



Mission Statement of 1st Presbyterian Church, Hastings

Following Christ, we strive to love and serve the world so that all may grow in faith and experience true joy.



More Good News

August 2016

Volume 17, #8

From the Pastor's Desk

Looking and Seeing God in the Small Acts of Love and Mercy

The other day I found myself wondering about Waldo. Perhaps you remember Waldo as the fellow with a red striped shirt and glasses from the "Where's Waldo?" books. I don't know what happened that he popped into my head, but he did. His books are optical illusions, where there is sensory overload of colors and figures and one must decipher the true Waldo. I started wondering about the difference between reality and fantasy and how perception fits into the picture. Someone once told me that perception is everything. Perception can make fantasy become reality depending on your state of mind.

The stained glass windows in the sanctuary have a similar effect of me. The other morning the sun was streaming in as I was gazing out the Vermillion Street window. It felt as though I was being moved by the Holy Spirit, as the window became an optical illusion, and it drew me into its colors. Springing to life, the colors danced and glistened right before my eyes. Have you ever experienced that? Next my eyes rested on the woman lovingly embracing the two children, which made me feel as though I too were part of the landscape. How do you experience the people in the window?

This congregation has a long history in terms of years, and the pages upon which my name will be written are fairly recent; however I feel grafted into this community of faith. Looking at the stained glass window, I see the beauty of God's splendor: the fields, the valleys, the trees, and the bluffs. I feel pulled into the landscape not as a two dimensional observer, rather as a person

August at a Glance

August 7

10:30 AM Worship w/ Communion
Scrip Order due

August 2

Session 6:30 PM

August 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31

Bible Study / Fellowship 6 PM

August 14 and 21

10:30 AM Worship

August 10

Prayer Shawl 7PM

August 15

Newsletter Deadline

August 23

Pastor April on KDWA
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

August 28

10:30 Worship at Rotary Pavilion
in Levee Park and
Potluck Picnic

enjoying the glorious day. These stained glass windows are filling my being and moving me to action. What do you feel when you see these things? How has the window touched your life?

The window fills me with peace. As the sun swims through the window, the colors jump to life and I sense God's presence. Then I look around the congregation and I see acts of love and mercy. There are people who volunteer at Hastings Family Services. There are people who help members in need. There are people who bring in change for the Heifer pig in the back of the sanctuary and make prayer shawls. There are people who give of their financial resources to support the ministry and mission of this congregation. There are people who love and pray for one another. If I can see all these acts of love and mercy within the walls of the congregation, what can I see outside the walls?

Perspective has a lot to do with not only what we see, but also how we see. Try changing the lens through which you view life. It's like a commercial I recently watched. Sadly I don't remember the company but I do remember the content. A child dropped a toy out of its stroller, and a stranger picked up the toy. Someone witnessed this small act of love and kindness, and when they were at the airport they helped a man struggling to get this luggage off the carousel. A person witnessed the assistance, and while driving, let a car in during busy traffic, instead of cutting them off. I'm sure you get the picture. When we are open to the presence of God, we are more attuned to our fellow sisters and brothers, and therefore respond with love and mercy.

I pray we can be agents of love and mercy and with awareness see the love and mercy around us every day.

Grace to you, and peace,
April



1st Presbyterian Church of Hastings

Core Values

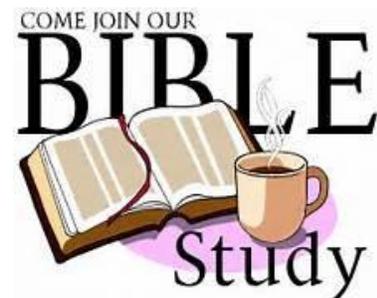
- * Moving and engaging worship
- * Openness in decision-making
- * Deep, life-giving relationships
- * Building and 150 year history as part of our identity
- * Serving the community through mission
- * Courage to take risks and the ability to persevere



Scripts Fund-raising Order

It is time for another Scripts order. April will be submitting a paper order on **August 7th**. New participating companies have been added. There are lists and order forms downstairs. Remember each gift card you purchase earns First Presbyterian money.

Our Bible Study of Favorite Bible stories will be continuing on Wednesdays in August with a light supper starting at 6 PM. We are currently reading stories from the New Testament. Each session is an independent study so you do not have to have come previously. Please come join us for a time of fellowship and fun, as we explore some of the stories in the Bible.



Come join us on August 28th for our annual Outdoor Worship Service at the Rotary Pavilion in Levee Park

A potluck picnic will follow. Rain or shine, we always have a good day at the park. Plan now to join us.

Hastings Family Services is in need of paper grocery bags to pack orders in the Food Shelf/Market. You may bring them to church and leave them in the designated box in the Fellowship Hall, or drop them off at HFS. This is an ongoing need so bring them whenever you can.





Thank you to everyone who helped with our participation in the Rivertown Parade. We labeled and handed out 2,000 seed packets. Our yellow t-shirts and banner sported our theme of:

“Come Grow With Us”

And a good time was had by all!





