

*First Presbyterian Church
Hastings, Nebraska*

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ
Ministers: Members of the Congregation
Organist: Linda Vollweiler
Praise & Alleluia Choir Directors: Tim and Teresa Canady
Liturgist: Andy Barrows

December 4, 2016, 10:30 a.m.

**Welcome, both regular attenders and visitors!
We are delighted you are here!**

**Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

PRELUDE “O Come, O Come, Immanuel” Plainsong/arr. Varner
(The prelude is an opportunity for prayer, meditation, and reflection.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

ADVENT WREATH

Julia Reimer

The season of Advent continues. Four thousand years of waiting for the Messiah, commemorated by the lighting of four candles.

We join with a hopeful throng in the lighting of the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

We are a people of hope. Last Sunday the frail light of a single candle dared to pierce through the darkness of desolation and sin.

Hope lives in us and will abide with us.

Today we will light the candle of peace.

This light, too, must brave great darkness.

In an age when people so seldom find peace within themselves, and when all the earth stands under threat of total annihilation, we light a fire called peace.

Peace that is not merely the absence of war and conflict, but peace that is the fullness of blessing for all - that is the peace for which we dare to hope.

The Christ comes to bring peace to those who have been separated from God and one another.

In the name of that Child born so long ago, we light the candle of peace.

In following Christ's teachings, we nurture our hope for peace even today.

Lighting of the candles of Hope and Peace

*CALL TO WORSHIP

News stories of people armed and warring do not bring comfort.

Come, Prince of Peace, to dwell among us.

Cut-out cookies and gingerbread folk do not feed hungry spirits.

Come, Bread of Life, to nourish us.

Decorative bulbs that shiver on shrubs do not dispel the darkness.

Come, Light of the World, to shine upon us.

And good news does not always come in the form we might expect.

Come, Holy Child, surprising Christ, to lead us.

*HYMN

“Hope of the World”

734

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Holy God, giver of blessings, we thank you for the mercies we know,
and ask your forgiveness when we fail to acknowledge you as the
source of all good.***

***When we hoard your gifts,
when we say, “that’s mine,”
when we ignore the bounty around us,
when we are blind to the good,***

Forgive us.

Help us to share, to see, to live gratefully.

Through Christ we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, let us proclaim the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia, Amen.

*RESPONSE TO GOD’S PEACE "Glory Be To the Father"

581

*PEACE OF CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ATTENDANCE

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

A MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

Stephanie Brader

The congregation is invited to sing as the children come forward.

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me,

Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Help us as we read these scriptures together. Bring your understanding and reveal your truth. Open our minds, hearts and souls to all that these words of life offer us.

We long to be continually challenged, transformed and renewed by your word. May we hear your voice of life as we read and draw close to you. Amen.

FIRST READING-Psalm 72:18-19

SECOND READING-Romans 15:4-13

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“I Would Be Surprised, Too”

Don Schlosser

GOSPEL READING-Matthew 3:1-12

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE

“Prepare”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH –

We believe there is one God, whose nature is love; revealed in one Lord Jesus Christ, by one Holy Spirit of grace.

We believe the authenticity, genuineness, and inspiration, of the Holy Scriptures; that both the Old and New Testaments contain the revealed will of God and that the Bible is the supreme written authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

We believe that Jesus is the Son of the Living God. He came in the flesh, died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures.

We believe that holiness and true happiness are inseparably connected; and that believers should do that which is right, and strive to maintain order, and practice good works, for these things are good and profitable to all people.

CONCERNS and CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Jennifer Knuth

OFFERING

(All loose coins in the offering plate will go to PCUSA Hunger Fund.)

OFFERTORY

“Panis Angelicus”

Franck/arr. Larson

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

525

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Please partake of the bread when you are served.
Please hold the cup until we can all drink together.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN

“May the God of Hope Go With Us”

765

During the singing of this hymn, please bring your communion offering to the basket on the communion table.

*CHARGE and BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

arr. Schram

Communion offering for this month will be for Maryland Living Center.

Announcements:

The radio broadcast airs on KICS 1550 AM and is given in loving memory of David Northrop by his family.

