



First Presbyterian Church of Hastings First Sunday of Advent November 30, 2025

PRELUDE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Organist Linda Vollweiler

arr. Schram

WELCOME

Greg Allen-Pickett

INTROIT

“While We Are Waiting, Come” (vs. 1)

92

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Cooper Family

In a world that longs for assurance and certainty, God invites us into hope.

We wait for the Lord, whose promises are sure.

The prophet Jeremiah wrote to a weary and displaced people, reminding them that God had not forgotten them: “Surely I know the plans I have for you... plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

We cling to that hope today.

Today we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope. It shines in the darkness, reminding us that God’s promises still stand, even when the night feels long. May this light be a sign that God is with us and is still at work in the world.

Come, Lord Jesus. Shine your hope in our hearts and in your world.

Let us pray:

God of hopeful waiting, as we begin this Advent journey, open our hearts to trust in your promises. Help us to live with active hope—planting, building, loving, and seeking the good of all. In Christ our hope, we pray. Amen.

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

79

Sarah Wolf, Song Leader

Light dawns on a weary world; When eyes begin to see all people’s dignity.

Light dawns on a weary world: The promised day of justice comes.

Hope blooms in a weary world; When creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.

Hope blooms in a weary world: The promised green of Eden comes.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great God of presence and promised coming, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to fulfill your desire for us to love one another. We have not followed the paths you have given us, choosing instead to follow our own. We have broken relationships, we chase material desires, we have rebelled against your love. We have ignored the cry of the needy, the mouth of the poor is still hungry for mercy, the cause of the oppressed is still thirsty for justice. Free us for loving obedience, through the Advent of Christ, Our Lord, Our Messiah, Our Hope.

SILENT CONFESSION & QUESTION FOR CONTEMPLATION

How can I embrace hope and share it with others? How can I use this season of Advent to recommit to following God and loving others?

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Good News! Good News! Good News! God so loved the world that God gave us, sinful and broken humanity, a gift:
Emmanuel, God with us. This is proof of God's love for us!
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and loved!
Alleluia! Amen!*

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”

582

*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

SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Damen Jensen-Heitmann

While the children are coming down, the congregation will sing: *“This Little Light of Mine.”*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.
Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.***

1st SCRIPTURE READING – 1 Peter 1:3–7 (NRSV)

2nd SCRIPTURE READING – Daniel 3:1-30 (Summary of NRSV)

SERMON

“Idolatry vs. Advent Hope”

A sermon by Greg Allen-Pickett for the first Sunday of Advent

*HYMN

“Live into Hope”

772

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From the Presbyterian Confession of 1967)

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all. The risen Christ is the Savior of all humanity. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which begins with the apostles and prophets and continues through all generations.

First Presbyterian
Church



Donation QR
Code

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

“Carol of the Bells”

arr. M. Leontoych

Laura Kate & Eleanor Oliver

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In this moment of prayer, we proclaim again your purpose for the world, O Savior. And we offer you our time, talent, and treasure. In this moment of giving, we hear your call again, O Lord. And we offer you ourselves. Use us, all that we have and all that we are, to touch the world with the Advent message: God is hope. God is love. God is with us. Amen.

THE 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

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

82

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

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**

"Concerto"

Paul Fey

(The postlude serves as a musical blessing for worshipers as they transition out into the world.)

**COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP NEXT WEEK & INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS,
FAMILY, AND FRIENDS!**

8:30 am: Contemplative Worship in the Chapel with Communion

9:15 Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary with Children's Choir and Bells

10:30 a.m. service will also be broadcast live on KICS 1550 AM Broadcast live on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@FPCHastings>

THE FLOWERS are given by First Presbyterian Church of Hastings.

THE RADIO BROADCAST is given by First Presbyterian Church of Hastings.

