

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. The cries of those in need abound, and we are overwhelmed by the need. Slow us down again, Lord. Cause us to look at the blossoming of the branch and remind us that your love is blossoming in our lives. This morning, help us to remember that God continually calls each of us to be those who will bear the good news to those in need. Forgive us when we forget to do that. Heal our wounds and bind up our spirits. Enable us to go into your world offering our lives, our gifts, our talents, for your glory.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's love and faithfulness have been at work in us!

We are healed, forgiven, and loved.

Rejoice in God's love and blossom.

Alleluia! Amen!

*RESPONSE

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (vs. 1)

113

*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 and sign the Friendship Pads to let us know that you were here this morning.)

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, peace, and joy, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 2:1-20

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

MESSAGE

“Christmas Letters: The Musical”

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Owen Herman

Parents: Jeff and Ashley Hermann

BAPTISM QUESTION FOR THE CONGREGATION

Through the act of baptism, this child will be received into Christ's church, and we all have a role in his nurture. To that end, I ask the congregation, do you promise, with God's help, to support and pray for this child and his parents? And do you promise to love this child and to assist him in becoming a faithful follower 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.

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

OFFERTORY O come, O come Emmanuel; Gentle Mary Laid Her Child John A. Behnke
Praise Bell Choir (3rd-5th Grade), director Susan Oliver

***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, peace, and joy in our world. 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.

***HYMN** "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" (vs. 1-2) 87

***CHARGE and BLESSING**

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

***POSTLUDE** "Trumpet Voluntary" John Stanley/arr. Bish
Linda Vollweiler, Organist
(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 – No Children's Sunday School Today – Christmas Break
9:15 – Sunday School for adults
10:30 – Traditional Service, Fourth Sunday of Advent

CHRISTMAS LETTERS: THE MUSICAL

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Cast of Characters (in order of appearance)

Mother Keira Erickson
Girl Esther Allen-Pickett
Boy Maddux Pumroy
Child 1 Paxton Rhodes
Joseph Harrison Welsch
Child 2 Kelsey Kamarad
Mary Olivia Canady
Singing Group Mary Crum, Vivian Fong, Madilyn Graves, Julia Rippe,
Monroe Runcie, Delilah Turner, Raegan Welsch
Child 3 Monroe Runcie
Innkeeper Laura Kate Oliver
Child 4 Porter Ourada
Shepherd 1 Collin Hermes
Shepherd 2 Ruei Duang
Shepherd 3 Caleb Schukei
Sheep Preschool & Kindergarten children
Angel 1 Meredith Oliver
Other Angels Ian Erickson, Stella Adam, Faith Brader, Launa Epp,
Sophia Hemje, Caroline Ourada
Child 5 Grady Hogan
Angel 2 Moses Rhodes
Angel 3 Addyson Hermes
Angel 4 Grace Brader
Child 6 Charlie Ratzlaff

Participating Children and Youth

Pre-K

Malcolm Eckhardt, Everly Hogan, Charlie Stout, Truman Welsch

Kindergarten

Molly Gosda, Jaxen Mitchell, Peter Ratzlaff, Lincoln Welsch

1st Grade

Stella Adam, Faith Brader, Launa Epp, Sophia Hemje, Caroline Ourada

2nd Grade

Mary Crum, Ian Erickson, Vivian Fong, Madilyn Graves, Grady Hogan, Julia Rippe, Delilah Turner, Raegan Welsch

3rd Grade

Madelynn Gosda, Meredith Oliver, Porter Ourada, Monroe Runcie

4th Grade

Lyla Adam, Esther Allen-Pickett, Ryan Barker, Olivia Canady, Collin Hermes, Kelsey Kamarad, Peyton Mitchell, Charlie Ratzlaff, Caleb Schukei, Harrison Welsch

5th Grade

Henry Black, Ruei Duang, Riley Propp, Maddux Pumroy, Paxton Rhodes

6th Grade

Grace Brader, Ashton Essink, McKain Ratzlaff

7th Grade

Keira Erickson, Addyson Hermes, Laura Kate Oliver, Moses Rhodes

Special Thanks

Music Directors: Tim & Teresa Canady

Sound/Video: Erik Nielsen, Erika Nielsen, and Eric Brader

Sheep costumes: Liesel Hogan and Lydia Kollars

Sanctuary set-up: Justin Brader and Eric Brader

Behind-the-scene helpers: Leah Ratzlaff, Jenni Welsch, Jodi Graves, and Stephanie Bliss

December 15, 2019:

The radio broadcast airs during the 10:30 a.m. service on KICS 1550 AM and is given in memory of Waunita and Don Butler by family and friends.

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: Richard & Connie McClenahan

Greeters Next Week (December 22): Kim Creech,
Clyde & Katharine Sachtleben

Greeters Christmas Eve (December 24) 5:30pm: Curtis & Kathy Reimer,
Paul & Lynette Krieger

Greeters Christmas Eve (December 24) 7:30pm: Erika Brooks & Family,
Gale & Dixie McDonald

Acolytes: No candles, Christmas Program Today

Nursery: Kim Bogan, Leah Ratzlaff

FPC Prayers for:

Jim & Mary Jeanne Cooke	Kristine Cook (Katharine Davis' sister)	
Cheryl Ann Elfond	Zachary, Noble, Cale Henderson	Family of 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	Family of Al Behl
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

- ❖ Darrel Lloyd who passed away Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019. Services will be today, Sunday, Dec. 15, at 2:00pm at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings.
- ❖ Al Behl who passed away Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019. Services were held on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019, at the Fremont Presbyterian Church.

