



# The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175  
Vol. 21.37 Weeks Of: December 3 & 10, 2017

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## Advent reflections from Pastor Greg:

As Damen proclaimed in his sermon on Sunday, Happy New Year! In our Christian calendar, Advent marks the beginning of our liturgical year. A new year provides us an opportunity to reflect on the past year and prepare ourselves for the coming year, and there is no better time to do that than the Advent Season, a season of hope! The church has seen a lot of change in the last 12 months and has emerged stronger and more united in our mission of sharing the love of Christ in the heart of Hastings. I am honored to be your pastor and to help lead this vital mission as we seek to grow in our discipleship and our own walk with Jesus.

Now, as we stand at the beginning of a new year, we are blessed with four weeks to prepare our hearts and minds not only to celebrate the birth of Jesus 2000 years ago, but also to prepare for Christ's coming. This is a joyful and hopeful time of anticipation in the church year! I have great hopes for what our congregation will do in the coming year as we continue to grow in love and service to one another, our community, and the world. Our reflections on the coming of Christ, and the lighting of the Advent wreath serves as a continual reminder of the light of God coming into the world through Jesus Christ. We are invited to ground ourselves in the values of hope (week one), peace (week two), joy (week three) and love (week four).

Our church will be providing resources for you to reflect on this season of Advent. Kili has ordered a printed Advent Devotional that is available to our members. Steph has ordered an Advent Devotional for children and families that includes reflections, coloring pages, and an opportunity to color and build a paper Advent wreath as a family. I encourage you to consider picking up one or both of these resources.

Below is my prayer for our congregation in this season of Advent, written by missionary and pastor John Birch:

God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the center, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time. AMEN.

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett  
Senior Pastor  
First Presbyterian Church of Hastings  
[\(402\)462-5147](tel:(402)462-5147)  
[greg@fpchastings.org](mailto:greg@fpchastings.org)



**The Christmas season is almost here!  
Don't miss these special church family events!!**

**Hanging of the Greens: Saturday, December 2, 9:00 a.m.**

Many hands make light work! We need you!  
Bring a snack to share.

**Christmas Caroling: Sunday, December 17, 1:00 p.m.**

We'll car pool to the Kensington, College View, and Regency, enjoying fellowship and spreading Christmas cheer. All ages are welcome; all voices appreciated!

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***Hands Around the World Store (HAWS) Christmas Fair Trade Sale***

**Saturday, December 9, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Memorial Room**

All of our products come from artisans who live in poor areas around the globe. Handcrafts for sale include: baskets, scarves, woolen hats and mittens, jewelry, table linens, holiday decorations, gourmet chocolates, spices, tea, coffee and much more. Your purchase helps to lift disadvantaged artisans, farmers, and their families out of poverty.

***The Giving Tree***

The tags will be hung on the Giving Tree **December 1!** 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 17. The gifts should be wrapped and the tag placed back on them. Monetary donations may also be given to the church office, with checks payable to ACT.

Sponsored by the Mission Committee

**Join the Mariners Moms Group!**

Lunch, fellowship, learning, and fun! Join the Mariners every 1st and 3rd Thursday, noon-1:00, in the Parlor. Each gathering will include a brief devotion and then a robust discussion on topics related to parenting. Moms at any stage in the parenting journey and from any denomination will enjoy the fellowship and information sharing in this group. *\*Free childcare is provided! \*Bring a sack lunch if you wish.*

**Dec. 7: "Screentime Struggles"** In a world where screens are ubiquitous, how do we help our children effectively utilize them without becoming addicted to them?

**Dec. 21: Wrapapalooza!** Bring your Christmas gifts and wrapping supplies, and together we'll work, wrap, talk, and enjoy some Christmas goodies!

**Need a ride to church on Sundays?** Request a ride by calling Jeanne Hastings, Deacon Moderator, at 402-462-8460 or the church office at 402-462-5147.

The **radio broadcast** airs during service at 10:30 a.m. on KICS 1550 AM.

**Sunday'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,** Sunday's service will be broadcast on *Channel 3* on Sunday at 12:00 noon and on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

# THE FORUM: December

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**SUNDAYS, 9:15-10:15 A.M.**  
**FELLOWSHIP HALL**

I pray that the sharing of your faith may  
become effective when you perceive all  
the good that we may do for Christ.  
--Philemon 1:6

HEAR

SHARE

LIVE

*the Story*

## NO CLASS

**NOV. 26, THANKSGIVING**  
**DEC. 24, CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**DEC. 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**DECEMBER 3**

## Obscure No More

We know some biblical passages so well that we can recite them from memory while other passages languish in obscurity. Our lives mirror this tendency, as parts of our story are well-known and other parts remain hidden. Join us as we unpack a few of our leaders' favorite obscure scripture passages and discuss how these relate to our lives.

