

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All around, there are signs of God's presence and hope among us, even in this crazy time. Instead, we find ourselves focusing only on signs of gloom and doom. Forgive us, merciful God, when we spend so much time 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 one another by sharing the Peace of Christ with those around you.)
The Peace of Christ be with you!*

And also, with you!

SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

FINDING GOD IN THE SOLITUDE OF COVID TIMES

Kili Wenburg

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 64:1-9

ANTHEM

"I Would Have Been Surprised, Too"

Dan Schlosser

Alleluia Choir (grades 1-2) and Praise Choir (grades 3-5),

Directed by Tim & Teresa Canady; Alice Throckmorton, Accompanist (Pre-recorded from December 2018)

2nd SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 13:24-37

MESSAGE

"The End of the World as We Know It"

Greg Allen-Pickett

HYMN

"The Days Are Surely Coming"

357

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Rev. Stephen M. Fearing)

***We believe that God has come to us,
that God brought us into being,
that this God gave us breath and purpose,
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,
that we have fallen short of this commandment,
but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness. (cont. next page)***

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

10:30 am Stay-at-Home worship

Broadcast live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings and on KICS 1550 AM
(Please note, you do not need a Facebook account to view the service.)

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

Accompanist: Mary Plock

Scholar in Residence: Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh

Ministers: Members of the Church

Associate Pastor: Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Parish Associate: Kili Wenburg

Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Robin Koozer

Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster

Bells Director: Dr. Byron Jensen

Church Office Administrator: Jean Matheny

Facilities Manager: Tony Calhoun

Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,




from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.




Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;




dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.



With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
 B^b F B^b F B^b F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
 2 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
 F B^b E^b B^b Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
 C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
 Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

The Days Are Surely Coming 357

1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
 2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,
 3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last

when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
 when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
 the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.

My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land
 Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,
 Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land

and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
 for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
 and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

This text uses imagery from Jeremiah 33:14–16 and Matthew 24:29–36/Mark 13:24–32/Luke 21:25–36. These passages are especially associated with the beginning of Advent, a season that looks forward to Christ's second coming while also preparing us to remember his first coming.

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures
here be-low; praise *him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

**Or "God"*

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87

1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

November 29, 2020

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.

Flowers are given by Jo and Les Seiler.

Today's 10:30 "Stay at Home" Worship Service will be broadcast

- live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings (You don't need an account.)
- on the radio during Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. on KICS 1550 AM.
- 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.

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.



Giving during our time of "Stay at Home" Church The church counts on your giving to carry on its work. As you participate in "Stay at Home" Worship, please take time to

1. mail your donation in,
2. drop by the church and leave your offering in the new locked "tithing box" located on the second brick column under the portico.
3. sign up for electronic fund transfers,
4. or give on-line at: <https://fpchastings.org/give-online/>

The church continues to play a vital role in responding to this virus, Thank you for your continued support and provision in this time.

FPC Prayers for

Cindy Pickett	Family of Erlene Gessford (Gayle Fandry's sister)	Family of Karen Huber
Everly Hogan	Family of Kristine Cook (Katharine Davis' sister)	Norris Swan and family
Jeff Howard	Connie & Tom Kubicka (Chris Junker's parents)	Barry Thomson
Gretchen Lainson	Elaine Schumacher (Vicki Howard's mom)	Tommy Thomsen
Carol Medsker	Melba Trehern (Lisa Unger's mom)	Family of Vern Kooy
Pastor Greg and family	Chris Wheeler (Carol Wheeler's son)	Craig and JoAnn Williams
	Family of Jim Specht (Elaine Specht'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

- ♥ Erlene Gessford, who passed away 11/05/2020. Erlene is Gayle Fandry's sister. Memorials may be given to the Hastings Food Pantry, 918 W 4th Street, Hastings, NE 68901 or the Epilepsy Foundation Nebraska, 108 N 49th St, Ste 210 Omaha, NE 68132.
- ♥ Karen Huber, who passed away 11/18/2020. Services will be held at a later date.

December Communion Offering will be the Christmas Joy Offering.



Thinking of You Notes With COVID-19 on the rise, a number of our retirement communities have closed to visitors again, which can lead to a sense of isolation. We want our members who live in these homes to know that they have a church family that loves them and is thinking about them. One way to do that safely is to send them cards. If you have a few moments, you can drop a card or note into the mail to help them feel connected and remembered. Please contact the church office for names and addresses. Even if you don't know them personally, a card or note can provide a real pick-me-up. Please join us in this important work.

