



**December 1, 2019, 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent**

HYMN SING

Linda Vollweiler, Organist

PRELUDE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Mary Plock, pianist

(The prelude is an opportunity to worship God, a time of prayer, meditation, and reflection.)

WELCOME

Greg Allen-Pickett

*HYMN AND PROCESSION OF ADVENT BANNER

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (vs. 1 & 6)

88

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Canady Family

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.

As we enter this Advent season, we come to this space all too familiar with the darkness, and hungry for hope.

We will be reminded of hope today as we come to the baptismal font and the Lord’s Table.

We will light the candle of hope today as a prayer and a reminder that darkness will not win.

Love will win.

For we read, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

As we light the first Advent candle, let us give thanks and praise to the God of hope!

CANDLE HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (vs. 1)

82

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

Kili Wenburg

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 focused on the negative 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 hope, for we ask these things in Jesus' name.

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, we are forgiven and loved!

Alleluia! Amen!

*RESPONSE

"Glory to God"

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)

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Gatlin Thomas Stokely and Callan James Stokely Parents: Jake and Kelsey Stokely

BAPTISM QUESTION FOR THE CONGREGATION

Through the act of baptism, these children will be received into Christ's church, and we all have a role in their nurture. To that end, I ask the congregation, do you promise, with God's help, to support and pray for these children and their parents? And do you promise to love these children and to assist them in becoming faithful followers of Jesus Christ? If so, please respond by saying say, "We do." ***We Do.***

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostle's Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 – Isaiah 2:1-5

ANTHEM “Come As You Are” David Crowder, Matt Maher, Ben Glover
Celebrate Band

2nd SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 1:11-45

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

MESSAGE “Kinship and Hope”

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

OFFERTORY “Prepare the Royal Highway” arr. Paul Manz

*DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” 606

*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.

(All of the bread is prepared by volunteers with gluten-free ingredients)

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC “Let Us Break Bread Together” arr. Dale Wood

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 of your Son, who taught us to share this meal. Now send us, abounding with your healing grace, to remember, love, and serve, never ceasing until the world fills with Christ's hope! Amen.

*HYMN "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" 87
(During the singing of the final hymn, we will take a second offering to benefit Food from the Heart, the casserole ministry of First Presbyterian Church. The congregation is invited to come down to the communion table and place their offering in the basket.)

*CHARGE and BLESSING

*BLESSING RESPONSE "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" (vs. 3) 87

*POSTLUDE "March" Flor Peeters
(The postlude serves as a musical blessing for worshipers as they transition out into the world.)

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

COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP NEXT WEEK &
INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS!

8:30 – Contemplative Taizé-Style Service with Communion

9:15 – Sunday School for children, youth, and adults

10:30 – Traditional Service - Second Sunday of Advent

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
Sharing the love of Christ from 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

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey

Ministers: Members of the Church

Associate Pastor: Rev. Damen Heitmann

Parish Associate: Kili Wenburg

Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Robin Koozer

Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster

Bells Director: Dr. Bryon Jensen

Church Office Administrator: Jean Matheny

Facilities Manager: Tony Calhoun

Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger

December 1, 2019:

The radio broadcast airs during the 10:30 a.m. service on KICS 1550 AM and is given in loving memory of David E. Northrop by the Northrop family.

Today'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, 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.

Need a ride to church on Sundays? Request a ride by calling Deacon Moderator Joan Shaw at 402-460-8195 or the church office at 402-462-5147.

