



**December 23, 2018, 10:30 a.m.  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**HYMN SING** Call out your favorite hymn and we will sing a verse or two!

**PRELUDE** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" arr. Robert Thygerson  
Linda Vollweiler, Organist

**WELCOME** Pastor Greg

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Luke 1)**

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

***And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.***

God has looked with favor on all of us!

***Surely, from now on all generations will be blessed;***

For the Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is his name.

***His mercy is for all of us, from generation to generation!"***

**\*HYMN AND PROCESSION OF ADVENT BANNER**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 6 & 7)

88

**LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**

Gosda Family

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ; the candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world; and the candle of Joy, remembering the Spirit within us who brings joy.

***Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love.***

Scripture tells us "There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear."

***God created this world in love. God's love is present in all aspects of this life.***

From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God's love is there.

***On this day, we remember God is Love.***

Come hope, come peace, come joy, come love. Come Lord Jesus!

**CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (verse 1)

82

(As the family lights the candle on the Advent wreath, the congregation will sing this hymn.)

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND SILENT CONFESSION

*Loving God, even in the midst of this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. In spite of holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists, and trying to get the shopping done. We fail to think about your reordered world — a world where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are filled with good things. Help us adjust our Christmas priorities that we might join with you, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the one who brings us peace.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The ancient promises of God are fulfilled.

**God does not forget us.**

God’s mercy extends from generation to generation.

**Let our souls rejoice in God!**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and loved!

**Alleluia! Amen!**

\*RESPONSE “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me” 582

\*PEACE OF CHRIST (Greet others around you this morning by exchanging the Peace of Christ.)

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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

READING 1: Luke 1:26-38 – Keira Erickson

(The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce that she will give birth to Baby Jesus.)

HYMN “To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary” (verses 1, 4 & 6) 98

READING 2: Matthew 1:18-24 – Carter Wenburg

(The angel Gabriel visits Joseph to announce that Mary will give birth to Baby Jesus.)

READING 3: Luke 2:1-7 – Lexi Longshore

(Announcement of the census that sends Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

Baby Jesus is born in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes.)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

The children will come down to the front while the congregation sings:

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (verses 1 & 2)

HYMN “Away in a Manger” (verses 1 & 2) 115

Led by Damen Heitmann on guitar

READING 4: Luke 2:8-14 – Esther Allen-Pickett

(The angel appears to the shepherds and invites them to find the Christ child, singing glory to God!)

\*HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (verse 1) 119

READING 5: Luke 2:15-20 – Greg Allen-Pickett

(The shepherds go to Bethlehem and meet Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus.)

MESSAGE “Good News of Great Joy for all People”

HYMN “Joy to the World!” 134

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

OFFERTORY "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful" arr. Kenneth Varner

\*DOXOLOGY “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (verses 1 & 4) 133

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with us. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace; in Christ’s name. Amen.***

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.***

\*CLOSING HYMN “Love Has Come” 110

\*CHARGE and BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE "Fanfare in D" Joseph C. Bridge

(\*Indicates the congregation shall stand as they are able.)

**December 24 – Christmas Eve Services:**

2:00pm Christmas Eve Service at College View Retirement Home

5:30pm Family Christmas Eve Service

7:30pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

11:00pm Contemplative Evensong Christmas Eve Service in the Chapel

**December 30**

10:30 – Traditional Service (No 8:30am Service or 9:15am Sunday School.)

***First Presbyterian Church of Hastings  
Sharing the love of Christ in the heart of Hastings since 1873***

**Head of Church:** Jesus Christ

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

**Director of Children & Family**

**Ministries:** Stephanie Brader

**Organist and Music Coordinator:** Linda Vollweiler

**Calvin/Westminster Choir Director:** Linda Johnson

**Praise/Alleluia Choir Directors:** Tim and Teresa Canady

**Praise/Alleluia Bells Choir Director:** Dr. Susan Oliver

**Accompanists:** Mary Plock and Alice Throckmorton

**Parish Associate and Spiritual Formation:** Kili Wenburg

**Ministers:** Members of the Church

**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Damen Heitmann

**Interim Director of Adult Education &**

**Fellowship:** Sharon Brooks

**Chancel Choir Director:** Dr. Robin Koozer

**Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster**

**Bells Director:** Dr. Byron Jensen

**Church Office Administrator:** Jean Matheny

**Facilities Manager:** Tony Calhoun

**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey

**December 23, 2018:**

**The radio broadcast** airs during the 10:30 a.m. service on KICS 1550 AM and is given in memory of Hal Lainson by the Lainson family.

