



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

PRELUDE “I Wonder as I Wander” *Michael Helman*
Chancel Handbells; Byron Jensen, director
(The prelude is an opportunity to worship God, a time of prayer, meditation, and reflection.)

WELCOME Greg Allen-Pickett

BELL INTROIT “Savior of the Nations/O Come, Emmanuel”
Calvin/Westminster Handbells; Byron Jensen, director

CALL TO WORSHIP AND

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Illingworth/Mitchell 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 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 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”)

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

“O Come, Emmanuel”

John Carter

***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

Nancy Grams

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.

1st SCRIPTURE READING – Psalm 126

ANTHEM

“In Bethlehem”

John Carter

2nd SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 1:46-55

SERMON

“Magnifying God’s Joy and Love”

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

***HYMN**

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout!”

100

Led by Laura Kate Oliver and Esther Allen-Pickett with Sue Medsker on drum

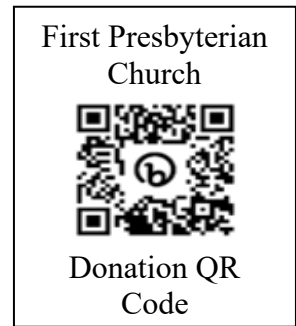
***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Rev. Rebecca F. Harrison)**

We are an Advent people, a people of hope. For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God’s promise, the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed.

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. We affirm that this joyous gospel was birthed in Bethlehem where divinity was cradled in a manger. We believe that this child was a supreme gift; a package of Divine Love bundled in servant clothes, who came to teach us what it means to love and serve.

We join with those who received Jesus there. And without reservation, we receive Jesus now and proclaim that He is the greatest Gift of all.

In our waiting and our hoping for the coming of Christ, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, joy, and love will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever.



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

OFFERTORY “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Cynthia Dobrinski

*DOXOLOGY “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!” (vs. 2) 132

*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.

*CLOSING HYMN “For Everyone Born” (vs. 1-3, 5) 769

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Glory to God” John Carter

*POSTLUDE “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Ron Mallory
(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 Breakfast & Worship in the Fellowship Hall and broadcast live on Facebook at
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

THE RADIO BROADCAST is given in memory of Waunita and Don Butler by family and friends.

THE FLOWERS are given by First Presbyterian Church.

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

NURSERY Rachel Guiai

ACOLYTES Lincoln Welsch, Peter Ratzlaff

GREETERS

DECEMBER	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX	NARTHEX
17	Kathy & Curtis Reimer	Susan Hoff	Erin Gastmann
10:30am 24	Linda & Dave Cooke (Fellowship Hall)	None needed	None needed
5:30pm 24		Melissa Davis	
7:30pm 24	Milrae & Harold Korb	Melissa Davis	
31	Milrae & Harold Korb	Cathy & John Pershing	



CHRISTMAS WITH THE

Cathedral Brass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 3:00PM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HASTINGS, NE



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	family of Joyce Mefford
Neil Kerr and family	Paul Nuss
Vernon Groves	Vicki (Fisk) Nieves
Carol Medsker	Dana Odom
Frances Kamler	family of Roberta Lloyd
John Carllson	Melissa Davis & family

In Memory Of

Roberta Lloyd, who passed away
on 12/8/23



Christmas With First Presbyterian

CHRISTMAS EVE 2023

Cozy Christmas
2:00PM

A service of caroling and rejoicing is held at College View. Chancel Choir and Pastors hold a service for residents and their family members.

A Family Christmas
5:30PM

A lively service held in the sanctuary features traditional hymns, organ, a child-friendly message, and singing by candlelight.

Traditional Service
7:30PM

Held in the sanctuary, this service contains traditional hymns, music by the choir, and singing by candle light.

Holy Night
11:00PM

A contemplative service is held in the sanctuary to greet the newborn child with simple music and prayer.



