



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

\*OPENING HYMN “Candles Glowing, Promise Showing”

Tyler Koepp, Song Leader

(To the tune of “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”)

Candles glowing, promise showing – holy peace so still and bright.  
New tomorrow, free from sorrow – living in Christ’s holy light.  
Shunning violence, loving neighbor, joy of silence, trust our savior –  
Living in Christ’s holy light! Living in Christ’s holy light!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Great God of Presence and Promised Coming, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to fulfill your desire for us to love one another. We have not followed the paths you have given us, choosing instead to follow our own. We have broken relationships, we chase material desires, we have rebelled against your love. We have ignored the cry of the needy, the mouth of the poor is still hungry for mercy, the cause of the oppressed is still thirsty for justice. Free us for loving obedience, through the Advent of Christ, Our Lord, Our Messiah, Our Hope.***

SILENT CONFESSION & QUESTION FOR CONTEMPLATION

*Where have I fallen short in my call to be a peacemaker? How can I use this season of Advent to recommit to following God and loving others?*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Good News! Good News! Good News! God so loved the world that God gave us, sinful and broken humanity, a gift:  
**Emmanuel, God with us. This is proof of God's love for us!**  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and loved!  
**Alleluia! Amen!***

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!” (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)

During this cold and flu season, we are encouraging safety. Instead of shaking hands or hugging someone during the passing of the peace, you could look someone in the eyes and hold their gaze. Share peace with them by holding your hand to your chest or sharing some other appropriate sign.



Scan to sign-in and let us know you were here.

SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rose Koepp

While the children are coming down, the congregation will sing "This Little Light of Mine."

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.***

## 1<sup>st</sup> SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 8:27-29, 34

## ANTHEM

"Only A Baby Came"

Natalie Sleeth

## 2<sup>nd</sup> SCRIPTURE READING – Jeremiah 33:10-11, 14-18

## SERMON

"Nurturing Hope and Peace"

A sermon by Greg Allen-Pickett for the first Sunday of Advent

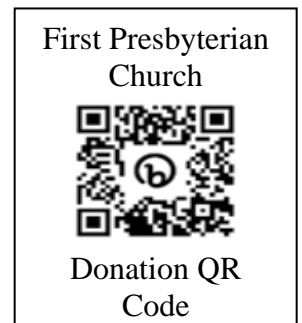
## \*HYMN

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

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## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From the Presbyterian Confession of 1967)

***In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all. The risen Christ is the Savior of all humanity. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which begins with the apostles and continues through all generations.***



## OFFERING

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

## OFFERTORY

"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"     *Gustav Holst/arr. Mizell*  
Praise and Alleluia Bells, Director Susan Oliver

## \*DOXOLOGY

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!" (vs. 2)

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\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***In this moment of worship, we embrace your presence again, O God. And we offer you our love. In this moment of prayer, we proclaim again your purpose for the world, O Savior. And we offer you our time, talent, and treasure. In this moment of giving, we hear your call again, O Lord. And we offer you ourselves. Use us, all that we have and all that we are, to touch the world with the Advent message: God is love. God is with us. Amen.***

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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

\*HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

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\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Away in a Manger"

\*POSTLUDE "Rondeau No. 2 in D Major"

David Lasky

*(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 FOR AN ORIGINAL CHORAL CANTATA!

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

9:15 Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am Choral Cantata Worship in the Sanctuary