**Today's service will be broadcast live** on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fpchastings](http://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 - 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 Jean in the office at 402-462-5147 or [jean@fpchastings.org](mailto:jean@fpchastings.org).

**Need a ride to church on Sundays?** Request a ride by calling Deacon Moderator Dawna Whitcomb at 402-469-4805 or the church office at 402-462-5147.

**2019 Offering Envelopes** are located on the glass shelf in front of the church office and on the welcome stand in the Memorial Room.

**Ushers Today (Team #4):** George Howard – Captain,  
Dixie McDonald, Gale McDonald

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 5:30 Susie Graham,  
Dixie McDonald, Gale McDonald

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:30 George Howard – Captain, Susie Graham,  
Dixie McDonald, Gale McDonald,  
Dan Zabloudil, Vera Zabloudil

Dec. 30 George Howard – Captain, Susie Graham,  
Dixie McDonald, Gale McDonald

**Greeters Today:** Todd Pankratz & Jessica Meeske, Julia Thomsen

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 5:30 Paul & Belinda Nuss, Eleanor Jorgensen,  
C.L. & Sandra Wimer,  
Don & Marie Rasmussen

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:30 Scott & Willie Kummer,  
Kent & Bonnie Grams,  
Steve & Lisa Cropley

Dec. 30 Flossie Sanderson, Eleanor Jorgensen

**Acolytes:** Keira Erickson, Selah Wenburg

**Nursery:** Kim Bogan, Andrea Franzen,  
Laura Peterson

**FPC Prayers for:**

Judy Brown	Family of Jack Osborne	Katharine Davis
Celia & Wayne Ganow	Elmer Heeren	Zelma Fobben
Ryan Barker	Richard & Wanda Langer	Kathy (& Steve) Illingworth
Ramona Shetler	John Harrington	Arlene Kort
Sharon Harvey	Georgie Evans	Carolyn Nowka
Jeff & Ashley Hermann	Robin Koozer & Family	Lynn and Andy Barrows
Steve Thelen (Pamela Lay's brother-in law)	Brooks Borrell (infant son of Kim & Jeremy Borrell, grandson of Bev & Ken Stein)	

*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.*

## This Week at FPC --- December 24 – December 30, 2018

<b>Mon, Dec 24</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Church Office Closing for the week</b>
	<b>2:00p</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service at College View Retirement Home</b>
	<b>5:30p</b>	<b>Family Christmas Eve Service</b>
	<b>7:30p</b>	<b>Traditional Christmas Eve Service</b>
	<b>11:00p</b>	<b>Contemplative Evensong Christmas Eve Service in the Chapel</b>
<b>Tues, Dec 25</b>		<b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>Wed, Dec 26</b>		<b>No Activities-Office Closed</b>
<b>Thurs, Dec 27</b>		<b>No Activities-Office Closed</b>
<b>Fri, Dec 28</b>		<b>No Activities-Office Closed</b>
<b>Sun, Dec 30</b>		<b>No 8:30a Service</b>
		<b>No Sunday School-All Ages</b>
	<b>10:30a</b>	<b>Traditional Worship Service</b>

Please note...

*The Church office will be closed at noon, Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve Day through Tuesday, January 1, 2019.*

*We will be checking phone messages and email.*

### Soup Group for Women

❖ Jan 17 – Topic to be determined.

*12:00-1:00pm in the Library. Bring a sack lunch if you wish.*

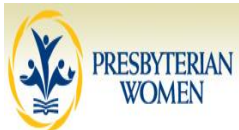
### Heir's Apparent Adult Sunday School

A new six-week series starts January 6, "Creed: What Christians Believe and Why" focuses on the Apostle's Creed. This a study of historic Christian faith and how it matters in lives today. The study asks questions such as: How does belief affect us? What is the source of our belief?



**The next Red Cross Blood Drive** will be Tuesday, **Jan 8, 2019**, from 12 noon – 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendar now! To donate or volunteer your time, please call Erica Brooks, FPC

Parish Nurse, at [402-469-9285](tel:402-469-9285) or sign up at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).



