



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
December 24, 2024 – 5:30pm

PRELUDE

“I Wonder as I Wander”
Cathedral Brass Quintet

John Jacob Niles
arr. James Stephenson

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

Welsch 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 were transformed!

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

*OPENING HYMN “Light Dawns on a Weary World” (no refrain)

79

OPENING PRAYER (Isaiah 9)

Director of Christian Education Rose Koeppe

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. Transform us so that 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

*HYMN

“Away in a Manger”

115

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 Koeppe for the message

MESSAGE

“The Christmas Light” Greg Allen-Pickett and Rose Koeppe

Following the message, the children who sing in the choir can line up by the piano. All other children can return to their grown-ups in the pews.

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!

ANTHEM

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
Children’s and Youth Choir Members
directors Teresa Canady & Linda Johnson
Mary Plock, Accompanist

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Mary Did You Know”

Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene
arr. Thomas H. Graf

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” (vs. 1, 3-4)

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*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)

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POSTLUDE

“My Spirit Be Joyful”

J.S. Bach
arr. Harry Herforth

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 29th AND IN THE NEW YEAR
INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS!

Sunday, December 29
10:30AM – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
(there will be no early service or Sunday School)

Sunday, January 5
8:30AM – Contemplative Worship in the Chapel with Communion
No Sunday School
10:30AM – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion

USHERS Jessica Meeske, Todd Pankratz, Sophia Pankratz, Melissa Davis

GREETERS Dick & Daveta Brader, Mary Kay LaMaster

ACOLYTES James Ellerbee, Breck Moore

Free Organ Concert

First Presbyterian Church

Presents

Gregory Peterson
and
Jon Stender

Sunday,
February 2, 2025
3 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
621 N. Lincoln Ave.
Hastings, NE

All are welcome!





The Sanctuary Poinsettias are given



In memory of Ome & Honor Shoemaker by The Shoemaker/Friedewald family.
In memory of Al & Dorothy Friedewald by The Shoemaker/Friedewald family.
In memory of Gretchen & Hal Lainson by the Hermes, Olsen, Bliss, and Overmiller families.
In memory of Mark Bliss by the Olsen family.
In memory of our parents by Marie & Don Rasmussen.
In memory of Darrel and Roberta Lloyd by Jeni & George Howard.
In memory of George and Marion Howard by Jeni & George Howard.
In memory of Rogene Wenburg by her family.
In memory of Wesley and Joyce Dickenson by Susan (Dickenson) Cole.
In memory of Gretchen Lainson by Lonnie Miner.
In memory of Hal Carrier by Kathy (Adams) Carrier & family, and Jill Kramer.
In memory of Asa, Myrtle, Ida, Judy, and Don Kramer by Jill Kramer.
In memory of our parents Merle & Annabelle Hafer and Boyd & Mary Lou Leymaster by Charlie & Lois Hafer.
In honor of our children and grandchildren given by Charlie & Lois Hafer.
In honor of First Presbyterian Church Pastors and staff by The Nottage-Tacey family.
In honor of Andrea by Sharon & John Brooks.
In memory of parents and grandparents by Jim & Carol Harrenstein, Kristan & Jesse Manske, and Tracy & Kenny Brooks.
In memory of Rogene Wenburg by Justin, Kili, Carter, and Selah Wenburg.
In honor of Neal & Susan Hoff by your grandchildren.
In memory of our parents by Mike & Carol Kleppinger.
In memory of Grandma Julie by Nolan, Clara, and Calvin Soderquist.
In memory of our parents by Doug & Marnie Soderquist.
In memory of my loving parents, Elton & Melba Trehern by Lisa Unger.
In memory of my loving husband Kurt Unger, Billie Unger, and Alice & Arthur Anderson by Lisa Unger.
In memory of Dennis Utter by Kathy and family.
In memory of my granddaughter, Livy Zamora by Jan Bolliger.
In memory of my parents Don & Lucille McHargue by Jan Bolliger.
In memory of Brandon Brader, our parents Dale & Dorothy Brader and Walter & Lee Meyer by Richard & Daveta Brader.
In memory of family and friends by Dale & Sherry Behrens.
In memory of our parents by Colleen & George Adam.