Today's service will be broadcast on Channel 181 Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

For those living at Good Samaritan Village, today's service will be broadcast on Channel 3 on Sunday at 12:00 noon and on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

Ushers: Andrew Barrows, Linda Donohue, Jim Donohue, Susie Graham, George Howard-Captain

Greeters: Pam Lay, Jane and Chuck Bauer

Communion Servers – Team 3

Dave Fisher, Bonnie Graham, Susan Hoff, Harold Korb, Lynette Krieger, Paul Krieger, Scott Kummer, Kathleen Nelson, Jane Pollak, Chris Schukei, Doug Soderquist

Acolytes: Chudier Duang, Luke Brooks

Youth Ushers: Erikka Rhodes, Julia Reimer

Our Communion Offering today will be dedicated to our neighbors across 7th Street, the young people at **Maryland Living Center**. These 16-21-year-olds are transitioning to independent living from lives as foster or homeless children. In addition to our communion offering's financial gifts, we can help by supplying them with items they need to live on their own. Please prayerfully consider bringing items to put in our "next door neighbor basket" in the Memorial Room:

• Kitchen Utensils • Non-perishable Food Items • Cleaning Items • Dish Soap • Sponges • Laundry Detergent • Dryer Sheets • Toilet Paper • Razors • Feminine Hygiene Products • Shampoo • Conditioner • Lotion • Toothbrushes & Paste • Deodorant • Body Wash • Hand Soap

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It's easy to **get a Bid Board bidding number!** Come see us in the Parlor (west of Fellowship Hall) today. December 11 is the last Sunday. Proceeds from sales support the annual youth mission trip.

**Go & Serve's annual bake sale** will be next Sunday, December 11. Come shop the variety of delicious baked goods. Proceeds support the annual youth mission trip.

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Taize Service to Offer Special Blessing of Fathers

"Strength" is the theme for December's Taize prayer service, which will feature a time for blessing of all fathers and father-figures. If you are a father, please come! If you have a father, please bring him! If you desire to meditate upon and give thanks for the strength of our Heavenly Father, this is the time and place to do so.

Join us tonight, 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel

MORE Advent Devotional Books are Available!

Advent began Sunday, November 27. A guidebook with daily devotional readings can be helpful in keeping one's heart focused on "the reason for the season" in this busy time of year. Pick up your free daily devotional guidebook in the Memorial Room.

The Giving Tree

The tags are now on the Giving Tree! The Giving Tree in the Memorial Room supports clients of Assertive Community Treatments, people with severe and persistent mental illness and living in our community. Most are without family support and live on disability or nothing.

Please help support these people by taking a tag from the tree and returning gifts to the tree by Sunday, December 18. The gifts should be wrapped and the tag placed back on them. Monetary donations may also be given.

Sponsored by the Mission Committee.

Presbyterian Women will meet in the Fellowship Hall of the church at 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, December 7, 2016. The program will include Christmas music provided by students of Linda Johnson. Circle 3 will prepare and serve the lunch. Circle 1 is in charge of preparing the tables, name tags, and devotions. All women of the church are invited. Please RSVP to your circle chairperson or to Tarci by December 5. The coordinating team will meet in the Church Library at 11:15 a.m.

***** **For the rest of the month: Circles 1 and 2** have decided to change their meeting date to December 14th instead of the 21st. **Circle 3** will keep its meeting on December 21.

Hostesses: Circle 1 - Susie Graham; Circle 2 - Joy White; and Circle 3 - Jane Pollak and Nancy Grams.

HAWS Christmas Fair Trade Sale, Saturday, December 10, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Memorial Room. Hands Around the World Store (HAWS) and Eternal Threads will join together for a Fair Trade shopping opportunity. All of our products come from artisans who live in poor areas around the globe. Purchasing their goods helps them to feed their families, allows them to send their children to school, and helps improve their lives by becoming economically self-sufficient. Handcrafts for sale include: baskets, scarves, woolen hats and mittens, jewelry, table linens, holiday decorations, gourmet chocolates, spices, tea, coffee and much more. We will feature 4 varieties of delicious Café Justo coffee from Mexico. Your purchase helps to lift disadvantaged artisans, farmers, and their families out of poverty. Your purchase makes a difference!

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### **Mark Your Calendar for FPC Christmas Caroling!**

It's fun for all ages!

Outreach, fellowship, service, fun, and bonding--don't miss it!

Sunday, December 11, 1:30 p.m.

Meet in the Fellowship Hall, and then we'll carpool to various rest homes to spread warmth and cheer, enjoying cookies and hot cocoa at our final stop.

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"The Christmas Story" (Forum)

Pastor Don Canady will lead us in taking a fresh look at the Christmas story as told by the gospels of Matthew and Luke. We will examine the differences and similarities between the two stories and consider how the unique context and focus of each gospel writer may have contributed to his unique telling of the story. Sun., Dec. 11, 9:15-10:15, Fellowship Hall

4 Additional Volunteers will be needed for the United Harvest mobile food pantry distribution on Saturday, December 17, at the Annex. These volunteers will be asked to walk through the line and fill a box, which FPC Deacons will deliver to a disabled or elderly individual unable to physically attend. Please call the office to sign up.

