



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HASTINGS

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1873

## Home Page Newsletter

### Celebrating New Members & Entering Advent with Hopeful Expectation

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family:

As we move into this holy season of Advent—a time of hopeful anticipation, of watching and waiting for Christ to come among us again—I am grateful for the ways God’s Spirit continues to move within our congregation. Advent reminds us that God is always doing a new thing, often quietly and unexpectedly, and it invites us to pay attention to the signs of new life in our midst.

One of those signs is the gift of new members joining our church family. In November, we joyfully welcomed **ten new members** (along with six children) into First Presbyterian Church. When we add those to our confirmation class from this spring, that means **thirteen** people have chosen to say “yes” to becoming part of this community in 2025. And when we look back over the past eight years, we can give thanks that **178 new members** have joined this congregation since my arrival in 2017. Each one brings their gifts, their stories, their faith, their presence, and each one strengthens the body of Christ in this place. This is something to celebrate! (We have a picture directory of the new members who joined in November in our newsletter this month, so read on!)

Advent is a fitting time to welcome new members, because Advent is all about the promise of God creating something new in and among us. It is a season that calls us to slow down, pay attention, and make room for Christ’s light to break into our lives and our world. The themes of hope, peace, joy, and love are not just words we light on candles—they are practices we live, together, as a community shaped by the gospel.

One of the ways we invite you to deepen your Advent journey is through our **Advent Devotional Guide**, which includes a weekly scripture and reflection, a daily prayer, and a **Reverse Advent Calendar**. Each day of December, we encourage you to collect an item for one of our ministry partners:

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

These small daily acts of generosity help us prepare room—not just in our hearts, but in our community—for Christ to come. You can download the devotional here:

<https://fpchastings.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Advent-Devotional-2025.pdf>

As we light the candles of Advent and as we welcome new brothers and sisters into our church family, may we be reminded that Christ is still Emmanuel—God with us—guiding us, challenging us, and calling us into deeper faithfulness. May this season fill you with both quiet hope and bold expectation.

Grateful to be on the journey with you,

Pastor Greg



The Chase family moved here from Tacoma and includes Eli, Sydney, Jameson (4 yrs), Benson (1 yr)



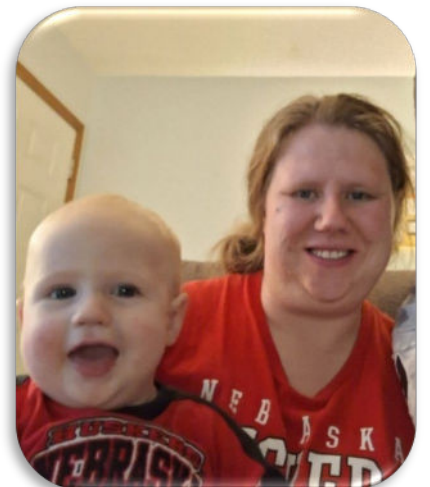
The Bridges family is from Nebraska and settled in Hastings after they got married and includes Sofia, Zach, and Evelyn (2 yrs)



The Cooper Family moved here from Lincoln and includes Audrey, Michael, Ivy (10 yrs), Ashton (4 yrs)



Betty Smith grew up at FPC Hastings and moved away for a time. Now she is back!



Cheri Lemburg moved here from Axtell. We baptized her son Dale (1 yr) on October 19.



Jean Stinnette is a life-long resident of Clay County and a retired nurse. She is joining our church after attending for the last year with her friend Mary Olsen.

Beci Van Fossen moved from Axtell as well. She is the proud mom of member Jodi Graves and the proud grandmother of Madi and Jackson Graves.



**Hastings Area Habitat for Humanity** is sponsoring a **Dave Ramsey Financial Peace** class. This course covers essential financial principles, including budgeting, debt management, and investing.

The class will meet for **nine consecutive Sundays, January 4, 2026–March 1, 2026**, from **3:00–5:00 p.m.** at the **Head Start building (123 Marian Rd)**.

The cost will be **\$99.99 or less**, depending on the number of individuals/couples who enroll. **Deb Johnson** will be teaching the course.

To sign up, contact **Jan Bolliger** at **402-461-0412** or [bolliger67@gmail.com](mailto:bolliger67@gmail.com) before **December 8th**.



*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

# Kick off to Christmas!

Hastings Community Music Academy  
Concert  
Thursday, December 4  
7:30 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary  
Concert is free and open to the public!

**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  
Christmas Open House**  
Saturday, December 13  
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.

**FPC  
Giving Tree**

*South Central Behavioral Services*

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, ¾ live independently in their community and ¼ 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.

**JOIN US!**

## Christmas Craft Make-and-Take Event!

**BRING YOUR FAMILY TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS CRAFT THAT THEY CAN GIVE AS A GIFT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!  
ENJOY A HOT CHOCOLATE BAR WHILE OUR VOLUNTEERS HELP YOUR CHILDREN CRAFT!**

**13 DEC. / 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.**  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
621 N LINCOLN AVE,  
HASTINGS, NE

