

WELCOME

Greg Allen-Pickett

*LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE Hoff/Ratzlaff Family

This is the third Sunday in Advent. Today, we light three candles: The candle of hope, the candle of peace, and the candle of joy!

Joy is the space between your breath and your laughter.

Joy is a hand wrapped around yours.

Joy is that first day of a new season.

Joy is dancing in the kitchen and singing in your car.

Joy is the first cry of a newborn baby.

Joy is contagious. Joy is a song.

Joy is the outcome of gratitude.

Joy is the heart of praise.

Today, even in this crazy time, we choose to plant our feet in joy.

For much of Advent, we find ourselves leaning forward, longing for the moment when God will break into this world once more.

Today we stop leaning to remember, with gratitude and joy, all that God has already done for us, through us, and around us.

So today we light the candle of joy as a thank you for laughter and for hands that hold our own. We light the candle of joy for the change in seasons, for kitchen dance parties, and for the wiggles and giggles of babies.

And most importantly, we light the candle of joy as a sign of gratitude for a God who knows us by name, who is Emmanuel, God with us!

If joy is the song of praise, then joy is where we should stand!

Together we proclaim: Come Hope! Come Peace! Come Joy! Come, Lord Jesus!

*CANDLE HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (vs. 1) 82
(As the family lights the candle on the Advent wreath, the congregation will sing this hymn.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

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 of the season or the strangeness of the pandemic or both. The cries of those in need abound, and we are overwhelmed by the need. Slow us down again, Lord. Anoint us with your Holy Spirit that challenges us to do better. 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, and 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

“Glory to God”

582

*PEACE OF CHRIST

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

(Pre-recorded)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Stephanie Brader

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.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – John 1:6-8, 19-28

ANTHEM

“And He Shall Come”

From *Nativity Suites* by Benjamin Harlan

December 9, 2007: Chancel Choir and instrumentalists under the direction of Dr. Robin Koozer

Recorded and edited by Roger Schukei

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

MESSAGE

“Homecoming”

Greg Allen-Pickett

*HYMN

“Live into Hope”

772

***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

OFFERTORY "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" *arr. Michael Burkhardt*

***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" 87

***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** "Prepare the Royal Highway" *arr. Paul Manz*
 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 and on KICS 1550 AM

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

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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | |

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)


Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

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

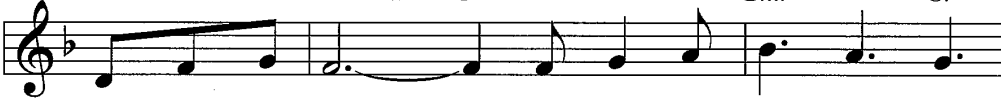
Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

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.

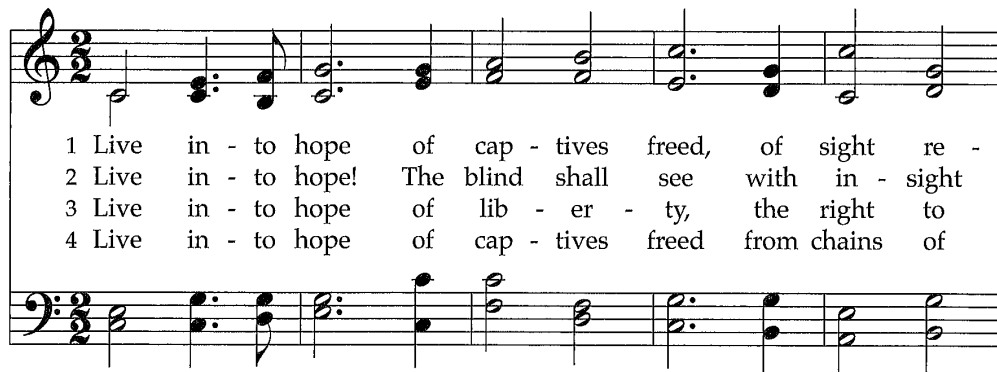
(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F