EPIGRAM ON MORN

Sir William Watson

Once more a perfect morn! with feet that trod
Earth's green, and sun-kissed hair that swept heaven's blue
Affable, smiling, aweless -- I met God,
Delighted with His work as when it was new.

LOVE THE BEAUTIFUL

Moses Mendelssohn

Love the beautiful,
Seek out the true,
Wish for the good,
And the best do.

"IN *Happy*
MOMENTS,
PRAISE GOD.
IN DIFFICULT MOMENTS,
SEEK *God.*
IN QUIET
MOMENTS,
trust GOD.
IN EVERY MOMENT,
THANK *God.*"



WE THANK THEE

Ralph Waldo Emerson

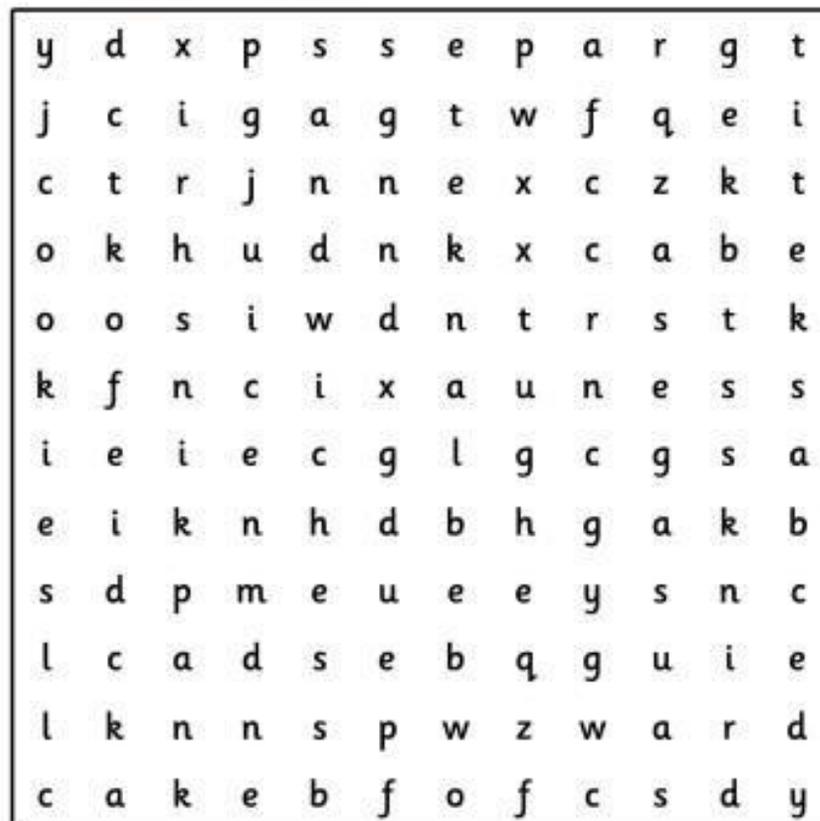
For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass so fresh and sweet;
For song of bird and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear and see,
Father in Heaven, we thank Thee!

YOUTH PAGE

Join us for our Outdoor Worship
and Church Picnic
on August 28th



Picnic Word Search



basket

blanket

cake

cheese

cookies

drinks

eggs

grapes

juice

napkins

sandwiches

sausages

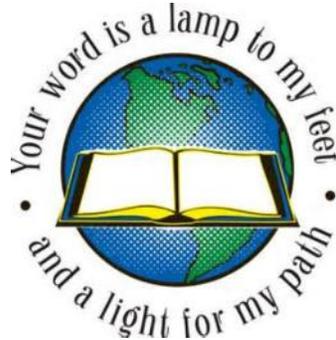
Bible Readings This Month

August 7

Isa. 1:1, 10-20
Ps. 50: 1-8, 22-23
Heb. 11: 1-3, 8-16
Luke 12: 32-40

August 21

Jer. 1: 4-10
Ps. 71: 1-6
Heb. 12: 18-29
Luke 13: 10-17



August 14

Isa. 5: 1-7
Ps. 80: 1-2, 8-19
Heb. 11:29 - 12:2
Luke 12: 49-56

August 28

Jer. 2: 4-13
Ps. 81: 1, 10-16
Heb. 13: 1-8, 15-16
Luke 14: 1, 7-14

August 2015 Servers

	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Leaders
August 7	Blumeyers	Tiefenbrucks	Dave Hume
August 14	Christians	Rash	Marcia Caneff
August 21	Tiefenbrucks	Browns	Mary Crawmer
August 28	Informal Worship		Kaitlin Christian

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Session 6:30 PM	3	4	5 Baily Dymacek	6
7 10:30 Worship w/Communion	8	9	10 Bible Study w/supper 6 PM	11	12	13
14 10:30 Worship Karly Whipple	15	16	17 Bible Study w/supper 6 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 PM	18	19	20 Brenda Reiter
21 10:30 Worship Sara Dymacek	22	23 Pastor April on KDWA 11am-12pm Dawn McNamara	24 Bible Study w/supper 6 PM	25	26	27
28 10:30 Worship at the Rotary Pavilion in Levee Park Potluck Picnic	29	30	31 Bible Study w/supper 6 PM			