



The Home Page

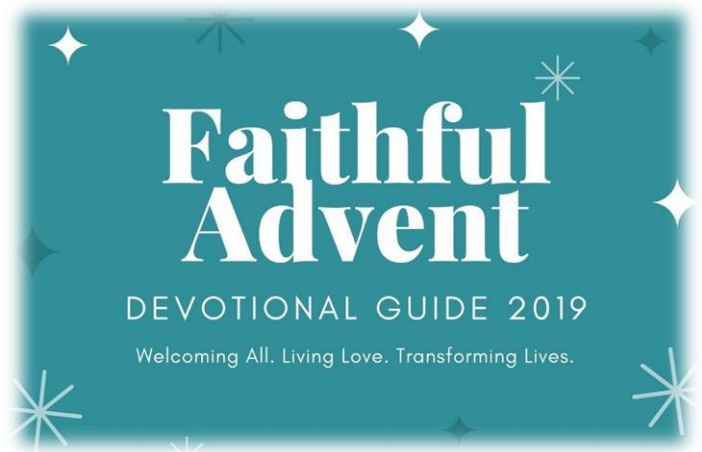
First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 24.24, Weeks of December 8 and December 15, 2019

NOTABLE NOTES

FROM PASTOR GREG

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

The Season of Advent is upon us! What an incredible time in the life of our church. I hope you and your families can come and participate in the many activities, programs, ministries, and mission projects we will be doing this month. Read through this newsletter and pick at least one or two new activities to be a part of as we prepare our hearts and minds not only to celebrate the birth of Jesus 2000 years ago, but also for Jesus' triumphant return one day. Also, if you haven't already picked one up, don't forget to pick up a copy of our Advent Devotional with weekly reflections, daily prayers, and a "Reverse Advent Calendar" to help us collect supplies for our local ministry partners.



I've always appreciated the themes of Advent and the ways that they can spark our imagination and remind us of the ways that the Holy Spirit is at work in the world. Each week we focus on a new theme that brings light into our lives and into the darkness of the world.

Every year, I reflect on this poem written by John Birch, an American Baptist minister and missionary who served in China. It reminds me of the hope of the season of Advent, a hope based in Jesus Christ as Emmanuel, God with us:

God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the center, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

-John Birch

May your Advent Season be filled with hope, love, joy, and peace.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg

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.



Need a ride to church on Sundays? Call Deacon Moderator Joan Shaw at [402-460-8195](tel:402-460-8195) 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
- on Channel 181 Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- at Good Samaritan Village, the 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

HOSPITAL REMINDER

Due to hospital privacy regulations, for 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. Remember... we don't always know what's happening unless you tell us!

Hastings Food Pantry-Donations Needed



On the first Sunday of every month, please bring items to place in the blue bins in the Donation Station located in Fellowship Hall for the

Hastings Food Pantry. Non-perishable foods and paper products are always needed to keep the Pantry resupplied. Deacons will deliver the items to the pantry supply center.

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).

Mission Committee Update

- The committee delivered 25 long-sleeved shirts for our migrant workers to Proteus on Nov. 20th. Jody Stutsman sent her thanks to all who have been so generous in contributing these shirts.

- The committee delivered 85 diapers to Catholic Social Services on Nov. 21st. The new location for the Donation Station is so convenient.

Brooks' Bookshelf Our son, Brooks, was born on October 10, 2018. Three days after his birth, he was diagnosed with Trisomy 21: Down Syndrome. He is a happy, strong, loving, unique individual and a true blessing to our family. He makes our lives better every day!

Brooks' Bookshelf was created in celebration of our amazing son. He is an inspiration to anyone who is lucky enough to know him! The bookshelf is a way to share the joy of reading and also spread the awareness of Down Syndrome. Bookshelves where children are welcome to take a book home will be located throughout our community!

Each bookshelf will include books of all interests with some specific books focused on kindness, compassion and a focus on individuals with unique differences. Books to range from picture/baby up to early readers.

Every story and every person is unique and beautiful. We hope that you'll find it in your hearts to donate a book or send a monetary donation to help us in this celebration.

Check out our Amazon wish list under Brook's Bookshelf and other places to donate on our website at brookssbookshelf.org Follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

-Kindly, Brooks Borrell & Family

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

October Giving Update

Budget	General Fund Giving	PC(USA)	Communion Offering
\$47,917	\$30,085	\$152	\$1,241

Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for all the love expressed the past couple of weeks following my surgery. The casserole provided by the Food from the Heart group was delicious and so sweetly delivered by Marie and Don Rasmussen, along with a huge bonus of their own homemade rolls. I have so appreciated the love outpoured through cards, visits, calls, flowers, and prayers. My recovery has taken a major upswing, and I have no doubt it has been with much thanks to my church family.

