundy/Holy Thursday @7 p.m.** – We remember the last evening Jesus shared with His disciples which celebrates His example of humble service and self-offering.

 Friday April 18, **Good Friday @7 p.m.** – We proclaim the good news of salvation through Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. Additionally, all are welcome anytime from sunrise to sunset to come walk our Labyrinth to reflect and pray.

 Sunday April 20, **Easter Sunday @10 a.m.** – *all are welcome to come and share in the triumphant celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Easter Brunch @9 a.m. Kids Easter Egg Hunt @9:30 a.m.*

[This Photo](#)



JOIN US FOR THE  
2ND ANNUAL

# EASTER BRUNCH

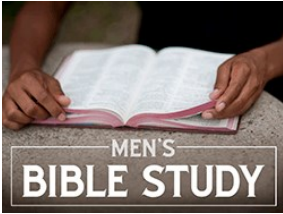
Followed by an  
Easter Egg Hunt  
before service

April 20th, 2025  
9am



# FPC Announcements

## Entering the Passion of Jesus A beginners guide to Holy Week



Author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. The six-session DVD features Dr. Amy-Jill Levine offering a fresh, timely reinterpretation of the Passion of Jesus. The video segments are approximately 10-12 minutes each and, when combined with the six book chapters, make an ideal six-week group study. All video sessions are closed captioned.

The six sessions include: *Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, The Temple Incident, The Anointing of Jesus and the Role of Women, Jesus' Teachings in the Temple, The Last Supper Traditions, Gethsemane.* Amy-Jill Levine describes herself as an unorthodox member of an Orthodox synagogue and a Yankee Jewish feminist who until 2021 taught New Testament in a Christian divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt. Those interested in participating may sign up at the Connection Point. Classes run for six weeks beginning March 27 (no meeting on May 1). Study guides can be purchased on the first day of class for \$10. For more information, please call Dave Storms, 616-558-8611.



## DO YOU WANT TO SPONSOR A YOUNG ARTIST?

Do you want to foster creativity & exploration? Noah's Ark Preschool is looking for congregation members to sponsor art supplies for each of our students for the 2025-2026 school year. With a \$25 donation you can provide enough materials for 1 student for the whole school year! All donations are due by Sunday, April 6th.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION IS OPEN

# APPLY TODAY

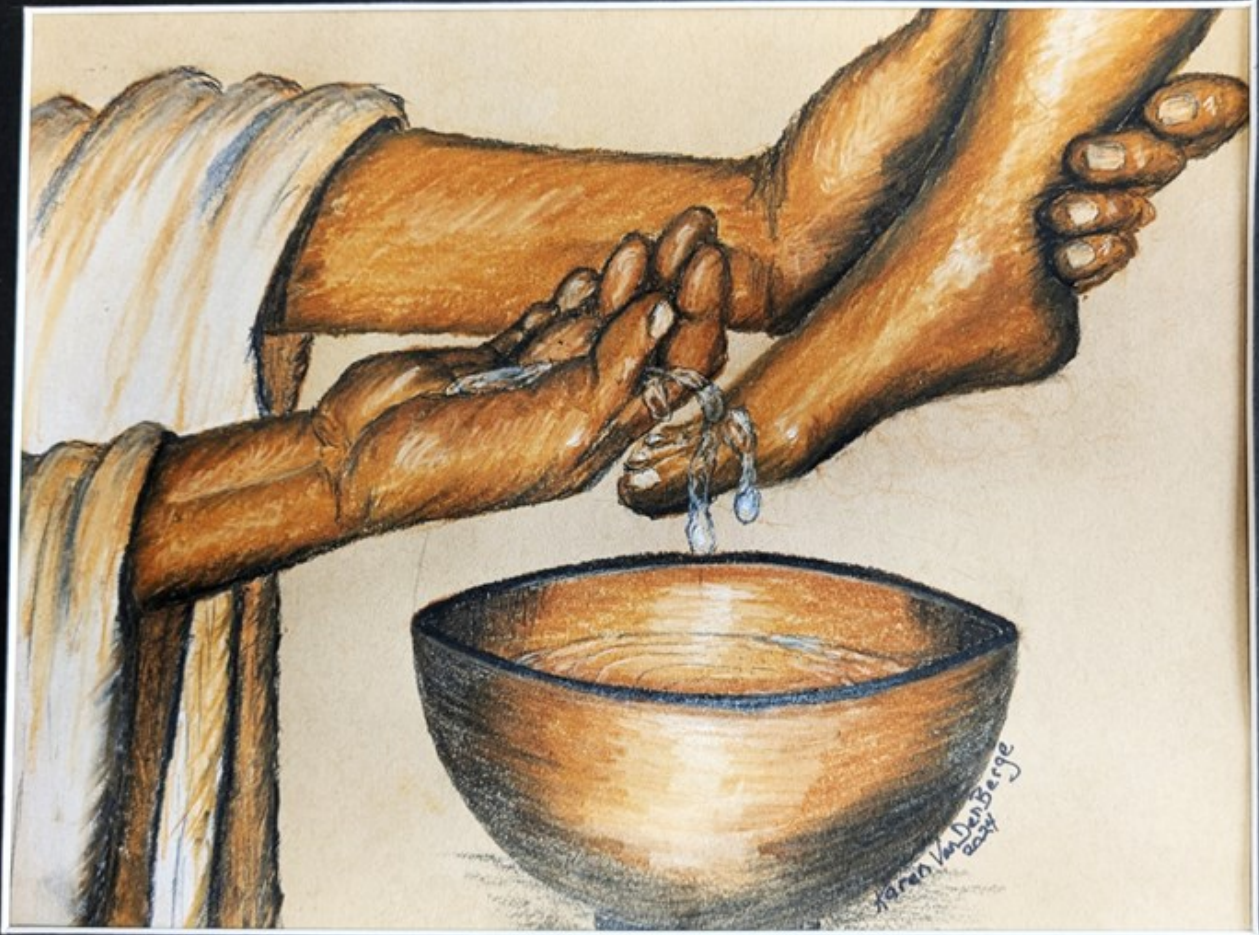
Application Deadline – April 30<sup>th</sup>

Applications available in church office or see Brandon Johnson

## Unsure who to contact for a specific need?

For a copy of our 2025 Board Listing, please visit the Connection Point in the Narthex. This document will help you to pinpoint the correct contact (Deacon, Elder, or Ministry Teams) as events arise.

## *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](mailto:karenv422@gmail.com)

**THE MESSENGER**



**The Worship and Work of the First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, MI  
Minutes of the March 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 Andersen, Gary Kimble, Kim Bosma, Carl Lickley, Sandra Billingsley, Debbie Rang, Cindy Preston, Celeste Wolverton, John Johnston, Dan Carpenter and Moderator Rev. Nick Marlatt. Excused: Elders Linda McGuire and Steve Laubaugh.

A quorum was established and Pastor Nick opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 followed by a reading from Isaiah 61 and discussion about that reading. The minutes from the February meeting and tonight’s Agenda were approved.

**Clerk’s Report- Correspondence from Presbytery reminding us of the One Great Hour of sharing and thanking us for our Dec contributions was circulated.**

Pastor’s Report- We’re in the midst of Lent and Messy Church is coming up on Sunday. We will create a congregational Art Project based on the prodigal son. We will have the interfaith Chaplain from GVSU as our guest pastor the first Sunday of April while Nick is on spring break.

Personnel Report- Carl Lickley- The Nursery Attendant position is underway, we are waiting on the work permit, then we will get the MOU in place. The staff review process has been finalized. Carl described the process to Session, and the new Michigan’s Earned Sick Time Act. Each staff member must accrue Sick time based on 1 hour per every 30 hours worked. There was discussion on how this will be tracked.

Trustees –Dan Carpenter-The boiler will be replaced the week of April 12<sup>th</sup> (Spring break) the water will have to be turned off for a few hours while that work is being done. Updated estimate on the security systems it has gone up to 61,670 Dan is working with Hickey Electric to get that down to the \$58,000 that can be covered by the grant. Also floor bolts and mirrored film will be placed on the exterior NAPS doors so there cannot be a visual from outside of where the children would go for their safe space in an emergency. The water fountain by NAPS will be replaced. The other one will need a sign saying it is unfiltered and therefore unsafe for preschoolers. We are going to have our flat roof membrane inspected; we are starting to lose pieces due to the winds etc. so far it is not leaking. Also 2 parking light bulbs were replaced. Looking at solar lights to light the NAPS sign outside. To have an electric light installed the quote was \$1300. Alternates are being looked at. The Barry Roubaix camping was discussed. Nick will be the “camp host” we are not charging, but will accept a free will donation. The race director will add our 30 spaces to the race website. A port a john will be placed for the campers to use. A motion was made to allow this, it was supported and passed.

