

THE MESSENGER

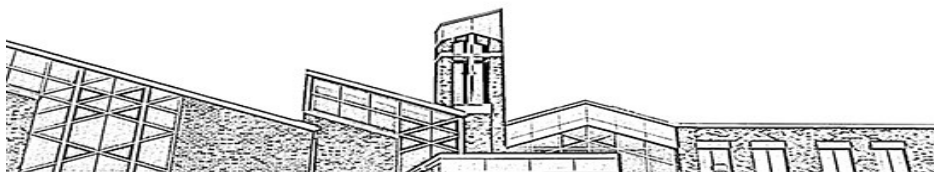
March 2024

The First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, MI

405 N. M-37 HIGHWAY - HASTINGS, MI 49058

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 3	Matthew 9:9-13 Communion Sunday	Rev. Nick Marlatt
March 10	Matthew 9:18-26	Rev. Nick Marlatt
March 17	Matthew 9:27-34	Rev. Nick Marlatt
March 24	John 12:12-16	Rev. Nick Marlatt
March 28	(Various Scriptures) Maundy Thursday	Rev. Nick Marlatt
March 29	(Various Scriptures) Good Friday	Rev. Nick Marlatt
March 31	John 20:1-18 Easter	Rev. Nick Marlatt

UPCOMING EVENTS

3/1

World Day of Prayer

3/6, 3/13, 3/20

Lenten Soup Supper

3/10

Daylight Savings Begins

3/17

St. Patrick's Day

3/19

First Day of Spring

3/28

Maundy Thursday Service

3/29

Good Friday Service

3/31

Easter

DEADLINES

Bulletin - Wednesdays by noon

Newsletter- 3rd Wednesday

Ministry Minutes- 3rd Wednesday



Click on the calendar to see upcoming events and meetings.



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.

Pastor's Corner

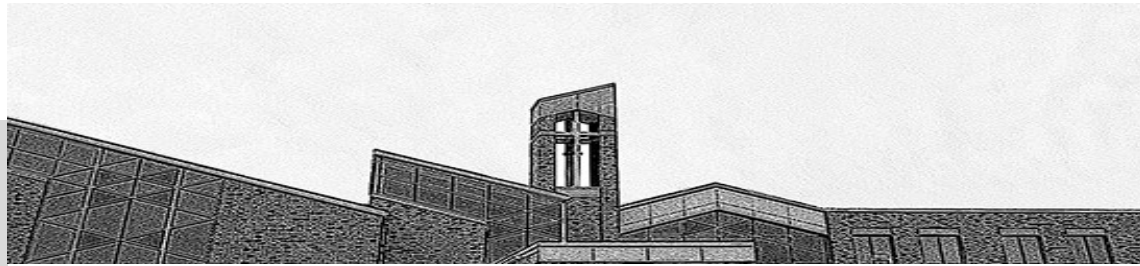


Pastor Nick Marlatt x3003
nmarlatt@firstchurchhastings.org

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.



The mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance to the life and work of the Church. In Christ, the Church participates in God's mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God's love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ. Human beings have no higher goal in life than to glorify and enjoy God now and forever, living in covenant fellowship with God and participating in God's mission.

-The Book of Order, F-1.01

The season of Lent continues throughout the rest of this month and ends on March 31st with the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter. Lent is a season of preparation and anticipation. It is a time to re-set oneself and re-focus on God. It is a season of intentionally putting "off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires", as Paul says in Ephesians 4:22-24 and being "renewed in the spirit of your minds, putting on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." So Lent finds us intentionally putting aside practices or habits that distract us from God in order to replace them with practices or habits that draw us closer to God. We fast from things that distract us from God, so we can grow closer in intimacy with God. As we grow in intimacy with God, we participate with God in His mission, as mentioned in the above quotation. And even if we did not take up any Lenten disciplines, even if we did not give up anything, we can still begin today. As the author of Hebrews reminds us, "God again set a certain day, calling it "Today." This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." (Hebrews 4:7) God is calling to us all this day to come, follow Him. When we hear His voice, do not harden your hearts and turn away, do not follow the siren calls of distractions and amusements which really do not satisfy. Rather come to the One who can truly fulfill, who can truly refresh, and who is truly all in all.

As we continue through this Lenten season I encourage you: Today is the day. Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Rather than wait, sitting on the sidelines, join with God in His work. Come live the full and fulfilling life. The eternal life. Join with the whole community of saints who have preceded us in life and death, walking alongside God, experiencing truth, beauty and goodness, and helping the Kingdom of God come here, on earth, as it is in heaven. Join us, won't you?

