



# Advent Week Three: Joy!

December 11, 2022

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

**HYMN SING** Call out your favorite hymn, and we will sing a verse!  
*Led by Robin Koozer and Linda Vollweiler*

**PRELUDE** "Angels Sing!" *arr. Schram*  
*Linda Vollweiler, organist*  
*(The prelude is an opportunity to worship God, a time of prayer, meditation, and reflection.)*

**WELCOME** Greg Allen-Pickett

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**  
Rasmussen/Stoddard Family

This is the third Sunday in Advent. Today, we light three candles. The first is the candle of Peace, the second is the candle of Hope, and the third is 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 daughter of gratitude.***

Joy is the heart of praise.

***Today, we 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 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 boldly proclaim: Come Peace! Come Hope! Come, Joy! Come, Lord Jesus! Come let us worship God!***

\*OPENING HYMN      “Candles Glowing, Promise Showing”  
(To the tune of “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”)

*Sarah Wolf, song leader*

Candles glowing, promise showing joy that fills our very soul.  
Grace abounding, hymns resounding, Christ restores and makes us whole.  
Mercies gleaming, wonders beaming, justice streaming, Christ redeeming –  
Christ restores and makes us whole! Christ restores and makes us whole!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***God of joy, whose birth we anticipate in this season, we acknowledge we have done wrong. We have tarnished the gifts of grace and love that you give freely. Instead of following your call to express and share joy, we have often focused on negativity instead. We have ignored your teachings of peace, hope, and joy and chosen apathy and indifference in their place. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to embrace holy joy during this season of Advent and every day of our lives.***

SILENT CONFESSION & QUESTION FOR CONTEMPLATION

*How can I banish negativity and embrace holy joy?*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*The truth of Advent is this: God is coming to us! We are not alone!*  
***In Christ, we are accepted. We are granted peace, hope, and joy!***  
*In the name of Christ, we are forgiven and loved!*  
***Alleluia! Amen!***

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE      “Joy to the World!” (vs. 3)

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\*PEACE OF CHRIST

*The Peace of Christ be with you!*

***And also, with you!***

(Greet one another by sharing the Peace of Christ with those around you.)

In this cold and flu season, we are encouraging safety. Instead of shaking hands or hugging, you can look someone in the eyes and hold their gaze. Share peace with them by holding your hand to your chest and bowing your head to them or sharing some other appropriate sign.
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SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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

For the health and safety of our members, we will not pass a plate during the offering. You are invited to give by dropping your offering as you leave in the plates at the back of the sanctuary, dropping it in the outside locked tithing box located on the second brick column under the portico, mailing it in, or giving online: <https://fpchastings.org/give-online/>

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***Loving God, transform our gifts, that they may be an acceptable sacrifice of praise, and transform our lives to reflect more deeply your justice and joy in the life of the world. Amen.***

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

***As we hear your Holy Word proclaimed in song this morning, open our ears that we may hear: Open us to learning and understanding, open us to love and compassion, open us to your promise of love, joy, peace, and hope found in these words. Amen.***

**MESSAGE**

**“Angels Aware”** Kathie Hill and Janet McMahan



**Synopsis**

The angel Michael has called a meeting of all the angels in Heaven to announce God’s plan for sending the Lord’s Son to Earth, and in what form God would go to Earth. The angels are shocked to learn that God is going to earth as a baby.

**Introduction**

God has a new plan for humankind. All the angels in Heaven are anxious to find out the plan. After all, humanity has been kind of a problem! God sent the Ten Commandments and the people didn’t always obey them. God sent the prophets and humanity didn’t listen.

The Story is about how the angels became “aware” of God’s wonderful new plan, to send Jesus to Earth as a baby. Let’s join them in celebrating the Lord’s birth.

We hope our story reminds us all to look for the plan God has for us and to make us “aware” of God’s LOVE.