**REV. GREG ALLEN-PICKETT, REV. DON CANADY, KILI WENBURG**

**DECEMBER 10**

## Jesus of Christmas Carols vs. Jesus of Scripture

An interesting and expansive discussion will be facilitated by juxtaposing images such as "Away In a Manger"'s meek and mild Christ child with the strong and authoritative images of Jesus clearing the temple in the gospels. Do we prefer certain images over others? What does it mean for Jesus to be known in such contradictory ways? Let's explore together!

**DR. BYRON JENSEN, CHAIR AND PROFESSOR OF MUSIC,  
HASTINGS COLLEGE**

**DECEMBER 17**

## Christmas Readings

Back by popular demand, Darrel Lloyd will read selections from multiple genres, providing the class with opportunities to laugh, reminisce, and more deeply engage with the experience of Christmas.

**DR. DARREL LLOYD, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF ENGLISH**

### **Prepare your heart for Christmas with the Heirs Apparent class!**

Led by Curtis Reimer, the class is watching and discussing a DVD called "The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem," which presents the author's travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and which provides historical information, archaeological findings, and personal reflections.

*Anderson Conference Room, 9:15-10:15 a.m.*

### **Complimentary Advent devotional booklets available in the Memorial Room**

With the hustle and bustle of the Advent season, it can be very helpful to have a spiritual guide to bring focus and meaning to this centrally important season of the Christian calendar. The Advent devotionals we had last year were enjoyed by many, and they are again being made available by "Water from Rock" ministry. The 2017 booklets, entitled *Our Humble God*, are provided to you and to our church free of charge, but if you find value in what they add to your Christmas preparations, you may want to consider using the enclosed envelope to send a donation to "Water From Rock" ministry.

### **Also available for FAMILIES....a downloadable family devotion!**

It can be difficult to find meaningful ways to engage our families in faith formation. It can sometimes feel awkward, we don't always know what to do, and sometimes we have a hard time talking about our own faith stories. Seasons like Advent and Lent are great opportunities to say, "Hey kids – we're going to try something new for the next few weeks." Particularly during Advent, with our culture's desire to get to December 25 as soon after Halloween as possible, it's important to take time to stop, wait, and to have conversations and engage in intentional practices for the season. *An Illustrated Advent for Families* is one way to do that—to slow down, ask questions, have fun, be intentional about how you spend your time, and try new things. There are coloring pages for your children, but we've often found that parents enjoy coloring them as much (if not more...) as their children enjoy the coloring. There are simple but meaningful devotions for families to do throughout Advent, an Advent Wreath activity, and our Advent Calendar. Please let Stephanie know if you'd like the download emailed to you or printed for you, if needed.

### **Not able to serve on a committee but willing to help out at church??**

Please consider adding your name to a new list being created: the "Ready to Serve" list. Individuals on this list may be called upon 2-4 times per year to donate food or time for special events, such as bringing treats for Kick-Off Sunday, helping make posters for a parade float, cleaning up after a church potluck, and so on. If your name is on the list and you are called to help with a particular event, you always have the option of saying no if it doesn't work with your schedule. The creation of this list just helps the church to know who is willing to consider helping out when more hands are needed.

*Adding your name to the "Ready to Serve" list requires very little commitment but provides a huge service to the church. Thank you for your consideration!!*

The following people have been **nominated to serve beginning in 2018**. They will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting in January:

#### **Deacons (5)**

Teresa Canady  
Linda Hall  
Marni Soderquist  
Peg Thomson  
Lorna Zajack

#### **Session (4)**

Brian Johnson  
Pat Kern  
Erik Nielsen  
Neil Riley

#### **Trustees (4)**

Sue Horton  
Ted Schroeder  
Roger Sunderman  
C.L. Wimer

**December Ushers (Team #4):** Susie Graham, George Howard-Captain, Dixie McDonald, Gale McDonald, Dan Zabloudil, Vera Zabloudil

**December Communion Offerings** will be donated to Crossroads Center Rescue Mission. Established in 1983 as a soup kitchen, Crossroads is now a 90-bed facility with a four-phase program to help homeless men, women & families get back on their feet. Their mission is to bring glory to God through the helping of people. Crossroads currently serves three hot meals a day to anyone in the community. Crossroads has also opened a thrift store for the community and created an outdoor recreation area for residents.

**December 3rd Communion Servers (Team #1):** Erica Brooks, Sharon Brooks, Dianne Christensen, Katharine Davis, Jeni Howard, Byron Jensen, Chris Junker, Erik Nielsen, Tim Redline, Lori Schroeder, Ted Schroeder

**Prayers for:** Arnie Boehler, Judy Brown, Celia (& Wayne) Ganow, Erlene Gessford, Jan Ham, Irmise (& Elmer) Heeren, Pat Kleiber, Richard & Wanda Langer, Mary (& Jim) Lewis, John & Mary Northrop, Larry Nowka, Audrey Watson, Wilson, Jenni and Ben Welsch and families.



***In Loving Memory of Charles "Chuck" Kidd, Jr., July 28, 1945 - November 20, 2017***

Services were Saturday, November 25, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings with Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett officiating. Burial was in Kenesaw Cemetery, Kenesaw. Memorials may be given to Hastings Bowling Association or Special Olympics.



***In Loving Memory of Mary Jo Emmons, February 4, 1926 – November 24, 2017***

Memorial Services will be Sunday, December 24, 2017; 1:30 P.M. at Butler Volland Chapel, Hastings with Pastor Don Canady officiating. Burial will be at a later date in Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln, Nebraska. Memorials may be given to First Presbyterian Church. There will be no viewing or visitation.

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We are excited to announce the **newest member of our family Wilson Ann Welsch**, born to Ben and Jenni Welsch who joined our church this year and have been part of our church family for the past few years.

There were some complications at the birth so Wilson and her parents will be at Omaha Children's Hospital for a few weeks.

If you'd like to help the family, go to the link below. We can do food delivery to the family here in Hastings, or you can contribute to the costs of Ben and Jenni staying in Omaha and driving back and forth.

Check with Pastor Greg or Leah Ratzlaff if you have any questions.

<http://www.takethemameal.com/meals.php?t=YVXI8011>

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY DECEMBER

|       |                   |       |                         |
|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 12/01 | Peter Duang       | 12/17 | Esther Allen-Pickett    |
|       | Louie Eckhardt    |       | Marilyn Nielsen         |
|       | Diane Phelps      |       | Lindsey Stout           |
|       | Michelle Wells    | 12/18 | Wayne Ganow             |
| 12/03 | Eva Ehrich        |       | Deb Jensen              |
|       | Jeanne Hastings   |       | Shannon Welton          |
|       | Justin Musgrave   | 12/19 | Sue Bradley             |
|       | Abigail Shetler   |       | Donald Buhr             |
|       | Sandra Wimer      |       | Tom Ratzlaff            |
| 12/04 | Conner Kidd       |       | Zane Thomsen            |
|       | Diane Mullen      |       | Kili Wenburg            |
| 12/05 | Tyson Kerr        | 12/20 | Eleanor Jorgenson       |
| 12/06 | Connie Franzen    |       | Bill Redinger           |
|       | Damon Nievas      | 12/21 | Matt Nieman             |
|       | Dave Rethorst     |       | Justin Osborne          |
| 12/07 | Tanner Bauer      |       | Barbara Sunderman       |
|       | Ricki Frasier     | 12/22 | Jax Gernstein           |
|       | Lynette Krieger   | 12/23 | Briella Borrell         |
| 12/08 | Pam Schlichtman   |       | John Harrington         |
|       | Steve Wolford     | 12/24 | Mari Anderson           |
| 12/09 | Dave Dirks        |       | Shirley Johnston        |
|       | Sophia Hemje      | 12/25 | Tracy Brooks            |
| 12/10 | Todd Pankratz     |       | Emily Funkey            |
| 12/11 | Kevin Ellerbee    | 12/26 | Lisa Marvel             |
|       | Phyllis Salyards  |       | Laura Marvel-Wunderlich |
|       | Chima Uche        |       | Sophia Pankratz         |
|       | Danna Wolford     | 12/27 | Margaret Koontz         |
| 12/12 | Traci Boeve       |       | Halligan Little         |
| 12/13 | Nyaguor Duang     | 12/28 | Jim Cooke               |
|       | Mark Scheidegger  |       | Thomas Cooke            |
| 12/14 | Mary Fisk         |       | Jim Wenburg             |
|       | Darrel Lloyd      |       | Rogene Wenburg          |
| 12/15 | Kelly Barnett     | 12/29 | Landon Benorden         |
|       | Deegan Dettwiller |       | Indiana Hoff            |
|       | Pat Kleiber       |       | Connie Kubicka          |
|       | Nnamdi Uche       |       | Carolyn Nowka           |
|       | Nnenna Uche       | 12/30 | Levi McCoy              |
| 12/16 | Karson Stroyek    |       | Al Meyer                |
|       |                   |       | Laura Peterson          |
|       |                   |       | Riley Propp             |

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY DECEMBER

|                                             |            |
|---------------------------------------------|------------|
| Tom & Molly Johnsen                         | 12/01/2001 |
| Charles & Margaret Hermes                   | 12/18/1965 |
| Willis & Jane Horton                        | 12/21/1973 |
| Robert Nedderman &<br>Sue Medsker-Nedderman | 12/21/1975 |
| Chris & Inde Wissing                        | 12/21/2002 |