In Christ,

Pastor Nick

THE MESSENGER

FPC Announcements

MARCH

Birthdays

Kevin Beck
Audrey Deming
Beckett Johnson
Jeanne Pugh
David Allarding
Lisa Brown
Emma Wilkinson
Dan Carpenter
Gary Kimble

Bonnie Schiedel
Don Granner
Sharon Morgan
Gerry Smith
Mark Lute
Michael Wilkinson
Carley Laubaugh
Marsh Evens

MARCH

Anniversaries

John and Debbie Rang
John and Joanne Rutzen

2024 Lenten Soup Suppers



Topic: *Live No Lies* (book and study by John Mark Comer)
We are at war. Not with a foreign government, or domestic terrorists, or a creepy new artificial intelligence hell-bent on taking over the world. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world (Eph.6:12). Over the centuries, believers in Christ have come to recognize the enemies of the soul as the *world*, the *flesh*, and the *devil*. These enemies employ the strategies of *deceptive ideas* (the devil), that play to *disordered desires* (the flesh), that are then normalized in a *sinful society* (the world). We will join author John Mark Comer as he helps us understand how these enemies of the soul are still at work today, and we will learn practical tools to help us recognize these enemies, resist the lies they try to make us believe, and experience the peace that God intends us to experience.

Wednesday through Wednesday, March 20.
6-7:30 pm in the Narthex.

Unsure who to contact for a specific need?

For a copy of our 2024 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.



Jane Arnold and family express their sincere appreciation for all the cards, prayers and acts of kindness received regarding her ongoing cancer journey. They have given us much strength and encouragement. The hope is to get out more in the coming days—with weather improving—and to be in church. Our church family is and has always been such a blessing. May God Bless You All.

Mission Committee

One Great Hour of Sharing is the annual offering from our church to the PCUSA Special Offerings. Begun 75 years ago...it started with this question from an Episcopalian bishop: “*How much money can we raise in an hour to address the suffering in the world?*” The desire was to show the power generated when Christians unite in a common cause.

Not long after the Episcopal bishop addressed his congregations, the Presbyterians accepted his challenge and eventually as many as 20 denominations joined the effort. In 1950, this challenge was named “One Great Hour of Sharing.”

The Offering’s original goal was \$1 million to make the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer from the effects of disaster, conflict or severe economic crisis.

Today, the purpose of One Great Hour of Sharing has remained the same, responding to needs in 100 countries, including the U.S. and Canada. The last time it was reported the funds exceeded \$20 million annually funded by eight denominations.

These funds help to support three focus areas: Disaster Assistance, Hunger Programs, and Self-Development of People. Information on giving will be in the bulletins during the month of March!



75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Mission Committee

The youth of Carpio recently completed their camp retreat.

Thanks to the FPC for supporting this ministry!



Mission Committee

The Las Gradass (Steps) Ministry has completed a project that FPC supported. They rebuilt the support columns for the building. And – the preschool program has helped get 3 of their students prepared to enter the public schools with supplies and uniforms!



FPC Announcements



Thank You for Your Willingness to Serve FPC Elders and Deacons Who Have Ended Their Service January 2024

Elders

Michael Behrendt
Tracy Solmes
Larry Winkler
Steve Laubaugh (agreed to another 3 years)
Gary Kimble (agreed to another 3 years)
Jim Bruce (moved to Deacons)

Deacons

Rex Brown
Bernie Oom
Sue Oom
Pat Cassell
Nancy Allerdig
June Behrendt

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!



OPPORTUNITY: Many hands make light work and, the Faith Security team could use more hands! If you have interest or questions regarding joining the security team, please contact Dave Allerdig.



OUR DAILY BREAD personal and family devotions for March, April, and May are located on a small table in front of the office. Please take a copy if interested.

FPC Announcements

VOLUNTEERS

✦ N E E D E D ✦

**Spring Cleaning has
Started Early!**

**We are in need of assistance
in organizing and clearing
out the old, outdated, broken,
etc. things here at our center.**



We Need Your Help !

**We are looking to start this
process in the next couple of
weeks- week of 2/18/24 and
week of 2/25/24.**



Hastings, MI 49058
familypromisebarrycounty.org



Sign Up Today!
(269) 256-4594



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 4th. Flowers will be \$11 each this year. Order form will be in bulletin on February 11 or pick up one from the Connection Point. Orders and money may be turned into the office or the Connection Point. Please contact Kristen Laubaugh with questions (kristenlaubaugh@gmail.com or 269-320-3248).



FPC is excited announce the 3rd annual
CALL TO ARTISTS

Artists from First Presbyterian Church of Hastings are invited to create art that goes along with the Lenten sermon series.

Need ideas? choose a Reflective Composure: Silence, Contemplation, Peace, Joy, Confidence, Love, Repentance, Forgiveness, Humility, Purification, Resurrection

Paint, Poetry, Pottery, Photography, Pastels, Pencil,
Woodwork, Watercolor, Weaving, Graphic Design,
Textiles, Theater, Dance, Digital, Sculpture, & More

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, February 14 thru Easter Sunday, March 31.

Please email Karen Vandenberg for more information
karenv422@gmail.com

Submission forms can be found on the church website and in the office. Art submissions can be brought to the office with a completed submission form.



The Worship and Work of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, MI Minutes of the February 26th 2024 Regular Session Meeting

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

In attendance were Elders Cindy Preston, Sunny Anderson, Dave Allarding, Scott Allarding, Sally Keller, and Moderator Rev. Nick Marlatt. Excused: Elders Steve Laubaugh, Gary Kimble, Sandra Billingsley, Kim Bosma, Linda McGuire and Absent: John Johnston

A quorum was established and Pastor Nick opened the meeting with prayer at 7:05 pm and a reading from John 4:27-42, followed by a reflection from the Lenten devotional "God For Us". Portraying a beautiful and apt comparison of people as sidetracked flower girls in a wedding & God being the smiling Pastor up front beckoning them forward.

Consent Agenda containing Minutes from the January Regular Session meeting and the Congregational Meeting Minutes from Feb 4th was approved.

Clerk's Report: No correspondence was received. The Pastor's Terms of Call for 2024 and the PCUSA I Statistical Report have been filed.

Pastor's Report There is a Presbytery Meeting March 9th, Sally will let Nick know if she can attend by the end of the week. There are Boundary Trainings being held online that would fulfill the requirement from the Book of Order for sexual Misconduct training. There are 2 sessions limited to 40 people each, April 13th and June 1st. Cindy will attend June 1st.

Mark Lute needs to be ordained as a Deacon, and the rest of the newly elected officers need to be installed, Nick is planning to do that Sunday the 10th if Mark Lute is available.

Training was completed for the incoming Elders & Deacons Jan 28th.

A new Member's class will be held after Easter with them hoping to join on Pentecost.

A reading "homework" assignment was distributed of 2 chapters of a governing and ministry book. Please read it by the next meeting. It reminds us of our goals and gives a historical overview of Mainline Protestant churches in America, and how "we" got to where we are today.

YOUR 2023 FPC

SESSION:

2024

Dave Allarding
Scott Allarding
Sally Keller
Celeste Wolverton

2025

Sunny Andersen
Sandra Billingsley
Kim Bosma
Cindy Preston

2026

John Johnston
Gary Kimble
Steve Laubaugh
Linda McGuire



Personnel Report We are one custodian down, conversations with Rick and Wanda are happening about returning on a part-time basis and there is a plan to cover preschool cleanup if necessary.

Trustees -broken glass in the stairway appears to have broken itself. There was a motion to approve the Trustees meeting every-other month in the even months. It passed.

Worship & Music - Scott can fill-in for Sally serving communion this Sunday. There are open dates still for serving. We will circulate the sign-up sheet next month. Kim is moderating this committee this year.

Financial & Stewardship - Please see the report.

NAPS The registration Banners will go out March 5th for registration from the community. Regarding the sign, they are not interested in being on the "church for all ages" section of the sign. We discussed adding extra slides to the rotation on the digital section.

Family Ministry The Spring Hill trip was wonderful! No injuries this year! There will be a video Sunday in church. Discussion was about being all in 10 Sr. High and 14 Middle Schoolers attended, with chaperones. DJ Code was back, and we are hoping to hire him for the combined youth group event (Community Bash 2.0) in March at the community center.

Deacons/Mission No action items

Nomination Committee Cindy Preston agreed to Chair the Nomination Committee. Kim Bosma will be the second Elder. We need a designated Deacon. Members at large were elected at the congregational meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Pastor Nick at 8:00 pm

Next Session Meeting rescheduled for March 25th at 7:00 pm

These minutes respectfully submitted by Cindy Preston, Clerk of Session



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www.firstchurchhastings.org

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Visit with us at

www.firstchurchhastings.org

Watch us on Facebook Live



2024

Newsletter