**Presbyterian Women's (PW) Cookbooks** are once again available just in time for that last minute Christmas present or as a keepsake memento of your church family! Cookbooks are located in the Memorial Room for the low, low price of \$5.00.

### Upcoming Forum Class

❖ January 6: the Rule of Saint Benedict

The rule of Saint Benedict is summed up as "prayer and work". As the new year prompts reflection, we will consider the precepts of this ancient tradition.

*Presenter: Wendy Keele*

**Poinsettias Given In Memory of**

Lorna, Mark & Hazel Zajek  
Anne Bohlke  
Charles & Lois Hafer

Dick & Daveta Brader  
Kathy Utter and family  
Brad & Dawna Whitcomb, Dacia and Launa  
Monte Malouf, Jr.  
The Northrop Family  
Carl Sanderson's Family  
Steve & Lesa Cropley  
Ken & Bev Stein, Kim & Jeremy Borrell and Family,  
Justin Stein, Jen Davis  
Ken & Bev Stien and Family, Barb Davis, Jen Davis  
Hermes, Bliss, and Olsen Families  
Elaine Specht and sons, Jim and Jon  
Jan Bolliger

Kenny & Susie Graham; George & Jeni Howard  
Marylee Phelps  
Doug & Marnie Soderquist

Marilyn Nielsen  
Will & Ginny Locke  
Justin, Kili, Carter, Selah Wenburg  
Stephanie & Tyler Adam

Lois & James Hahne  
Shoemaker/Friedewald Family  
Pat, Jamie, and Bailey Hickok  
Kathy & Curtis Reimer and family  
Jim, Carol and Kristan Harrenstein;  
Tracy & Kenny Brooks  
McDougal family  
John & Linda Carlsson and Cal & Jane Johnson  
Bob Unger  
Redinger Family  
Nowka Family  
Byron & Deb Jensen  
Galen & JoAnn Finley Family  
Denny & Carole Storer

Charles & Lois Hafer  
Monte Malouf, Jr.  
Hermes, Bliss, and Olsen Families  
John, Sharon, Michael, and Matthew Brooks  
Will & Ginny Locke  
Stephanie & Tyler Adam

Don & Marie Rasmussen  
Cal & Jane Johnson  
Byron & Deb Jensen  
Bliss & Hermes Families  
Chris Olsen and Erica Olsen

Lorna's mom, Hazel Gordan  
Jon Bohlke and Ardyce Bohlke  
Merel & Annabelle Hafer and Boyde & MaryLou  
Lemaster  
Brandon Brader  
Dennis Utter  
Anthony F. Epp: Don & Sally Whitcomb  
Monte Malouf, Sr.  
Michele Northrop; Frank Northrop; David Northrop  
Carl Sanderson  
Loved Ones  
Willard and Della Stein

Lyle Davis  
Hal Lainson  
Wayne Specht  
Parents Don & Lucille McHargue;  
My sister Marcia Meshbesh  
Our parents, George & Marion Howard  
Ralph Phelps  
Lloyd & Virginia Wright; Julie Soderquist;  
Calvin & Phyllis Soderquist  
Loved Ones  
Dr. Jack Dodge: Ken Stading  
Rogene Wenburg  
Paul Durrence: Liviana Mae Schmitt

Dale, Dorothea & Rodney Hahne  
Alfred & Dorothy Friedewald; Ome & Honor Shoemaker  
Ginger Newhart  
Mike Kneale (Papa)  
Our loved ones

O. J. McDougal: Jim McDougal  
Walter & Lula Buhr; Vance & Doris Anderson  
My brother, Kurt A. Unger  
Eleanor Clawson  
Larry Nowka  
Nicole Jensen  
Our Parents  
Chuck Evans

**Poinsettias Given In Honor Of**

Our children and their families  
Virginia Malouf  
Gretchen Lainson  
Andrea  
The Music Ministry  
Our parents: Colleen & George Adam, and  
Audrienne Durrence  
Our Children  
Robin Koozer and the Christmas Cantata musicians  
Hannah and Nathan Jensen  
Margaret & Charles Hermes  
Mary & Jorn Olsen

