



# Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:30pm  
First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

PRELUDE

“The Sweet Sounds of Snowfall”  
The Cathedral Brass

Cait Nishimura

WELCOME

Greg Allen-Pickett

CHORAL INTROIT

“While We Are Waiting, Come”  
Chancel Choir, director Brett Epperson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE

Oliver family

Today we celebrate Christmas Eve and the birth of the Christ Child! We light all of the candles on the advent wreath. First, we lit the candle of hope. Next, we lit the candle of peace. Then, we lit the candle of joy. Finally, we lit the candle of love.

***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 family and our community, and we give thanks that God came to earth for us!***

## OPENING PRAYER (Isaiah 9)

Damen Jensen-Heitmann

***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.*

## ANTHEM

“On Christmas Night” M.D. Ridge and Steven Ottományi  
Chancel Choir & David Bernard-Stevens, violin

## READING 1

Matthew 1:19-24, Luke 1:26-38

An angel visits Mary and Joseph to announce that Mary will give birth to Baby Jesus.

## \*HYMN

“Joy to the World” (vs. 1, 2 &amp; 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

## HYMN

“Away in a Manger” (vs. 1 &amp; 2)

115

## 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

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY “In the Bleak Midwinter” from *A Star in the East* Gwyneth Walker  
Chancel Choir featuring Nathan Jensen, bass & Cathedral Brass Quintet

*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 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.***

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.***

## \*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 off of 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 – David Bernard-Stevens, Violin*

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 31<sup>ST</sup> 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** Roger & Cheryl Schukei, Andrew Barrows, Chuck Hastings

**GREETERS** Milrae & Harold Korb, Melissa Davis

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

## Sanctuary Poinsettias



### *In Memory of*

Sharon Harvey

Demas & Twila Griess  
Gideon & Luella Nuss  
Betty & Robert Hunzeker

Norma Vineyard

Ted Van Fossen

Our Parents

Jim & Mary Jeanne Cooke

Dennis Utter

Our Parents

Mr. & Mrs. Don McHargue (parents)  
Marcia Meshbesh (sister)  
Livy Michele Zamora (granddaughter)

Our Parents & Grandparents

O.J., Julia, and Jim McDougal

Mark Bliss

Grandma Julie

Our Parents

Steve Kleiber  
Don Kleiber

Our Parents  
Stephanie Pershing

John W. Hatcher

Merle & Annabelle Hafer  
Boyd & Mary Lou Leymaster

Kurt Unger  
Melba Trehern

Loved Ones

### *Given By*

Beverly Phillips

family of Paul & Belinda Nuss

Marge Adams & Kathy Carrier  
his family

Carolyn & Rich McKenzie

Dave & Linda Cooke

Kathy & family

Colleen & George Adam

Jan Bolliger

Melissa Davis & Wade Giesler

the McDougal/Koozer family

Steph, Lauren, Matt, Rosie, and Hal

Nolan, Clara, and Calvin Soderquist

Doug & Marnie Soderquist

Pat & Dick Kleiber

John & Cathy Pershing

Sally Hatcher

Charlie & Lois Hafer and family

Lisa Unger

Sally Smith

## Sanctuary Poinsettias



### ***In Memory of***

Rogene Wenburg

Our Parents

Nicole Jensen

Our Parents

Mark Bliss

Ryan Struss

Gretchen & Hal Lainson

Mark Bliss

Alfred & Dorothy Friedewald  
Ome & Honor Shoemaker

Walter & Mary Anne Seiler  
Alexander & Lois Wacker

David E. Northrop  
Frank W. Northrop  
Michele L. Northrop

Stacye Hunter  
Joe & Ora Peeples

### ***In Honor of***

Andrea

My family

Margaret & Charles Hermes

Church Musicians

Hannah & Damen Jensen-Heitmann  
Nathan Jensen & Anna Griggs

Church Staff

Carole Storer

Our Children and Grandchildren

Charles & Margaret Hunter

### ***Given By***

her family

Karen & Roger Doerr

Deb & Byron Jensen

Don & Marie Rasmussen

the Hermes family

Kathy & Gayle Struss

Hermes, Olsen, Bliss, and Overmiller families

Mary, Jorn, Chris, Erica, and Scott

Shoemaker/Friedewald family

Jerry & Mary Seiler

the Northrop family

Mike Hunter

### ***Given By***

John & Sharon Brooks

Flossie Sanderson

the Bliss and Hermes families

Ann & Robin Koozer

Deb & Byron Jensen

Colleen & George Adam

Denny Storer

Gayle & Kathy Struss

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

<p>Brad Davis</p> <p>Elaine Schumacher</p> <p>Dave Schawang</p> <p>Renee Miller</p> <p>John Northrop</p> <p>Shirley Gass</p> <p>Audre Zaroban</p> <p>Carter Johnson</p> <p>Scott Johnson</p> <p>Tarah Davis &amp; family</p> <p>Matt Campbell</p> <p>June Nielsen</p> <p>Neil Kerr and family</p> <p>Vernon Groves</p> <p>Carol Medsker</p> <p>Frances Kamler</p> <p>John Carllson</p>	<p>Pam Canady</p> <p>Ashley Ibach</p> <p>Reta &amp; Lowell Johnson</p> <p>Carl Utley</p> <p>Barry Thomson</p> <p>Stephen Gass</p> <p>Greg Howard</p> <p>Ken Fisk</p> <p>Mary Wolf</p> <p>Everest Beacon (Zabloudil)</p> <p>Jim Boeve</p> <p>family of Joyce Mefford</p> <p>Paul Nuss</p> <p>Vicki (Fisk) Nieves</p> <p>Dana Odom</p> <p>family of Roberta Lloyd</p> <p>Melissa Davis &amp; family</p>
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## 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 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We hope you will join us in the coming year as we begin our 151<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:greg@fpchastings.org)

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Senior Pastor