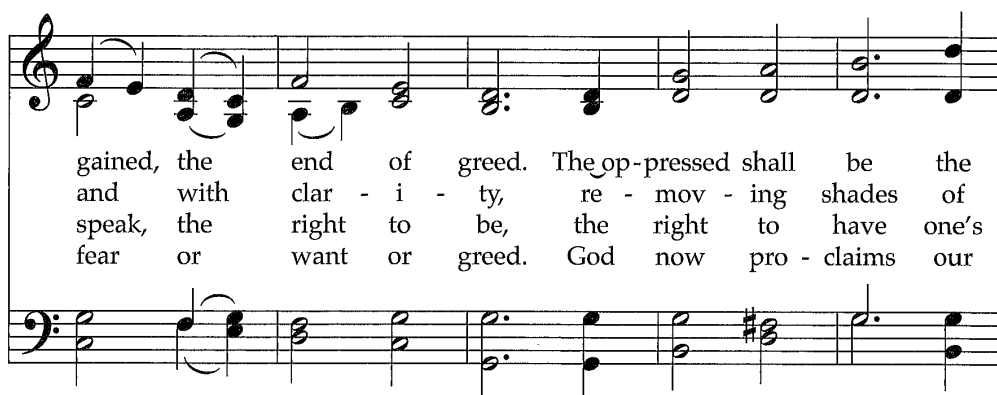
As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

772

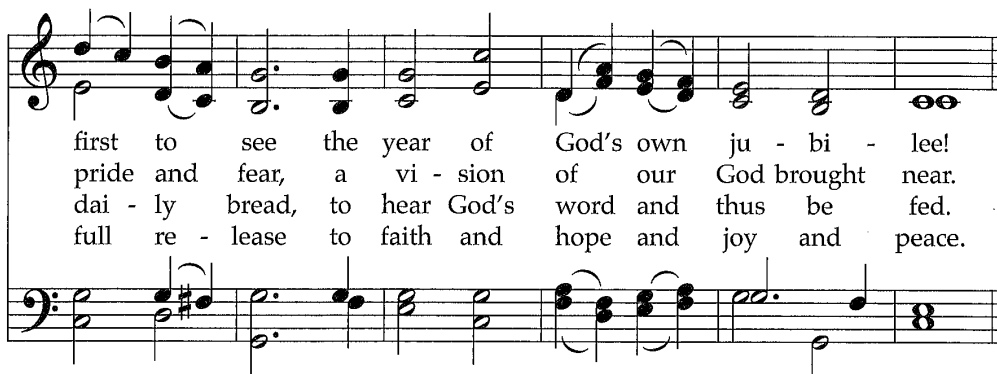
Live into Hope



1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -
 2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight
 3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to
 4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of



gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the
 and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of
 speak, the right to be, the right to have one's
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our



first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!
 pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.
 dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.
 full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

This text on Luke 4:16–20, the author's first, was written for the United Presbyterian Women's National Meeting in July 1976 because the team planning worship could not find a suitable hymn on that passage. She wrote the words with this vigorous 18th-century tune in mind.

606

Praise God, from Whom
All Blessings Flow
Doxology

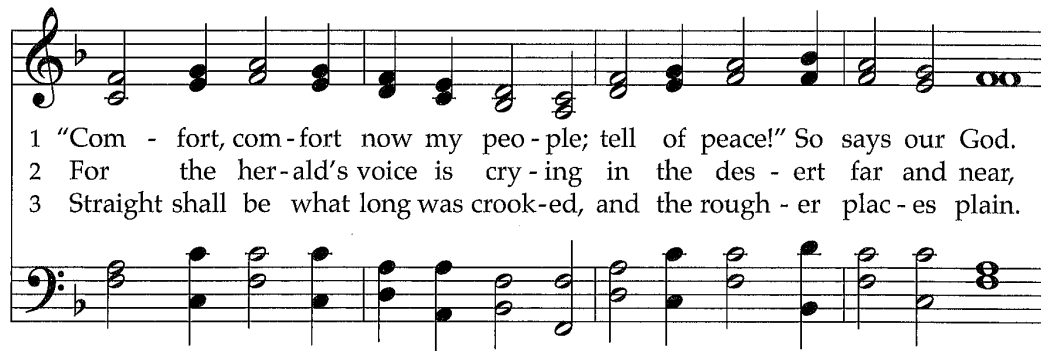
Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures
here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