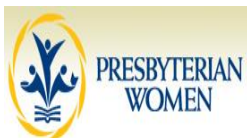
This Week at FPC --- November 30 – December 6, 2020

Session has voted that all in-person meetings must follow the following guidelines through for the safety of our congregation and staff and to comply with the State-Directed Health Measures. 1.) 5 or fewer in attendance, 2.) 1 hour or less in length, 3.) Facemasks will be required, 4.) Social distancing of 6-ft. seating. All boards and committees will have the option to meet in person with 5 or fewer in attendance or continue to meet via conference call or some combination of both to be coordinated by the church staff representative.

Mon, Nov 30		“Monday Check-in” Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Dec 1	8:30a-4:30p	Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
	5:30p-7:00p	WAM via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, Dec 2	10:00a-11:00a	PW Coordinating Team via Zoom Conferencing /Fellowship Hall
	12:00 1:00p	Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
Sun, Dec 6		2nd Sunday of Advent
	9:15a-10:15a	Adult Ed Forum via Zoom Conferencing
	9:15a-10:15a	Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing
	10:30a	“Stay at Home” Worship Service
	1:00p-2:00p	Hands Around the World Store OPEN



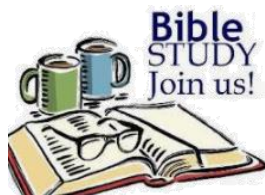
The next **Red Cross Blood Drive** is scheduled for **Monday, January 4, 2021** from 12 noon – 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendar now! To donate or volunteer your time, please call Erica Brooks, FPC Parish Nurse, at 402-469-9285 or sign up at www.redcrossblood.org.



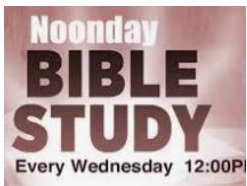
Presbyterian Women PW will not meet until further notice. This means there will be no Circle meetings and no monthly luncheons until further notice. Members will receive monthly packets.



Forum Our regularly scheduled Adult Enrichment hour known as Forum meets most Sundays at 9:15. We won't be meeting in person just yet, but folks can join in the conversation live via Zoom. All Forum sessions will also be recorded and posted to the church's YouTube page so you can watch the session at any time. To join in for the discussion, please let the church office know, and we'll get you all set up!

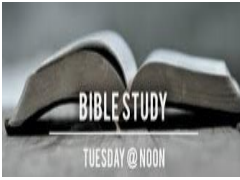


Heirs Apparent Adult Sunday School, with Curtis Reimer leading, has begun meeting via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:15am. They are studying an Adam Hamilton book entitled *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White* that reflects on religion, morality, and politics. If you would like to join this study, please email or call the church office to get the Zoom link.



Bible at Breakfast has a new time and name! Join us for Noonday Bible Study via ZOOM at noon with Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh as the leader. We will be looking at the Book of Revelation using the text *Revelation & the End of All Things* by Craig R. Koester.

To join the study, contact sbbrooks52@gmail.com. All are welcome!



Tuesday Noon Bible Study with Pastor Greg

All are welcome to join this weekly study. The focus for the group discussion and study each week is on the verses to be used on Sunday during worship. The group gathers either by ZOOM Conferencing or in person in the Anderson Room. To join by ZOOM, contact the church office.



Pre K-5th Grades: Families will receive packets of materials in the mail to use as you follow along with video lessons to be posted weekly on our church website <https://fpchastings.org/children/>

6th-8th Grades & 9th to 12th Grades There will be no Wednesday night youth group during the month of December.

There will be no Sunday morning Sunday School or current 8th Grade Confirmation Class at this time. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!



The Hands Around the World Store has ordered more coffee. Stop by the church office to re-stock your supply at \$10 per bag.

PLUS, the store will be OPEN Sunday, Dec 6 from 1:00 – 2:00p. We will follow COVID rules of no more than 5 people at a time and masks required.



Want some help wrapping your Christmas gifts? Want to support the United Harvest ministry? Here's a way to accomplish both at the same time!!

Judy Hoch will gladly and beautifully wrap your Christmas gifts in exchange for a free will donation to United Harvest.

- Simply call Judy at 402-460-0832 to set up a drop off day/time.
- Deliver your gifts to Judy with TO/FROM sticky notes on each. She will provide the box, wrapping, and beautiful bows. You then pick them up and write a (tax-deductible) check to United Harvest. No set fee per box; all free-will proceeds will support the great work of United Harvest!