## The Cast (In Order of Speaking Parts and Solos)

Gabriel	Olivia Canady	Esther/Seraphim	Maddie Gosda
Michael	Meredith Oliver	Jeremiah	Evan Turner
Sara (Seraphim Leader)	Esther Allen-Pickett	Daniel	Charlie Ratzlaff
Cherry (Cherubim Leader)	Vivienne Turner	Hannah/Seraphim	Ari Hoffmann
Harold (Herold Leader)	Caleb Schukei	Rachel/Cherubim	Stella Adam
Ezekiel	Grady Hogan	A Rich King	Grady Hogan
Isaiah	Payton Mitchell	Soldier of Judea	Ian Erickson
Moses	Harrison Welsch	Greatest Musician	Evan Turner
Elizabeth/Cherubim	Vivian Fong	Mary	Dana Miller
Rebekah /Cherubim	Raegan Welsch	Joseph	Brett Miller
Martha /Cherubim	Madilyn Graves	Baby Jesus	Calvin Miller
Ruth/Seraphim	Emry Braun	Nativity Angel	Audrey Miller

## Ensemble of Angels (Grades PreK-3<sup>rd</sup>)

Abigail	Elise Koepf	Elijah	Rory Stout	Malachi	Matthew Klug
Adah	Maddy Mulligan	Grace	Julia Boyd	Miriam	Layne McCurdy
Amos	Sam Boyd	Hosea	Miles Mulligan	Naomi	Everly Hogan
Anna	Madelyn Koepf	Joel	Truman Welsch	Peter	Peter Ratzlaff
Benjamin	Lincoln Welsch	Jonah	Jaxon Mitchell	Phoebe	Charlie Stout
Chloe	Fiona Eckhardt	Judith	Briella Borrell	Samuel	Malcolm Eckhardt
Delilah	Molly Gosda	Leah	Wilson Welsch	Tabitha	Audrey Miller
Diana	Jade Guiai-Lou	Lydia	Nora Hogan		

## Musical Numbers

“Michael’s Called a Meeting”	Gabriel and Ensemble
“I’ Trouble”	Michael, Elizabeth, Rebekah, Martha, Ruth, and Ensemble
“The Perfect ‘10”	Moses and Ensemble
“Sing to the Lord”	Isaiah and Ensemble
“I’ Trouble” (Reprise)	Harold and Ensemble
“Jiswannano”	Sara, Esther, Hannah, and Ensemble
“What Love”	Ensemble
“If It Were Up to Me”	Sara, Cherry, Harold and Ensemble
“Close to Him”	Cherry, Cherubims, Seraphims and Ensemble
“Come to the Manger”	Michael and Ensemble
“Glory to God”	Ensemble
“Angels Aware”	Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Ensemble

## **Production Staff and Crew**

Directors: Leah Ratzlaff and Jenni Welsch

Musical Director: Amanda Boyd

Musical Arrangements: Amanda Boyd and Doodle Harris

Musical Support: Teresa Canady and Linda Johnson

Musicians: Piano – Mary Plock, Flute – Karl Ludwig, Clarinet – Alana DeBellis,  
Trumpet – Maria Pytlik, Bass Guitar – Daniel Steinhauser, Percussion – Kendall  
Greene, Doodle Harris

Set Design/Production: Leah Ratzlaff, Tony Calhoun, Welsch family

Sound: Erik Nielsen

Costumes: Colleen Schukei, Jenni Welsch

Special Thanks: Rose Koeppe

Cast Support: Thank you to all the teachers and adults who have supported the  
children and this musical.

\*CLOSING HYMN                      “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”                      119

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE                      “Prepare the Way of the Lord”                      95

\*POSTLUDE                      “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”                      *arr. Saxton*  
*(The postlude serves as a musical blessing for worshipers as they transition out into the world.)*

**COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP NEXT WEEK & INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS,  
FAMILY, AND FRIENDS! THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, A SERVICE OF  
LESSONS AND CAROLS!**

8:30 am: Contemplative Worship in the Chapel with Communion

10:30 am Traditional worship in the Sanctuary and broadcast live on Facebook at

[www.facebook.com/fpchastings](http://www.facebook.com/fpchastings)

