



**Rev. Nick Marlatt**

*Pastor*

[nmarlatt@firstchurchhastings.org](mailto:nmarlatt@firstchurchhastings.org)

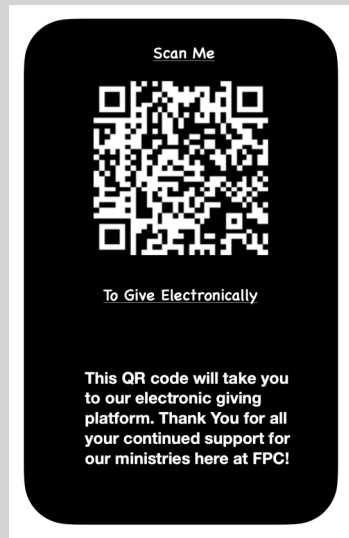
Sunday Worship - 10:00 am  
On Facebook & the Website  
[www.firstchurchhastings.org](http://www.firstchurchhastings.org)

**Watch us live via  
Facebook or Website!**



**Preparation for Worship**

Please take some time for silent preparation of heart and mind for worship of the Almighty God.



**"Open Our Eyes"**



*December 1, 2024*

**1st Sunday of Advent**



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## "Open Our Eyes"

December 1, 2024

*Please take a moment to reflect and pray as we begin to worship our Lord.*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GATHERING PRAYER

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Corey and Jenna Grassmid

*My Soul Magnifies the Lord  
Forever*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Awake from your sleep: salvation is near!

**The night is far gone; the day is at hand.**

The day of the Lord is surely coming;

**the promise of God will be fulfilled.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love, and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior, and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*Joyful Joyful*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of the season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming.**

SILENT CONFESSION

L: Lord have mercy

**P: Christ have mercy**

L: Lord have mercy

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Sally Keller

(Children are invited to Children's Church following this time).

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Proclaiming God's Word**

SCRIPTURE: 1Thessalonians 3:9-13

SERMON: "Open Our Eyes"

**Responding to God's Word**

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

MOMENT FOR MISSION

OFFERING/DOXOLOGY

COMMUNION            Organ Meditation: *The Coventry Carol*, arr, Southbridge

BENEDICTION

CHARGE/SENDING

ORGAN POSTLUDE            *O Blessed Emmanuel*, J.S. Bach

### **Organ Notes**

The communion organ meditation is a setting of the familiar 15<sup>th</sup> century carol of the same name. The melody moves from the string stops to a mutation flute solo stop, and, interestingly, moves also from a minor key to major. The postlude is simply the chorale harmonization of the original Bach "chorale", which, in the mid-18th century, was equivalent of our contemporary term, "hymn." The chorales would have been sung by the full congregation in the protestant Lutheran church of the time.



## **Prayers of the People**

Call the office at (269) 945-5463 or email at [office@firstchurchhastings.org](mailto:office@firstchurchhastings.org) to submit a prayer request, or praise, for yourself or a loved one. Urgent requests Fri-Sun, send to Pastor Nick (360) 927-3782.

*Prayers for the Winkler family in the passing of Larry's father, Richard on Tuesday, November 26, 2024. Funeral arrangements are pending.*

*Prayer request update on MaryMartha Melendy's nieces. Niece, Andrea, in Texas underwent a second surgery on Tuesday to try to restore clear vision and eye muscle coordination after her serious fall last month.*

*Niece, Robyn, will undergo surgery to remove a malignant breast tumor on December 9. Prayers for the women, their families and complete recovery are appreciated.*

*Continued prayers for Connie Semerad as she continues to work on regaining her strength.*

*Continued prayers for Joyce Hammond as she continues to heal.*

The First Presbyterian Church Prayer Chain is an opportunity for all members and regular participants to pray for specific needs requested by anyone **with the permission of the person/s being prayed for.** If you wish to submit a prayer, contact Julia in the office at 269 945-5463 or feel free to fill out a form located at the Connection Point.

# THIS WEEK <sup>at</sup> GLANCE



<b>Sunday, December 1, 2024</b>	
<b>Communion Sunday</b>	
<b>Adult Bible School</b>	8:30 AM
<b>Worship- In-Person &amp; Live on Facebook</b>	10:00 AM
<b>Monday, December 2, 2024</b>	
<b>Pickleball</b>	3:15 PM
<b>Personnel Meeting</b>	6:00 PM
<b>Private Event-Gym</b>	7:00 PM
<b>Mission Committee Meeting</b>	7:30 PM
<b>Tuesday, December 3, 2024</b>	
<b>Hand2Hand</b>	10:00 AM
<b>Staff Meeting</b>	10:00 AM
<b>Hand2Hand Coffee Time</b>	10:30 AM
<b>Private Event-Gym</b>	3:00 PM
<b>Private Event -Gym</b>	7:00 PM
<b>Wednesday, December 4, 2024</b>	
<b>Bulletin Announcements</b>	
<b>Knit Wits</b>	10:30 AM
<b>Sweet Pickles(Gentle Play Pickleball)</b>	1:30 PM
<b>Pickleball</b>	3:15 PM
<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>	6:30 PM
<b>Praise Team Rehearsal</b>	6:30 PM
<b>Thursday, December 5, 2024</b>	
<b>Chimes Rehearsal</b>	12:00 PM
<b>Women's Afternoon Bible Study</b>	1:00 PM
<b>Friday, December 6, 2024</b>	
<b>Artist Club</b>	1:30 PM
<b>Saturday, December 7, 2024</b>	
<b>Jim Wiswell Visitation 10-11am Funeral at 11am</b>	
<b>Private Event</b>	1:00 PM
<b>Sunday, December 8, 2024</b>	
<b>Adult Bible School</b>	8:30 AM
<b>Worship- In-Person &amp; Live on Facebook</b>	10:00 AM
<b>Pancake Breakfast for Path</b>	11:15 AM
<b>Youth Group</b>	5:00 PM

