



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

## First Presbyterian Church November 16, 2025

### PRELUDE

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”  
“Sweet Hour of Prayer”  
Organist Linda Vollweiler

*arr. James Denton*  
*arr. Gregg Sewell*

### WELCOME

Damen Jensen-Heitmann

### INTROIT

“Jubilate”  
Youth Choir, Director Linda Johnson  
Mary Plock, Accompanist

*arr. Alan Bullard*

Jubilate, jubilate, jubilate Deo.  
Jubilate Deo, jubilate Deo  
(Translation: Let us praise you, Lord God.)

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Greg Allen-Pickett

We gather here to find the things often hidden by the world:

***Trust among people who sometimes disagree,***

Care from one generation to another,

***Acts of self-limitation and generosity,***

The hospitality of an open invitation,

***A hopeful future in the smile of a child,***

The wisdom of the past in weakening voices,

***The light of love known in God’s holy word and through God’s joyous people.***

### \*OPENING HYMN

“Jesus, Light of Joy”  
Sarah Wolf, Song Leader

673

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***We confess, O God, that we have placed yokes and undue burdens on the backs of others. We have weighed them down with gossip and***

***false assumptions. We've made them struggle with unrealistic expectations. We've let them endure hunger or loneliness, or poverty. We have allowed the light to grow dim. We have hoarded it for ourselves and kept it beneath a basket. Forgive us, O God, the distress we bring to the world around us. Let your light shine through us once more.***

#### SILENT CONFESSION & CONTEMPLATION

*What light, what peace, what equity can you bring to the world around you?*

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God loves. God forgives.

***Through failings and mistakes,***

God loves. God forgives.

***Praise be to God!***

#### RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“Glory Be to the Father”

581

#### \*PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you!

***And also with you!***

(Greet one another by sharing the Peace of Christ with those  
around you)



Scan to sign-in and let  
us know you were here.

#### SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

#### JOINING OF NEW MEMBERS

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? ***New Members: I do***

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? ***New Members: I do***

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?  
***New Members: I will, with God's help.***

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? ***New Members: I will, with God's help.***

Congregation, will you support these new members by reaffirming your commitment as faithful members of this congregation, sharing in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? ***Congregation: We will, with God's help!***

## PRAYER FOR NEW MEMBERS

Gracious God, we give you thanks for these new members and for the many ways you are at work in their lives and in the life of this congregation. Knit us together in faith, hope, and love, that we may grow as one body in Christ. Pour out your Spirit upon us all—new members and long-time members alike—so that we may worship with joy, serve with compassion, and follow Jesus with courage. Send us out to be your people in the world, seeking justice, sharing grace, and bearing witness to your love. In the name of Christ our Lord, Amen.

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

***I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.***

## \*WELCOME AS MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

By publicly professing their faith, these New Members have expressed their intention to continue in the covenant God made with them in their baptism. Let us welcome them as they join with us in the worship and mission of the church.

***With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of First Presbyterian Church, for we are all one in Christ!***

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***O Holy Spirit, Breath of God, blow in our lives this day. Clear out the cobwebs of closed minds and outworn ideas. Fill us with the freshness of your living love. In the reading and interpretation of these ancient words renew our vision and draw our hearts into ever more perfect alignment with you. Amen.***

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 5:14-16

**CHOIR**

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
 He chastens and hastens His will to make known;  
 The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,  
 Sing praises to His name;  
 He forgets not His own.

**CHOIR**

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
 Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine.  
 So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
 Thou Lord was at our side; all glory be Thine.

**CHOIR and CONGREGATION**

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader in triumph,  
 And pray that Thou still our defender will be.  
 Let thy congregation escape tribulation,  
 Thy Name be ever praised, O Lord make us free!

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING – Isaiah 9:1-7

## MESSAGE A Case for Improbable Hope

## \*HYMN “O Word of God Incarnate” 459

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING *(All loose coins in the offering plate will be donated to the PC(USA) Hunger Fund.)*

OFFERTORY “For the Beauty of the Earth” arr. Patricia Hurlbutt  
 Youth Handbell Choir, Director Byron Jensen

## \*DOXOLOGY “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” 606

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Through our prayers, bring peace, O God. Through our  
 gifts, bring aid, dear Lord. Through our lives, bring  
 hope, O Deliverer. Amen.***



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.***

\*HYMN

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

79

\*BLESSING

\*RESPONSE

“We Are the Church”

Avery and Marsh

***The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,  
The church is not a resting place; the church is a people.  
I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we're the church together!***

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare for a Festive Occasion”

Lani Smith

(\*Indicates the congregation shall stand as they are able.)