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

10:30 a.m. service will also be broadcast live on KICS 1550 AM

**December 11, 2023**

**THE RADIO BROADCAST** is given by First Presbyterian Church.

**THE FLOWERS** are given by First Presbyterian Church.

**Ushers for December: (Team #4) Captain George Howard, Susie Graham,  
Dixie McDonald, Gale McDonald, Julie Thomsen.**

## Greeters for December

DECEMBER	MEMORIAL ROOM	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX	NARTHEX
4	Kim Hermann		Pat & Dick Kleiber	
11	Paul & Lynette Krieger		Clyde Sachtleben	Carolyn Nowka
18	Kathy & Curtis Reimer		Susan Hoff	Erin Gastmann
5:30pm 24	Daveta & Dick Brader			
7:30pm 24			Milrae & Harold Korb	
25			Cathy & John Pershing	



## Giving Tree

During the holidays our First Presbyterian Church family embraces 50 more brothers and sisters who are served by the Assertive Community Treatment program at South Central Behavioral Services in Hastings. The tags on the Giving Tree list items that would be appropriate for the person noted on the tag. Please select from the list one or two items as gifts. Then wrap the items, attaching the tag to the gift bundle. If you bring the gifts to place around our Giving Tree by Monday, December 19, volunteers will be able to deliver them in time for Christmas.

Of the individual recipients, most live independently in their community and some live with family members. Most of those who live independently have no family network, so our Christmas gifts are the only ones they receive. During the year, many also depend on food banks and donations of non-perishables and clothing.

## Gift Wrapping



Judy Hoch will be gift wrapping again this season to benefit the United Harvest. Gifts can be dropped off at her house no later than December 10th. A free will offering to United Harvest is requested.

Call Judy at 402-460-0832 for more details."

## Scotland

June 15 – 24, 2023

*Including an Optional Extension June 24 – 28*

Especially designed for

**First Presbyterian  
Church of Hastings**

Nebraska

Reserve Your Space Today!

Download a brochure at  
[portal.myfaithjourneys.com](http://portal.myfaithjourneys.com)  
Group Number: 23035



The Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett  
Tour Host



The Food Pantry is in need of canned good food items. Your donations are appreciated.

<b>Sunday 12/11</b>	9:15am-10:15am	Confirmation/Sunday School	Various
	10am-10:30am	HAW Store open	Narthex
	10:30am	Children's Christmas Pageant	Sanctuary/Radio/Facebook
	11:30am-12pm	HAW Store open	Narthex
	5-7pm	Sr. High youth group at Damen's NO JR. HIGH	At Pastor Damen and Hannah's home.
<b>Monday 12/12</b>	1-3pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Pres Open Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
<b>Tuesday 12/13</b>	10am-11am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	4pm	Global Mission Committee	Confirmation Room/Zoom
	5:30pm	Congregational Life Meeting	
	6pm	Trustees Meet	Anderson Room
<b>Wednesday 12/14</b>	11:55am	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com
	5-6:45pm	Prek-5 <sup>th</sup> grade WNL	various
	6:30pm-9pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
<b>Thursday 12/15</b>	5:30pm-7:30pm	Session Meets	Anderson Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Friday 12/16</b>	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Room 111
<b>Saturday 12/17</b>		United Harvest	
<b>Sunday 12/18</b>	8:30-9:15am	Taizé Service	Chapel
	9:15-10:15am	Confirmation/Sunday School	Various
	10-10:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary/Facebook/Radio
	11:30am-12pm	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	5-7pm	Jr. High youth group Party NO SR HIGH	Fellowship Hall



<b>December 17, 2022</b>		
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting at:	9:45 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting at:	10:00 AM
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting at:	10:15 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting at:	10:30 AM
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting at:	10:45 AM
A, B	May park and get number starting at:	11:00 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting at:	11:15 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting at:	11:30 AM



## 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 Foster Grandparents.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

How many total poinsettias are you ordering? \_\_\_\_\_

I will leave my poinsettia(s) at the church:  Yes  No

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**Christmas With  
First Presbyterian**

