

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

Greg Allen-Pickett

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

88

*Linda & Richard Johnson, Song Leaders*

## LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

## Session

*(The tradition of First Presbyterian Church is to invite a family to light the Advent candle. Our Christian understanding of family includes all sisters and brothers in Christ who live in fellowship together and take care of one another. During the last year, the Session has spent countless hours meeting to faithfully lead the church in this pandemic time and has bonded together as part of the family of faith.)*

*This is the second Sunday in Advent. Today, we light two purple candles. The first is the candle of hope.*

***Advent is a time of waiting and hoping.***

*The second is the candle of peace.*

***We anticipate the coming Christ and the peace he brings!***

*Isaiah 11 describes the Kingdom of God as a place where hatred, anger, and violence are no more.*

***Where peace becomes a way of life.***

*The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid. The calf and the lion will feed together.*

***Violence in our communities will cease; violence between nations will cease. People will work together in harmony, seeking solutions that benefit all.***

*And a little child shall lead them;*

***The Church, the body of Christ, will lead this movement for peace.***

*Today we light the candle of peace as a prayer and a reminder of God's vision for the world.*

***And as this light burns and grows, we will wait, eagerly, longing for the birth of a child, and for the peace only love can bring. May peace light up the world. Come, let us worship the Prince of Peace!***

## CANDLE HYMN

## “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (vs. 2)

82

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

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Lord, hear us this day as we open our hearts and our spirits to you. These times in which we live are often confusing and fearful. We are pushed to make preparations for a season that is supposed to bring hope and peace, yet we allow our fear and stress to shut the door to your healing love and compassion. We find ourselves being on edge, fretful, wondering what we can do. You answer our fears with your voice: "Peace, be still." Help us to hear you. Slow us down. Encourage us to take some time to listen rather than speak, to stop and rest rather than run. Cause us to look around at situations and people who are in need and to place our focus on helping them. For it is in helping your people and reaching out in love that we will find true peace. These things we pray, in Jesus' Name.***

### SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Jesus said, "I bring you peace, not the kind of peace the world would give to you..."*

***Jesus said, "My peace I give to you, now and forever."***

*Be at peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we are forgiven and loved!*

***Alleluia! Amen!***

\*RESPONSE "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" 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 (Five for Five) 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 – Mark 1:1-8

ANTHEM

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Kevin McChesney

*Chancel Bells (Pre-recorded 12/17/2017)*

2nd SCRIPTURE READING – Isaiah 40:1-11

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

MESSAGE

"Where the wild things are"

Greg Allen-Pickett

\*HYMN

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

87

OFFERING

OFFERTORY                      “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”                      Pritchard/arr. Schram

\*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 COMMUNION

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to love you and love one another for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

\*HYMN                      “While We Are Waiting, Come”                      92  
*During the singing of the final hymn, we remind you of our Communion Offering for the Presbyterian Christmas Joy Offering, which we will collect all month.*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,  
The church is not a resting place, the church is a people.  
I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we’re the church together!

\*POSTLUDE                      “Postlude in D Major”                      Healey Willan  
*Linda Vollweiler, Organ*

(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!

10:30 am Stay-at-Home worship

**Broadcast live on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fpchastings](http://www.facebook.com/fpchastings) and on KICS 1550 AM**

(Please note, you do not need a Facebook account to view the service.)

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-joice! Re-joice!  
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,<br>and open wide our heavenly home;<br>make safe the way that leads on high,<br>and close the path to misery.<br>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br>shall come to thee, O Israel.             | 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer<br>our spirits by thine advent here;<br>disperse the gloomy clouds of night,<br>and death's dark shadows put to flight.<br>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br>shall come to thee, O Israel. |
| 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind<br>all peoples in one heart and mind;<br>bid envy, strife, and discord cease;<br>fill the whole world with heaven's peace.<br>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br>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

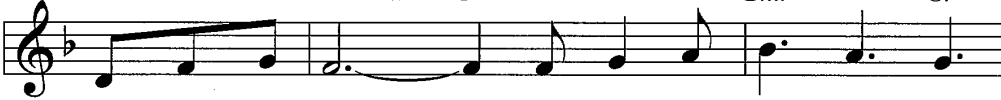
# Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)  
B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  F Gm F