Three Week Fall Series on the  
Old Testament Prophets

|                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
| LET JUSTICE<br>ROLL                                                                 | A LIGHT<br>IN THE<br>DARKNESS                                                       | A FUTURE<br>WITH HOPE                                                                 |
| November 9:<br>AMOS 5                                                               | November 16:<br>ISAIAH 9                                                            | November 23:<br>JEREMIAH 29                                                           |

## Welcome New Members

Beci Van Fossen  
Cherie Lemburg  
Betty Smith  
Eli and Sydney Chase  
Audrey and Michael Cooper  
Zach Bridges and Sofia Atkins

**THE FLOWERS** are given in memory of Libby and Elmer Glenn by family and in loving memory of Ted Van Fossen in honor of his birthday by his family.

**THE RADIO BROADCAST** is given in memory of Willard and Della Stein by the Stein family.

**NURSERY** Kim Bogan

**ACOLYTES** Maebry Moore, Ivy Cooper

**USHERS (Team #3)** Captain – Dave Fisher, Andrew Barrows, Phil Odom, Doug Soderquist

### **GREETERS**

| November | Memorial Room      | Narthex       |
|----------|--------------------|---------------|
| 16       | Sue Medsker        | Melissa Davis |
| 23       | Jane & Chuck Bauer | Melissa Davis |
| 30       | Kim Hermann        | Melissa Davis |



### **Community-Wide Soup Supper**

*Thursdays  
6pm-8pm  
Fellowship Hall*

Please Bring Soup by 5:30 p.m.  
Please plan to stay and help host!

This is an opportunity for our church to help those in the community who are experiencing food insecurity.

## *Please pray for*

Elaine Schumacher  
Tarah Davis & family  
Matt Campbell  
Janey Nottage-Tacey  
Bob Wolf  
KyMani Riek  
Janelle Baideme  
family of Jim Harrenstein  
family of Gayle Struss  
Carole Pedersen  
Charles Hermes  
Tony Glenn  
Molly Kammerer and family  
Carl Utley  
Barry Thomson  
Greg Howard  
Lexi Longshore  
family of Dave Henderson  
Zsuzsanna Fazakas  
The Unger family  
Judd Carrier  
Adam Brooks  
Nytha & Dave Glass  
Cynthia Sheppard Jordan  
Elladee Ronhovde  
Willis Horton  
Pam Canady

Francisco Diaz (Beto)  
Carter Johnson  
Sharon Brooks  
Alyssa Donley  
Ken Fisk  
Jean Stinnette  
Gary & Connie Whitcomb  
Sammy Nahorny  
Mary Lewis  
Bruce Batterson  
family of Yvonne Ziemba  
Carol Harrenstein

## *In memory of*

Jim Harrenstein, who passed  
away on September 16, 2025  
Dave Henderson, who passed  
away on November 2, 2025  
Gayle Struss, who passed  
away on November 7, 2025  
Yvonne Ziemba, who passed  
away November 13, 2025





A Very Hastings College  
Christmas with the  
HC Band and Choir

Sunday, December 7  
3 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church  
of Hastings  
Sanctuary

A poster for a Christmas concert by The River City Ringers. It has a light pink background with green holly leaves and red berries in the corners. On the left is a logo of a bell with the letters "RCR" inside. Below it, the text "Free Concert!" is written. In the center, the title "Ring in the Holidays" is in a cursive font, followed by "with The River City Ringers" in a similar font. To the right, the text "All are welcome!" is written. At the bottom center, the event details are listed: "First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary", "Saturday, December 6", and "3 p.m. - 4 p.m.". Two small Christmas trees are at the bottom corners. At the bottom center are two logos: the First Presbyterian Church of Hastings logo and the Langenberg Foundation logo.

*"Ring in the Holidays"*  
with  
*The River City Ringers*  
All are welcome!  
Free Concert!  
First Presbyterian Church  
Sanctuary  
Saturday, December 6  
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

A poster for a Christmas Open House event. It features a festive border at the top with green pine branches, red and gold ornaments, and wrapped gifts. The background is a light gray wood grain. The text is centered.

**Hands Around the World  
Christmas Open House**  
**Saturday, December 7  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
Come check out our new items from SERRV, new  
shipment of coffee, Christmas decorations, etc.  
**Please remember your purchase also helps our local mission  
partner United Harvest to whom we donate to monthly.**





**T-shirt Fundraiser**

**SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL AND OUR CHURCH AT THE SAME TIME!**

Available in **FOUR** colors and **THREE** styles!

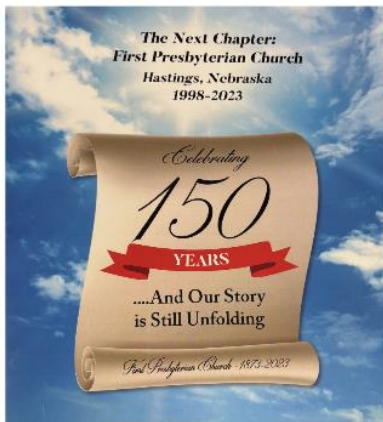
Order forms are available from the Sr. High students in the Memorial Room.

