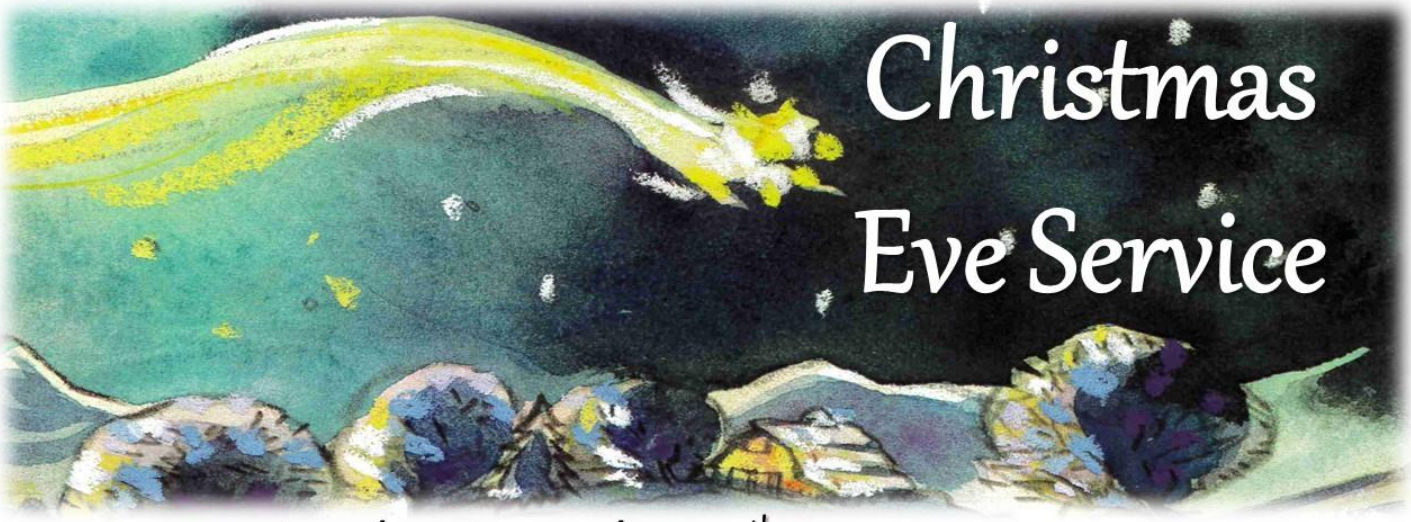

Sunday, December 24th, 2023 at 5:30pm
First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

PRELUDE "The Sweet Sounds of Snowfall" *Cait Nishimura*
The Cathedral Brass

WELCOME Pastor Greg

*HYMN AND PROCESSION OF ADVENT BANNER
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Verses 1, 6 & 7) 88

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE
Johnson/Ellerbee Family

Today we celebrate Christmas Eve and the birth of the Christ Child! We light all of the candles on the advent wreath. During this season of Advent, we lit the candles of love, joy, peace, and hope.

Tonight, we light the center candle, which represents Jesus Christ. When we light this candle, we remember Jesus' birth. Our waiting has ended!

When we look at the center candle, we remember that God sent Jesus to give hope, peace, joy, and love to all people. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her to not be afraid for she would bear the Christ child. We are people of hope and not of fear.

Outside of Bethlehem, the shepherds saw a great light and heard the voices of angels telling them to not be afraid for they would meet the Christ child. They traveled to the manger, saw the baby Jesus, and found peace.

Far away from Bethlehem, wise men saw a star in the sky. They followed the star and were filled with joy when they found Jesus.

Tonight, in this place, we celebrate the birth of Jesus full of love for our families and our community, and we give thanks that God came to earth for us!

*HYMN "Candles Glowing, Promise Showing" *Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy*

Candles glowing, promise showing Jesus born a baby small.
Hosts rejoicing, shepherds voicing – praising Christ the Lord of all.
God is with us, shout hosanna, raise a chorus, singing ever:
Praising Christ, the Lord of all! Praising Christ the Lord of all!

OPENING PRAYER (Isaiah 9) Director of Christian Education, Rose Koepp

God of light and love, shine upon us this Christmas Eve and in the year ahead. Guide us out of darkness and into your joyous light. As we listen to this familiar story, may it enliven and renew our faith in you. May our lives reflect your glorious love, that others may see your Christmas Spirit in us, each and every day of our lives. Amen.

SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH
If you would like to share your name and contact information with the church, please scan this QR code with the camera on your phone and submit the form.