1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)  
F B $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$  Gm7 C7




and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

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



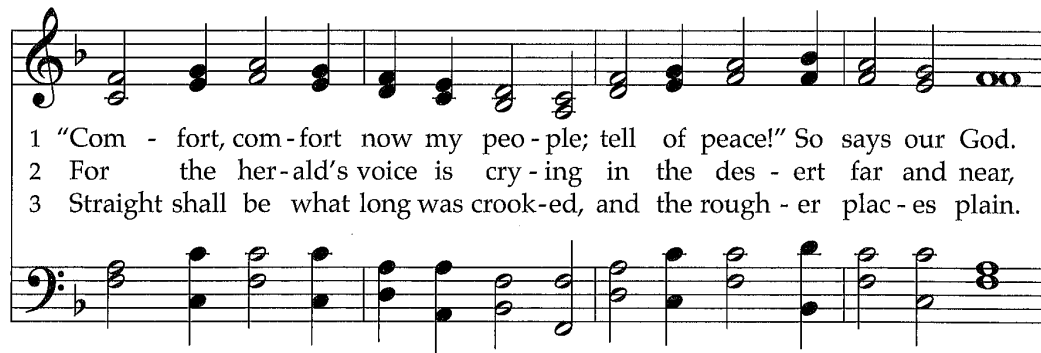
and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

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

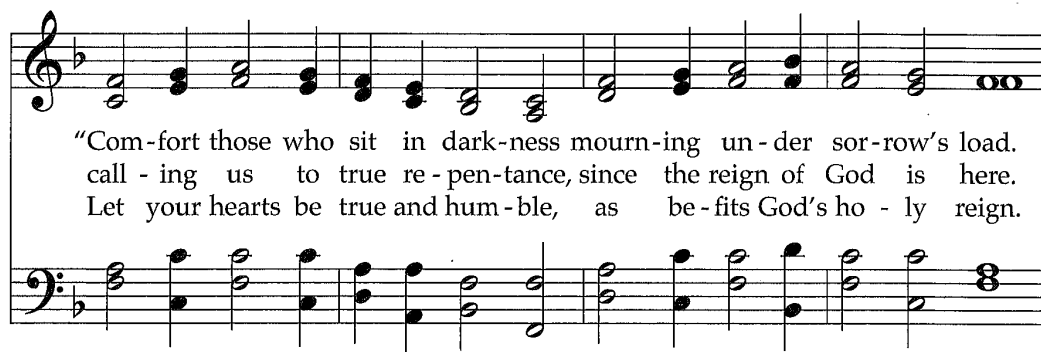


As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

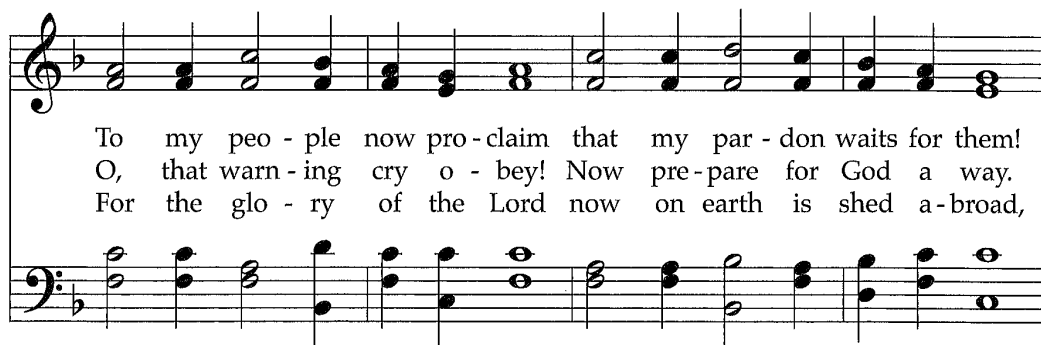
# Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



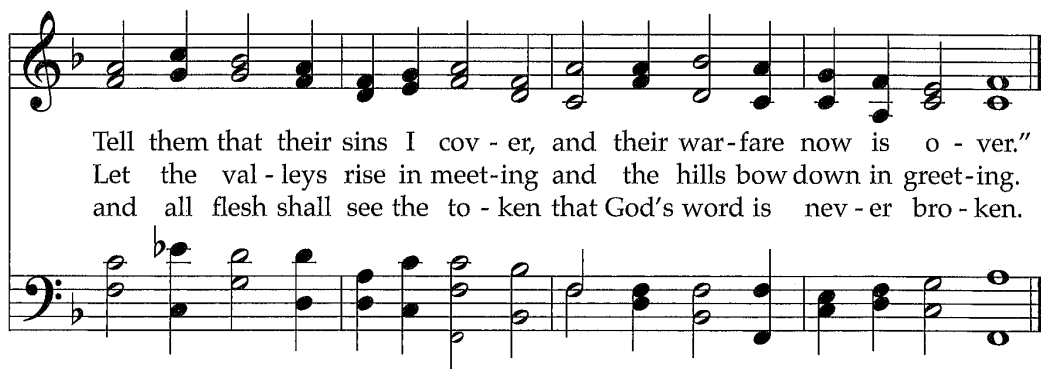
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"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.

