



The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 22.25, Weeks Of: December 9 and December 16, 2018

NOTABLE NOTES FROM...

PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

I am still basking in the glow of our worship services on the first Sunday of the season of Advent. We were blessed with incredible music to set the tone of anticipation and hope in this season.

Our 8:30 contemplative Taize-style service was accompanied by members of our middle school and high school choir, Peter Lainson on guitar, Sarah Wolf on flute, Mary Plock on piano and Rev. Dr. David McCarthy helping to lead the singing.

Our 10:30 service started with a congregational hymn sing. People called out Advent and Christmas hymns and the congregation gloriously sang the first verse of the hymns. (We will be doing this again before our worship services on December 16 and 23, too, so come early!) The prelude was a stunning flute solo by Sarah Wolf called *Avinu Malkenu*, based on a Jewish prayer described as "the oldest and most moving of all the litanies of the Jewish Year." Following that prelude we had an introit offered by our 1st and 2nd Grade Handbell Choir. As a congregation, we sang two beautiful hymns as part of our Advent Wreath candle lighting.

For our choral anthem, the Praise and Alleluia elementary school choirs shared a delightful piece called *I Would Have Been Surprised, Too*, where the singers expressed what they might have felt had they been in Bethlehem when Jesus was born. As part of the sermon, our Chancel Choir sang the opening piece from the cantata, *Small Dancing Light*. This song reminded all of us of the advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love; and that the small dancing light will be dawning in the midst of darkness. The entire cantata will be sung at our 10:30am worship service on Sunday, December 9th.

During the offering, our 3rd-5th Grade Handbell Choir serenaded us with a moving rendition of *Away in a Manger* that incorporated both chimes and handbells. We were blessed with a beautiful medley of piano music during the serving of communion, arranged and played by our pianist Mary Plock. Finally our Preschool and Kindergarten Handbell Choir closed our service with their own rendition of *Away in a Manger*.

I share all of this with you for a few of reasons. First, to remind ourselves as a community how blessed we are by our music program. We have incredible leaders and volunteers in the program who strive to help us create a worship experience that is beautiful and puts our focus on God. The level of participation by children of all ages, youth, and adults is quite remarkable in this day and age, and speaks to an incredible legacy as well as a continued commitment to make music part of our faith journey. And I want to remind you that all are welcome to join our choirs and handbell choirs, so please consider doing so, no matter your age or musical ability.

Second, I share this to remind you that we are now livestreaming our services on the internet, and also archiving them. So if you missed worship this first Sunday of Advent, or you just want to experience it again, you can visit this website. <https://www.facebook.com/fpchastings/videos/2190102997722595/>

(While we do the livestreaming and posting of the services on our Facebook page, you are not required to have a Facebook account to see them.)

Finally, I hope that the music at our worship services provides you some joy and encouragement, particularly in this season of Advent. In the four weeks leading up to Christmas, we focus on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. Those themes are all woven through the music we share during this season. My hope is that your spirit is lifted as you engage with the music during this time, and that it helps to prepare your heart and mind to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ 2000 years ago while together we proclaim "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg

FPC Prayers for:

Judy Brown	Family of Jack Osborne	Sharon Harvey
Celia & Wayne Ganow	Elmer Heeren	Katharine Davis
Ryan Barker	Richard & Wanda Langer	Zelma Fobben
Ramona Shetler	John Harrington	Kathy (& Steve) Illingworth
Brett & Dana Miller	Georgette Smidt (Ted Schroeder's sister)	Arlene Kort
Georgie Evans	Linda Vollweiler	Carolyn Nowka
Steve Thelen (Pamela Lay's brother-in law)	Brooks Borrell (infant son of Kim & Jeremy Borrell, grandson of Bev & Ken Stein)	Beth Utley
		Jeff & Ashley Hermann

Please let us know if you would like to be added to, or removed from, the prayer list by calling the church office at 402-462-5147.

Need a ride to church on Sundays? Call Deacon Moderator Dawna Whitcomb at [402-469-4805](tel:402-469-4805) or the church office at [402-462-5147](tel:402-462-5147).

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

Sunday's service will be broadcast live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings and on Channel 181 Tuesday at 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.

"When working with your attorney to **update your will and estate plan**, please consider including a gift to the First Presbyterian Church Foundation.

--Dave Dirks, Moderator of the Foundation

A copy of any Sunday service is available on DVD disc upon request at no charge. Contact the church office at [402-462-5147](tel:402-462-5147).