First Presbyterian Church

Sign-In QR Code

MINUTE FOR MISSION
Christmas Joy Offering

*PASSING THE PEACE
The Peace of Christ be with you!
And also, with you!
(Greet one another by sharing the peace of Christ)

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.

READING 1 Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:19-24
An angel visits Mary and Joseph to announce that Mary will give birth to Baby Jesus.

*HYMN "Joy to the World" (verses 1, 2 & 4) 134

READING 2 Luke 2:1-7
Announcement of the census that sends Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem; Jesus is born in a manger

ANTHEM "Where you there that Christmas night?" *Natalie Sleeth*
Praise and Alleluia Choir, director Teresa Canady; Mary Plock, piano

READING 3 Luke 2:8-20
The angel appears to the shepherds and invites them to find baby Jesus. Angels sing glory to God! The shepherds go to Bethlehem and meet Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. They return praising God for all they had heard and seen!

*HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!" 119

During the singing of the hymn, the children are invited to come down to the front of the church to join Pastor Greg and Rose Koepp for the message

MESSAGE "What can we bring?" Greg Allen-Pickett and Rose Koepp

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "My Spirit Be Joyful" *J.S. Bach arr. Herforth*
Cathedral Brass

You are invited to give by placing your offering in the plates that will be passed through the pews, or by scanning the QR code to give on-line using your credit card.

First Presbyterian Church

Donation QR Code

*DOXOLOGY "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him Born the King of Angels O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light, Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; Very God, Begotten, not created: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above; Glory to God In the highest: O come, let us adore him, O come,let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born that happy morning, Jesu, to thee be be glory giv'n; Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with us. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace; in Christ's name. Amen.

*PASSING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

(To avoid dripping wax, please tilt the unlit tip of your candle to the flame)

Ushers will light their candles from the Christ Candle from the Advent Wreath. It will be passed down the aisles until all candles are lit. During the lighting, we will sing the hymn "Silent Night" and dim the lights in the church. Bask in the warm glow of the Light of Christ and raise your voices and candles on the last refrain.

*HYMN "Silent Night, Holy Night" 122

*CHARGE and BLESSING

*CLOSING HYMN "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (vs. 1 & 3) 136

POSTLUDE "Joy to the World" *G.F. Handel, arr. Gale*

Musicians: *Linda Vollweiler, Organ*
Cathedral Brass Quintet featuring: *Dr. Louie Eckhardt, trumpet; Erin Beave, trumpet; Andrew Buller, horn; Nathan LeFeber, trombone; Dr. Robert Benton, tuba*

COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 31ST AND IN THE NEW YEAR
INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS!

Sunday, December 31
10:30AM – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
(there will be no early service or Sunday School)

Sunday, January 7 - Epiphany
8:30AM – Contemplative Worship in the Chapel with Communion
10:30AM – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion

USHERS Jessica Meeske, Todd Pankratz, Sophia Pankratz, Andrew Barrows

GREETERS Stephanie Bliss, Melissa Davis

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

Sanctuary Poinsettias

In Memory of	*Given By*
Sharon Harvey	Beverly Phillips
Demas & Twila Griess Gideon & Luella Nuss Betty & Robert Hunzeker	family of Paul & Belinda Nuss
Norma Vineyard	Marge Adams & Kathy Carrier
Ted Van Fossen	his family
Our Parents	Carolyn & Rich McKenzie
Jim & Mary Jeanne Cooke	Dave & Linda Cooke
Dennis Utter	Kathy & family
Our Parents	Colleen & George Adam
Mr. & Mrs. Don McHargue (parents) Marcia Meshbesher (sister) Livy Michele Zamora (granddaughter)	Jan Bolliger
Our Parents & Grandparents	Melissa Davis & Wade Giesler
O.J., Julia, and Jim McDougal	the McDougal/Koozer family
Mark Bliss	Steph, Lauren, Matt, Rosie, and Hal
Grandma Julie	Nolan, Clara, and Calvin Soderquist
Our Parents	Doug & Marnie Soderquist
Steve Kleiber Don Kleiber	Pat & Dick Kleiber
Our Parents Stephanie Pershing	John & Cathy Pershing
John W. Hatcher	Sally Hatcher
Merle & Annabelle Hafer Boyd & Mary Lou Leymaster	Charlie & Lois Hafer and family
Kurt Unger Melba Trehern	Lisa Unger
Loved Ones	Sally Smith