# 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major, indicated by a single sharp (F#) on the treble clef. The key signature is G major. The time signature is common time (C). The score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a treble staff and a bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system covers the first line of the doxology. The second system covers the second line. The third system covers the third line and ends with a double bar line. The music is a simple, homophonic setting of the 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



# 92 While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;  
 2 With power and glo - ry, come;  
 3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.  
 with power and glo - ry, come.  
 come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

**December 6, 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](http://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](mailto: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  
Everly Hogan  
Jeff Howard  
Gretchen Lainson  
Carol Medsker  
Pastor Greg and family

Family of Erlene Gessford (Gayle Fandry's sister)  
Family of Kristine Cook (Katharine Davis' sister)  
Connie & Tom Kubicka (Chris Junker's parents)  
Elaine Schumacher (Vicki Howard's mom)  
Melba Trehern (Lisa Unger's mom)  
Chris Wheeler (Carol Wheeler's son)  
Family of Jim Specht (Elaine Specht's son)

Family of Norma Cropley  
Family of Burdetta Fricke  
Family of Karen Huber  
Norris Swan and family  
Barry Thomson  
Tommy Thomsen  
Family of Vern Kooy  
Craig and JoAnn Williams

***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.
- ♥ Karen Huber, who passed away 11/18/2020. Services will be held at a later date.
- ♥ Norma Cropley, who passed away 11/19/2020. Norma is Steve Cropley's Mom.
- ♥ Burdetta Fricke, who passed away 12/02/2020. Burdetta is Cindy Frickie's Mom.

**December Communion Offering will be the Christmas Joy Offering.**

*thinking  
of you*

**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 --- December 7 – December 13, 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.*

<b>Mon, Dec 7</b>	<b>8:30a-9:30a</b>	<b>Walkers</b> in PEACE Center GYM <b>“Monday Check-in” Communication</b> from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
<b>Tues, Dec 8</b>	<b>8:30a-9:30a</b> <b>10:30a-11:30a</b> <b>12:00p-1:00p</b> <b>4:30p-5:30P</b> <b>5:30p-7:00p</b> <b>6:00 p-7:00p</b>	<b>Walkers</b> in PEACE Center GYM <b>Staff Meeting</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Bible Study</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Mission</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Congregational Life</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Trustees</b> via Zoom Conferencing
<b>Wed, Dec 9</b>	<b>8:30a-9:30a</b> <b>12:00 1:00p</b>	<b>Walkers</b> in PEACE Center GYM <b>Noonday Bible Study</b> via Zoom Conferencing
<b>Thurs, Dec 10</b>	<b>8:30a-9:30a</b> <b>5:00p-6:00p</b>	<b>Walkers</b> in PEACE Center GYM <b>Personnel</b> via Zoom Conferencing
<b>Sun, Dec 13</b>	<b>9:15a-10:15a</b> <b>9:15a-10:15a</b> <b>10:30a</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Adult Ed Forum</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>Heirs Apparent Adult S.S.</b> via Zoom Conferencing <b>“Stay at Home” Worship Service</b>



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](http://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!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
FORUM

MESSIANIC  
EXPECTATIONS

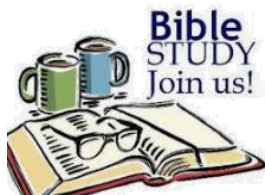
What is a Messiah anyway?

DECEMBER 6 & 13

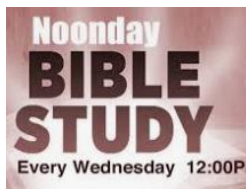
8:15AM

DR. DAN DEFFENBAUGH  
VIA ZOOM



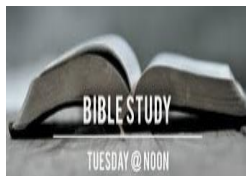


**Heirs Apparent Adult Sunday School**, with Curtis Reimer leading, has begun meeting via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:15am. They are studying an Adam Hamilton book entitled *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White* that reflects on religion, morality, and politics. If you would like to join this study, 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](mailto: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-5<sup>th</sup> 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/>

**6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades & 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 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!
- No matter how you do your Christmas shopping this year....I can wrap for you! Plus...**NO CONTACT drop-off and pick-up. Totally safe!**
- Heavy wrapping paper, beautiful custom bows, the boxes and tissue paper....all done for you. There is NO set price for wrapping 1 or 100 gifts....just be generous to the United Harvest Food Bank! (Last month alone 600+ families came through the line to receive food assistance). Your check will help to benefit many families.





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 ages of children. 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 Thursday, December 17th, at 7:30pm via *Facebook Live*. Even in our quiet or lonely times, God is with us, holding us and wrapping us in love.



**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 upon us! 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

♥ **Second Sunday of Advent** - December 6- Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday in Advent at 12noon.

♥ **Third Sunday of Advent** - December 13- Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday in Advent at 12noon.

