

**First Presbyterian Church  
Hastings, Nebraska**

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ

Ministers: Members of the Church

Organist: Linda Vollweiler

Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Robin Koozer

**December 11, 2016, 10:30 a.m.**

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

PRELUDE “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Wade/arr. Varner  
(The prelude is an opportunity for prayer, meditation, and reflection.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

\*ADVENT WREATH Josh Brooks

God is making the final preparations for an amazing thing! Now is the Advent of the long-awaited Messiah, our bringer of hope, our Prince of Peace, our leader of love.

***We wait, we prepare, we make straight the way.***

We celebrate the coming of Christ with the lighting of the Advent candles.

***We are a people of hope, a people of peace, a people of love.***

At first there was the frail light of a single candle of hope, daring to pierce through the darkness of despair and sin.

***Then there was the candle of peace, the gentle and persistent fire, the one that calls out the violent forces and lets in God's deep and tranquil Spirit.***

Today we light the candle of love. No other word so adequately captures the spirit and goal of our faith. No other word so completely describes what we know of our God.

***For God so loved the world ...***

For God so loved the world that a child was given. A savior was made in the form of love. And love was allowed to live on ...

***We gather, then, in Christian Love.***

We give thanks for a love that passes understanding, and we await the dawning of God's enduring love once more this Christmas season. Amen.

*Lighting of the candles of Hope, Peace, and Love*

ADVENT CANDLE MUSIC

“Love”

Lloyd Larson

INVOCATION

***O God, grant to us throughout this joyful time of year an awareness of your presence, an alertness to your Spirit's movement, an appreciation for your creative love. May the abundance of love, voiced in carols and embodied in embraces, revealed in scriptures and acknowledged in prayer, increase ever more as we live out our faith. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

**CHRISTMAS CAROL CELEBRATION** Benjamin Harlan and Ragan Courtney  
Chancel Choir

INTROIT AND PROCESSIONAL

*Christmas Fanfare*

*O Come, All Ye Faithful (with congregation)*

O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him;  
born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.  
O Sing, all ye bright hosts of heav'n above.  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
born this happy morning.  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

## PROPHECY FULFILLED

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming  
He Is Born*

## THE ANGELS PROCLAIM

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear  
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
The First Noel (with Congregation)*

The first noel, the angels did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is the king of Israel.

## THE INFANT KING

*O Little Town of Bethlehem  
There's a Song in the Air  
All My Heart This Night Rejoices*

## THE MANGER

*Still, Still, Still  
Away in a Manger*

## THE JOYOUS NEWS

*Wexford Carol  
Joy To The World! (with congregation)*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room;  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace;  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.

*Go Tell It On the Mountain*

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Spiritual/arr. Linker

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BENEDICTION

*In The Bleak Midwinter*

**Next Sunday, December 18, 2016**

**8:30a.m. Worship Service**

**With Celebrate Band**

**9:15a.m. Sunday School**

**(All Ages Welcome!)**

**(No Sr. High – Semester Tests)**

**10:30a.m. Worship Service**

**Message by Pastor Don Canady**

## **Announcements:**

**The radio broadcast** airs on KICS 1550 AM.

**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:** Chris and Kevin Junker

**Acolytes:** Erika Nielsen, Nathan Kerr

**Youth Ushers:** Allie Bauer, Carter Wenburg

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

**Prayers and Sympathy** to Emily and Gary Johnson and family on the sudden death of Emily's brother-in-law, Wayne Panetta.

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

### **Prayer Focus**

Each month, we receive a "communion offering" on the first Sunday of the month. The recipients of these offerings are carefully chosen each year by the Mission Committee. Each recipient organization is believed to be doing the work of God in our local community, and each recipient is in need of both our funds AND our prayers (and often our volunteer time as well!). Each month, let us make these communion offering recipients a focus of our personal and corporate prayers, asking God to bless their work and to guide us in how we may be of support to them.

*For December, let us pray for the Maryland Living Center.*

**Thank you! Nytha and Dave Glass** for the beautiful, live Christmas tree in the Memorial Room!

Today is the **last day for Go & Serve's Bid Board!** Come see us in the Parlor (west of Fellowship Hall). Plenty of items to choose from, and proceeds from sales support the annual youth mission trip.

**Go & Serve's annual bake sale** is today! Come shop the variety of delicious baked goods. Proceeds support the annual youth mission trip.

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**Join us Today @ 1:30 p.m. for FPC Christmas Caroling!**

It's fun for all ages!

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

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 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.

### **Nonconscious Bias Training**

We all have them. What do we do with them? Come explore/find out what some of those hidden biases are. Event is free and open to the public, so invite a friend! Tuesday, December 13, 12:00-1:30, Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch or RSVP to the church office to be included in the lunch count (\$2 suggested donation for Subway sandwiches). Presenter is Kathie Starkweather, Director of the Center for Rural Affairs' Farm and Community Program.

This program is hosted by the FPC CE Committee but organized by the Center for Rural Affairs, working to create more inclusive communities in rural towns impacted by changing demographics.