# *Announcements*

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** can be found at the round table closest to the sanctuary.

**THE LOVE TREE IS UP!** We have the opportunity again this year to bring a little Christmas cheer to some families in our community! Please take a tag (or 2), sign your name for the tag(s) you take. After you shop, please return your wrapped gift with the tag attached to church by noon on December 15. If you don't feel like you can shop, but want to help, a gift to the Deacons Fund is always appreciated! Thank you for your support of this mission!

**THIS SEASON OF THANKSGIVING** we again have the opportunity to participate in the Special Deacon Offering, either through regular envelopes, online, or personal checks. Your gifts designated for this will allow the Deacons to partner with the Mission Committee in addressing both congregational and community needs. Thank you!

**COMMUNION HELPERS FOR SUNDAY:** Sally Keller      Bonnie Schiedel  
Susan Pachulski

**CHIMES CHOIR:** Anyone interested in learning to play the chimes (modified hand bells) and present in worship on December 15, should come to our rehearsals on Thursday Dec 5 and 12 at noon in the library. Previous experience is not required. See Patti or Anita for details.

## **LAST CALL FOR CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY**

We are working to finalize the 2025 Picture Directory and want every member and friend to be included. If you have not yet provided the information listed below, please contact Julia in the church office by **December 12**. Thank You!

What is needed from you:

- \* *New photo of your family OR approval to use your 2023 photo.*
- \* *Confirmation of your contact information*
- \* *Request to receive the link for online directory (when available)*

**CHECK OUT THE COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD** for upcoming holiday activities for the entire family.

**GREETERS:** Bernie and Sue Oom

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER** As you pray about and finish your annual pledge to the church this year, Session asks you to consider pre-paying your 2025 annual pledge. This will allow the church to invest a portion of the pledges in a short-term CD or other investment instrument, in an effort to be wise stewards of the resources entrusted to us. Additionally, you may have the ability to give your pledge utilizing Required Distribution Amount (RDA) from qualifying retirement accounts. If you have any questions, please contact the church Financial Manager, Nancy Allering.

Blessings,  
FPC Session

# PATH Youth Ministry

PURSUING ALL THINGS HIM

## Spring Hill!



Pancake Breakfast

December 8<sup>th</sup> @  
11:00am

Please join us in helping support PATH Youth Ministry's trip to Spring Hill on January 24-26<sup>th</sup> 2025!! We will be embarking on a journey to "FAN THE FLAME" which is the theme for this years trip. On each table at the pancake breakfast will be more information about the trip! Hope to see you there! And thanks for all your support!

# First Presbyterian Church - Contact List

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**269-945-5463**

## **Pastor**

Rev. Nick Marlatt x303 nmarlatt@firstchurchhastings.org

## **Administrative Assistant**

Julia Bachman x301 office@firstchurchhastings.org

## **Financial Manager**

Nancy Allarding x304 nallerding@firstchurchhastings.org

## **Kitchen Manager**

Liz Allarding x312 slallerding@gmail.com

## **Noah's Ark Preschool Director**

Angie Stanton x308 noahsark@firstchurchhastings.org

## **Church Life Director/Youth Leader**

Brandon Johnson Cell: (269) 808-0102 x305 bjohnson@firstchurchhastings.org

## **Church Facility Manager**

Jim Daniels x324 custodian@firstchurchhastings.org

## **Church Administrator**

Casey Raffler x310 craffler@firstchurchhastings.org

## **Worship/Music Leaders**

x306 worshipleader@firstchurchhastings.org

Patti LaJoye

Bob Oster

Brandon Johnson

## **Children's Ministry Leader**

Zoey Ziny zoeyziny@gmail.com

## **STAFF OFFICE HOURS:**

Pastor Nick Marlatt Mon & Thurs. (call for appointment); Tues & Wed 9:00am-5:00pm

Julia Bachman (Admin Assistant) Mon-Thurs: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Nancy Allarding (Financial Manager) Mon & Tues: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Brandon Johnson Church Life Director/Youth Leader) Tues & Thurs: 10:00am -2:00pm

Casey Raffler (Church Administrator) Tues & Thurs: 9am-2pm

Angela Stanton (Noah's Ark Preschool Director) During School Weeks: Mon, Tues, & Thurs: 7:45am-3:15pm Wed: 7:45am-1:15pm.



405 N. M-37 Highway | Hastings, MI 49058

[www.firstchurchhastings.org](http://www.firstchurchhastings.org)

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