♥ **Blue Christmas Ecumenical Service** – December 17 at 7:30 via Facebook Live

♥ **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 24<sup>th</sup>

1. A Drive-In Christmas Eve Service in the Hastings College Football Stadium parking lot at 5:30pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>. 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.



## **Family Photo Opportunity by the Big Tree**

Good news, everyone! This year the Big Tree in the Memorial Room will be decorated by December 7th. Why am I telling you? Many times in the past, families have come to the church to take their picture by the beautifully decorated tree. If this is something you are interested in, please call the office to schedule a time and make arrangements to get into the church.

# **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.*

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

**Available at [www.facebook.com/fpchastings](http://www.facebook.com/fpchastings) (anytime)**

### ***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

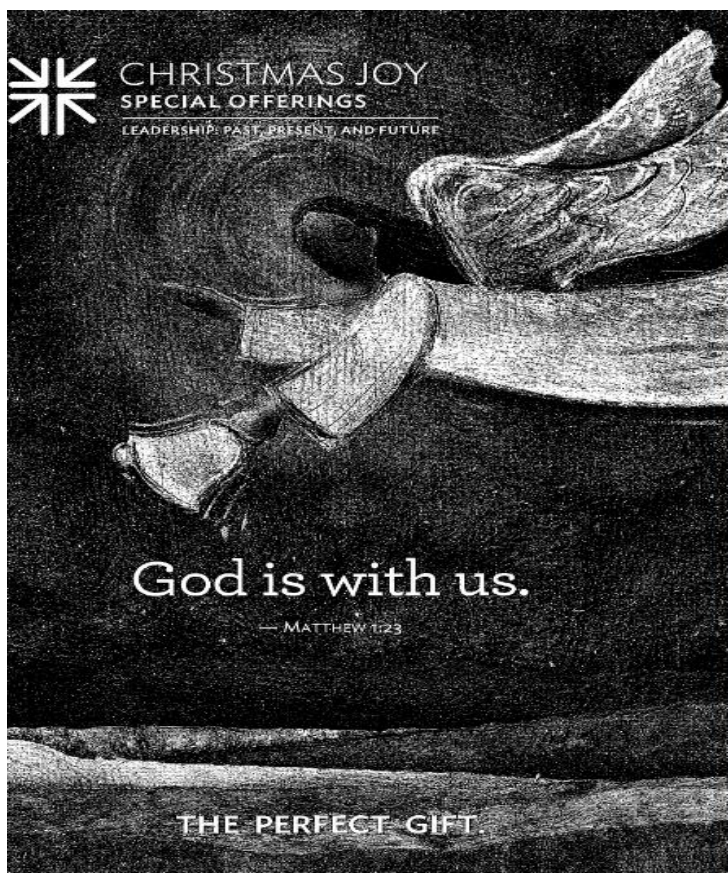
**Church Office Administrator:** Jean Matheny

**Facilities Manager:** Tony Calhoun

**Bookkeeper:** Deb Hamburger

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





## Being Together

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ, offered the power of being with us. According to Matthew's Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person. But we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. God has been with us. And through our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, we are together with those who need our love and support.



Because God is with us, we see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be with them.

**50%**

*of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.*

Because God is with us, we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them — we are with them.

**50%**

*of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.*

Thank you for your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering — for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



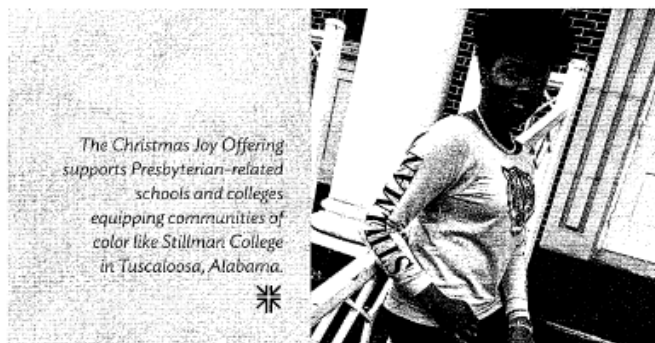
## CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.

In 2015, Rose Bryant was at a crossroads in her life — a job she needed to support she and her son fell through due to her lack of a college degree. Discovering she could go back to college, and qualify for scholarships supported by the Christmas Joy Offering, changed everything. She found special joy as a member of Stillman's renowned choir. She graduated in 2019 and is now an English and Language Arts teach in Dallas, Texas.

"I don't think I would be here without the support of Stillman," she said. "The amazing thing is that all of this has had a ripple effect. I was able to finish my goal because of the support I received, and I know of at least six people who came directly to me to find out how they could do the same, including my younger sister."



The ripple effect that Rose speaks of starts when each of us does some small thing, such as giving a gift to the Christmas Joy Offering, the power of which grows stronger and stronger as it is passed along.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.**

### WAYS TO GIVE



Through your congregation



Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or donate



Online at [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy)



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a congregational church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.