**Or "God"*

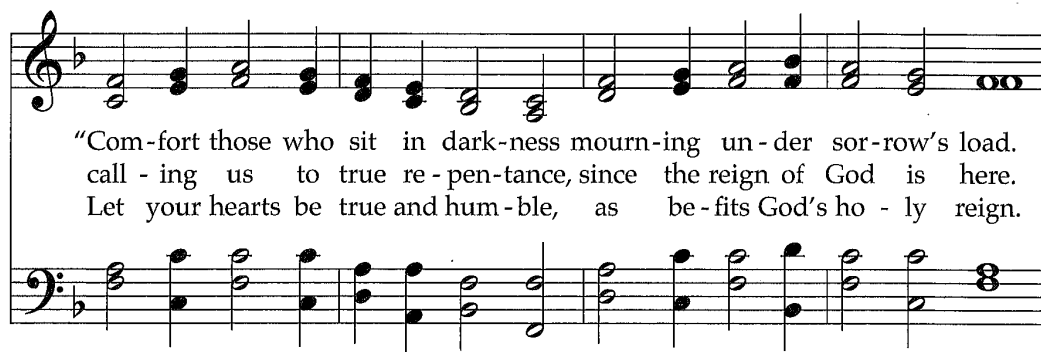
TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

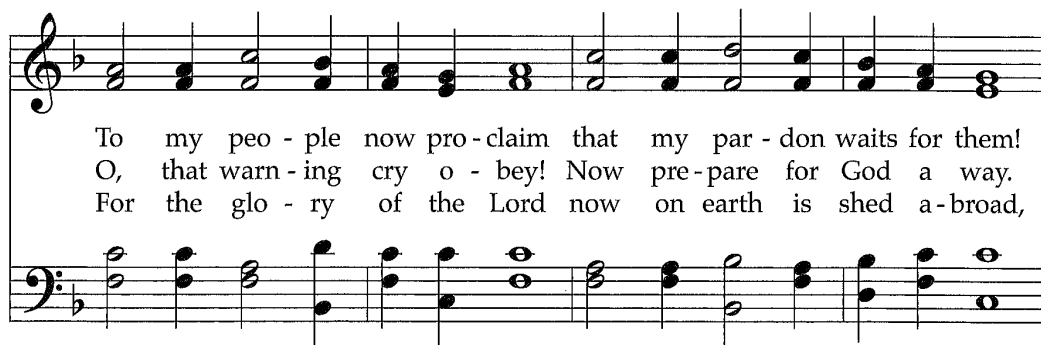
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



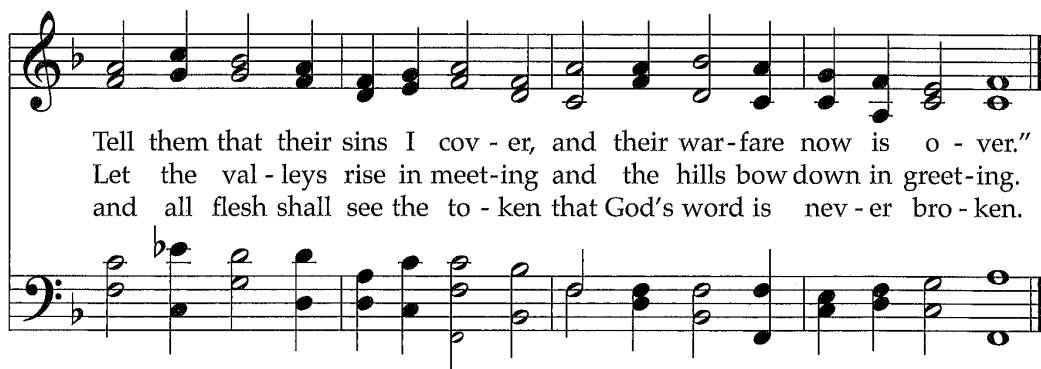
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"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.

December 13, 2020

The radio broadcast airs during the 10:30 a.m. service on KICS 1550 AM and is given by Les & JoAnn 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
Jeff Howard	Family of Norma Cropley	Norris Swan and family
Gretchen Lainson	Family of Burdetta Fricke	Barry Thomson
Carol Medsker	Connie & Tom Kubicka (Chris Junker's parents)	Tommy Thomsen
Pastor Greg and family	Elaine Schumacher (Vicki Howard's mom)	Family of Vern Kooy
	Melba Trehern (Lisa Unger's mom)	Craig and JoAnn Williams
	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

- ♥ 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 mother.
- ♥ Burdetta Fricke, who passed away 12/02/2020. Burdetta is Cindy Frickie's mother.

December Communion Offering will be the Christmas Joy Offering.

