



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 21.38 Weeks Of: December 17 & 24, 2017

Please join us for the Advent and Christmas Season:

Sunday, December 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 8:30am Taize Contemplative Worship Service
- 9:15am Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30am Traditional worship service with hand bells and choir
- 1:00pm Christmas caroling at retirement communities (meet at church)

Sunday, December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve

(No 8:30am service and no Sunday School)

- 10:30am 4th Sunday of Advent Service: Lessons and Carols
- 3:30pm Christmas Eve Service at College View Retirement Home
- 5:30pm Family Christmas Eve Service
- 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service with Communion
- 11:00pm Contemplative Christmas Eve Service in the Chapel

Sunday, December 31

(No 8:30am service and no Sunday School)

- 10:30am Traditional Sunday Service with special music from Mary Plock and Sarah Wolf

Christmas Joy Offering

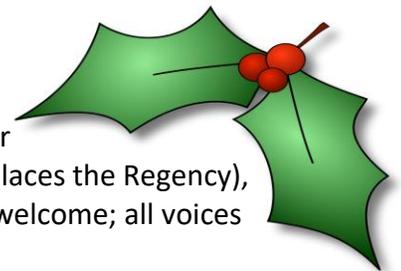
"Advent asks us to open our hearts to God's love and grace, and you and your congregation have long responded faithfully to that call. By sharing God's love through the Christmas Joy Offering with PC(USA) church workers and racial ethnic students in need, you embody what it means to be a connectional church. We ask that you again receive the CJO this Advent season, as the ministries it supports need your help. Wishing you every blessing this Advent and Christmas," -- The Reverend Peter C.S. Sime, Vice President, Assistance, Funds Development & CREDO

Christmas readings by Darrel Lloyd

The final Forum class for the Fall, 2017 semester will feature Dr. Lloyd reading selections from multiple genres, providing the class with opportunities to laugh, reminisce, and more deeply engage with the experience of Christmas. Sunday, December 17, 9:15 a.m., Chapel

Christmas Season is almost here! Let's go caroling together!

Meet at the Fellowship Hall, and then we'll carpool together to the Kensington, College View, and Perkins (this destination replaces the Regency), enjoying fellowship and spreading Christmas cheer. All ages are welcome; all voices appreciated!! Sunday, December 17, 1:00 p.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.

United Harvest is this Saturday, December 16

Here are TWO ways you can help:

Volunteer: We need many volunteers each month!! Your help is appreciated! Most volunteers should check in at the Annex gym around 9:30 a.m. If you can't come until later, that's fine; come whenever you can!

Pray: As we prepare for December's United Harvest distribution, please consider supporting this ministry through your prayers for the following:

- For those experiencing financial stress and food insecurity: that they would find some relief through United Harvest and that they would find security in the peace that passes all understanding
- For those making tough decisions about how to spend limited funds this time of year: that they would have wisdom and clarity about God's priorities for their finances
- For volunteers who may feel over-committed at this time of year: that their heart space and calendar space would be free enough to allow them to serve on Dec. 17
- For the transition from first-come, first-served to the new alphabetical system of distribution: that both volunteers and recipients would be free of anxiety; that a spirit of trust and mutual regard would prevail when the inevitable hiccups come along; that all the volunteers would be on the same page so that consistent explanations can be provided.
- For all individuals involved: that each one would open their heart to allow Jesus to be born in them this Advent season.

Boy Scouts Troop 200 will be wrapping presents for Healthy Beginnings' residents on Sat., Dec. 16 in the Annex starting at 2:30 p.m. If you would like to "boost" the packages, you may drop in with your donation. Cleaning supplies and toys for 13 & 14 year old children are needed most. Please contact Tom Kleinjan with any questions at 402-705-0553 or scouting200hastaings@gmail.com.

Chorus of the Plains will be sponsoring a community Christmas Sampler at Hastings High School Auditorium on Sat., Dec. 16, 3:00 p.m. This is a **fundraiser** for local charities featuring local church choirs and other musical groups in town including FPC's own Chancel Choir. This event is free of charge with an opportunity to offer a free will donation.

Love singing Christmas hymns? Then join us at 10:15 each Sunday morning of Advent! For the 15 minutes prior to worship each Sunday in December, we'll take turns calling out favorite hymns and then singing a verse or two of each.



