



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

Home Page Newsletter

A Season of Preparation, Anticipation, and Joy

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

As we approach the season of Advent, we are invited once again into that holy space of preparation and anticipation. Advent is more than a countdown to Christmas, it is a season that shapes us, forms us, and awakens in us a deeper longing for God's presence. Together, we remember the miracle of Christ's birth 2,000 years ago, and we also lean forward with hope toward the promise that Christ will come again. Advent teaches us to watch, to wait, and to welcome God's light in the midst of our world.

This year, our church family has the gift of entering the Advent spirit even before Advent officially begins. Our pre-Advent and early Advent activities are designed not simply to fill the calendar, but to shape our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ.

Thursday, November 20 – Final Community Soup Supper (for now!)

What a beautiful gift these soup suppers have been. Thank you to all who have cooked, served, welcomed, and cleaned. Together we have truly been the hands and feet of Christ, offering nourishment and hospitality to our hungry neighbors. This will be our final weekly supper *for now*, but we anticipate continuing this ministry on a monthly basis, so stay tuned!

Sunday, November 23 – Hanging of the Greens (11:30–12:30)

After worship, join us as we decorate our sanctuary, church building, and grounds for Advent and Christmas. Whether you can stay 10 minutes or an hour, your help makes a difference. Many hands truly make light work, and joyful work! This time of decorating together is always a wonderful way to set the tone for the season.

Sunday, November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

On this first Sunday of the season, be sure to pick up your Advent Devotional Guide, lovingly written by church members and staff. Inside you'll find scripture, reflections, prayers, and our Reverse Advent Calendar, a collection item for each day that will support local ministry partners, including:

- Hastings Public Schools Food Pantry
- Crossroads Homeless Shelter
- Catholic Social Services
- Toys for Tots

This devotional unites us as we journey through Advent together in study, prayer, generosity, and service.

And this is just the beginning! As you read through this newsletter, you'll discover many more opportunities to experience the joy, peace, hope, and love of the season:

- A professional handbell concert
- A display of family nativity/creche scenes
- The Hastings College Holiday Concert

Continued

- Our Christmas Cantata
- A Children's Christmas Craft Make-and-Take Event
- A Blue Christmas Service for those carrying grief or hardship
- And so much more...

Each moment, each gathering, each act of worship and service helps us prepare room in our hearts, not just for a baby in a manger long ago, but for the living Christ who still comes to us today and who will come again in glory.

May this Advent be a season of holy expectation for you and your family. May it deepen your hope, steady your spirit, and open you to the wonder of God's love made flesh.

With gratitude for walking this journey together,



Pastor Greg

November Ushers and Greeters

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

November Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
23	Jane & Chuck Bauer	Melissa Davis
30	Kim Hermann	Melissa Davis

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

December Greeters	Memorial Room	Narthex
7	Kathy & Curtis Reimer	Susan Hoff
14	Cathy & John Pershing	Melissa Davis
21	Paul & Lynette Krieger	Jenna Jorgensen
Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. 24	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m. 24	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
28	Milrae & Harold Korb	Melissa Davis



Happy December BIRTHDAYS

Diane Phelps- 1
Louie Eckhardt-1
Sandra Wimer-3
Abigail Shelter-3
Colton Hemje-3
Jeanne Hastings-3
Justin Musgrave-3
Diane Mullen-4
Tyson Kerr-5
Connie Franzen-6
Gary Brandt-7
Lynette Krieger-7
Tanner Bauer-7
Madilyn Graves-7
Steve Wolford-8
Pam Schlichtman-8
Dave Dirks-9
Sophia Hemje-9
Todd Pankratz-10
Danna Wolford-11

Kevin Ellerbee-11
Phyllis Salyards-11
Patrick Moore-11
John Brooks-12
Traci Boeve-12
Nyaguor Duang-13
Mary Fisk-14
Joyce Moore-14
Blake Norris-15
Kelly Barnett-15
Marilyn Nielsen-17
Esther Allen-Pickett-17
Lindsey Stout-17
Deb Jensen-18
Tom Ratzlaff-19
Sue Bradley-19
Kili Wenburg-19
Skylynn Norris-19
Donald Buhr-19
Bill Redinger-20

Justin Osborne-21
Barbara Sunderman-21
Kamden Kugel-21
Briella Borrell-23
Mari Anderson-24
Tracy Brooks-25
Sophia Pankratz-26
Laura Marvel-Wunderlich-26
Ewan Eckhardt-26
Halligan Little-27
Ty Moore-27
Jim Wenburg-28
Kelsey Stokely-29
Carolyn Nowka-29
Laura Peterson-30
Riley Propp-30
Levi McCoy-30
Maliya Fitzgerald-30
Jamie Hickok-30

Tuesday 11/18	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
Wednesday 11/19	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	Fellowship Hall
	12-1pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	1:15pm	PW Circle 3	Fellowship Hall
	5pm-7:15pm	PreK-12 th 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
Thursday 11/20	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
Friday 11/21	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am-12pm	Mahjong	Basement Youth Room
Sunday 11/23	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



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.