Congratulations

The Rose on the Lectern is in honor of Colton Douglas Hemje, born December 12, 2020, to Mark and Kate Hemje. Colton joins his sisters Sophia and Cora and his brother Cade.

We are so excited to welcome the newest member of our church family. If you want to help out by bringing a meal, simply click on the following **Meal Train** link to sign up.

<https://mealtrain.com/3gmk48>



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, 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 14 – December 20, 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, Dec 14	8:30a-9:30a	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM “Monday Check-in” Communication from Pastor Greg and Pastor Damen
Tues, Dec 15	8:30a-9:30a 10:30a-11:30a 12:00p-1:00p 6:45p-7:45p	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM Staff Meeting via Zoom Conferencing Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing Deacons via Zoom Conferencing
Wed, Dec 16	8:30a-9:30a 12:00p-1:00p	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM Noonday Bible Study via Zoom Conferencing
Thurs, Dec 17	8:30a-9:30a 5:30p-6:30p	Walkers in PEACE Center GYM Session via Zoom Conferencing
Sat, Dec 19 Sun, Dec 20	9:30a-2:00p 9:15a-10:15a 9:15a-10:15a 10:30a	United Harvest 3rd Sunday of Advent Adult Ed Forum via Zoom Conferencing Heirs Apparent Adult S.S. via Zoom Conferencing “Stay at Home” Worship Service



Connecting with God and Each Other While We Worship Apart (Finding God in the Solitude of Covid Times/Five for Five)

For many of us, attending church on Sunday mornings is our primary, if not only, means of connecting with our church family and with God. We give thanks for the technology and hard work of staff and volunteers who make it possible every week for us to worship "together apart," but it's not quite the same. Additionally, the uncertainty, isolation, stress, losses, and grief associated with living through a pandemic have created an increased need for the hope and security which can only be found in God. Because our familiar way of connecting with God (in-person worship) is not currently available, and because we all have more open calendars than ever before, this is the perfect time to learn new spiritual practices!! God is just as present and available to us as ever before; it's just that we may need to learn new ways of seeking and finding God's presence in these new times. To that end, I will be creating short videos (90 seconds or so) each week, each of which will introduce a simple spiritual practice. Try these new practices for just 5 minutes a day, 5 days a week--5 for 5--and watch as your heart learns to recognize God in events, people, feelings, etc. as never before! The videos will be shown during Sunday worship and can also be found on the church YouTube page

--Kili Wenburg, Parish Associate and Spiritual Director

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5z-uePAXhoKVfay2w4g/videos>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patti Deveny



Amanda & Kevin Turner family



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.



receive monthly packets.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
FORUM

MESSIANIC
EXPECTATIONS

What is a Messiah anyway?

DECEMBER 6 & 13
8:15AM

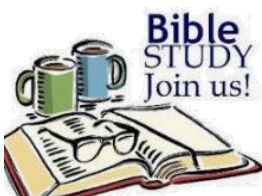
DR. DAN DEFFENBAUGH
VIA ZOOM



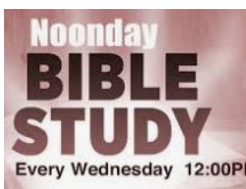
Forum Our regularly scheduled Adult Enrichment hour known as Forum meets most Sundays at 9:15. We won't be meeting in person just yet, but folks can join in the conversation live via Zoom. All Forum sessions will also be recorded and posted to the church's YouTube page so you can watch the session at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

If you want to go back and watch a previous Forum, it can be found on the church YouTube page

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5z--uePAXhoKVfay2w4g/videos>

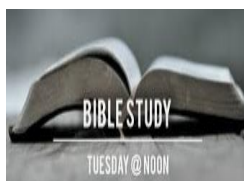


Heirs Apparent Adult Sunday School, with Curtis Reimer leading, has begun meeting via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:15am. They are studying an Adam Hamilton book entitled *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White* that reflects on religion, morality, and politics. If you would like to join this study, 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 at this time, 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 13 & Dec. 20, from 1:00 – 2:00p. We will follow COVID rules of no more than 5 people at a time with masks required.



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

Sponsored by:
First United Methodist Church
First Presbyterian Church

A mobile pantry is a traveling food pantry that delivers food to families in need through a one-day distribution. Our goal is to provide food where there is a high need, but resources are limited. The mobile food pantry is available to all <https://www.unitedharvest.org/>. The institutions providing the food are equal opportunity providers.