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 homes to meet 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 [211.org](https://www.211.org). The institutions providing the food are equal opportunity providers.

Interested in volunteering at **United Harvest?** You can either register on Facebook or 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.

	December 19, 2020	
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting	9:45 AM
A, B	May park and get number starting	10:00 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting	10:15 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting	10:30 AM
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting	10:45 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting	11:00 AM
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting	11:15 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting	11:30 AM



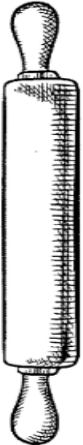
Some years, the joy of Christmas feels hard to reach. If this is that year for you, you are welcome at the **Blue Christmas Ecumenical Service** in Hastings. The Blue Christmas service makes space for us to recognize that melancholy or grief can feel particularly sharp during the holiday season. It will 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 *Monday December 7th, at 7:30pm via Facebook Live*. Even in our quiet or lonely times, God is with us, holding us and wrapping us in love.

Go & Serve Cinnamon Roll Sales



The greatest of all seasons is nearly here: chili season, so make sure you've some cinnamon rolls to go with it! Luckily, Go & Serve has you covered, as we once again be embarking on our cinnamon roll fundraiser. To place an order, please complete the form and return it to the church office. The cinnamon rolls **will be frozen** so you can bake them easily at home! Please indicate on the form when you'd like to pick-up your rolls. To have your rolls by **Dec 13**, return the form by **Dec. 5**. The cost of the rolls is \$12 per pan (please pay at pick-up) and come 6 rolls to a pan. Included is a bag of frosting. 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 (circle one): Nov. 22 must turn in form by Nov. 14
 Dec. 13 must turn in form by Dec. 5

Number of Pans: _____
 (\$12 a pan, 6 frozen rolls a pan. Please pay at pick-up)

Thank you for your support of Go & Serve!



Tags will be on the **Giving Tree November 21**. The Giving Tree, in Fellowship Hall, 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 Friday, *December 11*, so that ACT staff members have time to deliver the gifts in time for Christmas. Monetary donations may also be taken to the church office, with checks payable to ACT.



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



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CORNER

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

- ♥ **Church Family Advent Devotionals** mailed the week of Nov. 16. *Reverse Advent items can be delivered to the church Parlor.*
- ♥ **Hanging of the Greens** - Thank you for all who have helped with giving of yourselves and your prayers to prepare Our Church and Our Hearts for this special time. The Church is not a building. The Church is its people. – The Congregational Life Committee.
- ♥ **Christmas Caroling** – A weekly Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday in Advent at 12noon.
- ♥ **Pre-Recorded Christmas Cantata** – See Information box
- ♥ **First Sunday of Advent** – November 29- Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday of Advent at 12noon.
- ♥ **Second Sunday of Advent** - December 6- Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday in Advent at 12noon.
- ♥ **Blue Christmas Ecumenical Service** – December 7 at 7:30 via Facebook Live
- ♥ **Third Sunday of Advent** - December 13- Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday in Advent at 12noon.
- ♥ **Fourth Sunday of Advent** - December 20- Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday in Advent at 12noon.
- **Christmas Eve Services** December 24th
 1. A Drive-In Christmas Eve Service in the Hastings College Football Stadium parking lot at 5:30pm on December 24th. Arrival time begins at 5:00pm to allow for parking and receiving candles and bulletins. Prelude begins at 5:15pm. The service will include hymns, a special activity for children, and candlelit Silent Night.
 2. A special Christmas Eve evening prayer service broadcast on Facebook Live at 11pm for the night owls.

First Presbyterian Church - Hastings, Nebraska

A CHRISTMAS GIFT TO OUR COMMUNITY

In hope of making your holiday season more meaningful during these challenging times, First Presbyterian Church will provide four of our previously performed Christmas Cantatas featuring our Choirs and Instrumentalists.

"The Christmas Light"

Friday, Nov. 27 - 2:00 p.m. and Sun., Nov. 29 - 7:00 p.m.

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Friday, Dec. 4 - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 6 - 7:00 p.m.

"Small, Dancing Light"

Friday, Dec. 11 - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13 - 7:00 p.m.

"Christmas Carol Celebration"

Friday, Dec. 18 - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 20 - 7:00 p.m.

Hastings Public Access Channel 181 (Charter) or 16 (Allo)

Available at www.facebook.com/fpchastings (anytime)