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

**THE RADIO BROADCAST** is given in memory of David E. Northrop by the  
Northrop family.

**THE FLOWERS** are given in loving memory of David E. Northrop by the Northrop  
family.

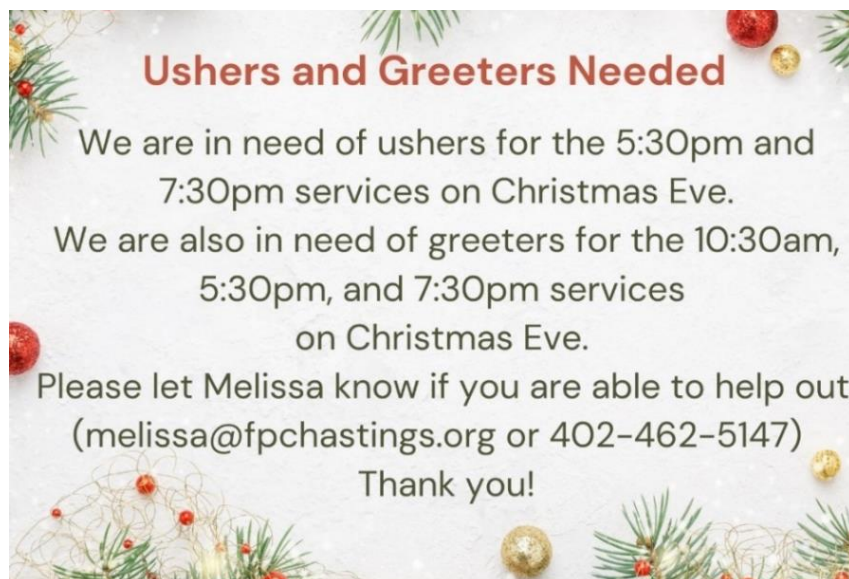
**USHERS (Team #4)** George Howard, Susie Graham, Dixie McDonald, Gale  
McDonald, Lori Schroeder, Ted Schroeder

**NURSERY** Kade Jorgensen

**ACOLYTES** Charlie Stout, student volunteer

## GREETERS

DECEMBER	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX	NARTHEX
3	Kim Hermann	Pat & Dick Kleiber	
10	Paul & Lynette Krieger	Clyde Sachtleben	Carolyn Nowka
17	Kathy & Curtis Reimer	Susan Hoff	Erin Gastmann
10:30am 24			
5:30pm 24			
7:30pm 24			
31	Milrae & Harold Korb	Cathy & John Pershing	







## 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 the Hastings Public Schools Foundation playground improvement fund.

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



*December Communion Offering*  
Reverse Advent Donations and Giving Tree



# Giving Tree

During the holidays our First Presbyterian Church family embraces 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 18, volunteers will be able to deliver them in time for Christmas.

Of the individual recipients, most live independently in our 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.

## Please pray for

Brad Davis	Pam Canady
Elaine Schumacher	Ashley Ibach
Dave Schawang	Reta & Lowell Johnson
Renee Miller	Carl Utley
family of Rich Portwood	Barry Thomson
Shirley Gass	Stephen Gass
Audre Zaroban	Greg Howard
Carter Johnson	Ken Fisk
Scott Johnson	Mary Wolf
Tarah Davis & family	Everest Beacon (Zabloudil)
Matt Campbell	Jim Boeve
June Nielsen	Brett Epperson and family
Neil Kerr and family	family of Joyce Mefford
Vernon Groves	Paul Nuss
Carol Medsker	Vicki (Fisk) Nieves
Frances Kamler	Dana Odom
John Carllson	Mary Giesler

## In memory of

Rich Portwood, who passed  
away on 10/5/2023  
Joyce Mefford, who passed  
away on 10/8/2023



<b>Sunday 12/3</b>	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Sunday School for all ages	Various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
<b>Monday 12/4</b>	12pm	150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee	Anderson Room
	1-3pm	First Pres Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm-3:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
<b>Tuesday 12/5</b>	10:15am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	11:45am	Habitat for Humanity	Parlor
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	WAM Meeting	Anderson Room
<b>Wednesday 12/6</b>	11-11:45am	PW Coord.	TBD
	11:45am	PW Program and Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
	1:30pm	Quilters	Peace Quilting Room
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> grade WNL	Various
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:30pm-8:30pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
<b>Thursday 12/7</b>	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
<b>Friday 12/8</b>	10am	Mahjong	Basement youth room
<b>Saturday 12/9</b>	8:15am-11am	Cantata Rehearsal	Sanctuary
<b>Sunday 12/10</b>	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Sunday School for all ages/Confirmation	Various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	Choral Cantata Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	Pie Reception	Fellowship Hall

***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:** Dr. 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 Jensen-Heitmann  
**Director of Children & Family Ministries:** Rose Koepp  
**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