# Hanging of the Greens

Sunday,  
November 23  
11:30 a.m.  
All are welcome!



## 150<sup>th</sup> Book Distribution



Pick up your free copy of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book during the week in the Church Office.  
(one per family please)



## Prophetic Words for Today

November 9, 16, & 23  
9:15 a.m. in the Lydia Room

As we continue to work our way through the Older Testament, Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh will lead a study of the lives and messages of the prophets. In their ancient words and context, Dan will help us to find God's word speaking to us today.

|                        |            |                                 |                                                                         |
|------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 11/16</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                                                                 |
| <b>Monday 11/17</b>    | 9-11am     | Hastings Pickleball Club        | PEACE Gym                                                               |
|                        | 1-3pm      | First Pres Pickleball           | PEACE Gym                                                               |
|                        | 1:30pm     | Quilters                        | PEACE Quilting Room                                                     |
|                        | 6-9pm      | Hastings Pickleball Club        | PEACE Gym                                                               |
|                        | 6-8pm      | Mexican Folkloric Dance         | PEACE NE Classroom                                                      |
|                        | 7-9pm      | Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal  | Choir Room                                                              |
| <b>Tuesday 11/18</b>   | 9-11am     | Hastings Pickleball Club        | PEACE Gym                                                               |
|                        | 10:30am    | Staff Meeting                   | In-person                                                               |
|                        | 12pm       | Bible Study                     | Anderson Room                                                           |
|                        | 5:30pm     | Hastings Literacy Classes       | Middle School and Choir Room                                            |
|                        | 6-9pm      | Hastings Pickleball Club        | PEACE Gym                                                               |
| <b>Wednesday 11/19</b> | 9:30am     | PW Circles 1 & 2                | Fellowship Hall                                                         |
|                        | 12-1pm     | Noonday Book Club               | <a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link |
|                        | 1:15pm     | PW Circle 3                     | Fellowship Hall                                                         |
|                        | 5pm-7:15pm | PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade WNL | various                                                                 |
|                        | 5:30pm     | Adult Game Night                | Fellowship Hall                                                         |
|                        | 6:30pm     | Woodcarvers                     | Basement                                                                |
|                        | 6:45pm     | Chancel Choir Practice          | Choir Room                                                              |
|                        | 7:30pm     | Chancel Bells                   | Bell Room                                                               |
| <b>Thursday 11/20</b>  | 9-11am     | Hastings Pickleball Club        | PEACE Gym                                                               |
|                        | 12:30pm    | Dulcimer                        | HCMA Room 112                                                           |
|                        | 5:30pm     | Hastings Literacy Classes       | Middle School Youth and Choir Rooms                                     |
|                        | 5:30pm     | Session Meets                   | Anderson Room                                                           |
|                        | 6-9pm      | Hastings Pickleball Club        | PEACE Gym                                                               |
|                        | 6-8pm      | Community-Wide Soup Supper      | Fellowship Hall                                                         |
|                        | 6-8pm      | Mexican Folkloric Dance         | PEACE NE Gym                                                            |
| <b>Friday 11/21</b>    | 9-11am     | Hastings Pickleball Club        | PEACE Gym                                                               |
|                        | 10am-12pm  | Mahjong                         | Basement Youth Room                                                     |
| <b>Sunday 11/23</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                                                                 |
|                        | 11:30am    | Hanging of the Greens           | Various                                                                 |





*Celebrate the Advent Season at First Presbyterian Church Hastings at the*

## **Congregation Nativity Set Share**

Display opens in Fellowship Hall at  
8:00 a.m. on  
Sunday, December 7  
and closes at 1:00 p.m.

### *Instructions:*

Bring your family's nativity set to  
Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 6

between 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Be sure to provide a written description  
and history unique to your creche.

**Enjoy the wonderful variety,  
art forms, and unique stories of these  
special representations of  
the Nativity.**

A special project of the  
Worship, Arts, and Music Committee



A Free Tax Preparation Clinic will be taking place in Hastings for several days in February and March to help families complete their taxes, and **we need volunteer Tax Preparers!** No experience is needed, and you will receive training to help people complete simple returns. This is a rewarding opportunity to volunteer for over one or several days to help families receive Tax Credits they are eligible for. We are looking for Volunteers to be Greeters as well! Go to <https://tcan.unl.edu/> to learn more and to sign up.

*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  
**Interim Chancel Choir Director:** Dr. Robin Koozer  
**Chancel Bells & Youth Bells**  
**Director:** Dr. Byron Jensen  
**Youth Choir Director:** Linda Johnson  
**Children Choir Director:** Teresa Canady  
**Children 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