December Ushers (Team #4): George Howard, Captain, Susie Graham, Dixie McDonald, Gale McDonald, Ted Schroeder, Lori Schroeder

Greeters Today: Margaret Koontz, Dick & Pat Kleiber

Greeters Next Week (December 8): Pam Lay, Jim & Kathy Duval

Acolytes: Olivia Canady, Ryan Barker

Nursery: Kim Bogan, Abigail Shetler

FPC Prayers for:

Jim & Mary Jeanne Cooke	Kristine Cook (Katharine Davis' sister)	
Cheryl Ann Elfond	Zachary, Noble, Cale Henderson	Darrel Lloyd
Celia & Wayne Ganow	Irina Erickson's Mom	Janet Schawang
Norm Giesler	Jeff Howard	Joan Shaw and Family
Jim Hahne	Family of Lee Kreager	Alden Talbert (Bill's Dad)
Jim Harrenstein	Gretchen Lainson	
Jane Horton	Chris Wheeler (Carol Wheeler's son)	

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.

In Memory of Franklin Reis of Waverly, NE who passed away Thursday, Nov. 14. Services were held Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019, at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church of Lincoln.

December Communion Offering goes to Food from the Heart, an FPC program providing a casserole for those who need a hug and to know someone cares in times of need.

**ATTENTION ALL USHERS AND GREETERS
(and anyone else who is willing to help!)**

The Christmas season is almost upon us. Yes, hard to believe but true! As with every year, we have several services which will be in need of ushers and greeters.

- ❖ Please contact the church office if you will be available to greet for either the 5:30pm or 7:30pm service.
- ❖ Please contact George Howard, December Usher Captain, if you will be available for either the 5:30pm or 7:30pm service.



Third Saturday of the Month
Annex Building
Lincoln and 7th St. Hastings

Sponsored by:
First United Methodist Church
First Presbyterian Church

A mobile pantry is a traveling food pantry that delivers food to families in need through a one day distribution. Our goal is to provide food where there is a high need, but resources are limited. The mobile food pantry is available to all free of charge. The institutions providing the food are equal opportunity providers.

December 21, 2019		
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting at:	9:30 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting at:	9:45 AM
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting at:	10:00 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting at:	10:15 AM
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting at:	10:30 AM
A, B	May park and get number starting at:	10:45 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting at:	11:00 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting at:	11:15 AM

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. Plastic bags can be brought to the church office and donated to the cause.



Soup Group for Women meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, 12:00-1:00pm in the Library. Bring a sack lunch if you wish.



Heirs Apparent Adult Sunday School meets during the Sunday School hour in the Anderson Conference Room. The first study for the semester will be on Simon Peter. Grab a cup of coffee and join us.



Bible @ Breakfast meets every Wednesday at 7 a.m. in the Parlor. Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh will be leading a study on the “Rise of the Apocalyptic Imagination.” There is no specific study book designated at this point.



Forum Adult Sunday School Class meets at 9:15am in the Adult Ed Classroom (next to the Church Office)
❖ December 8, 15, 22: Gift of Music



Knitters and Crocheters If you like to knit and/or crochet, join us for our knitting/crocheting *fellowship group*, the **Knit Wits**. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, 7:00-8:00/8:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Bring whatever project you're currently working on or stop in for pointers on how to get started. Join us for refreshments, fellowship, and fun!



First Presbyterian Church-Hastings has an “APP” for you! Our directory of names, contact information, and corresponding family photos is ready for you to create your login at <http://instantchurchdirectory.com>. You will use the email address from your 2018 listing to gain access because only members will be able to create a login and load an app on their phones.

Presbyterian Women meet for food, fellowship, and programs the first Wednesday of the month at 11:45am in Fellowship Hall. The next luncheon will be December 4. Please RSVP to your Circle calling chairman and to the Office by December 2nd. The program will be given by Jon Marquez and the Hastings High School Choir.



Circle II will prepare lunch and provide kitchen helpers. Circle III will set tables, provide centerpieces, devotions, nametags, Hunger Cups, and act as cashiers.

