



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF HASTINGS**
LIVING A LEGACY OF LOVE

Home Page Newsletter

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

As we approach the joyous celebration of Christmas, our hearts are filled with anticipation and gratitude for the hope that this season brings. The Advent season has been a time of reflection, preparation, and joyful expectation. In the midst of the busy-ness of this season, Advent invites us to pause and reflect on the profound significance of Christ's birth. The four candles we light represent peace, hope, joy, and love, guiding us through a journey of spiritual preparation. As we prepare to light the final two candles on Sunday, let us be reminded of the hope that Christ's coming brings to our lives and the world.

Bearers of the Divine

The Choral Cantata, "Bearers of the Divine" that was shared in church on December 10th was an incredible way for us to celebrate Advent and reflect on Mary and all the strong women of faith who have come before her who gave her inspiration, courage, and hope to take on the task of bearing the divine. If you missed the cantata or just want to experience it again, you can stop by the church office to pick up a DVD or watch it at this link: <https://fb.watch/poqU-SPUrt/> Don't forget that we have an Advent Devotional Guide that draws on the cantata for inspiration. You can pick up a copy of that in the church office or download an electronic copy for free at this link: <https://bit.ly/Advent2023FPC>

Mary's Magnificat

Last week in worship, we studied Mary's Magnificat, the song that Mary sings after she has accepted her role to bear the divine. We learned that she responded to the news of her divine calling with a heart full of joy. Her Magnificat, found in Luke 1:46-55, is a beautiful hymn of praise, proclaiming the greatness of God and the fulfillment of God's promises. Mary's faith serves as an inspiring example for us as we navigate the challenges of life, trusting in God's faithfulness.

During this final week of Advent, let us continue to reflect on Mary's song and seek to emulate her spirit of joy. As we await the celebration of the Savior's birth, may our hearts echo Mary's words, "*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*"

December 24th: A day celebration and reflection

Our journey through Advent culminates on Sunday, December 24th. We will hold one worship service on Sunday morning at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall that will include brunch! We hope you can join us.

In the afternoon and evening we will celebrate our beloved Christmas Eve services. On this special night, we will gather as a church family to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The flickering candles, familiar carols, and the retelling of the timeless nativity story create an atmosphere of reverence and joy.

Continued

This Christmas Eve, join us for one of our memorable services filled with scripture, prayer, and the singing of beloved carols. We will hold a service in the lobby of College View at 2pm, a family-oriented service in our sanctuary at 5:30pm, a traditional Christmas eve service at 7:30pm and a contemplative vespers service at 11pm.

As we embrace the final days of Advent and prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth, let us remember the words of the angel to the shepherds: *"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people!"* (Luke 2:10). May this Christmas be a time of great joy, hope, and love for each one of us.

Wishing you a blessed and joy-filled Christmas season!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg



Christmas With First Presbyterian

CHRISTMAS EVE 2023

<p>Cozy Christmas 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 choir, and singing by candle light.</p>	<p>Holy Night 11:00PM</p> <p>A contemplative service is held in the sanctuary to greet the newborn child with simple music and prayer.</p>



December Greeters

DECEMBER	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX	NARTHEX
10:30am 24	Linda & Dave Cooke (Fellowship Hall)	None needed	None needed
5:30pm 24	Stephanie Bliss	Melissa Davis	
7:30pm 24	Milrae & Harold Korb	Melissa Davis	
31	Milrae & Harold Korb	Cathy & John Pershing	

January Greeters

JANUARY	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX
7	Erica & Brent Brooks	Daveta & Dick Brader
14	Lesa & Steve Cropley	Melissa Davis
21	Karen & Roger Doerr	Andrew Barrows
28	Linda & Richard Johnson	Jan Bolliger

January Ushers (Team #5)

Captain – Ken Stein

Matt Fong

Julie Thomsen



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.

CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



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.

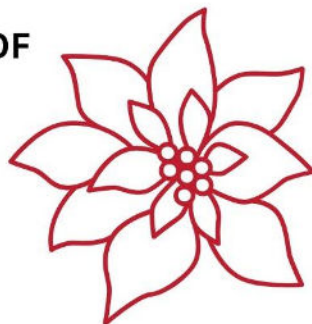


**The Church Office will
be Closed
December 25
through
January 1**

Have a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

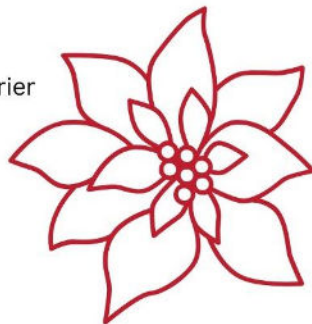
IN MEMORY OF

Sharon Harvey
Given by Beverly Phillips



Demas & Twila Griess
Gideon & Luella Nuss
Betty & Robert Hunzeker
Given by the family of Paul & Belinda Nuss

Norma Vineyard
Given by Marge Adams & Kathy Carrier



Ted Van Fossen
Given by his family

Our Parents
Given by Carolyn & Rich McKenzie

Jim & Mary Jeanne Cooke
Given by Dave & Linda Cooke

Dennis Utter
Given by Kathy & Family

IN MEMORY OF

Nicole Jensen
Given by Deb & Byron Jensen

Our Parents
Given by Don & Marie Rasmussen

Mark Bliss
Given by The Hermes Families

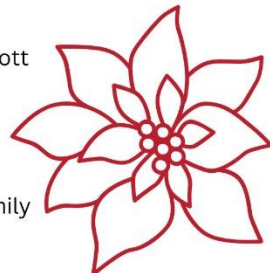


Ryan Struss
Given by Kathy & Gayle Struss

Gretchen and Hal Lainson
Given by the Hermes, Olsen, Bliss, and Overmiller Families

