The Four Sundays of Advent

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the debut of Silent Night

Join us for worship Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23
8:30 am (Great Hall) -- 11:00 am (Sanctuary) -- 12:30 pm (Sudanese – Great Hall)

Other Special Services and Events You Won’t Want to Miss:

Sunday, December 2
8:30 am  Special Hanging of the Greens Worship, telling the story behind our decorations, and sing lots of advent and Christmas carols (Great Hall). A wonderful way to begin our journey to Christmas.

9:45 am  Mission Projects, Fellowship & Refreshments Join us as we put together Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Hygiene Kits and tie fleece scarves to donate to people in need - read more about this on page 6 (Fellowship Hall). Check out the PW Bake Sale too!

11:00 am  First Sunday of Advent Worship, with Communion, Choir and Brass

12:15 pm  Christmas Mission Luncheon and Bake Sale, Hosted by Presbyterian Women

Sunday, December 16

9:45 am  Children’s Christmas Program
As we move closer to Christmas, the children remind us who we celebrate, and who’s advent we are waiting for, through word and song. Join us for worship either before (8:30 am) or after (11 am) for a meaningful and powerful Sunday.

Christmas Eve (Monday, Dec. 24)

5:00 pm  Relaxed Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Stories and Carols easily accessible for children

9:00 pm  Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Choir, Brass and Organ

First Sunday of Christmas (Dec. 30)

11:00 am  One morning service only (no 8:30 am or 12:30 pm services)
Sue’s Musings: Prayers for a Silent Night

The hymn, “Silent Night,” first made its debut on Christmas Eve, 1818 at the St. Nicholas chapel in Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria.

The melody by composer Franz Gruber is instantly recognizable from the first few notes, and the original text by Joseph Mohr has been translated from the original German into over 140 languages.

Our church joins churches all around the world on Christmas Eve, lighting candles and singing Silent Night. I don’t think our Christmas Eve services would feel complete without it! In a world where there is anything but silence, we will spend the four weeks of Advent reflecting on the gift, the opportunity, and the promise of “Silent Night.”

As we prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth, may our worship also prepare us to listen to the voices not heard, to the ones we push away, to call a ceasefire to the sources of conflicts in our lives, and to be agents Christ can work though to soothe the cries of a hurting world.

Our choir will be singing new anthem written for this series, “We Need a Silent Night in Here.” May the words of this anthem be our prayer for this Advent and Christmas season.

~ Pastor Sue ~

Pastor Sue’s Christmas Open House
Sunday, December 16, 4-7 pm

Linda and I would like to invite you to drop by our home on Sunday, Dec. 16, anytime between 4 – 7 pm for an open house – featuring appetizers, cookies, drinks and fellowship. You can find us at 7010 S 30th Place, on the right as you enter the cul-de-sac.

No RSVP necessary – just come and enjoy!
“We Need a Silent Night in Here”

It’s the season of the year we come to celebrate
In all our ways, from different paths we come to be
Yet when we look around us, we see divisions everywhere
 Even friends and family can’t seem to agree.

There are empty chairs for some around the table now
Loved ones gone, others just can’t find their way
But we lift our hopeful eyes with open hearts and soul and mind
In whatever way we know you and however we might pray

(Refrain) We need a silent night in here. We need your presence to come near
Give us the hope we need and the peace we seek. We need a silent night in here

Now we pray that we can find our shared humanity
Knowing what affects just one affects us all
When the darkness hides the light it is the star that shines so bright
With the courage to be change lift us up before we fall (refrain)

In the silence renew our sight
Help us see you shining in the night
Still the noise the world can give
Come teach us how to live (refrain)

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It’s that time of year again as we prepare for Christmas through the season of Advent.

For many of us our preparation involves lots of Christmas traditions.

Our children’s and youth ministries want to be part of that preparation as well.

On Sunday, December 16th during the Sunday School hour in Fellowship Hall, the children and youth will present “What God Wants for Christmas” an adaptation of the children’s book by Barbara Rainey.

This program is not just for families but for the entire congregation, so please join us on Sunday Dec. 16th at 9:45am for what is sure to be a fun and thought provoking celebration!

Play and Pray
Kris “Bubba” Brammer
Here’s what’s happening in November!

**Children’s Ministry and Faith Formation:**
Dec 2\textsuperscript{nd} at 9:30 - Christmas Program rehearsal and Activity Time

Dec 9\textsuperscript{th} at 9:30 - Christmas Program rehearsal and Activity Time

Dec 16\textsuperscript{th} - Children’s Christmas Program in Fellowship Hall

Dec 23\textsuperscript{rd} - Sunday School and Activity Time

**Youth Ministry and Faith Formation:**
Dec 2\textsuperscript{nd} at 5:30pm - Youth Fellowship as we explore advent

Dec 9\textsuperscript{th} at 5:30pm - Youth Fellowship and Advent #2

Dec 16\textsuperscript{th} - Youth Christmas Party TBA

Dec 23\textsuperscript{rd} - NomYouth Fellowship
All-Church Mission Activity | Sunday, December 2

Get your Advent Season off to a joyous start by joining us in Fellowship Hall between services on 12/2 to work on an Advent Mission Activity. We’ll be tying scarves for the McPhee Scarf, Hat & Mitten drive in January and filling hygiene bags for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance relief.