This Week at FPC --- December 2, 2019 – December 8, 2019

Mon, Dec 2	8:15a-9:15a	Walkers in PEACE Center
	1:00p-3:00p	Pickle Ball in PEACE Center
	2:00p-4:00p	Food from the Heart food prep
	6:00p-8:00p	Mexican Dance Troupe in PEACE Center
	7:00p-9:00p	Scout Troop 200-Boys/Girls
	7:30p-9:30p	Chorus of the Plains
Tues, Dec 3	8:15a-9:15a	Walkers in PEACE Center
	10:30a-11:30a	Staff Meeting
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study in Anderson Room
	1:30p-4:00p	Quilters meet in P.E.A.C.E. Center
	5:30p-8:00p	Pickle Ball in P.E.A.C.E. Center Gym
	5:30p-6:30P	WAM in the Anderson
Wed, Dec 4	8:15a-9:15a	Walkers in PEACE Center
	7:00a-8:00a	Bible @ Breakfast in the Parlor
	9:30a-10:10a	HC Chapel at French Memorial Chapel
	11:00a-11:45a	PW Coordinating Team
	11:45a-1:20p	PW Luncheon
	4:00p-6:00p	Pre-K thru 8th Grade
		Christmas Program Rehearsal (WNL)
	6:00p-6:45p	WNL Family Mealtime <i>All are welcome!</i>
	6:20p-6:50p	WNL Calvin Middle School and Westminster High School Bells
	6:30p-8:00p	Wood Carvers meet in Church Basement
	6:45p-7:30p	Chancel Choir
	6:50p-7:30p	WNL Calvin Middle School and Westminster High School Choir
	7:30p-8:15p	Chancel Bells
	7:30p-8:15p	WNL Bible Study and Fellowship: Middle School (6th – 8th) Youth Group
7:30p-8:15p	WNL Bible Study and Fellowship: High School (9th - 12th) Youth Group	
Thurs, Dec 5	7:00a-8:00a	Retreat in the Real World in Adult Ed Room
	8:15a-9:15a	Walkers in PEACE Center
	12:00p-1:00p	Soup Group in the Library
	5:30p-8:00p	Pickle Ball in P.E.A.C.E. Center Gym
	6:00p-8:00p	Mexican Dance Troupe in PEACE Center
	6:00p-7:00p	Spanish Class in P.E.A.C.E. Center, NW Classroom
Fri, Dec 6	7:00p-8:00p	Cub Scout Den Meeting in Fellowship Hall
	10:00a-12:00p	Mahjong Ladies in the Youth Room
Sat, Dec 7	9:00a-4:00p	YWCA Christmas Parade of Homes
Sun, Dec 8	8:30a-9:30a	Taizé-Style Worship
	9:15a-10:15a	Sunday School All Ages
	9:15a-10:15a	Pre K-8th Grade Christmas Program Rehearsal
	10:30a-11:30a	Traditional Worship Service 2nd Sunday of Advent



Food from the Heart

The women of our church have started a mission of giving to our friends and families. This mission is called Food from the Heart. Our plan is to get together on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month at 2:00pm. We will prepare the food for casseroles to be placed in the church freezers. Everything will be ready to go when volunteers arrive. It would be nice to have 5-6 people help prepare the meals.

To let Nancy Grams know you are coming to help prepare the casseroles or if you have any questions, call or text her at 402-705-8179



Donation Station Has Moved Looking to donate items to Hastings Food Pantry, Happy Nappies, Pine Ridge, Brooks' Bookshelf, and/or SASA? The Mission committee has moved the ongoing collection tubs for these projects into the fellowship hall. If you stop by to take a look, you'll find clearly marked bins with lists of the items for which these agencies are looking. Thank you for your continued support of these vital ministry partners.