-Truly grateful, Kathy Reimer

Dear Partners in God's Mission

In Paul's letter to the church at Philippi, he wrote, "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:3-6, NRSV). On behalf of Presbyterian Mission, please allow me to express our appreciation to you, your pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support with your donation of \$142 toward the Hunger Fund. Your contribution changes people's lives for the sake of the gospel around the world.

-Bill McConnell, Presbyterian Mission Engagement and Support

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for your support of our work of feeding starving children and their families through Hearts & Hands Against Hunger of Hastings. Thanks to your help, we've packed over six million meals since our beginning eleven years ago. Each year over 2,000 volunteers from around our area gather at our site and participate in the packing of life-saving meals for hungry people. Last year, with the help of Orphan Grain Train, our meals were shipped to 19 different countries including Haiti, the Philippines, Nicaragua, and many locations in the U.S. Our volunteers span all ages and come from around the community and region to put their hearts and hands to work packing meals. Schools, church groups, families, clubs, businesses, and individuals participate in packing events. Your gifts to Hearts & Hands Against Hunger make it possible for us to purchase the ingredients that go into these nutritious meals. Together we can make a difference in the lives of hungry people around the world. Thank you for your generosity and support.

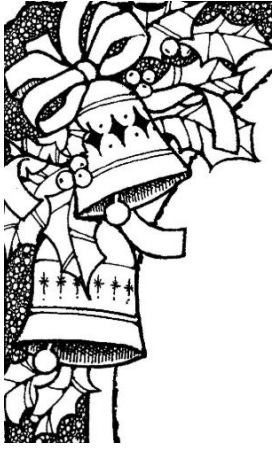
-Jeanne Hastings, HHAH Committee Member

Looking Ahead...



Tags are on the Giving Tree! The Giving Tree in the Memorial Room supports clients of Assertive Community Treatments, people with severe and persistent mental illness who are 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 can deliver the gifts in time for Christmas. Monetary donations may also be given to the church office, with checks payable to ACT.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CORNER

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

- ♥ **Giving Tree** – Tags Available on the tree in the Memorial Room
- ♥ **Second Sunday of Advent** - December 8
- ♥ **Christmas Caroling** – December 8, 1:15 pm
Meet in the Memorial Room. We'll car pool 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



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

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.

Sponsored by:
 First United Methodist Church
 First Presbyterian Church

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.



The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be **Tuesday, January 6, 2020**, 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.



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.



Pickle Ball? You are invited to come to the FPC P.E.A.C.E Center located at 7th and Lincoln Ave. Pickle Ball is a fun blend of ping pong, racquetball, and tennis. It is designed for all ages as a healthy activity for young and old alike. It is lower impact than tennis but just as fun! Equipment is available; you just need to show up!



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>. Use the email address from your 2018 listing to gain access. Only members will be able to create a login and load an app on their phones.



Food from the Heart Program The women of our church have started a mission of giving to our friends and families. 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 at 402-705-8179. The finished casseroles in the freezer are for anyone to take and give away. Feel free to share with non-members also. We care about everyone, so enjoy.



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

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.

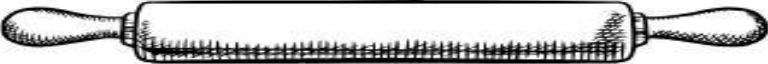


Go & Serve Cinnamon Roll Sales As chili season gets underway and out-of-town company season approacheth, it's time to turn your attention to cinnamon rolls! For some (Damen), it's never not time to think about cinnamon rolls. The Go & Servers will once again be embarking on their cinnamon roll fundraiser. 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.

- 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) We're doing two pick-up Sundays. Please indicate on the form when you'd like to pick-up your rolls.
- 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.

You can 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!



Forum Adult Sunday School Class meets at 9:15am in the Adult Ed Room

❖ December 8, 15, 22: Gift of Music



Heirs Apparent Adult Sunday School Class meets at 9:15am in the Anderson 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.



