



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

# Home Page Newsletter

### **Spreading Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love this Advent and Christmas Season**

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

As the Advent season draws to a close and Christmas approaches, First Presbyterian Church of Hastings has been abuzz with meaningful worship, joyous music, and opportunities to share the love and light of Christ with our whole community. This year, our Advent and Christmas celebrations have been enriched by the creative contributions of our members and staff, as well as the incredible partnerships we share with organizations across Hastings. Together, we have embodied the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love in ways that inspire and connect us all.

It started with our Advent Devotional. Pastor Damen collected prayers from church members, and our church members collected donations for our local ministry partners. This has become a meaningful Advent tradition for our church. You can access the devotional with the list of donations here: <https://bit.ly/24FPCHAdvent>

#### **Looking Back**

*Sunday, December 1*, We had our first Sunday of Advent worship service with the theme of hope. I preached a sermon on the story of Daniel entitled, "Hope in the Lion's Den" which you can see here: [https://youtu.be/Y8\\_eALZvscE](https://youtu.be/Y8_eALZvscE)

*Saturday, December 7*, we had our Christmas Craft Make-and-Take Event, which brought families and friends together for a morning of creativity and fellowship. The Hands Around the World Store was also open, offering fair trade gifts that support artisans across the globe and reflect our commitment to justice and compassion.

*Sunday, December 8*, was a day of music and worship. Our combined Chancel and Youth Choirs led us in a beautiful Advent 2 worship service, lifting our hearts in song on the theme of peace. That afternoon, our sanctuary was filled once again as we hosted the Hastings College Music Department Winter Concert, "A Service of Lessons and Carols." This collaboration featured the Hastings College Choirs, Band, and the South Central Nebraska Children's Chorale, offering a powerful witness to the shared talents and faith of our community.

*Sunday, December 15*, continued the celebration with our Children's Christmas Program, *While by Their Flocks*, an original musical written by our talented Director of

*Continued*

Christian Education, Rose Koeppe, and Hannah Jensen-Heitmann. The joy and energy of our youngest members were contagious as they told the Christmas story in their own creative way. If you missed it or would like to experience it again, you can watch it on YouTube at this link: <https://youtu.be/E4H62fGf9zw>

That evening, we hosted the Hastings Community Music Academy's Christmas Concert, which included the Handbell Choir and the South Central Nebraska Children's Chorale. These events highlighted the richness of our music programs and the blessings of our community partnerships.

## Looking Ahead

As we continue this sacred season, we invite you to join us for the following upcoming events:

- **Thursday, December 19 at 7:30 PM:** Our Blue Christmas Service is a special time of worship that honors grief and loss amid the holiday season. With original music composed by Hannah Jensen-Heitmann and a reflection offered by Hastings College professor Dr. Rhesa Ledbetter, this ecumenical service offers a space for quiet reflection and healing.
- **Sunday, December 22 at 10:30 AM:** During Advent 3 worship, our Chancel Bell Choir will lead us in music under the direction of Dr. Byron Jensen. **That afternoon at 3pm**, we welcome you to "Christmas with Cathedral Brass," a festive concert presented by our ensemble-in-residence brass quintet. This free event is open to all, so bring your friends and family!
- **Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve:** Celebrate the birth of Christ with us at one of our four services:
  - 2:00 PM: A service at College View Retirement Community
  - 5:30 PM: Family-Oriented Service, perfect for all ages
  - 7:30 PM: Traditional Service with candlelight and carols
  - 11:00 PM: Contemplative Service, offering a peaceful close to the holy night

This season has already been a testament to the creativity and generosity of our congregation and the strength of our connections with the wider community. From music and worship to crafts and meals, we are truly living out our calling to share the light of Christ with others. As we move closer to Christmas, may we continue to shine that light brightly, proclaiming the hope, peace, joy, and love that God has given us in Jesus Christ.

Your Servant in Christ,



Pastor Greg

## December Ushers and Greeters

**December Ushers (Team #4)** Captain – George Howard, Susie Graham, Dixie McDonald, Gale McDonald, Lori Schroeder, Ted Schroeder

DECEMBER GREETERS	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX
22	Jenna Jorgensen	Melissa Davis
5:30pm 24	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
7:30pm 24	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
29	Karen Doerr	Milrae & Harold Korb

## January Ushers and Greeters

**January Ushers (Team #5)** Captain – Melissa Davis, Matt Fong, Julie Thomsen, Justin Brader

January Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
5	Jan Bolliger	Andrew Barrows
12	Lesa & Steve Cropley	Daveta and Dick Brader
19	Roger & Karen Doerr	Susie Graham
26	Erica & Brent Brooks	Susan Cole

### Christmas Eve at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

Tuesday, December 24

2:00 p.m. – Service at College View

5:30 p.m. – Family Service in the Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. – Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

11:00 p.m. – Contemplative Service in the Sanctuary



**Blue Christmas**  
Worship that Honors Grief & Loss  
.....  
An Eccumenical Service

December 19, 2024 at 7:30 pm  
First Presbyterian Church  
Hastings, Nebraska

FOR LOVE REFUSES TO BE EXTINGUISHED BY DESPAIR

The poster features a dark blue background with a golden pine tree on the left and a starry night sky. At the bottom, there are illustrations of lit candles.

<b>Tuesday 12/17</b>	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
<b>Wednesday 12/18</b>	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	College View
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	1-3pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	1:15pm	PW Circle 3	TBD
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade WNL	Various
	6:30pm	Woodcarver's Meet	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
<b>Thursday 12/19</b>	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Session Meets	Anderson Room
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
	7:30pm	Blue Christmas Service	Sanctuary
<b>Friday 12/20</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am-12pm	Mahjong	Basement Youth Room
<b>Saturday 12/21</b>		United Harvest	PEACE Center
<b>Sunday 12/22</b>	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	3pm	Cathedral Brass Concert	Sanctuary

United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry is a joint ministry with First Presbyterian Church & First United Methodist Church. We provide a food distribution to 400+ families.