Join us for Christmas Eve candlelight worship on Saturday, December 24th at 5:30p.m. family service and/or 7:30p.m. service with communion.

Christmas Eve Services Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Flower Memorial Fund

Starting in 2017, the Flower Memorial Funds will be handled in a different manner. The church is attempting to contact everyone listed as the memorial fund contact person to inform them of this change. We do have lots of contact names but need help in finding a contact person for the following: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bierman, Rose and Robert Ryan, Mildred and Victor Lutkemeier, Dean and Mrs. Frank Weyer, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Theobald, Florence and George Root, the Kuehns and McCollum, Rev. and Mrs. C. Walter and Louise Walter, Ruth and Ray Watson, Toni and Bob Mays, Alberta Stewart, Dr. William McCall, Dr. McIntire, the Milo and Marvin Finks, and Libby and Elmer Glenn. If you have information on whom we might contact, please let Mary Olsen know. She can be reached at 402-462-2811 or molsen@charter.net. Thank you for any help you are able to give.

Budget Committee meets this Tuesday, December 6. If you've not returned your *estimate of giving card* yet, please do so as soon as possible, as we expect to forward a budget to Session by December 15.

Thank you to everyone who pledged! Your commitment and continued support is truly needed and appreciated!

As of December 1, **pledges received total a little less than ½ needed** for our standard operating budget (reduced staff included). If you are willing and able to pledge, please do so.

Glory be to God.

Please pray for members of our PNC: Jim Duval, Chad Murrell, Mike Karloff, Joan Shaw, Chris Junker, Pam Lay, and Jeni Howard.

Please keep in your prayers Art Langvardt, Winifred Barrows, and Connie Kubicka.

This Week --- Dec 5 – Dec 10, 2016

Mon, Dec 5	10:00a.m.	Staff Meeting in Pastor's Office
Tue, Dec 6	12:00p.m. 1:00p.m. 5:30p.m.	Budget Committee Meeting in Anderson Conference Quilters in the Annex WAM Meeting in Anderson Conference
Wed, Dec 7	7:00a.m. 11:45a.m. 4:30p.m. 6:45p.m.	Bible@Breakfast in Library PW Luncheon in Fellowship Hall WNL! CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsal in Choir Room
Sat, Dec 10	9a.m.-1p.m.	HAWS Christmas Fair Trade Sale in Memorial Room

Next Sunday, December 11, 2016

9:15a.m. Sunday School
10:30a.m. Worship Service
Pastor Don Canady
1:30p.m. Christmas Caroling
(meet in Fellowship Hall)

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POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias may be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$15 each. Money raised over the cost will be donated to Salvation Army Utility Assistance Program, which provided \$24,627.75 towards utilities assistance in the last 12 months. Funds helped 404 people with necessary electricity, water and gas, of which 382 were in families - 70 were children under the age of 5 and 85 were children aged 6-10. 7 of the 404 people assisted were over the age of 62.

As with all of The Salvation Army's programs, utilities assistance is an emergency service. To qualify, individuals and families must have received a disconnect notice and meet qualifications of need.

Your donation makes a difference. Please return this order form to the church office.

Poinsettia in memory of: _____

Poinsettia in honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Community Prayer Walk

Sunday, December 4, 2016 from 1:00-2:00 pm

Details:

- 30-40 minutes of walking, with optional fellowship time after walk
- Begins in front of St. Cecilia High School (participants park in the St. Cecilia parking lot)
- Ends at the St. Cecilia Health Ministry, approximately 200 yards from the parking lot

For St. Cecilia and St. Michael parishioners, this "Prayer Walk" will be integrated into our internal Walk to Bethlehem Advent program.

For those with **limited mobility**, a modified "Prayer Walk" will be set up at the Health Ministry Office, 415 N. Kansas. Handicapped parking and entrance is located on the west side of the building.

**Walking together in groups, or as families,
is a great way to participate!**

This prayer walk commemorates Joyce Schiffler, a well-known community walker, who was tragically killed while crossing at 7th and Burlington in September.

The Prayer Walk also:

- Promotes physical and spiritual activity.
- Encourages faith communities on their spiritual walk with God.
- Brings faith traditions together in prayer.
- Honors Joyce, who walked everywhere and inspired people to love.

A collaboration between First Presbyterian Church, St. Cecilia Health Ministry, Mary Lanning Healthcare, and the Hastings Health Ministry Network.