FPC --- December 8, 2019 – December 21, 2019

Sun, Dec 8	8:30a-9:30a	Taizé Contemplative-Style Worship in the Chapel
	9:15a-10:15a	Sunday School All Ages
	9:15a-10:15a	Pre K-8th Grade Christmas Program Rehearsal
	10:30a	Traditional Worship 2nd Sunday of Advent
	1:15p	Christmas Caroling
Mon, Dec 9	8:15a-9:15p	Walkers in PEACE Center
	1:00p-3:00p	Pickle Ball in PEACE Center Gym
	6:00p-8:00p	Mexican Dance Troupe in PEACE Center
	7:00p-8:00p	Scout Troop 200-Boys/Girls
	7:30p-8:30p	Chorus of the Plains
Tues, Dec 10	8:15a-9:15p	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	Congregational Life in Parlor
	5:30p-6:30p	Trustees in Anderson room
	7:00p-8:30p	Knit Wits in the Parlor
	Wed, Dec 11	8:15a-9:15a
7:00a-8:00a		Bible @ Breakfast in the Parlor
9:30a-10:10a		HC Chapel at French Memorial Chapel
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 <i>Bells</i>
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 <i>Choir</i>
7:30p-8:15p		Chancel Bells
7:30p-8:15p		WNL Bible Study and Fellowship: <i>Middle School (6th – 8th) Youth Group</i>
7:30p-8:15p		WNL Bible Study and Fellowship: <i>High School (9th - 12th) Youth Group</i>
Thurs, Dec 12		7:00a-8:00a
	8:15a-9:15a	Walkers in PEACE Center
	4:30p-5:30p	Global Mission in Parlor
	5:00p-6:00p	Personnel in Kessler room
	6:00p-8:00p	Mexican Dance Troupe in PEACE Center NE Classroom
	6:00p-7:00p	Spanish Class in PEACE Center NW Classroom
	7:00p-8:00p	Cub Scout Den Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Fri, Dec 13	10:00a-12:00p	Mahjong Ladies in the Youth Room
Sat, Dec 14	9:00a-12:00p	Children's Program Rehearsal in Sanctuary

Sun, Dec 15	8:30a-9:15a 9:00a-9:45a 9:15a-10:15a 10:30a	Taizé Contemplative-Style Worship in the Chapel Sunday School All Ages Pre K-8th Grade Christmas Program Rehearsal Traditional Worship Service 3rd Sunday of Advent and Children's Christmas Program
Mon, Dec 16	8:15a-9:15a 1:00p-3:00p 2:00p-4:00 6:00p-8:00p 7:00p-9:00p 7:30p-9:30p	Walkers in PEACE Center Pickle Ball in PEACE Center Gym Food from the Heart Prep in the Kitchen Mexican Dance Troupe in PEACE Center Scout Troop 200-Boys/Girls Chorus of the Plains
Tues, Dec 17	8:15a-9:15a 10:30a-11:30a 12:00p-1:00p 1:30p-4:00p 5:30p-8:00p 6:45p-7:45p	Walkers in PEACE Center Staff Meeting Bible Study in Anderson Room Quilters meet in P.E.A.C.E. Center Pickle Ball in P.E.A.C.E. Center Gym Deacons meet in Anderson
Wed, Dec 18	7:00a-8:00a 8:15a-9:15a 9:30a-10:10a 9:30a-10:30a 9:30a-10:30a 1:15p-2:15p 4:00p-6:00p 6:00p-6:45p 6:20p-6:50p 6:30p-8:00p 6:45p-7:30p 6:50p-7:30p 7:30p-8:15p 7:30p-8:15p 7:30p-8:15p	Bible @ Breakfast in the Parlor Walkers in PEACE Center HC Chapel at French Memorial Chapel Circle I Circle II Circle III Pre-K thru 5th Grade Bible Study, Recreation Time, Choir/Bells (WNL) WNL Family Meal Time <i>All are welcome!</i> WNL Calvin Middle School and Westminster High School Bells Wood Carvers meet in Church Basement Chancel Choir WNL Calvin Middle School and Westminster High School Choir Chancel Bells WNL Bible Study and Fellowship: <i>Middle School (6th - 8th) Youth Group</i> WNL Bible Study and Fellowship: <i>High School (9th - 12th) Youth Group</i>
Thurs, Dec 19	7:00a-8:00a 8:15a-9:15a 12:00p-1:00p 5:30p-7:00p 5:30p-8:00p 6:00p-8:00p 6:00p-7:00p 7:00p-8:00p	Retreat in the Real World in the Adult Ed Room Walkers in PEACE Center Soup Group in the Library Session in Anderson Pickle Ball in P.E.A.C.E. Center Gym Mexican Dance Troupe in PEACE Center Spanish Class in P.E.A.C.E. Center, NW Classroom Cub Scout Pack Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Fri, Dec 20	10:00a-12:00p	Mahjong Ladies in the Youth Room
Sat, Dec 21	9:30a-2:00p	United Harvest





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 for lunch and Fellowship.



Knit Wits. Join us for our knitting/crocheting *fellowship group*, 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!

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 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.

- ✓ Circle I will meet December 18-9:30am (Hostess-May Wierenga; Lesson-Christmas Celebration)
- ✓ Circle II will meet December 18-9:30am (Hostess-Joy White; Lesson- Christmas Celebration)
- ✓ Circle III will meet December 18-1:15 pm (Hostess-Nancy Grams; Lesson- Christmas Celebration)



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 twice-monthly 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 Thursday 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.

³⁸For I am convinced
that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers,
³⁹neither height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation
will be able to separate us
from the love of God
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39