Monday 11/24	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12pm	Memorial Committee Meeting	Anderson Room
	1-3pm	FPC 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
Tuesday 11/25	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 Youth and Choir Rooms
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
Wednesday 11/26	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12pm-1pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	NO WNL Activities, NO Chancel Choir, NO Chancel Bells		
Thursday 11/27		Church Offices closed for Thanksgiving	
Friday 11/28		Church Offices closed for Thanksgiving	
Sunday 11/30	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
		No Sunday School	
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library

Please pray for

Elaine Schumacher	Carl Utley	Pam Canady
Tarah Davis & family	Barry Thomson	Francisco Diaz (Beto)
Matt Campbell	Greg Howard	Carter Johnson
Janey Nottage-Tacey	Lexi Longshore	Sharon Brooks
Bob Wolf	family of Dave Henderson	Alyssa Donley
KyMani Riek	Zsuzsanna Fazakas	Ken Fisk
Janelle Baideme	The Unger family	Jean Stinnette
family of Jim Harrenstein	Judd Carrier	Gary & Connie Whitcomb
family of Gayle Struss	Adam Brooks	Sammy Nahorny
Carole Pedersen	Nytha & Dave Glass	Mary Lewis
Charles Hermes	Cynthia Sheppard Jordan	Bruce Batterson
Tony Glenn	Elladee Ronhovde	Willis Horton
Molly Kammerer and family	Carol Harrenstein	family of Yvonne Ziemba

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 on November 13, 2025



November Communion Offering

United Harvest

October Communion Offering Update

The October Communion Offering
raised a total of **\$1,022.00**
which will benefit **Peace and Global Mission**,
Thank you for your generous support.





*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

The Church Offices will be closed
Thursday, November 27 and
Friday, November 28 for the
Thanksgiving holiday.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Ushers and Greeters Needed for Christmas Eve

We are in need of Ushers and Greeters for the 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. services on Christmas Eve.

Please let Melissa know if you are able to help out.
(melissa@fpchastings.org or 402-462-5147)

Thank you!

Hands Around the World Gift Shop

Open Sunday Mornings
10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
and
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Come check out our new items from SERRV, Café Justo coffee, decorations, etc.

Please remember your purchase also helps our local mission partner United Harvest, to whom we donate 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.

CONGREGATIONAL
LIFE
PRESENTS:

Wednesday
Evening



Game Night at FPC

JOIN US FOR:

Dinner
Games
Fellowship

Dinner 5-5:30

GAMES
5:30-7:00

**This event is intended for adults. Students will be at their regular WNL activities.

For Questions, contact the office: (402) 462-5147

thank
you
SO MUCH!



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE COATS... JAMES KONTES
DONATE HERE!

xx

thank you

Thanks! Im so happy I got a new coat! Thank you!

God Bless Joy S

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION

Thank you for keeping us warm

Thank you for your kindness!! Much appreciated! Kumaryn

www.reviveinc.org • 2205 Osborne Dr E Hastings, NE 68901

revive

each step we take reveals a new horizon

QR code

Empowering individuals on their journey to lasting recovery

"You are the light of the world,
A town built on a hill cannot
be hidden." Matthew 4:14

Thank you for being the
light of the world to our
community. ☺

November 2025

Thank you for opening up
your church to feed those who
have been struggling during
these trying times.

Also, thank you for all
the volunteers as well.

God bless all of you!
From: A Hastings
resident

Thank you for the
so much for the
coat your kindness
touch me, thank you
Krishe!

Thank you for
the donation
God bless you
- Elizabeth

Thank you for
the coat & jacket. I
am grateful for
your services! Love
Susie

Thank you
for the
opportunity
to see
coat
Cheryl
Baker

Thank you for holding the
coat drive and welcoming us
through your doors - the hand made
hats etc. and gently used items are
greatly appreciated. God Bless Jessica

Glad for the
coat thank you
Henry

Thank you
Leo R

Thank you! Mary



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 United Harvest.

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

Poinsettia in memory of:

Poinsettia in honor of:

Given by:

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

I will leave my poinsettia at the church: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Three Week Fall Series on the
Old Testament Prophets

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

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.



Blue Christmas

Worship that Honors Grief & Loss
An Ecumenical Service

December 21, 2025 at 7 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
Hastings, NE

FOR LOVE REFUSES TO BE EXTINGUISHED BY DESPAIR



A Very Hastings College
Christmas with the
HC Band and Choir

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



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.

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
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