HOSPITAL REMINDER

Due to hospital privacy regulations, if you would like the church to know that either you or a family member will be hospitalized or have been admitted, please take a moment and call the church office at [402-462-5147](tel:402-462-5147). Remember... we don't always know what's happening unless you tell us!

2019 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.

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church: On behalf of the children and

clinicians of the Scottish rite speech and language clinic, please accept our appreciation of your generous donation of \$728 to the Hastings Valley Scottish Rite Foundation. The Foundation has supported the children's clinic, located in Hastings, since 1979. The clinic serves children in Adams County as well as Central and Western NE. All services are at no charge to the families.

Meal Train for Kim, Jeremy, Briella and Brooks Borrell!!

Dear First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, NE family: We are so excited to welcome the newest member of our church family, Brooks! Mom is Kim Stein Borrell, Dad is Jeremy Borrell and Brooks' sweet big sister is Briella. Sign up on Facebook to bring the family a meal, or go to the following link www.mealtrain.com/trains/2orko8

December Communion Offering goes to Maryland Living Center

Our Communion Offering for December will help our neighbors at Maryland Living Center, just across 7th Street. The Maryland Center is a transitional home for homeless youth, ages 16-21. The program provides guidance for functioning in community life, taking advantage of educational opportunities, preparing for employment and a career, and enhancing individual independent living. As a part of the transition, Maryland helps with apartment start-up items such as: towels, cleaning supplies, laundry baskets, small trash cans, shower curtains, and gently-used furniture. If you have any of these items, please bring them to a corner of the Memorial Room during December.

Spirituality Lab

Learn and practice together a different form of prayer or meditation at each gathering. Join us to find the information and support you need for a more interesting and fruitful prayer life. 7:00 a.m., *The Upper Room Classroom (upper level Memorial Room)* Questions? Contact Kili.

❖ November 29:

Upcoming Forum Classes

❖ December 9 & 16: Christianity in the Middle East

This Advent, we recall that the Middle East was the birthplace of Christianity, and we consider what life is like for Christians living there today. Drawing upon his time spent in the Middle East and his work as General Manager of Presbyterian World Mission, Pastor Greg will illuminate the religious, political, and cultural context of today's Middle Eastern Christians.

Presenter: Pastor Greg

❖ December 23: Christmas Readings

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. This year's readings will feature writers from outside the United States.

Presenter: Darrel Lloyd

United Harvest is December 15

Together with our neighbors at the First United Methodist church, we offer a monthly no-questions-asked food pantry called United Harvest. Those interested in receiving food should bring boxes or bags. Those interested in volunteering with the event should simply show up on the date of the next distribution and check in at the volunteer sign-in table. Volunteer shifts are 9:30-12:00, and 12:00-2:00.

Joy Offering

During the Christmas services in late December, we traditionally share our generosity with church leaders in The Presbyterian Church U.S.A who are retired or in need of financial help, whether due to declining health or a catastrophic event. This offering also supports the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Parenting Workshop

Mark on your calendars! Children don't come with instruction manuals, sooo First Presbyterian Church is hosting a free Parenting Workshop Saturday, January 26 from 1-5 p.m.

Heir's Apparent Adult Sunday School

A new three-week series, starting today, December 2, "Who needs Christmas?" confirms that we still need Christmas and the world, indeed, needs Christmas.

Hastings Food Pantry Donations

During this time of the year, donations of paper products, soup, pasta, and canned fruit are much appreciated. The Food Pantry has been in operation since 1982 as an all-volunteer organization providing Hastings and the surrounding area with emergency provisions. The first Sunday of each month is a great time to fill up our boxes in the Memorial Room.

Please help support the Go & Serve Mission trip.

The Bid Board Silent Auction, located in the Parlor, starts Dec. 2 and continues through Dec. 16. The items range from gift baskets to quilts. Check it out! Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Soup Group Lunchtime Conversations for Women

All women of the church are welcome to join in casual lunchtime conversations on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The Fall 2018 "Soup Group" sessions feature viewing of a TED talk followed by conversation on topics related to self-care.

❖ December 20: Wrapapalooza!

Free childcare provided with reservation by the Tuesday preceding each gathering. Bring a sack lunch if you wish. Noon-1, Church library.

Updating the Flower and Radio Memorial Lists for 2019

There are still opportunities for 2019 to support the radio and flower ministries. (See dates below.) You can fill in either or both with a memorial. Please call the church office and let Jean know which Sunday you would like for flowers, what kind and color (if you have a preference) how you want the memorial listed and/or which Sunday you would like for radio. Also let the office know if you want the memorial to be perpetual or just for the year. Remember you can do both. There is no cost, however contributions to the fund are always appreciated. Any questions can be directed to Mary Olsen.