We’ll be enjoying some Christmas music, coffee, and juice and the Presbyterian Women will have some tasty treats at their annual bake sale. If you knit or crochet and would like to make scarves, hats, or mittens for McPhee, bring your yarn and join in the fun.

Donations of items or cash for the hygiene kits would be greatly appreciated. Each kit needs the following, but don’t worry if you have 10 toothbrushes and 4 soaps to donate. All amounts are welcome.
1 — hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels)
1 — washcloth
1 — wide-tooth comb
1 — nail clipper (UPDATE: nail clippers with metal files or emery boards are now accepted
1 — bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
1 — toothbrush (in original packaging)
10 — Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips

Games for McPhee

This holiday season FPC will again be collecting games to be distributed to McPhee families. Watch for the holiday sales and bring in one (or 10) to the church office from November to mid December.

Cash donations will also be graciously accepted and used to buy additional games. To donate, please contact a Mission Committee member or write a check to the church and indicate "McPhee Games" in the memo line.
Did you know that the Advent and Christmas decorations don't magically appear?

Your Worship and Sacraments Committee has been busy getting ready for this special time of year, and on November 25 gathered to decorate the church.

On Sunday, December 2, at our 8:30 worship service we will have our traditional start to Advent with a special Hanging of the Greens service, where we share stories and the background to our Christmas decorations, and enjoy singing advent and Christmas carols.

Your committee has also been working with a Nebraska company which specializes in worship spaces regarding modifications of some seating areas in the sanctuary to give us a little more space between the pews, and to create spaces for wheelchairs, so our members and visitors in wheelchairs can sit in the main seating area if they wish.

We are in the process of getting more information for the session on this project.

Comfort Room now streaming worship services

We're very pleased to announce that the comfort room (116) next to the sanctuary is now live streaming the Sunday worship services. So, if you have a little one that needs a private, quiet space to calm down, you can now take them to the comfort room without missing any of the worship service!
Presbyterian Women have spent this year celebrating 30 years of being organized as Presbyterian Women, and the longer legacy of 230 years of Presbyterian women faithfully engaging the world.

These milestones were celebrated when women from First Church and Homestead Presbytery attended the Churchwide Gathering in August of this year and again in the fall at Homestead's Fall Gathering.

The gatherings are behind us and our anniversary year is drawing to a close. The impact of those events will live in us and with us. We are transformed. The Holy Spirit has done that!

As we move forward, the inclusive, caring community that is Presbyterian Women will continue to grow. The experiences that change us and the stories we tell will touch others and draw them in.

So, we will continue to build community, even though we are preparing to move in many different directions.

One of the things that is changing is our Mission work. The Church has long had a Mission Committee and PW's work started in Mission. Lisa Jasa is coordinator for both and we plan to have a stronger mission presence.

Remember, WE ARE BETTER AND STRONGER TOGETHER! Let this be a joyous HOLIDAY SEASON and a fantastic NEW YEAR.

SEASON'S GREETING TO ALL!
During this stewardship season we have been asked

“With what shall I come before the Lord...?”

(Micah 6:6)

We have reflected on the ways the church inspires integrity and selflessness. We have celebrated our work through God’s hands in this neighborhood and from our neighborhood throughout the world. But the next step in yours.

After your prayerful consideration, we hope you will make another commitment to help serve our mission. If you need a pledge card, please contact the church office (info@fpclincoln.org or 402-477-6037).

Thank you for your support! We look forward to continuing our shared service together with you and in Christ’s name in 2019!
Concert in Remembrance of Victims of Violence
Sunday, November 11, 2018

On Sunday, November 11, the FPC choir along with the Union College UC singers and special guest Narrator Pippa White, presented the Concert in Remembrance of Victims of Violence.

Living in a time where we are too often confronted with unfortunate situations of mass violence, this concert used timeless music and the spoken word to celebrate and honor those who have been lost.
The Times They Are A-Changin’!

First a hello: If you’ve recently visited the church office, you might have noticed a new face. We are excited to announce that Cheryl Rennick has joined our staff as our half-time finance administrator.

Cheryl has been working with us as on a contract basis for a while, helping us bring our finance system up to date after some major staff and software changes. Cheryl will be in the office Mondays and Tuesdays, and can be reached by email at finance@fpclincoln.org.

Next a transition: A HUGE THANK YOU to Carrie Cross for stepping up after Patty left last year. Quite simply, if she hadn’t come to us with some accounting background and the willingness to take on some of the finance responsibilities, we don’t know where we’d be.

Now that Cheryl is on board, Carrie can finally go back full time to the job she was hired for – being the front face of the church for our members and guests, and the overall coordinator of our administrative life.