### DECEMBER 6, 2017 LUNCHEON PROGRAM: MUSIC, LINDA VOLLWEILER

|                                                                       |   |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----------|
| Prepare Lunch, Kitchen Helpers                                        | - | Circle 3 |
| Set Tables, Centerpieces, Devotions,<br>Nametags, Cashier, Huger Cups | - | Circle 1 |

**Presbyterian Women's (PW) luncheons** are at 11:45am on the first Wednesday of each month. A program and short business meeting follow the luncheon. All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to come for all or part of the meeting. Call your reservation to your circle telephone chairperson or to the church office by the Monday preceding the PW meeting.

**PW Circle meetings** are on the third Wednesday of each month. Circles 1 & 2 meet at 9:30am in the Hostess' home; Circle 3 meets at 1:15pm in the church library.

**FPC Deacons delivered** 6 bags with 43 items to Hastings Food Pantry on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**FPC Hastings remitted** \$97.75 collected in September & October to the Methodist Church for United Harvest Free Food Distribution, and \$318.67 collected in October to the PC(USA) Hunger Fund.

This year the children of First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, continued the tradition of helping other children around the world by participating in the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF campaign. The annual tradition has helped provide countless children around the world with health care, clean water, nutrition, education, emergency relief, and more. **Thank you to the children of our congregation for raising \$47.48!**

**2018 Offering Envelopes are in.** You may pick yours up from the glass shelf in front of the church office or on the welcome stand in the Memorial Room. Please call the office if you'd like yours mailed.

*"When working with your attorney to update your **will and estate plan**, please consider including a gift to the First Presbyterian Church Foundation that will enhance the work of this congregation for many years to come. Our Federal Identification Number is 47-0710307."* --Dave Dirks, Moderator of the Foundation



## 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 provides money to individuals and families, including children and elderly, towards utilities assistance for necessary electricity, water and gas.

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettia in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# “ANGELS AWARE” 2017

## REHEARSALS (meet in choir room)

GRADES 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> practice 4:00-6:00, Wednesday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

EVERYONE, PK-8<sup>th</sup> practice 4:00-6:00 Wednesday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, & Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>

Also everyone, PK-8<sup>th</sup> practice during Sunday School, 9:15-10:15 on November 19<sup>th</sup>,  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-12:00 Dress Rehearsal

(Remember to wear white, long sleeves, long pants or tights, and socks to go under your angel costumes)

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>,

9:15-10:15 (Choir Room)

“ANGELS AWARE”: 10:30 during worship.



Thank you,

Susan Hoff (402 469 0985)

Leah Ratzlaff (402 730 5870)

Joy White (402-469-5630)

## Home Page

**First Presbyterian Church**

**621 North Lincoln Avenue**

**Hastings, NE 68901**

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**Address Service Requested**

### **The Home Page**

A publication of  
First Presbyterian Church  
621 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Hastings, NE 68901

**Senior Pastor:** Greg Allen-Pickett

**Publishing Guidelines:** The *Home Page* is a bi-weekly publication for the people and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

The newsletter seeks to inform, instruct and challenge its readers to become engaged in the ministry of FPC.

**Articles** will be accepted by Friday of each week. Submissions may be edited for length and suitability. You may send articles to the church office: [tarci@fpchastings.org](mailto:tarci@fpchastings.org) or call 402-462-5147.

### **Financial Corner**

#### **November 12, 2017**

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| 8:30a.m. Worship Attendance  | 27         |
| 10:30a.m. Worship Attendance | 216        |
| General Fund (2017 & 201)    | \$9,645.00 |
| Plate Collections            | \$102.00   |
| PC (USA) Hunger Fund         | \$26.15    |
| Communion-Maryland Living    | \$161.00   |
| UNICEF                       | \$20.07    |
| Pastor Discretionary         | \$1,000.00 |
| Food Pantry                  | \$3.00     |
| Pooh Corner Rent             | \$500.00   |

#### **November 19, 2017**

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| 8:30a.m. Worship Attendance  | 28         |
| 10:30a.m. Worship Attendance | 227        |
| General Fund (2017 & 2018)   | \$4,574.67 |
| Plate Collections            | \$98.00    |
| Per capita (2017 & 2018)     | \$274.25   |
| CE Sunday School             | \$0.50     |
| PC (USA) Hunger Fund         | \$44.85    |
| Communion-Maryland Living    | \$100.00   |
| Disk Donations               | \$15.00    |
| Food Pantry                  | \$9.00     |
| Coffee                       | \$2.11     |
| Poinsettias                  | \$60.00    |

**Thanks be to God!**