Flowers 2019	Radio 2019		
January 12	January 6	July 7	October 13
January 20	February 10	July 14	October 20
March 31	March 31	August 4	December 8
September 29	May 12	August 11	December 15
	May 19	September 1	December 22
		September 5	December 29



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.

- ✓ *Circle I will meet December 19th - 9:30 (Hostess-Peggy Thomson, Lesson-Gayle Fandry)*
- ✓ *Circle II will meet on December 19th - 9:30 (Hostess-Mary Fisk, Christmas Celebration)*
- ✓ *Circle III will meet on December 19th - 1:15 pm (Hostess-Marie Rasmussen, Christmas Celebration)*

New Sock Drive

FPC is partnering with area churches to collect new socks for folks recovering from the fires in California. The shipment will be sent very soon, so help us fill our Sock Bin (all sizes welcome) by December 13. Please bring your sock donations to the designated bin in the Memorial Room. Thank you!

Hastings Symphony Orchestra Annual Christmas Concert

The Hastings Symphony Orchestra Annual Christmas Concert will be held Saturday, December 15 at 3:00pm at the Masonic Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased at the door beginning at 2:15 pm or online at www.hastingsymphony.com Adults - \$20; 60+ - \$18; Students - Free

Friendly Reminder...

- ❖ Be sure to fill out your 2019 Pledge Card and return it to the office.
- ❖ Included in this newsletter is the new version of the SHARING TIME AND TALENTS Form. Even if you filled one out last year, please take the time to fill it out again and return it to the church office. The form has changed and has new opportunities!

Opportunities to Volunteer:

1) Christmas Eve Services: Additional Ushers and Greeters Needed

- Usher Team #4 will need additional volunteers for both the 5:30 and 7:30 services. Please contact Team Captain George Howard if you will be available to help.
- Additional Greeters will also be needed for both services. Please contact the church office if this is something you can help with.

2) WNL Recreation Time: Adult Volunteer(s)

We are in need of at least 1 adult volunteer for our PreK-1st Grade WNL Recreation Time. Recreation Time is held from 4:00-4:30 pm each Wednesday. Volunteers are asked to be at the church, ready to go at 3:55. This age group meets in the same area as the 2nd through 5th Grade group, but participates in their own activities. Below is a brief description of the WNL Recreation Leader role.

- Leads the recreation/craft/hobby activities that are to be offered.
- Encourages and affirms volunteers.
- Plans carefully for each session.
- Relates to the young people as a leader, friend, and role model.
- Prays regularly for each student and leader by name.

Please consider helping out with WNL Recreation Time. Any help, from weekly, bi-weekly, to once a month would be great. Contact Stephanie by email stephanie@fpchastings.org or phone 402-462-5147.

**Homemade
Cinnamon Rolls**



**Go & Serve
Fundraiser**

This year we are offering something new. You can pick up a pan of 6 baked fresh rolls OR you can request to have your rolls frozen and you can bake when you would like!

**If you request yours to be frozen, you will get a package of 6 rolls along with a bag of frosting.

**All orders will be ready for pick up in the Church kitchen Sunday December 16th.

**If you can not make that date let us know and we can make other arrangements.

6 Cinnamon Rolls \$12 (one pan). Total number of pans _____

Baked _____ or Frozen _____

Name _____ Phone # _____



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

Christmas Caroling: Sunday, December 16, 1:00 p.m.

We'll car pool to area assisted living and nursing homes, enjoying fellowship and spreading Christmas cheer. All ages are welcome; all voices appreciated! Meet in the Memorial Room.

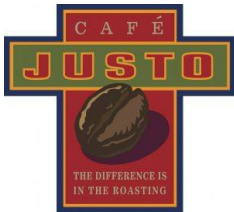
- ❖ December 9: Second Sunday of Advent. One worship service at 10:30 for the Choral Cantata.
- ❖ December 17: Third Sunday of Advent. Worship services at 8:30 and 10:30am.
- ❖ December 23: Fourth Sunday of Advent. Service of "Lessons and Carols" at 8:30 and 10:30am.
- ❖ December 24: Christmas Eve Services: 2:00pm at College View Retirement Home with Choir, 5:30pm Family Service, 7:30pm Traditional Service, 11:00pm Evensong Service in the Chapel

We will also be distributing an Advent Devotional guide to all of our members, written by the composer of the cantata. So as a church, we will walk through the season of Advent studying, praying and worshipping together.