Some years, the joy of Christmas feels hard to reach. If this is that year for you, you are welcome at the **Blue Christmas Ecumenical Service** in Hastings. The Blue Christmas service makes space for us to recognize that melancholy or grief can feel particularly sharp during the holiday season. It will be a solemn service of reflection, scripture, and candlelight. If you or anyone you know would appreciate the time to recognize the sacred in the midst

of the sadness they might be experiencing, please let them know they are welcome to attend Thursday, December 12th, at 6 pm at First Congregational UCC, 2810 W 7th St. Even in our quiet or lonely times, God is with us, holding us and wrapping us in love.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CORNER

The Christmas Season is rapidly approaching! Mark your calendar with these special church family events:

- ♥ **Giving Tree** – Tags Available November 24
- ♥ **Second Sunday of Advent** - December 8
- ♥ **Christmas Caroling** – December 8, 1:15pm
Meet in the Memorial Room. We'll carpool to area assisted living and nursing homes, enjoying fellowship and spreading Christmas cheer. All ages are welcome; all voices appreciated!
- ♥ **Handel's Messiah Sing Along** – December 8, 2:00pm
- ♥ **Third Sunday of Advent** - December 15
- ♥ **Children's Christmas Program** – December 15, 10:30 Service
- ♥ **Fourth Sunday of Advent** - December 22
- ♥ **Christmas Eve Services** December 24th

2:00pm	College View Retirement Home	7:30pm	Traditional Service
5:30pm	Family Service	11:00pm	Evensong Service in the Chapel



Tags will be on the **Giving Tree November 24!** The Giving Tree in the Memorial Room supports clients of Assertive Community Treatments, people with severe and persistent mental illness living in our community. Most are without family support and live on disability or nothing.

Please take a tag from the tree, choose to give one or two items suggested on the tag, wrap the gifts, and place the tag back on them. Return gifts to the tree by Tuesday, *December 10th*, so that ACT staff members have time to deliver the gifts by Christmas. Monetary donations may also be taken to the church office, with checks payable to ACT.



The Hastings Symphony Orchestra and First Presbyterian Church are ministry partners, and this Messiah sing-along is always amazing:

“Messiah” sing-along with the Hastings Symphony Orchestra,
Sunday, December 8, 2019 – 2:00 pm downbeat
Masonic Center Auditorium

Grab Handel’s “Messiah” vocal score, bring family and friends, and sing along with the HSO for a no-rehearsal reading of this incredible work scored for large chorus and orchestra. All participants will sit in their voice category in a space designated on the main floor of the Masonic Auditorium. The downbeat begins with the prelude, and by the time the final Halleluiah chorus concludes, we will have great fun, a few laughs, and of course, make some incredible music together. All participants are requested to make a freewill donation of \$15 or more to offset costs for the HSO instrumentalists.

If you do not own a copy of Handel’s “Messiah,” you can purchase one online for around \$10. If you use a tablet (computer), the music can be downloaded from www.imslp.com free of charge since it is in the public domain. Either the older (gray cover) Schirmer edition or the newer (orange cover) Novello edition will work for this “Messiah” sing-along event. To borrow a church copy, contact Robin Koozer.

Audience members are invited to attend and listen to the joy of this wonderful music. A freewill donation of \$15 or more would also be very helpful in meeting the HSO’s expenses.

For further information, contact Dr. Byron Jensen by email at bjensen@hastings.edu or call the Hastings Symphony Orchestra at (402) 469-9396. We look forward to seeing you on December 8!



Love to Walk? The First Presbyterian Church PEACE Center gym is a great place to walk during the winter months. Shut out of the Mall? The Walkers are your solution from 8:15 to 9:15 Monday through Thursday.

No lectures here about your need to stay fit by walking as you all know that story by now. Afterwards, we have fabulous Café Justo and good conversation, but, hey, that’s the bonus option.

And during the spring through the early, fall we walk in the beautiful Heartwell Park, which provides about a one-mile loop – and second loops are available at no extra charge. Interested? Call or text Denny Storer at 402 460 8804.



Shop Hands Around the World for your Fair-Trade Christmas gifts.

