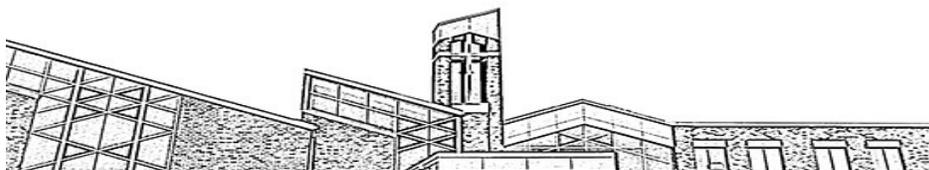


## The First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, MI

405 N. M-37 HIGHWAY - HASTINGS, MI 49058



### WELCOME

We are so blessed to know you, and to serve alongside you! We hope The Messenger brings everyone closer together, and helps YOU to stay connected at FPC!



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**12/11**

**Love Tree Gifts Due**

**12/6**

**NAP'S Bedtime Stories**

**12/10**

**Dinner Theater**

**12/26-1/8**

**NAPS Christmas Break**

**12/24**

**Christmas Eve Service  
5 PM**

**12/25**

**Christmas Day**

**12/31**

**New Year's Eve**

### Worship Schedule

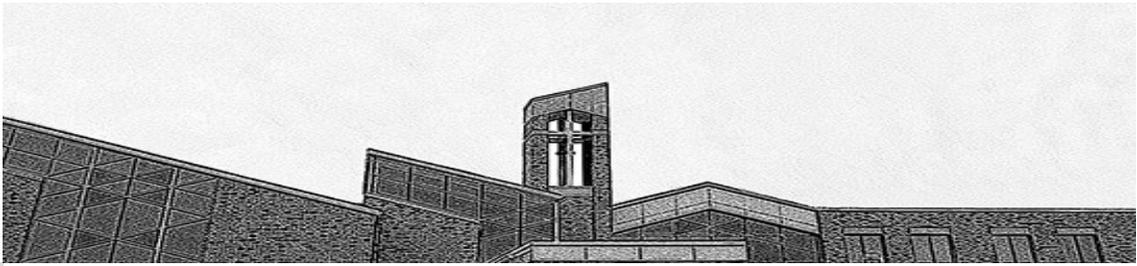
**10:00 am**

<b>Dec 04</b>	<b>Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15: 4-13 Communion Sunday</b>	<b>Rev. Nick Marlatt</b>
<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10</b>	<b>Rev. Nick Marlatt</b>
<b>Dec 18</b>	<b>Isaiah 7:10-16 Romans 1:1-7</b>	<b>Rev. Nick Marlatt</b>
<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-20</b>	<b>Rev. Nick Marlatt</b>
<b>Dec 25</b>	<b>Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:1-20 John 1:1-14</b>	<b>Rev. Nick Marlatt</b>



Live services can be reached if you click on image above or go to the church's website, [www.firstchurchhastings.org](http://www.firstchurchhastings.org).  
Look for, and click on, the Facebook image.

## Pastor's Corner



Pastor Nick Marlatt x3003

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

To all God's beloved children at First Presbyterian Church,

Anticipation is an important word for the Advent season. When we anticipate something, we look forward to what is to come. It involves being aware of what is coming, for better or for worse. It carries a connotation of knowing that some event, some person, some thing is coming, and we look around to see signs of its arrival. And so we anticipate the birth of children. We anticipate visits from friends and family. We anticipate holidays.

At Advent we remember how Mary and Joseph and all of creation waited expectantly for Jesus Christ, the Messiah, to be born. And during Advent we continue anticipating Christ's return. Scripture proclaims that Christ will return and set all things right and at that time He will consummate His everlasting Kingdom here. In the meantime, we anticipate Christ's everlasting Kingdom by looking for glimpses of the Kingdom here and now. Jesus inaugurated and established the Kingdom of God (Matthew's Gospel calls it the Kingdom of Heaven) in His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. So, the Kingdom has broken into the world, yet the Kingdom is not everywhere. This we know all too well. But there are glimpses of the Kingdom, glimmers of the Kingdom everywhere. I see a glimpse of the Kingdom as I hear your stories and learn of God's faithfulness to this community. I see a glimpse of the Kingdom when I hear the story of the congregation moving from the old church building to this new building and particularly when I hear about how the old church building continues to be a blessing to Hastings and the greater Barry County community.

So what glimpses of the Kingdom of God are you seeing? I encourage you and challenge you this Advent season to be on the lookout for those glimpses of the Kingdom. And when you see them, share them. I look forward to hearing your stories.