**Presbyterian Women 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.

The next **United Harvest food distribution** will be on Saturday, December 17, 9:30a.m.-11:30a.m. at the Annex. The goal is to provide food where there is a high need but limited resources; anyone in need is welcome! **Please bring boxes or bags to carry food if you are in need.**

### **Santa Shop Asks You To "Give Me Five!"**

What is the "Santa Shop"? It's a new, one-time addition to the United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry. During the December 17 distribution, children in attendance will be given the opportunity to *receive* an item for themselves and also to choose an item that they can *give* to someone else. To make this happen, we're asking for your donations of new or gently used toys for the children as well as new or gently used items for adults--items that can allow the children the joy of giving Christmas gifts to their parents or caregivers.

Please take a few moments this week and search your home for items that you can share with our young friends at the United Harvest distribution.

We challenge each household to find and share FIVE items in each category:

- Gifts for kids (such as toys, books, crafts)
- Gifts for moms (such as necklaces, purses, candles)
- Gifts for dads (such as billfolds, watches, pens)
- All donations can be dropped off on the cart in the common office area.

THANK YOU for helping to make this a joyful season of both GIVING and RECEIVING for the children in our community!!

**United Harvest volunteers** are needed on Saturday, December 17 to keep our new ministry going strong! Those interested should report to the Annex and can help in one or both ways:

- Help unload and organize the food 8:00-9:15 a.m. (fewer volunteers needed).
- Help distribute the food 9:15-11:30 a.m. (more volunteers needed).

We especially need volunteers who can carry boxes of food from the Annex to recipients' vehicles (9:15-11:30 a.m.). Thank you for your service!

### "Christmas Readings" (Forum)

Darrel Lloyd will offer a selection of poetry and prose, specially curated to provide an entertaining and contemplative experience of the Christmas holiday. Sunday, December 18, 9:15-10:15a.m., Chapel.

**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 Joy Offering Received During Christmas Eve Services**

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 Funds**

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: Rose and Robert Ryan, Mildred and Victor Lutkemeier, Dean and Mrs. Frank Weyer, Florence and George Root, Rev. and Mrs. C. Walter and Louise Walter, Ruth and Ray Watson, Dr. McIntire, 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](mailto:molsen@charter.net). Thank you for any help you are able to give.

The next **Red Cross Blood Drive** is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, in Fellowship Hall from 12 noon to 6 p.m. For more information, or to make an appointment, contact Erica Brooks at 402-469-9285 or [ericalynn128@gmail.com](mailto:ericalynn128@gmail.com).

Starting January 11, 2017, **Wednesday Night Live (WNL)** will begin at 4:00pm for all Pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup> Graders.

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

If you are willing and able to pledge, please do so; any time is acceptable.

If you do not want to pledge, please return an *estimate of giving card* indicating this as soon as possible.

2017 Budget will be forwarded to Session on Wednesday, Dec. 14, for Session meeting on the 15th.

**Glory be to God!**

**This Week --- Dec 12 – Dec 17, 2016**

<b>Mon, Dec 12</b>	<b>11:00a.m.</b> <b>12 Noon - 3:00p.m.</b>	<b>Staff Meeting</b> in Pastor's Office <b>P.E.O. Meeting</b> in Library
<b>Tue, Dec 13</b>	<b>12 Noon - 1:30p.m.</b> <b>1:00p.m.</b> <b>5:30p.m.</b> <b>6:30p.m.</b>	<b>Nonconscious Bias Forum</b> in Fellowship Hall <b>Quilters</b> in the Annex <b>Trustee Meeting</b> in Anderson <b>Meeting</b> in Library
<b>Wed, Dec 14</b>	<b>7:00a.m.</b> <b>9:30a.m.</b> <b>9:30a.m.</b> <b>4:30p.m.</b> <b>6:45p.m.</b> <b>6:45p.m.</b>	<b>Bible@Breakfast</b> in Library <b>PW Circle 1 Meeting</b> , Hostess Susie Graham <b>PW Circle 2 Meeting</b> , Hostess Joy White <b>WNL!</b> <b>WNL Jr. &amp; Sr. High Christmas Party</b> in Annex <b>CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsal</b> in Choir Room
<b>Thu, Dec 15</b>	<b>6:30p.m.-9:30p.m.</b> <b>5:30p.m.</b>	<b>Pooh Corner Christmas Program</b> in Fellowship Hall <b>Session Meeting</b> in Anderson Conference
<b>Fri, Dec 16</b>	<b>4:30p.m. – 8a.m. Sat</b> <b>6:00p.m.</b>	<b>Boy Scouts Troop 200 Pizza Party</b> in Annex <b>Wedding Rehearsal</b> in Church
<b>Sat, Dec 17</b>	<b>9:30a.m.-11:30a.m.</b>  <b>4:00p.m.</b>	<b>United Harvest Food Distribution</b> in Annex (Volunteers Arrive 8-8:30am.) <b>Wedding</b> in Church

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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 paid by the church 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: \_\_\_\_\_