continued



The Sanctuary Poinsettias are given



In honor of First Presbyterian Church Staff by Colleen & George Adam.
In memory of Mark Bliss by Steph, Lauren, Matt, Rosie, and Hal.
In memory of Bob Foote by his family.
In memory of Dean Pickett and our grandparents by The Allen-Pickett family.
In honor of FPC family and FPC staff by the Allen-Pickett family.
In memory of Dr. Robert C. Smith and parents by Sally Smith.
In memory of John A. Harrington by Barbara Harrington and family.
In memory of Ted Van Fossen by his family.
In memory of John W. Hatcher by Sally Hatcher.
In memory of Ryan Struss and our parents by Kathy & Gayle Struss
In honor of Scott & April Struss, Ross & Melissa Struss, and Emily, Evan, Jeremy, and Eli by Kathy & Gayle Struss.
In memory of Walter & Mary Anne Seiler by Jerry & Mary Seiler and family.
In memory of Rev. Alexander & Lois Wacker by Jerry & Mary Seiler and family.
In memory of our parents and grandparents by Melissa Davis and Wade Giesler.
In memory of John & Dixie Kerr, and Cara Kerr Tagg by Rob & Michelle Kerr.
In memory of loved ones by Linda & Richard Johnson.
In honor of Mary Northrop by Linda & Richard Johnson.
In memory of David E. Northrop by the Northrop family.
In memory of Frank W. Northrop by the Northrop family.
In memory of Michele L. Northrop by the Northrop family.
In memory of Nicole by Deb & Byron Jensen.
In honor of Hannah, Damen, Nathan, and Anna by Deb & Byron Jensen.
In memory of Papa and Grandad from the Reimer family.

Church Office Hours for

December 25, 2024-January 1, 2025

December 25-27: Closed

December 30-31: 9:00am-12:00pm

January 1: Closed

Join us for **Wednesday Night Live!**

Our mid-week Christian education programs are designed for students in Preschool through 12th grade.

Programming runs from 5:00 - 7:00/15 PM and includes dinner (which family members are encouraged to attend), choir practice, bell choir practice, Bible study, and games.

All are welcome!

No need to RSVP, just show up!

There are no costs to any of our programs.

5-5:30 Dinner

5:30-7:00 PreK/K Centers

5:30-6:30 1st-12th Choir/Bells, 30min each

6:30-7 Bible Study (1st-5th)

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

For questions, reach out to Rose; rose@fpchastings.org



Winter Sermon Series: Jesus is making waves!

- **January 5:** Luke 2
Boy in the temple
- **January 12:**
Matthew 2 & Luke 3
The Magi and Baptism
- **January 19:** Luke 4
Prophecy of Isaiah
- **January 26:** Luke 5
A great catch &
fishing for people
- **February 2:** Luke 6
Sabbath healing
& preaching
- **February 9:** Luke 7:1-17
Healing & raising from
the dead
- **February 16:** Luke 7:18-35
Jesus affirms John the
baptizer
- **February 23:** Luke 7:36-50
Forgiven at Jesus' feet

Jesus is making waves!

A sermon series on the gospel of Luke

Join us this winter for a sermon series on the gospel of Luke that shows how Jesus was shaking things up. He makes waves with the visit of the Wise Men, his baptism, preaching and teaching, performing miracles, working on the sabbath, healing and raising people from the dead, quoting prophecies, affirming John the Baptist, offering forgiveness to sinners and inviting others to join him.

What can we learn from his example?

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!

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 3-12year olds from 5-7pm for dinner, bible study, and music. We also have an active youth group for 6th-12th graders from 5-7:15pm 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, Senior Pastor