Finally a goodbye: An even BIGGER HUGE THANKS to David Kamran, for being an awesome office assistant! David came on board so that Carrie would have time to take over the finance responsibilities. Having David here, who already knew us and could slip seamlessly into our staff, was exactly what we needed.

Now that Carrie is back full time in the front office, David will be leaving the office assistant position. THANK YOU David for your love for this church, for your dedication, and for the great work you did in the front office!

David’s last day in the office was on Wednesday, November 21. While we are sad to see his position end, have no fear – he’s just leaving the job, not the church!
Gathering Place donation/fund matching

From now until December 31, the Gathering Place will be matching any donations made to their organization. If you would like to donate please send your donations to the church office, with funds made out to “The Gathering Place kitchen”.

Church Women United I Friday, December 7 I 9:30 am
Fellowship Hall

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED will meet at First Presbyterian Church Friday morning, December 7 beginning with coffee and fellowship at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Our program will feature Beverly Jester from Ten Thousand Villages sharing what's new in the store and bringing a display of great Christmas shopping items. All are welcome!

Sand Dollars Potluck I Friday, December 21 at 6:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

Jack Cole has put together a really great program featuring Vena Alisio, Logan Langholdt and Susie Cook.

Several Sand Dollar members are bringing their favorite spaghetti recipes to share. Everyone else bring your favorite salad, bread, veggies or desert to go along with the spaghetti.

The program will feature Christmas songs and Carols. Everyone is invited so bring your Christmas Spirit (and of course wear your Christmas sweaters) and plan to have a fun time with family and friends.

Please contact Jack Cole at 402-486-2302 or jackandshirleycole@gmail.com so we know how many to plan for.
Articles for the January First Report due: Monday, December 17

Please send us any articles or announcements by or before 12/17. Articles received after 12/17 may not be included in the newsletter.

Flyleaf Book Club | Friday, December 21 at 9:00 | FPC Library

We’ll be discussing the book My Own Words written by Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

New member are always welcome to join!

Interested in being a Sunday morning greeter?

We’re always looking for new people to greet our members and visitors on Sunday mornings. If you like greeting people with a smile on your face, this is for you! Contact Ruth Beach (402) 464-0513 if you’re interested in greeting.

Send us your updated contact information!

If you have moved, or changed email addresses or phone numbers please let us know! We want to make sure we have everybody’s updated contact information. Call or email the church office with any updates or changes — (402) 477-6037 or info@fpclincoln.org
December is Read a New Book Month! Browse the FPC Library shelves for a new book, or one that is new to you, and enjoy!

Christmas is Coming!

The FPC Library has dozens of books to help get you in the Christmas spirit.

From Advent studies & reflections, to Christmas history & remembrances, to Christmas themed fiction — we have it all!

*Wonder of Wonders*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*Names for the Messiah*, by Walter Brueggemann

*The Christmas Train*, by David Baldacci

*A Stubborn Sweetness*, by Katherine Paterson

Do you have children visiting in December? We have books guaranteed to entertain them!

On December 23rd, we will have a special group Sunday School in the Library, with treats and crafts. All are welcome!

By the Numbers...

231 – God

Includes books on the Holy Trinity, & God’s omnipotence, love & wisdom.

Look for these on the west wall, near the grandfather clock.
**Worship & Sacrament**  
Hanging of the Greens Service will be December 2\(^{nd}\) at 8:30. There will be no communion. Worshipers wishing to partake in communion will be encouraged to attend the 11 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary. During the Sunday school hour, between services, everyone will be able to participate in various mission projects.

December 16 the CE committee will host a children’s program between worship services. There will be one worship service.

Sunday, December 30 at 11 a.m. The new video cameras to record in the sanctuary have been installed.

**Property**  
West Parking Lot Plantings on the berms is now complete. North and East parking lots have been sealed and restriped.

**Mission and Social Justice**  
The Committee hosted a Sunday field trip to Clinic with a Heart in October. Additional field trips will be planned after the holidays. Children’s games will be collected from Nov. 1 to mid-December for distribution to McPhee families at the holidays. Peace and Global Witness Offering was $275.

**Christian Education**  
On Dec 23\(^{rd}\), a special group Sunday School will be held in the Library. Sunday School will be not be held on Dec 30\(^{th}\).

**Congregational Nominating**  
A congregational meeting will be held December 2\(^{nd}\) to elect elders.
First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church is a place where faith is nurtured, curiosity is encouraged, diversity is welcomed, and all are loved. Please notify the church office of any name, address, email, and/or telephone changes.

Outside Classes and Programs @ FPC:

- Men’s AA - Mondays
- Women’s AA - Tuesdays
- Big Book Bunch AA - Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Lincoln Literacy - Monday through Thursday
- SCC ESL - Monday through Thursday
- Flyleaf Book Club - 3rd Friday of the month

At FPC, we warmly welcome any sort of group or organization that provides needed services for members of our community.