

First Presbyterian Church Hastings, Nebraska

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ
Ministers: Members of the Church
Senior Pastor: Greg Allen-Pickett
Associate Pastor: Damen Heitmann
Liturgist and Scripture Reader: Jan Ham
Organist: Linda Vollweiler
Chancel Choir Director: Robin Koozer

**December 3, 2017, 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent**

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

PRELUDE “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” French Carol/arr. Schram

WELCOME

+CHORAL INTROIT I: “Run, Ye Shepherds to the Light” Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP (1 Corinthians 1)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We give thanks to our God always because of the grace of God that has been given to us in Christ Jesus.

In every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind,

So that we are not lacking in any spiritual gift as we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful!

Come, let us worship our faithful and loving God!

*HYMN AND PROCESSION OF ADVENT BANNER

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (Verse 1)

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LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Oliver Family

This is the first Sunday in Advent. Today, we light one purple candle. This is the candle of hope. Advent is a time of waiting and hoping.

We wait for the day when we celebrate again the birth of Jesus. We hope that everyone will come to know God’s love and to worship God.

When we look at the first candle, we remember God's promise. God promised to send a Savior to the people.

The gospel witness helps us understand that God is loving and just. This gives us hope. We anticipate again the birth of the baby Jesus, remembering that Jesus helps us know God's love for us.

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (Verse 1) 83
(As the family lights the candle on the Advent wreath, the congregation will sing this hymn.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It's starting already, Lord. It is only the first Sunday in Advent, and we are already feeling caught up in the pressures and stresses of the holiday season. There are signs all around of God's presence of hope among us. Instead we're stressed out and all too often seeing only signs of gloom and doom. Forgive us, merciful God, when we spend so much time stressed out and looking for the scary things in life. Forgive us when we see or seek the darkness of anger and fear and turn our backs on the light of possibilities, hope and peace. Open our hearts once again to your redeeming love and transforming peace, for we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Even in the midst of difficult times

God is with us, bringing us hope and peace.

Receive God's rich blessing of peace and hope. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and loved!

Alleluia! Amen!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" 582

*PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Greet others around you this morning by exchanging the Peace of Christ.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ATTENDANCE

(Please pass the Friendship Pads and sign in to let us know that you were here this morning.)

+ANTHEM

II: "Recitative: Rejoice to All" Aria: "While Shepherds Watch"
Erin Petry, Soprano

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your love discover hope; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

1st SCRIPTURE READING – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

REFLECTION ON SCRIPTURE

Mary Plock

2nd SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 13:24-37

***This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.***

MESSAGE

**“Watch and Wait!”
Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett**

*HYMN

“People, Look East”

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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from an affirmation written by Rev. Steve Garnass-Holmes)

We are God's. We belong to The One who creates all things, in whose image all people are made.

We are Christ's. He has loved us, healed us, called us and anointed us with his Spirit. We belong to his birth, life, death and resurrection and ministry.

We are the Spirit's. We belong to the church, the Body of Christ. God gives us the gifts of hope, anticipation, forgiveness, resurrection, and eternal life, and the gift of participating in the healing of the world by God's grace.

As God's beloved, we devote ourselves to God and to God's will, wholly, joyfully and with the help of Christ. Amen.

OFFERING (All loose coins in the offering plate will go to PC(USA) Hunger Fund.)

+OFFERTORY

III: “Sleep Jesus, Sleep”

Chancel Choir

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bless these gifts, O Lord, and help them to bring the transforming love you have given us into ministries of light, hope and peace in our world. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

Take and eat the bread when it is passed to you.

Take the cup and hold it until the entire congregation has been served. We drink the cup together as a sign of unity in the Body of Christ.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, God, for the bread of new creation with which we have been fed. We thank you, for the promise of hope found in this shared meal and the promise of hope in the birth, life, death and resurrection of your Son who taught us to share this meal. Now send us, abounding with your healing grace, to remember, love and serve and never cease until the world fills with Christ's peace.

*HYMN

"The Days are Surely Coming"

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(During the singing of the final hymn, we will take a second offering to benefit Crossroads Center Rescue Mission. The congregation is invited to come down to the communion table and place their offering in the basket.)

*CHARGE and BLESSING

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

"Fanfare in D"

Joseph C. Bridge

+ *This morning's Introit, Anthem, and Offertory comprise the entirety of an Advent cantata, "Run, Ye Shepherds to the Light" by Australian composer, Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806). "Run, Ye Shepherds to the Light" is one of fourteen cantatas written by the composer (who was the younger brother of Franz Joseph Haydn.)*

Come worship with us next week and invite your friends and family!

