



## Mission Statement of 1st Presbyterian Church, Hastings

Following Christ, we strive to love and serve the world so that all may grow in faith and experience true joy.



# More Good News

Dec. 2017

Volume 18, #12

## December at a Glance

### Dec. 3

9:30 AM Bell Practice  
10:30 AM Worship w/communion  
Scripts order due

### Dec. 6

Bell Choir Practice 6:00 PM  
Youth Group Game Night  
at Park Ridge 6:00 PM

### Dec. 10

Bell Choir Practice 9:30 AM  
10:30 AM Worship  
Lessons and Carols

### Dec. 15

Newsletter Deadline

### Dec. 17

10:30 AM Worship  
Lunch after church and  
Christmas caroling with Deacons

### Dec. 24

10:30 AM Worship  
Christmas Eve  
8 PM Worship

### Dec. 31

10:30 AM Worship

## From the Pastor's Desk

*Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat.*

*Pleased to put a penny in the old man's hat.*

*If you haven't got a penny, a half-penny will do.*

*If you haven't got a half-penny, then God bless you.*

You probably know the above poem. A familiar little ditty that reminds us that the holidays are coming and there is work to do: gifts to gather, parties to attend, cards to send, and contributions to make. Unfortunately, in recent years, the seasons of Advent and Christmas have become more associated with busyness and responsibilities than with the original reason for the season.

The church season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and continues through to Christmas Eve. Our church season of Christmas begins with Christmas Day on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and it continues through Epiphany, which we will celebrate on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Advent is a time of waiting in expectation and hope. It is a reminder for us today of those who waited for thousands of years before the arrival of God in human form. It is a season of longing and anticipation. If we rush through this Advent season or ignore it altogether, we miss the value of the process. We may not sense the true worth of the birth which we will celebrate at Christmas if we have not lingered long enough in Advent.

This year, I invite and encourage you to let these four weeks of Advent be a time of true anticipation and preparation. Not just for the family and

festivities of Christmas. But more importantly, let them be a time of anticipation and readiness when you prepare yourself spiritually for the main event of Christmas: the birth of the Christ Child into our world and into your life. Linger in these Advent days long enough so you will truly know the joy of Christmas when it arrives.

And arrive it will! Always with wonder and excitement and busyness. There will be time for Christmas celebrations and family gatherings and giving and receiving. And hopefully, if we have done our due diligence during this Advent season, there will be a re-birth of hope into our lives and into our world this Christmas. And I don't know about you, but I know that I need that hope in my life this Christmas. May your Advent season be full of the anticipation and preparation that mark the coming of a great joy. And may your Christmas be the culmination of that season, marked by the birth of hope and new life.

See you in church,

Steve

Rev. Steve Robertson is always available for questions or pastoral emergencies. Please contact him anytime. Call or text his cell phone: 612-655-7594 Or Email: [stevempls@icloud.com](mailto:stevempls@icloud.com)



## Worship During Advent and Christmas

**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** – the First Sunday of Advent, marked with regular worship and including communion

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** – the Second Sunday of Advent, marked with the Hastings traditional service of lessons and carols, including the Bell Choir who will play in worship

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** – the Third Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – the Fourth Sunday of Advent, marked with a 30-minute service of music and prayers at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – **CHRISTMAS EVE**, marked with a traditional candlelight service at 8 pm in the Sanctuary



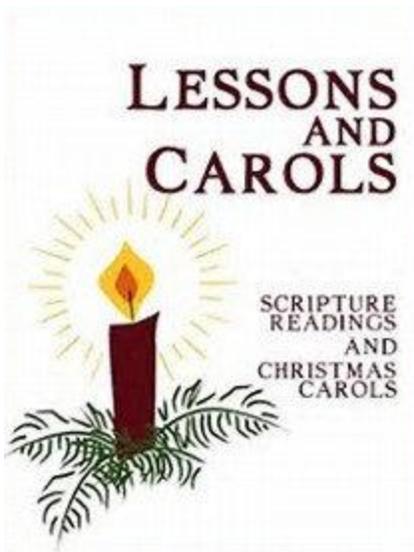
There will be no session or deacons meeting in December. The Session and Deacons will meet for a combined meeting and fellowship time on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm (note the earlier time). All Elders and Deacons are invited to bring a dessert to share.

## Scripts Fund-raising Order

It is time for another Scripts order. Kristin Blevins will be submitting an order on **Dec. 3rd**. New participating companies have been added. There are lists and order forms downstairs. Remember each gift card you purchase earns First Presbyterian money.