The Giving Tree

The tags will be hung on the **Giving Tree December 2!** 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 16*. 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



Hands Around the World Store Christmas Fair Trade Sale

Saturday, December 8th, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. All our Fair Trade 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, holiday decorations, gourmet chocolates, spices, teas, coffee, and much more. Purchasing products from the store also supports our local mission, United Harvest, as we give \$100 from the store, each month, helping to feed those in need in our community.



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias may be purchased in honor of, 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 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 your order form to the church office as soon as possible.

Poinsettia in memory of: _____

Poinsettia in honor of: _____

Given by: _____

I will take my poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve services: Yes No

I will leave my poinsettia at the church: Yes No

SHARING TIME AND TALENTS

Household Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Each household member should initial where interested in serving.

Serve on Committee

___ Christian Education: Youth / Adult
___ Memorial ___ Deacons
___ Mission ___ Personnel
___ Worship/Arts/Music ___ Trustees
___ Scholarship ___ Session
___ Nominating ___ Go & Serve
___ Tech. & Comm. ___ Foundation
___ Congregational Life

Sunday School- Children August- May

___ Teacher 9:15-10:15am
 ___ PreK-Kindergarten
 ___ 1st-2nd Grade
 ___ 3rd-4th Grade
 ___ 5th Grade
 ___ 6th-7th Grade
 ___ 8th Grade (confirmation)
 ___ 9th-12th Grade
___ Teacher Assistant
___ Confirmation Mentor

Sunday School- Adult

___ Forum Leader
 Topic _____
___ Forum Video Recording Technician
___ Heirs Apparent Leader Substitute

Worship

___ Usher ___ Reg./ ___ Substitute
___ Greeter ___ Reg./ ___ Substitute
___ Serve Communion
___ Read Scriptures
___ Give Reflections

Music

___ Chancel Choir
___ Bell Choir
___ Celebrate Band Singer
___ Celebrate Band Instrumentalist
 Instrument _____

Wednesday Night Live August- May

___ PreK-Kindergarten Teacher 5:00-6:00pm
___ Elementary Teacher 4:30-5:00pm
 ___ 1st- 2nd Grade
 ___ 3rd- 4th Grade
 ___ 5th Grade
___ Jr./Sr. High Teacher 7:30-8:15pm
 ___ 6th-8th Grade
 ___ 9th-12th Grade
___ Teacher Assistant
___ Table Parent (6:00- 6:45pm)
___ Recreation Leader (3:55-4:30pm)
___ Table Setter and Decorator
___ Greeter (3:45-4:15pm)
___ Meal Preparer/Server/Clean-Up
___ Laundry

Nursery, Volunteer Care Special Events

___ Daytime ___ Evening ___ Either

Vacation Bible School

___ Teacher ___ Helper ___ Set- up

Technology

___ Run Camera during Worship
___ Run Soundboard during Worship
___ Run T.V./Screens during Worship

Funeral & Special Service Luncheons Set-up Bring a dish Serve Clean up**Other** Volunteer in Nursery (10:30 service) Home Page Assembly (Tuesday Mornings) Mass Mailing Prep (As Needed) Office Assist Copying Project(s) Proofreading Organize Name tags Cleaning Church Mice (Pick up and re-stock Sanctuary pews) Care for Planted Flowers in & around church during summer Receive, Arrange and Care for Poinsettias Photograph Church Events Provide Vehicle for Moving Large Items Deliver Food/Diapers to Local Missions Organize Fun Events (Sports, Potluck, Fieldtrips) Library Assistant Sew/Quilt/Knit/Crochet Prayer Chain Help to update and maintain Church Directory (calling member to verify contact info, etc.) Help to update and maintain Church Pictorial Directory (upload photos, data, etc.) Christmas Program (kids) Set-up Costumes Direct Drama Direct Music Accompany Share Art Talents Participate/Lead Small Group Bible Study**Comments:**

"Giving has always been a mark of Christian commitment and discipleship. The ways in which a believer uses God's gifts of material goods, personal abilities, and time should reflect a faithful response to God's self-giving in Jesus Christ and Christ's call to minister to and share with others in the world."

-Presbyterian Book of Order

Home Page

First Presbyterian Church

621 North Lincoln Avenue

Hastings, NE 68901

Phone: 402-462-5147, Fax 402-462-6818

Email: fpc@fpchastings.org

Website: www.fpchastings.org

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 the Friday prior to publication. Submissions may be edited for length and suitability. You may send articles to the church office: fpc@fpchastings.org or call 402-462-5147.

But the angel said to them,
“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news
that will cause great joy for all the people.
Today in the town of David
a Savior has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11