Mark Bliss
Given by Mary, Jorn, Chris, Erica, and Scott

Alfred & Dorothy Friedewald
Ome & Honor Shoemaker
Given by the Shoemaker/Friedewald Family



IN MEMORY OF

Steve Kleiber
Don Kleiber
Given by Pat & Dick Kleiber



Our Parents
Stephanie Pershing
Given by John & Cathy Pershing

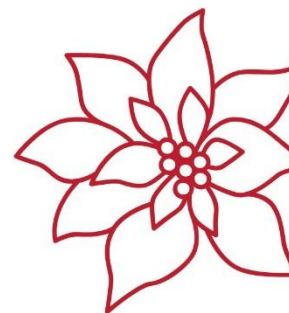
John W. Hatcher
Given by Sally Hatcher

Merle & Annabelle Hafer
Boyd & Mary Lou Leymaster
Given by Charlie & Lois Hafer and family

Kurt Unger
Melba Trehern
Given by Lisa Unger

Rogene Wenburg
Given by her family

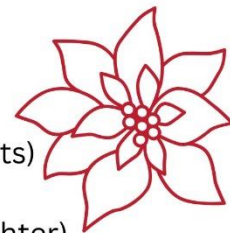
Our Parents
Given by Karen & Roger Doerr



IN MEMORY OF

Our Parents
Given by Colleen & George Adam

Mr. & Mrs. Don McHargue (parents)
Marcia Meshbesher (sister)
Livy Michele Zamora (granddaughter)
Given by Jan Bolliger



Our Parents & Grandparents
Given by Melissa Davis & Wade Giesler

Bob, Fran, Chuck, and Kay Koozer
Given by the Koozer Family

O.J., Julia, and Jim McDougal
Given by the McDougal/Koozer Family

Mark Bliss
Given by Steph, Lauren, Matt, Rosie, and Hal

Grandma Julie
Given by Nolan, Clara, and Calvin Soderquist

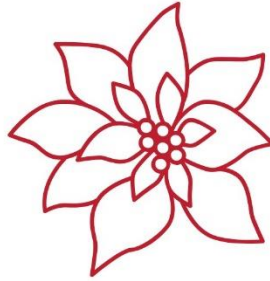


Our Parents
Given by Doug & Marnie Soderquist

IN MEMORY OF

Walter & Mary Anne Seiler
Alexander & Lois Wacker
Given by Jerry & Mary Seiler

David E. Northrop
Frank W. Northrop
Michele L. Northrop
Given by the Northrop Family



IN HONOR OF

Andrea
Given by John & Sharon Brooks

My Family
Given by Flossie Sanderson

Margaret & Charles Hermes
Given by the Bliss & Hermes Families

Church Musicians
Given by Ann & Robin Koozer



IN HONOR OF

Hannah & Damen Jensen-Heitmann
Nathan Jensen & Anna Griggs
Given by Deb & Byron Jensen

Church Staff
Given by Colleen & George Adam

Circle 3 "Sisters"
Given by Jill Kramer

Nana Susan & Papa Neal Hoff
Given by your 9 Grandchildren

Church Staff
Given by Colleen & George Adam

Carole
Given by Denny

Our Children and Grandchildren
Given by Gayle & Kathy Struss



Ushers Needed

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

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

Thank you!



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



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jim Duval 1/1	Dale Behrens 1/14
Nyareak Deng 1/1	Marie Rasmussen 1/14
Duane Ochsner 1/4	Caleb Schukei 1/15
Dan Zabloudil 1/4	Kristen Schwarz 1/15
Carla Fike 1/5	Ann Koozer 1/16
Liam Carmona 1/5	Mike Karloff 1/16
Brady Rhodes 1/6	LaVern Davis 1/16
June Nielsen 1/6	Rich McKenzie 1/17
Linda Carllson 1/6	Kathy Reimer 1/18
Paul Krieger 1/6	Kathy Illingworth 1/19
Robert Nedderman 1/7	Joni McCoy 1/20
Harper Launchbaugh 1/9	Nancy Grams 1/22
Larry Butler 1/11	Barry Thomson 1/22
Robin Koozer 1/11	Janet Brandt 1/22
Erin Gastmann 1/14	Shanda Spurgeon 1/23
Maddux Pumroy 1/14	Melissa Davis 1/24



Morgan Karloff 1/25
 Quinnlee Stokely 1/25
 Deacon Stokely 1/25
 Laura Little 1/26
 Lulu Schmidt 1/27
 Leslie Christensen 1/27
 Jessica Meeske 1/28
 Erica Brooks 1/28
 Jim Freeburger 1/28
 Sue Armstrong 1/29
 Javae Redinger 1/30
 Gaylon Hermann 1/30

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
		12/25/23 - 1/1/24- Church Office Closed	
Wednesday 12/27	12pm-6pm	Red Cross Blood Drive	Fellowship Hall
Sunday 12/31	10am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, Facebook
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex





Please pray for

Brad Davis	Pam Canady
Elaine Schumacher	Ashley Ibach
Dave Schawang	Reta & Lowell Johnson
Renee Miller	Carl Utley
John Northrop	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



First Presbyterian Church

621 N. Lincoln Ave.
Hastings, NE 68901

402-462-5147

fpc@fpchastings.org

Return Service Requested

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