Youth Game Night at Park Ridge  
Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>



The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.

**December 10**



Believe it or not, the Holidays are here. As in the past, we will have a Gift Tree as part of our ministry with Hastings Family Services. Details coming in the Weekly Announcements.

Get in the Christmas Spirit as we visit some of our shut-ins on Sunday, December 17th. After church we will have lunch and then go Christmas caroling. Please let Becky or Margaret know if you plan on joining us for lunch.



# The Christmas Joy Offering

December 17th



This Advent and Christmas season, we celebrate the gift of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, we recognize the wondrous gift Christ has given us, not just in Himself, but also in raising up leaders within our church.

**THE WONDROUS GIFT IS GIVEN**

Celebrate the gift of Jesus with a gift of your own that will assist church workers in times of need and also develop and educate the future racial ethnic leaders of our church.

 CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS



Pastor Steve will be away in Florida visiting his mother from Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> through Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>. As always, he is available by phone and email during this time and will arrange for pastoral care coverage in the event of an emergency.



## THE RECIPE CORNER

Please send your recipes to Becky Tiefenbruck at [mrsbect@gmail.com](mailto:mrsbect@gmail.com) or put them in the newsletter box in the office.

### *Grandma's Rum Cake*

*submitted by Sylvia Tayson*



#### **Ingredients**

1 pkg. Duncan Hines yellow cake mix  
1 pkg. (3-4 oz.) vanilla instant pudding mix  
½ c. oil  
1 c. water  
1 tsp. vanilla  
4 eggs  
1 c. chopped walnuts

#### Glaze:

½ c. butter  
½ c. sugar  
½ c. dark rum

#### **Directions**

Mix together all ingredients except for glaze. Pour into a greased and floured Bundt pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-55 minutes. Meanwhile melt butter and sugar together in saucepan. When melted, slowly add rum, stirring constantly until sugar is dissolved. Take cake out of oven and let stand for 5 minutes, then pour glaze slowly around the edges and top and middle of pan. Let stand 20 minutes and then invert cake on plate. Store well in a cool place.

## *O Holy Night*

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
'Til He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;  
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here come the wise men from Orient land.  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our friend.

He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

*O Holy Night* is a wonderful Christmas Carol composed 1847 by the french composer Adolphe Adam. The original lyrics to *O Holy Night* is a french poem named *Minuit, Chrétien* – in english *Midnight Christians* – written by Placide Cappeau. The english lyrics were written by the minister John Sullivan Dwight.

## Bible Readings This Month

### **December 3**

*Isa. 64: 1-9*  
*Ps. 80: 1-7, 17-19*  
*1 Cor. 1: 3-9*  
*Mark 13: 24-37*



### **December 10**

*Isa. 40: 1-11*  
*Ps. 85: 1-2, 8-13*  
*2 Peter 3: 8-15a*  
*Mark 1: 1-8*

### **December 17**

*Isa. 61: 1-4, 8-11*  
*Ps. 126 or*  
*Luke 1: 46b-55*  
*1 Thess. 5: 16-24*  
*John 1: 6-8, 19-28*

### **December 24**

#### **Christmas Eve**

*Isa. 9: 2-7*  
*Ps. 96*  
*Titus 2: 11-14*  
*Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)*

### **December 31**

*Isa. 61: 10-62:3*  
*Ps. 148*  
*Gal.4: 4-7*  
*Luke 2: 22-40*

## **December 2017 Servers**

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Lay Leaders</b>
<b>Dec. 3</b>	Brenda Reiter	Rashes	Becky Tiefenbruck
<b>Dec. 10</b>	Christians	Browns	Karen Altpeter
<b>Dec. 17</b>	Karen Altpeter	Mary Crawmer	Marcia Rash
<b>Dec. 24</b>	Carlotta Mullins	Judy Becker	Marcia Caneff
<b>Dec. 31</b>	Mary Crawmer	Browns	Kristin Blevins



# DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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<b>3</b> Bell Choir 9:30 AM  10:30 Worship w/Communion  Scrips order due	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Bell Choir 6 PM	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>  Bell Choir 9:30 AM  10:30 Worship Lessons and Carols	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>   Dave Hume
<b>17</b>  10:30 Worship Lunch Christmas Caroling	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>   John Lewis	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10:30 Worship   8 PM	<b>25</b>  	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>  10:30 Worship   Carolyn Blumeyer						