NURSERY Kim Bogan, Raegan Welsch

ACOLYTES Student Volunteers

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

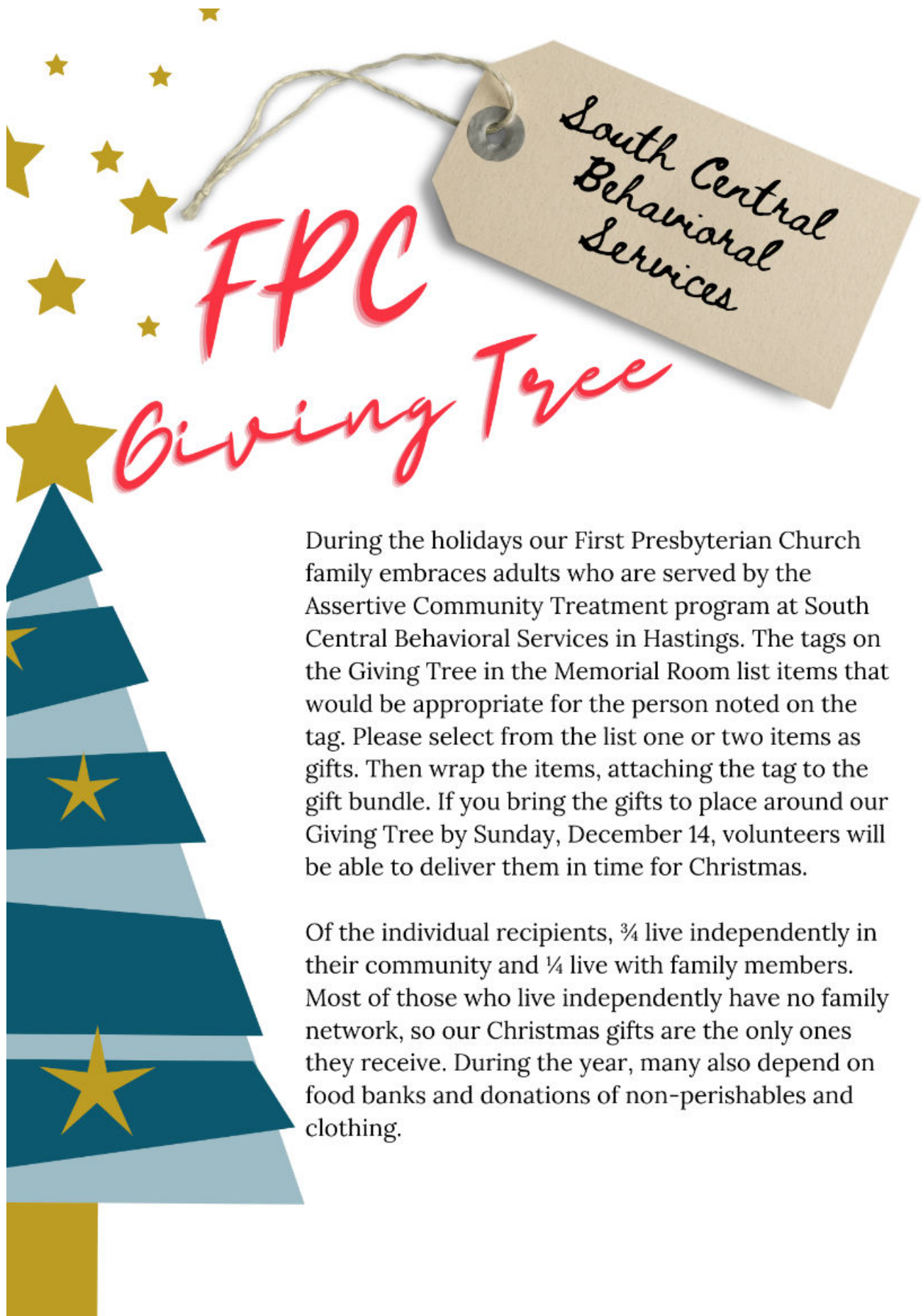
GREETERS

November	Memorial Room	Narthex
30	Kim Hermann	Melissa Davis

December Ushers (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	Volunteer Needed





During the holidays our First Presbyterian Church family embraces adults who are served by the Assertive Community Treatment program at South Central Behavioral Services in Hastings. The tags on the Giving Tree in the Memorial Room list items that would be appropriate for the person noted on the tag. Please select from the list one or two items as gifts. Then wrap the items, attaching the tag to the gift bundle. If you bring the gifts to place around our Giving Tree by Sunday, December 14, volunteers will be able to deliver them in time for Christmas.

Of the individual recipients, $\frac{3}{4}$ live independently in their community and $\frac{1}{4}$ live with family members. Most of those who live independently have no family network, so our Christmas gifts are the only ones they receive. During the year, many also depend on food banks and donations of non-perishables and clothing.

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT ADVENT SERIES



HOPE

IN THE
FIERY
FURNACE
Daniel 3
11/30/25



PEACE

IN THE
VALLEY OF
DRY BONES
Ezekiel 37
12/7/25
Children's Choir
& Bells



JOY

IN
SEEKING
THE LORD
Isaiah 55
12/14/25
Choral Cantata



LOVE

IN THE WORD
BECOMING
FLESH
John 1
12/21/25
Chancel Bells

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

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!



Upcoming Forum

“Awaited Messiah”

is a Forum series that will be led by our Scholar
in Residence, Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh. Dan will
examine how prophecy connects to Jesus.
Classes will be at 9:15 a.m. on Dec. 7th, and 21st.

Please pray for

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

In memory of

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



Christmas With First Presbyterian

Cozy Christmas 2:00PM

A service of caroling and rejoicing is held at College View. Chancel Choir and Pastors hold a service for residents and their family members.

A Family Christmas 5:30PM

A lively service held in the sanctuary features traditional hymns, organ, a child-friendly message, and singing by candlelight.

Traditional Service 7:30PM

Held in the sanctuary, this service contains traditional hymns, music by the choir, and singing by candle light.

Holy Night 11:00PM

A contemplative service is held in the sanctuary to greet the newborn child with simple music and prayer.

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.



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

Dear Members and Friends of FPC,

Thank you for your generous contributions. Many of you use investments for the benefit of the church. Sometimes these checks come to the church without the contributor's name. Getting these checks 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.

Thank you,
Deb Hamburger
Finance Administrator

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
Monday 12/1	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	1-3pm	1 st Pres Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	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 12/2	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 & Choir Rooms
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-7:30pm	WAM Meeting	Anderson Room
Wednesday 12/3	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	11-11:45am	PW Coord Team	Parlor
	11:45am-1:30pm	PW Luncheon and Program	Fellowship Hall
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	Various
	5:30pm-7pm	Adult Game Night	Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers Meet	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells Practice	Bell Room
Thursday 12/4	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School & Choir Rooms
	5:30pm	Mission Committee Meeting	Anderson Room
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE Gym
Friday 12/5	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
	4-8pm	NE Commission on Latino Americans Quarterly Meeting	PEACE Center
Saturday 12/6	7am-4pm	NE Commission on Latino Americans Quarterly Meeting	PEACE Center
	11am-12:30pm	HC Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	10am-1pm	Congregation Nativity Set drop-off	Fellowship Hall
	3-4pm	River City Ringers Concert	Sanctuary
Sunday 12/7	8am-1pm	Congregation Nativity Set Display	Fellowship Hall
	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	Hastings College Choir Concert	Sanctuary



*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

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