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.

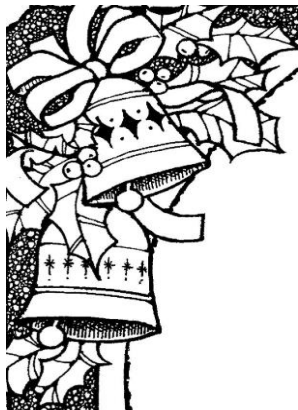
This Week at FPC --- December 16, 2019 – December 22, 2019

Mon, Dec 16	8:15a-9:15a	Walkers in PEACE Center
	1:00p-3:00p	Pickle Ball in PEACE Center
	2:00p-4:00p	NO-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 17	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
	6:45p-7:45p	Deacons in the Anderson
Wed, Dec 18	7:00a-8:00a	Bible @ Breakfast in the Parlor
	8:15a-9:15a	Walkers in PEACE Center
	9:30a-10:10a	HC Chapel at French Memorial Chapel
	9:30a-10:30a	Circle I
	9:30a-10:30a	Circle II
	12:00p-2:30p	Circle III in the Library
	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 19	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-7:00p	Session in Anderson
	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
	7:00p-8:00p	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
Sun, Dec 22	8:30a-9:30a	Taizé-Style Worship
	9:15a-10:15a	NO Youth Sunday School
	9:15a-10:15a	Adult Sunday School
	10:30a-11:30a	Traditional Worship Service
		4th Sunday of Advent

ATTENTION ALL USHERS, GREETERS, & SOUND/VIDEO TECHS (and anyone else willing to help!)

The Christmas season is upon us. Yes, hard to believe but true! As with every year, we have several services which will be in need of additional 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.
- ❖ In addition, Erik Nielson may need extra people to help out. If you are a trained volunteer, please check with Erik to see if he needs more people to cover the sound desk.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CORNER

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

- ♥ **Circles I, II, & III Christmas Celebrations** – December 18th
- ♥ **Fourth Sunday of Advent** - December 22nd
- ♥ **Christmas Eve Services** December 24th
 - 2:00pm College View Retirement Home
 - 5:30pm Family Service
 - 7:30pm Traditional Service
 - 11:00pm Evensong Service in the Chapel

Go & Serve Bid Board Auction



The Bid Board is now active! Thank you all for your generous contributions to Bid Board. This project supports our Go & Serve ministry, and it wouldn't happen without your support. We are no longer accepting items, but please swing by the parlor, pick up a bidder number, and see what great items you can find. Bid Board closes at NOON, TODAY, Sunday, Dec 15, so get those last-minute bids in!



Go & Serve Cinnamon Roll Sales

Let's play a game. How many pans of cinnamon rolls do you think were ordered this year? 100? 120? 150? This year we received orders for 173 pans of cinnamon rolls. That's 1,038 cinnamon rolls.

This announcement officially does three things:

- 1) We are no longer taking cinnamon roll orders. We simply cannot make any more.
- 2) Reminds you to pick up your order TODAY Sunday, December 15.
- 3) Extends unto you a hearty and sincere word of appreciation.

This sale has quickly become one of our best fundraisers for Go & Serve, so please accept our gratitude and this baker's blessing: May your rolls always rise and your icing fall evenly upon your cinnamon swirls.

Presbyterian Women



- ✓ 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 18-12:00 pm in the Library
(Co-Hostesses-Nancy Grams and Marie Rasmussen;
Lesson-Lunch followed by Christmas Celebration)

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 allowing them to become economically self-sufficient. Handicrafts 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.



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.



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

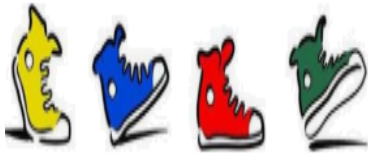
I will leave my poinsettia at the church: ☐ Yes ☐ No



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 to 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.

Casseroles are available to give to anyone who just needs some "Food from the Heart." 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



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.



Sponsored by:
First United Methodist Church
First Presbyterian Church

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.

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. 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.



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!



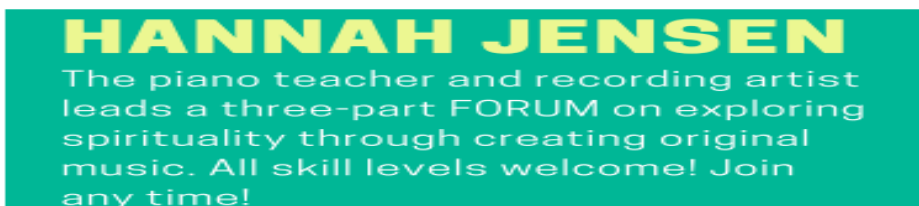
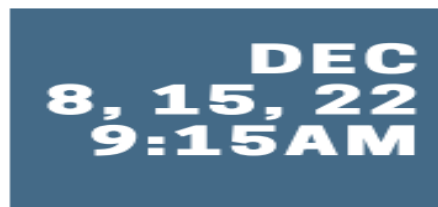
Donation Station Has Moved Looking to donate items to Hastings Food Pantry, Happy Nappies, Pine Ridge, Brooks' Bookshelf, and/or SASA? The Mission committee has moved the ongoing collection tubs for these projects into the fellowship hall. If you stop by to take a look, you'll find clearly marked bins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



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.

Forum Adult Sunday School Class meets at 9:15am in the Adult Ed Classroom (next to the Church Office)





Matthew 2:1-2

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