CHRISTMAS EVE 2022

<p>To Grandmother's House 2:00PM</p> <p>A service of caroling and rejoicing is held at College View. Chancel Choir and Pastors hold a service for residents and their family members.</p>	<p>A Family Christmas 5:30PM</p> <p>A lively service held in the sanctuary features traditional hymns, organ, a child-friendly message, and singing by candlelight.</p>
<p>Traditional Service 7:30PM</p> <p>Held in the sanctuary, this service contains traditional hymns, music by the family choir, and singing by candle light.</p>	<p>Holy Night 11:00PM</p> <p>A contemplative service is held in the chapel to greet the newborn child with simple music and prayer.</p>

**Blue Christmas**

Worship that Honors Grief & Loss  
.....  
An Eccumenical Service

December 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm  
First Presbyterian Church  
Hastings, Nebraska

FOR LOVE REFUSES TO BE EXTINGUISHED BY DESPAIR





# Christmas Morning Birthday Brunch



Every 11, 6, 5, & 6 years Christmas falls on a Sunday. Lucky for us, this year is one of those years! All are welcome to join us on Christmas morning at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall to celebrate Christmas morning with a time of worship, fellowship, and birthday brunch. We'll provide egg bake and a waffle bar for those in attendance as we gather around tables to sing hymns and consider how we can become participants in Christmas. Come in your Christmas pajamas if you'd like! There will not be an 8:30 a.m. service on Christmas day so we hope you can join us at 10:30 for Christmas Morning Birthday Brunch.



Shirley Maul  
Barry Thomson  
Christian Fruehling  
Stephen Gass  
Bev Stein  
Greg Howard  
Ramona Shetler  
Family of Dora Horsley  
Irina Belikova-Erickson  
Rich Portwood  
Shirley Gass  
Tarah Davis & family  
Cheryl Ann Elfond  
Brad Davis

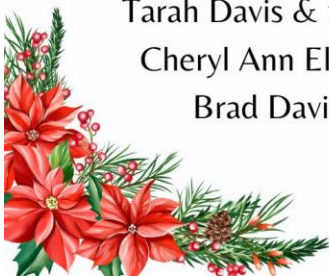
## PRAYERS FOR

Reta & Lowell Johnson  
Carl Utley  
Ruby Sloggett  
Family of Ken Fike  
BJ Pumroy & family  
Elaine Schumacher  
Melba Trehern  
Michael Hahne  
Dave Schawang  
Katie Reynolds & family  
Family of Phyllis Waltemath  
Family of Bob Johnson  
James Freetly  
Laura Ferdinand



## IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Bob Johnson, who passed  
away on 10/22/22  
Dora Horsley, who passed  
away on 10/27/22  
Phyllis Waltemath, who passed  
away on 10/31/22  
Ken Fike, who passed  
away on 11/5/22





## FLOWER & RADIO MEMORIALS

There are openings throughout the year for both flower and radio memorials. Please contact Melissa in the office or Mary Olsen (402-462-2811 molsen@charter.net) Donations are greatly appreciated.



## Greeters and Ushers

**Greeters-** We are in need of Greeters for the 5:30pm and 7:30pm services on Christmas Eve and for the 10:30am service on Christmas Day.

**Ushers-** We are in need of Ushers for the 7:30pm service on Christmas Eve.

Please let Melissa know in the office if you are able to help out (402-462-5147 or melissa@fpchastings.org)

Your help is greatly appreciated! Thanks!

### *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  
**Organist and Music Director:** Linda Vollweiler  
**Chancel Choir Director:** Brett Epperson  
**Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster Bells Director:** Dr. Byron Jensen  
**Calvin/Westminster Choir Director:** Linda Johnson  
**Praise/Alleluia Choir Directors:** Tim and Teresa Canady  
**Praise/Alleluia Bells Choir Director:** Dr. Susan Oliver  
**Accompanist and Music Coordinator:** Mary Plock

**Ministers:** Members of the Church  
**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Damen Heitmann  
**Director of Children & Family Ministries:** Rose Koeppe  
**Church Office Administrator:** Melissa Davis  
**Facilities Manager:** Tony Calhoun  
**Bookkeeper:** Deb Hamburger  
**Scholar in Residence:** Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh  
**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey