



First Presbyterian Church of Hastings Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025

PRELUDE

Improvisation on “Devine Mysterium”
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
Organist Linda Vollweiler

arr. Lasky
arr. Burkhardt

WELCOME

Greg Allen-Pickett

INTROIT

“Away in a Manger”
Children’s Bell Choir, director Susan Oliver

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

(The tradition of First Presbyterian Church is to invite a family to light the Advent candle. Our Christian understanding of family includes all sisters and brothers in Christ who live in fellowship together and take care of one another. This morning, we invite our “Walkers/Church Mice,” a group of church members who help prepare the sanctuary each week)

The second candle reminds us of God’s peace—not the absence of conflict, but the presence of Christ.

Christ is our peace, who breaks down every dividing wall.

The prophet Isaiah declared, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light... for a child has been born for us, the Prince of Peace.”

We long for that peace in our lives and in our world.

Today we light the candles of Hope and Peace, trusting that God’s peace is stronger than fear, hatred, or division. May this light guide our feet into the way of peace.

Come, Lord Jesus. Make us instruments of your peace.

Let us pray:

God of peace, quiet our anxious hearts and heal our troubled world. Where there is conflict, bring reconciliation. Where there is fear, bring courage. Where there is brokenness, bring wholeness. In the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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

79

Ann and Robin Koozer, Song Leaders

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.

Peace grows in a weary world; When conflict fades away, the dawn of a new day.

Peace grows in a weary world: The promise of God’s kingdom 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

Where have I fallen short in my call to be a peacemaker? 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)

SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



Scan to sign-in and let
us know you were

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 your word of peace to us in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.***



1st SCRIPTURE READING – John 20:19–23

ANTHEM

“Still, Still, Still”
“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

*Gustav Holst/
arr. Carol Lynn Mizell*

2nd SCRIPTURE READING – Ezekiel 37:1-14

SERMON

“Peace in the valley, the locked room, and our hearts”
An advent sermon by Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

*HYMN

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

286

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

arr. Schram

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In this moment of worship, we embrace your presence again, O God. 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 peace. God is love. God is with us. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION “Come to the Table of Grace”

Children’s Choir, director Teresa Canady

Mary Plock, Accompanist

(Children’s Choir will sing verses 1-4, Congregation is invited to sing verse 5)

1. Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of grace.

This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

2. Come to the table of peace.

Come to the table of peace.

This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine.

Come to the table of peace.

3. Come to the table of love.

Come to the table of love.

This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine.

Come to the table of love.

4. Come to the table of hope.

Come to the table of hope.

This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine.

Come to the table of hope.

5. Come to the table of joy.

Come to the table of joy.

This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine.

Come to the table of joy

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*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

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

arr. Schram

(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!

NO 8:30 Service, all are invited to come to the 10:30am service

9:15 Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am Cantata “The Christmas Light” in the Sanctuary

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 in memory of David E. Northrop by the Northrop family.

THE RADIO BROADCAST is given in memory of David E. Northrop by the Northrop family.

NURSERY Kim Bogan, Vivian Fong

ACOLYTES Charlie Stout, Rory Stout

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

GREETERS

December	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



**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 monthly.



Please pray for

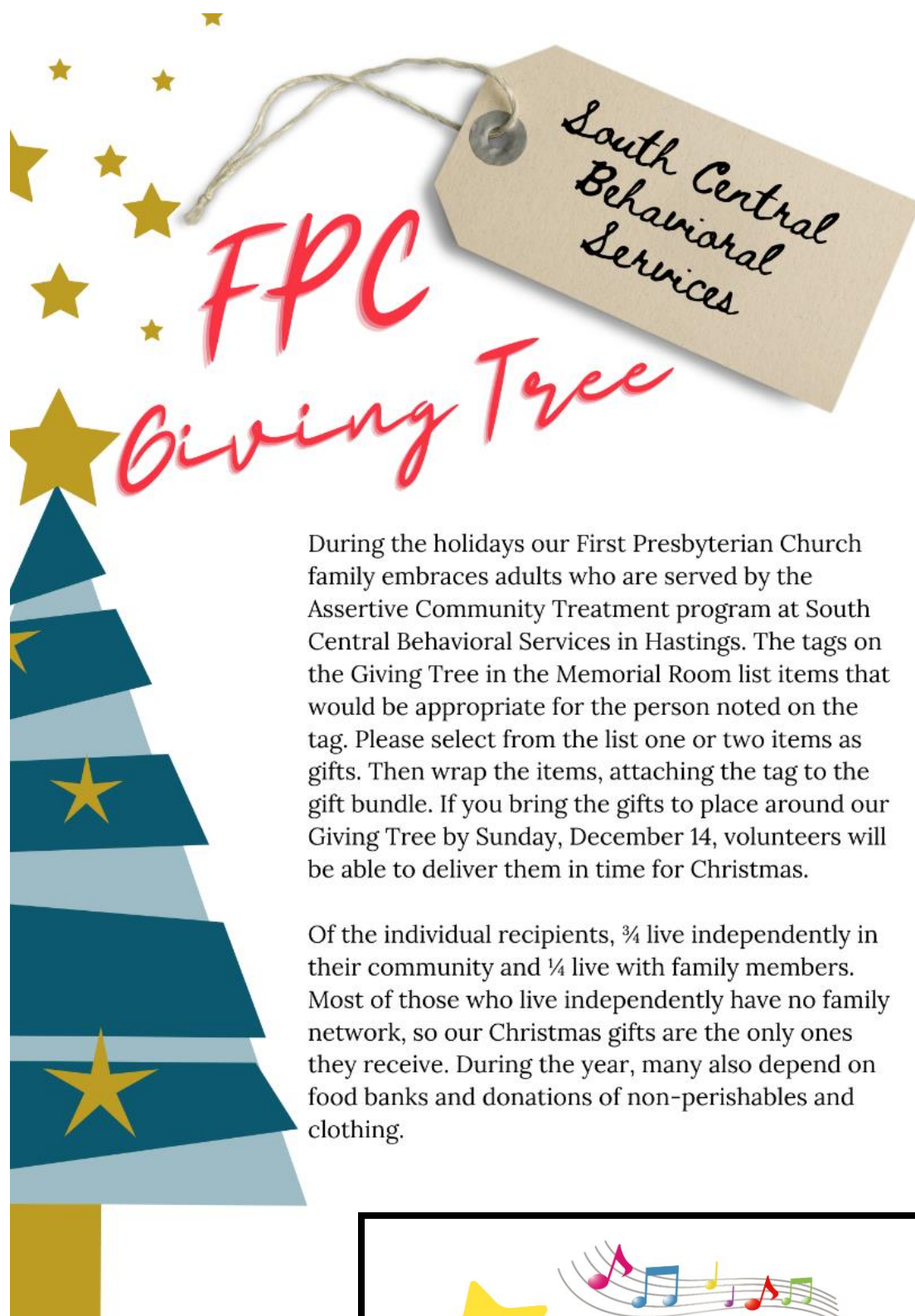
Elaine Schumacher	Carl Utley	Carter Johnson
Tarah Davis & family	Barry Thomson	Sharon Brooks
Matt Campbell	Greg Howard	Alyssa Donley
Janey Nottage-Tacey	Lexi Longshore	Ken Fisk
Bob Wolf	family of Dave Henderson	Jean Stinnette
KyMani Riek	Zsuzsanna Fazakas	Gary & Connie Whitcomb
Janelle Baideme	The Unger 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



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.



South Central Nebraska Children's Chorale Concert

Sunday, December 14

5 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
Sanctuary

All are welcome!

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.

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 festive poster for a Christmas craft event. It features a teal background with white snowflakes, a red and white striped candy cane, a yellow bell, and a Santa Claus head in the bottom right corner. The text is in a mix of white and black fonts, some with a hand-drawn feel.

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



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.

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

December Communion Offering Christmas Joy Offering

November Communion Offering Update

The November Communion Offering
raised a total of **\$651.00**
which will benefit **United Harvest**
Thank you for your generous support.

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!



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



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



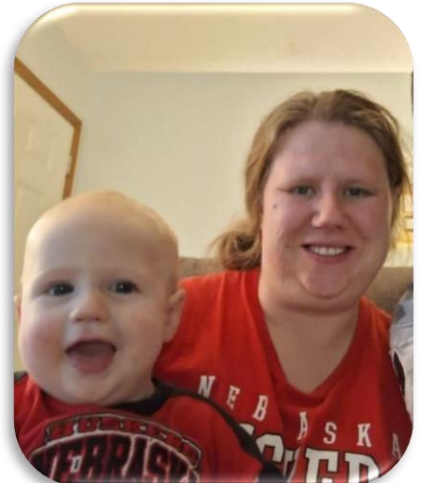
The Bridges family is from Nebraska and settled in Hastings after they got married and includes Sofia, Zach, and Evelyn (2 yrs)



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.



Sunday 12/7	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 & Band Concert	Sanctuary
Monday 12/8	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	1-3pm	1 st 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
Tuesday 12/9	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	11:45am	Habitat for Humanity	Room 202
	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	Anderson Room
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
Wednesday 12/10	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	5pm-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	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
Thursday 12/11	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School Youth and 2 nd floor Choir Room
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
Friday 12/12	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Saturday 12/13	10am-1pm	Christmas Craft Make-and-Take event	Fellowship Hall
	10am-1pm	HAWS Christmas Open House	Library
Sunday 12/14		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

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 Melissa or me know that it is on its way.

Thank you,
Deb Hamburger
Finance Administrator



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

Congregation Nativity Set Share

Nativity Sets are on display in Fellowship
Hall
today until 1 p.m.

**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