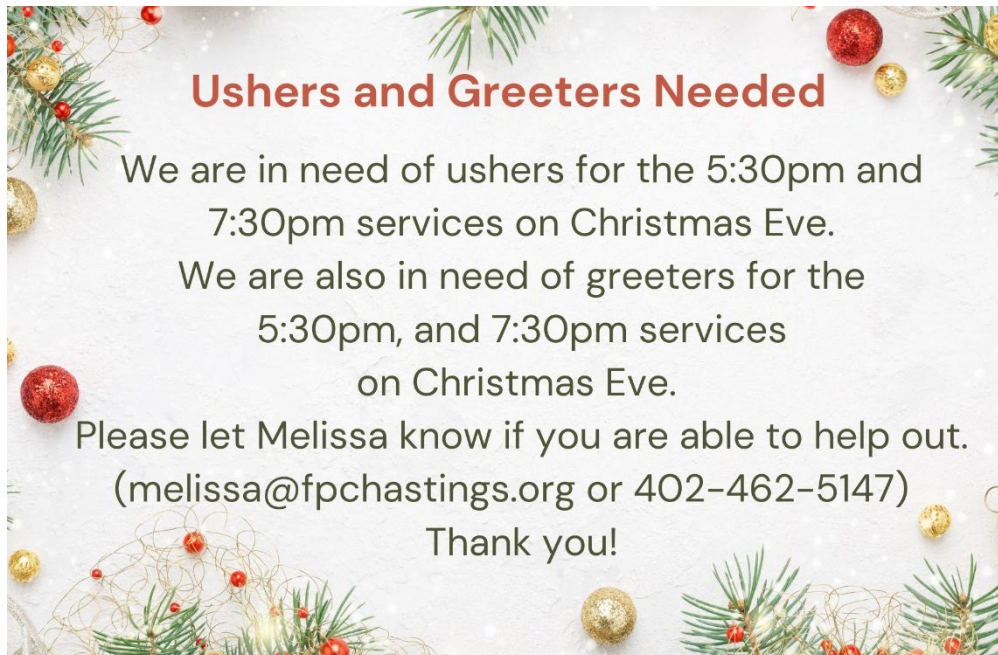
Ushers and Greeters Needed

We are in need of ushers for the 5:30pm and 7:30pm services on Christmas Eve.

We are also in need of greeters for the 5:30pm, and 7:30pm services on Christmas Eve.

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

Thank you!





**American
Red Cross**

The American Red Cross and First Presbyterian Church
are hosting a blood drive on
Wednesday, December 27, from 12pm-6pm.
There is a critical need for donated blood.
Please consider making an appointment
to give blood during this drive.
To make an appointment go to
redcrossblood.org,
select the drive at
First Presbyterian Church, Hastings,
and make your appointment.



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.

Sunday 12/17	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Sunday School for all ages/Confirmation	various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio. Facebook
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	3pm	Cathedral Brass Quintet Concert	Sanctuary
Monday 12/18	1-3pm	1 st Pres. Pickleball	PEACE gym
	1:30-3:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5:30-6:30pm	Go & Serve meeting	Parlor
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tuesday 12/19	10:30am	Roberta Lloyd Funeral with Reception to follow	Sanctuary (funeral) Reception (Fellowship Hall)
	12-1pm	Bible Study (cancelled)	Anderson Room
Wednesday 12/20	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	Fellowship Hall
	10am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12-1pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	12pm	PW Circle 3	Fellowship Hall
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	various
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
Thursday 12/21	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	5:30pm	Session Meets	Anderson Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 12/22	10am	Mahjong	Basement Youth Room
Sunday 12/24	10:30am	Worship Service w/Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
	2pm	Christmas Eve Service (Cozy Christmas)	College View
	5:30pm	Christmas Eve Service (A Family Christmas)	Sanctuary
	7:30pm	Christmas Eve Service (Traditional Service)	Sanctuary
	11pm	Christmas Eve Service (Holy Night)	Sanctuary

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

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



The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



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.


WAYS TO GIVE


Through your congregation


Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy


Text
CHRISTMASJOY
to 91999
to give or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy



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

Every time
we echo angels
speaking words of peace on earth;
every time we live as shepherds,
risking moments of new birth;
and every time we see God
giving gifts beyond all earthly worth,

In our living, in our giving, we are there.