Sunday, December 11

8:30 a.m. Celebrate Band "Unplugged" in the Chapel

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Christmas Musical "Angels Aware!"

“ANGELS AWARE” 2017

REHEARSALS (meet in choir room)

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

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

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

Saturday, December 9th, 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 10th,

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)

Announcements

The radio broadcast airs during the 10:30 a.m. service on KICS 1550 AM and is given by the Northrop 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 2:00 p.m.

A copy of any Sunday service is available on DVD disc upon request at no charge. Contact Tarci at 402-462-5147 or tarci@fpchastings.org.

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

Greeters: Kim Creech

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

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

Acolytes: Erika Nielsen, Shannon Canady

Nursery: Kim Bogan, Abby Shetler

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.

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.

Poinsettias may be purchased now through December 20 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 local 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.

Order forms may be found on the glass shelf in front of the church office or on the welcome stand in the Memorial Room. Order forms may be returned to the church office with checks payable to FPC.

On November 30, the **Mission Committee delivered** 140 diapers and 51 wipes (for a total of 196) to Catholic Social Services.

The Christmas season is almost here!

Don't miss this special church family event!!

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!

Mariners Moms Group meets on Thursday at noon to discuss "Screentime Struggles." In a world where screens are ubiquitous, how do we help our children effectively utilize them without becoming addicted to them?

Free childcare! Bring a sack lunch if you wish. All moms are welcome!!

"Jesus of Christmas Carols vs. Jesus of Scripture"

Byron Jensen will lead next week's Forum class in an examination of the various ways Jesus is represented in art, music, and scripture, exploring how these various images shape our understanding of Jesus.

Sunday, December 10, 9:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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 Brader know if you'd like the download emailed to you or printed for you, if needed.

**Please help support the Go & Serve mission trip by purchasing from the Bid Board.
Located in the Parlor, Go & Serve Bid Board is open now thru Sunday, December 10.
Your support is greatly appreciated, thank you!**

The Giving Tree

The tags are on the Giving Tree! The Giving Tree is in the Memorial Room and to support 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



DECEMBER 6, 2017 LUNCHEON PROGRAM: MUSIC, LINDA VOLLWEILER

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

Call your reservation to your circle telephone chairperson or to the church office by tomorrow, December 4.



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.

Boy Scouts Troop 200 raked 18 yards last month and **raised more than \$900** in free will donations for **Healthy Beginnings Christmas** care packages and presents! Troop 200 not only raises the money, they also shop for the toys, books, clothes, and household items for the entire family, then wraps and delivers these packages to the grateful recipients!

Troop 200 will be wrapping these presents on Saturday, December 16 in the Annex starting at 3:00p.m. If you would like to boost these packages, you may drop in with your contribution. Cleaning supplies and toys for 13 & 14 year children are currently in need. 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 Saturday, December 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.

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.

This Week --- Dec. 4 – Dec. 9, 2017

Mon, Dec. 4	7:00p-9:00p	Boy Scouts Troop 200 in Basement Scout Room
Tue, Dec. 5	10:30a-11:30a	Staff Meeting in Pastor's Office
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study in <i>Anderson Conference Room</i>
	1:00p	Quilters Meet in Annex
	5:30p-6:30p	W.A.M. Meeting in Anderson Conference Room
Wed, Dec. 6	7:00a-8:00a	Bible@Breakfast in <i>Anderson Conference Room</i>
	11:00a-11:45a	PW Meeting in Library
	11:45a-1:15p	PW Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
	4:00p-6:00p	WNL Activities (Pre-K thru 5 th Grades)
	4:00p-6:00p	Angels Aware Cast Rehearsal in Sanctuary
	6:00p-6:45p	WNL Family Time Meal (All Ages Welcome!)
	6:30p-8:30p	Wood Carvers in Basement
	6:45p-7:30p	Chancel Choir Practice
	6:45p-7:30p	Cal/West Choir Practice (6 th thru 12 th Grades)
	7:30p-8:15p	WNL Bible Study/Fellowship Jr./Sr. High (6 th thru 8 th Grades)
	7:30p-8:15p	Chancel Bells Practice
Thu, Dec. 7	12:00p-1:00p	Mariners Lunch Group in Kessler
	5:30p-6:30p	Christian Education Meeting in Kessler
	6:30p-7:30p	Spanish Class in NW Classroom, Annex
	7:00p-8:30p	Boy Scout Troop 200 Den Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Fri, Dec. 8	10:00a-12:00p	Mahjong Ladies in Youth Room-Basement
Sat. Dec. 9	9:00a-1:00p	Hands Around the World Christmas Sale in Memorial Room
	9:30a-12:00p	Angels Aware Dress Rehearsal in Choir Room