**CRAFTS ARE TAILORED TOWARDS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS, BUT FUN FOR ALL AGES!**

FREE WILL DONATION

<b>Tuesday 12/2</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 & Choir Rooms
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-7:30pm	WAM Meeting	Anderson Room
<b>Wednesday 12/3</b>	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	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	5-7:15pm	PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade WNL	Various
	5:30pm-7pm	Adult Game Night	Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers Meet	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir Practice	Choir Room
<b>Thursday 12/4</b>	7:30pm	Chancel Bells Practice	Bell Room
	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	7:30pm	HCMA Concert	Sanctuary
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School & Choir Rooms
	5:30pm	Mission Committee Meeting	Anderson Room
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
<b>Friday 12/5</b>	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE Gym
	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
<b>Saturday 12/6</b>	4-8pm	NE Commission on Latino Americans Quarterly Meeting	PEACE Center West Classrooms
	7am-4pm	NE Commission on Latino Americans Quarterly Meeting	PEACE Center West Classrooms
	11am-12:30pm	HC Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	3-4pm	River City Ringers Concert	Sanctuary

## December Ushers & Greeters

**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
<b>Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. 24</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
<b>Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m. 24</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
28	Milrae & Harold Korb	Melissa Davis



### 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.

<b>Sunday 12/7</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	Hastings College Choir Concert	Sanctuary
<b>Monday 12/8</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	1-3pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Pres Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains	Choir Room
<b>Tuesday 12/9</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 & Choir Rooms
	5:30pm	Trustees Meet	Basement Youth Room
		NO Congregational Life Meeting	
	6:45pm	Deacons	Anderosn Room
<b>Wednesday 12/10</b>	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	<a href="mailto:Sbbrooks52@gmail.com">Sbbrooks52@gmail.com</a> for link
	5pm-7:15pm	PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade WNL	Various
	5:30pm-7pm	Adult Game Night	Fellowship Hall
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers Meet	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
<b>Thursday 12/11</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School Youth and 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Choir Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
<b>Friday 12/12</b>	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
<b>Saturday 12/13</b>	10am-1pm	Christmas Craft Make-and-Take event	Fellowship Hall
	10am-1pm	HAWS Christmas Open House	Library
<b>Sunday 12/14</b>		NO Contemplative Worship Service	
	9:15am-10:15am	Sunday School for all ages	Various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service w/Christmas Cantata	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	5pm	South Central Nebraska Children's Chorale Concert	Sanctuary

**December Communion Offering**  
**Christmas Joy Offering**

**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

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**

**Please pray for**

<p>Elaine Schumacher Tarah Davis &amp; 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 Martha Huffman (Nancy Grams' sister)</p>	<p>Carl Utley Barry Thomson Greg Howard Lexi Longshore family of Dave Henderson Zsuzsanna Fazakas The Unger family Judd Carrier Nytha &amp; Dave Glass Cynthia Sheppard Jordan Elladee Ronhovde Carol Harrenstein Pam Canady Francisco Diaz (Beto)</p>	<p>Carter Johnson Sharon Brooks Alyssa Donley Ken Fisk Jean Stinnette Gary &amp; Connie Whitcomb Sammy Nahorny Mary Lewis Bruce Batterson Willis Horton family of Yvonne Ziemba</p>
--	--	---

**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



**South Central Nebraska Children's Chorale Concert**

Sunday, December 14  
 5 p.m.  
 First Presbyterian Church of Hastings  
 Sanctuary  
 All are welcome!

River City Ringers presents  
*A Night of Wonder*  
**Saturday, December 6 | 3:00 PM**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**621 N Lincoln Ave Hastings, NE**  
**Free Concert! All are Welcome!**  
 Scan and join us on YouTube or visit us at: [RiverCityRingers.com](http://RiverCityRingers.com)  
 NEBRASKA ARTS COUNCIL  
 NEBRASKA CULTURAL ENDOWMENT  
 STORZ ROBERT H. STORZ FOUNDATION

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

**Prayers for Advent**

Each day during Advent place an item in a box and say a prayer.  
 Bring the box to church to add to our collection.

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Books (K-5th)               | 14. Cough Drops              |
| 2. Books (6th-YA)              | 15. Household Cleaner        |
| 3. Board Games                 | 16. PB/Cheese Crackers       |
| 4. Sports Ball                 | 17. PineSol                  |
| 5. Gift Wrap                   | 18. Razors (Men's & Women's) |
| 6. Shampoo & Conditioner       | 19. Spaghetti & Sauce        |
| 7. Granola Bars                | 20. Toilet Cleaner           |
| 8. Trash Bags (13 & 33 gallon) | 21. Toilet Paper             |
| 9. Bar Soap                    | 22. Mac & Cheese             |
| 10. Cereal                     | 23. Blanket (Twin)           |
| 11. Ibuprofen/Tylenol          | 24. Shaving Cream            |
| 12. Deodorant                  | 25. Pancake Mix              |
| 13. Liquid Body Wash           |                              |

**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.

# Christmas Cantata

“The Christmas Light” by Benjamin Harlan

Sunday, December 14; 10:30 a.m.

Performed by the Chancel & Youth Choirs of First Presbyterian Church and with a Chamber Orchestra. The cantata celebrates the Season of Advent and the birth of Christ.

## 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

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.

**HASTINGS COLLEGE**

A Very Hastings College  
Christmas with the  
HC Band and Choir

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

### First Presbyterian Church of Hastings THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT ADVENT SERIES

			
<b>HOPE</b>	<b>PEACE</b>	<b>JOY</b>	<b>LOVE</b>
IN THE FIERY FURNACE Daniel 3 11/30/25	IN THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES Ezekiel 37 12/7/25 Children's Choir & Bells	IN SEEKING THE LORD Isaiah 55 12/14/25 Choral Cantata	IN THE WORD BECOMING FLESH John 1 12/21/25 Chancel Bells

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