"Anyone who has a student who sings in Praise, Alleluia or Pre-School choirs... **You are all invited (youth singers and parents alike) to provide the anthem for the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.** It is not necessary to prepare or even have a tremendous singing voice. All you need to do is come to the choir room at 5:00 p.m. and we will run through our anthem. It will be a traditional Christmas Carol that you already know. I promise. It would be wonderful to fill the choir loft with families at the Christmas Eve Family Service. (It's also the best seat in the house!) So, please, come and join us. Thank you," -- *Tim & Teresa Canady*, Praise & Alleluia Choir Directors

It's time for WRAPAPALOOZA!

Ladies of the church: Bring your Christmas gifts and wrapping supplies, and together we'll work, wrap, talk, and enjoy some Christmas goodies! Thurs., Dec. 21, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Parlor



American Red Cross

The next **Red Cross Blood Drive** in Fellowship Hall will be on Wednesday, January 3rd from 12 noon to 6 p.m. For more information, or to make an appointment, contact Erica Brooks at ericalynn128@gmail.com or 402-469-9285.

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!!

Reminder to all committee members: Year-end reports will be due in January for the Annual Report.

December Communion Offerings will be collected throughout the month and donated to Crossroads Center Rescue Mission. Crossroads was established in 1983 as a soup-kitchen and 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, has also opened a thrift store for the community, and created an outdoor recreation area for residents.

FPC Deacons delivered 6 bags with 27 items to the Hastings Food Pantry on December 11th.

Prayers for: Arnie Boehler, Judy Brown, Lauren Canady, Karen Doerr/Mrs. Gilmore, Celia (& Wayne) Ganow, Erlene Gessford, Jan Ham, Irmise (& Elmer) Heeren, Pat Kleiber, Richard & Wanda Langer, Larry Nowka, Karla Reese, Elaine & son Jonathan Specht, Audrey Watson, Wilson, Jenni and Ben Welsch and families.

Condolences to Gaylon, Kim, Jeff, Ashley, Walker Hermann and family for the loss of Gaylon's mother, Dora, age 91. Services were Sat., Dec. 9 at the Christ Lutheran Church in rural Juniata with Rev. Paul Dunbar officiating. Memorials may be given to Christ Lutheran School or the Concordia Cemetery.



In loving memory of Barbara Ann Jackson, August 21, 1928 – December 9, 2017
Services will be at First Presbyterian Church this Thursday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m.
Cookies, coffee and tea will follow in Fellowship Hall.
Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett will be officiating.



Presbyterian Women Meet in December

Dec. 13 - 9:30 a.m. Circle 1 - Marilyn Nielsen's home

Dec. 20 - 9:30 a.m. Circle 2 - church library; Laurie Johnson, hostess

1:15 p.m. Circle 3 - church library; Nancy Grams & Marie Rasmussen, hostesses

Spring Break Service Trip – In conjunction with Hastings College, FPC will be offering an inter-generational Spring Break Service Trip to the Houston, Texas area to assist in the recovery efforts from Hurricane Harvey. We're waiting ('tis the season, right?) on a few details from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in terms of where and what exactly we'll be up to but the dates for our trip are March 18-24, 2018. We'll share more details as they become available, but if you are interested in living out your faith in service to others please contact the church office and we'll be sure to keep you in the loop! – *Rev. Damen Heitmann*

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.

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.

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25th. Have a very Merry Christmas!

*"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.

Please return this order form to the church office by December 20 with checks payable to FPC.

Poinsettia in memory of: _____

Poinsettia in honor of: _____

Given by: _____

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First Presbyterian Church

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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 or call 402-462-5147.

Financial Corner November 26, 2017

8:30a.m. Worship Attendance	60
10:30a.m. Worship Attendance	181
General Fund (2017 & 2018)	\$11,637.00
Plate Collections	\$72.00
Per capita (2017 & 2018)	\$90.75
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$25.84
Communion-Crossroads	\$10.00
CE Sunday School	\$2.30
Go & Serve Donations	\$40.00
Memorials- Mary Jo Emmons	\$50.00
Poinsettias	\$110.00
Food Pantry	\$13.00

December 3, 2017

8:30a.m. Worship Attendance	25
10:30a.m. Worship Attendance	245
General Fund (2017 & 2018)	\$20,894.00
Plate Collections	\$70.00
Per capita (2017 & 2018)	\$60.50
CE Sunday School	\$0.50
PC (USA) Hunger Fund	\$51.84
Communion-Crossroads	\$796.00
McGill Missionary Living Exp.	\$2,500.00
Pastor Discretionary	\$2,500.00
Food Pantry	\$10.00
Memorials- Mary Jo Emmons	\$25.00
Radio & Coffee	\$13.00
Poinsettias	\$315.00
Annex Bldg. Use	\$235.00

Thanks be to God!