Our products come from artisans who live in poor areas around the globe. Purchasing their goods helps them to feed their families, send their children to school, and improve their lives by becoming economically self-sufficient. Handcrafts include baskets, scarves, jewelry, woolen hats and mittens, holiday decorations, gourmet chocolates, spices, teas, coffee, and more. Purchasing products from the store also supports our local mission, United Harvest. We give

\$100.00, from the store each month to this outreach, which helps to feed those in need in our community. We are open from 9:00-12:00 every Sunday.



Go & Serve Cinnamon Roll Sales

As chili season gets underway and out-of-town company season approaches, it's time to turn your attention to cinnamon rolls, though for some (Damen), it's never **not** time to think about cinnamon rolls. The Go & Servers will once again be embarking on their cinnamon roll fundraiser. Let your hearts rejoice!

To place an order, please complete the form below and return it to the church office or place it in the box on the table in the office workroom. However, there are **a few changes** this year, so please take note:

- 1) **All of the cinnamon rolls will be frozen** so that you can bake them whenever you'd like. They bake easily at home, and this simplifies the process for us.
- 2). Please indicate on the form when you'd like to pick up your rolls. If you'd like your rolls by *Dec 15*, you must turn the form by *Dec. 6*.
- 3) The cost of the rolls is \$12 per pan, and they come 6 rolls to a pan. Included with each pan is a bag of frosting.

Please pay when you pick up your rolls. With your support, Go & Serve continues to play a vital role in the faith formation of our senior high students. Thank you for all you do on behalf of our youth!



GO & SERVE CINNAMON ROLL FUNDRAISER

Name:

Phone #:

Email:

Pick-Up Date

Dec. 15 must turn in form by Dec. 6

Number of Pans:

(\$12 per pan, 6 rolls per pan)



Thank you for your support of Go & Serve!





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 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 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



Go & Serve



Bid Board Donations Needed

Each year, the senior high youth group of First Presbyterian Church has the opportunity to go on a Go & Serve mission trip. the goal of the this trip is to engage students in service projects that work toward the betterment of others while strengthening their own faith.

To help offset the costs of taking trips to various destinations we hold an annual silent auction (Bid Board). This year our silent auction will be held December 1-15. We are always looking for items to put up for auction and are hoping you can help with a **New or Gently Used** donation. Popular items from the past include: themed gift baskets (movie night, animal lover, game night, etc.), gift certificates, professional services, child care, and yard assistance.

Please deliver your donation to the designated cart in the church's common office area **before Sunday, December 1**. Also, please fill out the following form and attach it to your donation.

New/Gently Used Item Being Donated

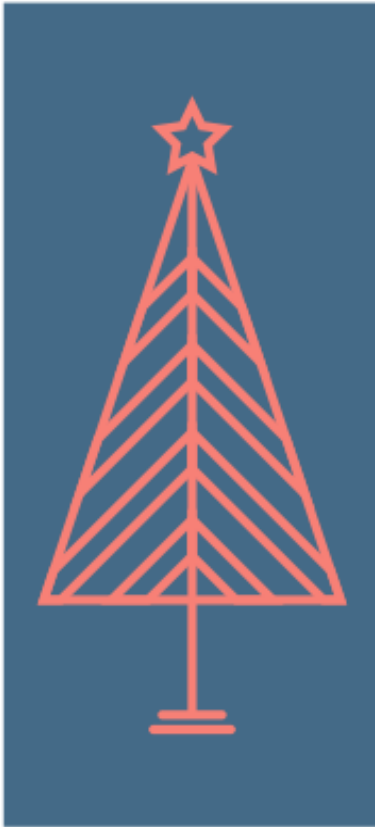
Donated By: _____

Phone & Email: _____

December Forum Class



GIFT OF MUSIC



**DEC
8, 15, 22
9:15AM**

HANNAH JENSEN

The piano teacher and recording artist leads a three-part FORUM on exploring spirituality through creating original music. All skill levels welcome! Join any time!



WELCOMING ALL - LIVING LOVE - TRANSFORMING LIVES