Interested in volunteering at **United Harvest?** Please register on the United Harvest Facebook page. 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



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 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.
- 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!**



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.



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.*

♥ **Christmas Caroling** – A weekly Advent/Christmas hymn sing in the church parking lot every Sunday in Advent at 12noon. ***(12/08/2020 will be in front of the church on Lincoln)*

♥ **Pre-Recorded Christmas Cantata** – See Information box

♥ **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 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 (PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE EARLIER THAN 5:00) 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.



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 *Monday, December 14*, 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.



Family Photo Opportunity by the Big Tree

Good news, everyone! This year the Big Tree in the Memorial Room is all decorated and beautiful. 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 or click on the link below to schedule a time. Please call the office to make arrangements to get into the church after office hours.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nythntUcRVzSPr1nQAg_7Z6Le2LBXpePtmLkyYS8rHc/edit#gid=0

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)

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

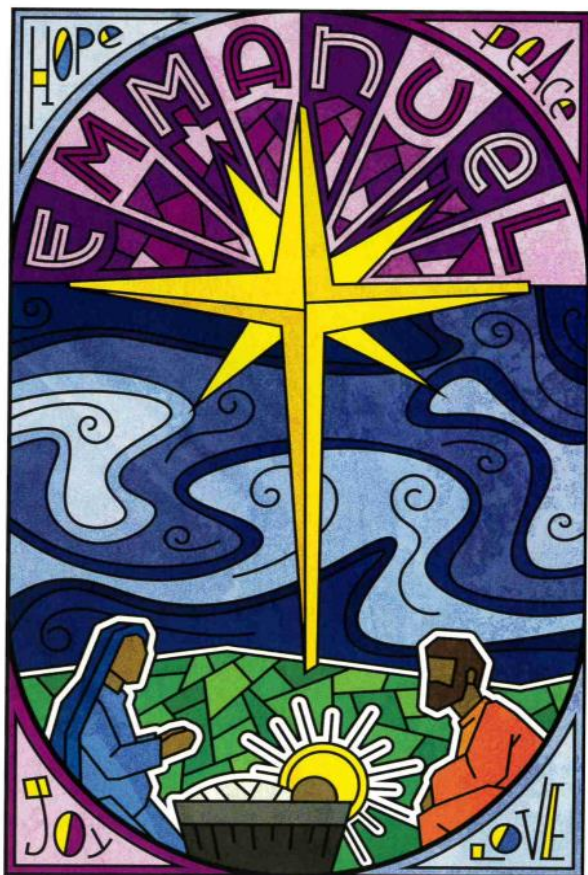
Bells Director: Dr. Byron Jensen

Church Office Administrator: Jean Matheny

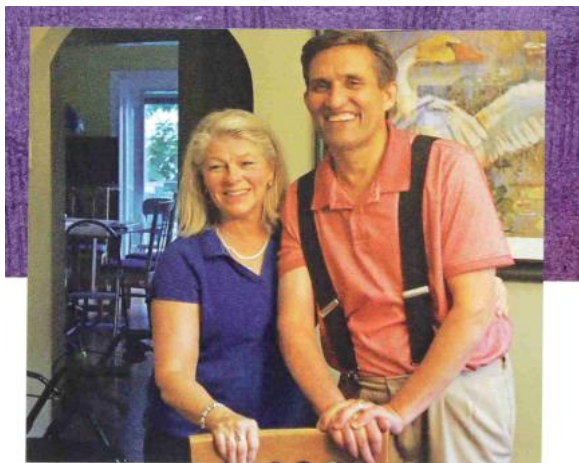
Facilities Manager: Tony Calhoun

Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey



 **CHRISTMAS JOY**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



"What the Board of Pensions does is really important to me and others like me, so that we can carry on with life even with our disabilities."



Rev. Dr. Stewart M. Pattison is living with multiple sclerosis — as he has for years. Support from the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions made it possible for him to purchase a motorized scooter so he can have better mobility, a better quality of life — and enables him to continue to serve the church he loves. He is grateful for the help he has received thanks to gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, and wants people to know that these gifts have "helped in ways that have opened up my life."



THE PERFECT GIFT

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God being with us, and of being with those in need—the gift of being together when we are near, and being together when we are apart.

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future.

50%

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.

50%

50% of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

Please give generously.

IF 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.



WAYS TO GIVE



Through your congregation



Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or donate



Online at 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 connectional 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.