- If you need food, please come at the time indicated based on the first letter of your last name.
- If you would like to volunteer for this distribution, please come to the church at 9:30am to help us with the distribution.

December 21, 2024		
I, J, K, L	May park and get number starting at:	9:45 AM
M, N, O	May park and get number starting at:	10:00 AM
P, Q, R	May park and get number starting at:	10:15 AM
S, T, U	May park and get number starting at:	10:30 AM
V, W, X, Y, Z	May park and get number starting at:	10:45 AM
A, B	May park and get number starting at:	11:00 AM
C, D, E	May park and get number starting at:	11:15 AM
F, G, H	May park and get number starting at:	11:30 AM

<b>Sunday 12/22</b>	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Sunday School for all ages	Various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	3pm	Cathedral Brass Concert	Sanctuary
<b>Monday 12/23</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	1-3pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Pres Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room
<b>Tuesday 12/24</b>	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	2pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service	College View
	5:30pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service (Family)	Sanctuary
	7:30pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service (Traditional)	Sanctuary
	11pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service (Contemplative)	Sanctuary
<b>Wednesday 12/25</b>		Church Offices Closed-Merry Christmas	
<b>Thursday 12/26</b>		Church Offices Closed	
<b>Friday 12/27</b>		Church Offices Closed	
<b>Sunday 12/29</b>		No Contemplative Worship Service	
		No Sunday School	
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library

## December Communion Offerings

Giving Tree, Reverse Advent donations, and PC-USA Joy Offering. PC-USA Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers in need and helps develop future church leaders at schools and colleges that are Presbyterian related.

**Church Office Hours  
for  
December 25, 2024-January 1, 2025**

December 25-27: Closed  
December 30-31: 9:00am-12:00pm  
January 1: Closed



# 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 Heartland Health Center.

Heartland Health Center has begun providing medical care at 223 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Hastings. Improving health outcomes for all people in Central Nebraska, Heartland Health Center accepts uninsured, insured, Medicaid, and Medicare patients. Services are paid using a sliding fee scale to reduce costs. Next steps are in the plan to provide dental care and behavioral health.

Your donation makes a difference. *Please return your order form to the church office as soon as possible.*

Poinsettia in memory of:

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Poinsettia in honor of:

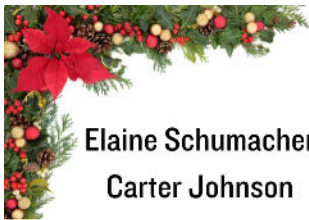
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Given by:

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I will take my poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve services:  Yes  No

I will leave my poinsettia at the church:  Yes  No



Elaine Schumacher  
Carter Johnson  
Tarah Davis & family  
Matt Campbell  
Janey Nottage-Tacey  
Bob Wolf  
KyMani Riek  
Ken Fisk  
Howard Mathews  
Vicki (Fisk) Nieves

## Please pray for

Carl Utley  
Barry Thomson  
Greg Howard  
Pam Canady  
Kathy (Adams) Carrier  
family of Eleanor Jorgenson  
Darcie (McDonald) Brink  
David Hauch  
Monte Malouf  
Eli Struss



Jim Boeve  
Candice Unger  
Nytha & Dave Glass  
Lexi Longshore  
Ashley Ibach  
family of Ken Stein  
John Pershing  
Pat Kleiber  
Judd Carrier  
Jane Tushaus

## In memory of

Ken Stein, who passed  
away on 10/30/24  
Eleanor Jorgenson , who passed  
away on 11/8/24



# Happy January Birthdays

Jim Duval 1/1  
Ruth Swingle 1/1  
Nyareak Deng 1/1  
Duane Ochsner 1/4  
Dan Zabloudil 1/4  
Carla Fike 1/5  
Liam Carmona 1/5  
Brady Rhodes 1/6  
June Nielsen 1/6  
Linda Carllson 1/6  
Paul Krieger 1/6  
Robert Nedderman 1/7  
Harper Launchbaugh 1/9  
Larry Butler 1/11  
Robin Koozer 1/11

Erin Gastmann 1/14  
Maddux Pumroy 1/14  
Dale Behrens 1/14  
Marie Rasmussen 1/14  
Caleb Schukei 1/15  
Kristen Schwarz 1/15  
Ann Koozer 1/16  
Mike Karloff 1/16  
LaVern Davis 1/16  
Rich McKenzie 1/17  
Kathy Reimer 1/18  
Kathy Illingworth 1/19  
Joni McCoy 1/20  
Nancy Grams 1/22  
Barry Thomson 1/22

Janet Brandt 1/22  
Shanda Spurgeon 1/23  
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

## Happy January Anniversaries

Stacy & Neil Kerr- 1/2/1999  
Kim & Gaylon Hermann- 1/17/1986

### Ushers and Greeters Needed for Christmas Eve

We are in need of Ushers and 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!



Dear Members and Friends of FPC:

Thank you for your generous gifts. Many of you use your investments for the benefit of the church. Sometimes these checks come to the church without the contributor's name. Getting these gifts credited to the appropriate contributor is very important but without a name, it is impossible. When you request your gift be sent to the church, please let myself or Melissa know that it is on its way.

To date, we have received two checks without the contributor's name. One from LPL Financial and one from American Online Giving. Please let the office know if either of these gifts are yours.

Thank you,  
Deb Hamburger  
Finance Administrator

## Christmas with Cathedral Brass



Sunday, December 22  
3:00 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church  
Sanctuary



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