Worship and Music –Kim Bosma- Easter is coming up, there will be an egg hunt and Brunch at 9:00 before church. Staff is getting ads ready to go in the paper. Kim is getting more information regarding the hard drive in the tech booth.

NAPS- Sunny- 50 students are enrolled for next year. No action items.

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





Family Ministries- Celeste Wolverton– Things are going well with PATH. Candy is being collected for the Easter Egg Hunt. May 18 is an old fashioned church picnic. It will not be a potluck. This is also Graduation Sunday and the NAPS teachers and Sunday school volunteers will be honored. May is a busy Month with Mother's day, the family picnic, and then Memorial Day. VBS is being planned for June 10, 11, and 12<sup>th</sup>. Women's bible study will start back up in September. Rally Sunday kickoff will include forming a new CARE group opportunity as well.

Deacons/Mission –No action items.

Stewardship – Gary Kimble – Last year January was a higher income month than February, this year Feb was the higher month. Expenses were less this month than last year's average monthly expenses. Nancy will create a detailed list of our funds for us; she is limited on characters in the current report. Dan suggested drawing down interest annually on the endowments that are growing, in areas that don't get used and reinvesting them in the funds we can draw on. Stewardship is working with our endowment committee; Dave Storms, Kevin Beck, Ned Brown and Pastor Nick are looking into this, with a goal of diversifying our income.

Nominating Committee – we still need a Deacon but all slots are filled currently. Nick will meet with Jan.

New Business- The Security Committee was discussed an option was presented for Curt Harig to work under the Church Administrator to set up policies rather than with Trustees. No vote was taken.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Cindy Preston at 8:48 pm.

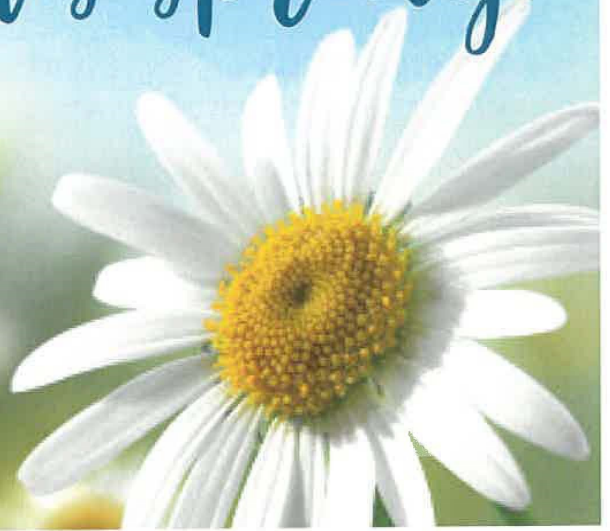
These minutes respectfully submitted by Cindy Preston Clerk of Session

# Give hope this spring.

## Give blood.



American  
Red Cross



### **Blood Drive** **First Presbyterian Church** 405 N. M-37 Highway

**Thursday, May 15, 2025**  
**12:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter sponsor code:  
Hastings Community, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



Scan to be directed to  
RapidPass®

**Come to give blood May 1 to 18 for a \$20 e gift card to  
a merchant of your choice!**



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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THE MESSENGER

[ 227 ] • Order ID: 1799320 • Item ID: 8798872 • Qty: 5 of 5 • 254704 • 2025-APL-0119 • ARCL • 248730

# FPC Announcements



## **RAPID**PASS®

Complete your pre-donation and health history questionnaire from your mobile device using RapidPass®.



Scan Me

### **Expedite your donation!**

Use your mobile device or a donor tablet to scan the QR code and complete your RapidPass®. Be sure to screenshot or email your RapidPass® to yourself and have it ready to present to staff before exiting health history.

### **Did you know?**

On the day of your appointment you can start the donation process before leaving home using the Blood Donor App or by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/rapidpass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/rapidpass)\*

*You can save up to 15 minutes!*

\*Any RapidPass® completed before 12 a.m. on the day of donation will be invalid and the donor will be asked to complete the health history again on site  
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405 N. M-37 Highway  
Hastings, MI 49058  
[www.firstchurchhastings.org](http://www.firstchurchhastings.org)

## The MESSENGER

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2025

Newsletter