Sanctuary Poinsettias

In Memory of	*Given By*
Rogene Wenburg	her family
Our Parents	Karen & Roger Doerr
Nicole Jensen	Deb & Byron Jensen
Our Parents	Don & Marie Rasmussen
Mark Bliss	the Hermes family
Ryan Struss	Kathy & Gayle Struss
Gretchen & Hal Lainson	Hermes, Olsen, Bliss, and Overmiller families
Mark Bliss	Mary, Jorn, Chris, Erica, and Scott
Alfred & Dorothy Friedewald Ome & Honor Shoemaker	Shoemaker/Friedewald family
Walter & Mary Anne Seiler Alexander & Lois Wacker	Jerry & Mary Seiler
David E. Northrop Frank W. Northrop Michele L. Northrop	the Northrop family
Stacye Hunter Joe & Ora Peeples	Mike Hunter

In Honor of	*Given By*
Andrea	John & Sharon Brooks
My family	Flossie Sanderson
Margaret & Charles Hermes	the Bliss and Hermes families
Church Musicians	Ann & Robin Koozer
Hannah & Damen Jensen-Heitmann Nathan Jensen & Anna Griggs	Deb & Byron Jensen
Church Staff	Colleen & George Adam
Carole Storer	Denny Storer
Our Children and Grandchildren	Gayle & Kathy Struss
Charles & Margaret Hunter	Mike Hunter

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

2023/2024 SCHEDULE

5:00 - 5:30 Family Meal Time
Come when you can; meal is cafeteria style. Table Parents will be at each table to help facilitate meal time. ALL family members are welcome!

5:30 - 7:00 PreK-K Frolic

5:30 - 6:00 1st-5th Bells; 6th-12th Choir

6:00 - 6:30 1st-5th Choir; 6th-12th Bells

6:30 - 7:15 6th-12th Youth Group

6:30 - 7:00 1st-5th Bible Time

7:00 - 7:15 *optional* PreK-5th Recreation Time
(Rec. time is intended for students who need to wait for a ride.)

WE ASK THAT A GROWNUP COMES INTO THE BUILDING TO PICK UP STUDENTS AT THE END OF THE NIGHT.

Please pray for

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

In Memory Of

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

A note of welcome and invitation from Pastor Greg and the First Presbyterian Church Family:

Thank you for coming to worship with us on Christmas Eve at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings! Whether you worship here every week, a few times a year, or this is your very first time visiting us, we are ***glad that you are here*** and we hope that you find a ***warm welcome*** as we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

In 2023, First Presbyterian Church of Hastings celebrated its 150th anniversary! We hope you will join us in the coming year as we begin our 151st year of sharing the love of Christ from the heart of Hastings.

Our church is actively engaged in ***local ministry and mission*** including the United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry, Open Table, and support of many local organizations including Habitat for Humanity, enCourage Advocacy Center, Revive Ministries, Crossroads Rescue Mission, and more. Every summer we offer Vacation Bible Schools for the whole community. All of these activities and ministries provide volunteer opportunities for you to share the love of Christ and see where God is at work in Hastings!

We also participate in ***national and global mission*** through mission trips every year. These trips provide more opportunities for you to share the love of Christ and learn where God is at work around the world!

We invite you to join us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 for a contemplative worship experience in our chapel with communion every week. Or join us at 10:30 for a traditional worship experience in our sanctuary with our glorious Chancel Choir, handbell choirs, youth and children's choirs and organ music. At both services you will find engaging, bible-based preaching.

Our church seeks to engage our **hearts** and our **minds**, so we also offer amazing ***learning opportunities.*** Come to Sunday School for all ages (including adults) at 9:15am to hear engaging speakers and dig into the Bible to learn about what it means to you. During the week, bring your kids to our "Wednesday Night Live" program for 3-12 year olds from 5-7pm for bible study, rec time, music and dinner. We also have an active youth group for 6th-12th graders from 5-7pm every Wednesday night. In addition we offer adult bible and book studies on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at noon.

Do you like to make ***music***? Come join our Chancel Choir, play in the handbell choir, or bring your kids to our children and youth choirs or handbell groups.

At First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, we are a ***community of hope*** where you will always hear a message of hope proclaimed. Come ***engage your hearts, hands, and minds*** and help us ***share the love of Christ*** in Hastings and beyond. Reach out to any of our staff or volunteers to ask about how to get involved, or you can email me at greg@fpchastings.org

In Christ,

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Senior Pastor