Pastor Nick



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## Stewardship Update



**Nancy Allering**  
**X3004**

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

Nancy serves as FPC's  
Financial Manager.



Click the button  
above to go directly  
to our giving page!



## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The following provides a 2022 budget update, through October.  
**Year-to-Date through October 2022, budget snapshot:**

Budgeted Receipts: \$432,412. \*

Actual Receipts: \$449,336.

Actual Expenses: \$401,190.

\*Includes 10 months of the annual prepaid pledges.

Surplus from 2021 of \$69,238.38 of which \$36,241.00  
will move into GM/LM to balance the 2022 budget.

Thank you so much for your support!! Please continue to pray as we journey together to reach our community for Christ!! Stewardship Members: David Curtis, David Logan, Gary Kimble (elders), Ned Brown, Dave Storms, Pastor Nick and Nancy Allering.

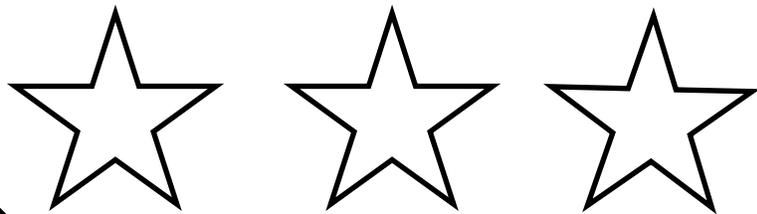


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## LOVE TREE 2022

The Love Tree is up and a few tags are still available if you would like to participate. Wrapped gifts should be returned to the church by December 11. If you selected a gift card, attach the tag to the outside and drop into the specially provided gift card box. Your Mission Committee and Deacons thank you for sharing your love this Christmas season!



*Click on the calendar to see upcoming events and meetings.*

### DEADLINES

Bulletin - Wednesdays by noon

Newsletter- 3rd Wednesday

Ministry Minutes- 3rd Wednesday



## FAMILY PROMISE:

Our church is scheduled to host Family Promise four times during 2023:

January 8-15

April 2-9

August 13-20

November 12-19

Family Promise is often looking for volunteers at other times out at the Day Center if you have a free day to help them.

Thank you all for supporting this program!





### Pickleball at FPC

Pickleball found its way to Barry County about 17 years ago from friends living in The Villages who summered in Michigan. A small group of enthusiastic area players learned the game, put tape down on public tennis courts and enjoyed the exercise and friendship of weekly play. When our church, during construction, was asked to "line the gym with pickleball lines," a quick introductory lesson to the game and the value as an outreach ministry to our community was a discussion item for the building committee. Little did they know that over the years at least 130 players would be welcomed into our gym to play. Our church has a regular stream of players on 3 days of the week, aged from young adults to 80 year olds. All levels of play are present with some, who learned the game at FPC, now in the elite higher levels of play in national tournaments. Because it is a game of finesse and strategy, it appeals to all levels. Weekly we hear the appreciation of players to have a gym, an organized program, equipment and a dedicated time to play such a fun game. Donations are made informally and those funds help to replace equipment, cover the cost of heat, air, lighting, window film and blinds in the gym and most rewarding to give back to the community in outreach mission opportunities. For those who are a part of the FPC pickleball community, their weekly lives have been enriched. Players have been welcomed from Nashville, Eaton Rapids, Delton, Lake Odessa, Caledonia, Gun Lake and Grand Rapids, to name just a few of our neighbors. Together we have celebrated healed surgeries, marriages, retirements, and grieved over lost members who are playing on God's court in heaven. You at FPC have a giving and loving attitude and value Christ's community inside and outside of our church walls. The pickleball program is a living example of what this looks like and sounds like. It has introduced some individuals to a faith community, as well as blended our faith with other denominations in showing God's love. Thank you and blessings for many fun years to come. Fun facts: The game originated in 1965 near Seattle, Washington. There are over 3 million players in the USA with 75% over 55 years old. Facebook: Pickleball FPC, Hastings, MI 2022



### Halloween Fun





## Unsure who to contact for a specific need?

For a copy of our 2022 Board Listing, please visit the welcome table in the Narthex. This document will help you to pinpoint the correct contact (Deacon, Elder, or Ministry Teams) as events arise.

## Young Families

Thursday  
@ 6:30pm!

Come join us for an evening of fellowship, dinner, and fun. Any family in the trenches of raising kids is invited and can find other parents to talk with while the kids play/hang out.



Jeff Arnold	Susan Larghi
Lauren Bloom	Noah Strimback
Charles Surratt	Jonathan Solmes
Harold Lewis	Rick VanDenBerge
Mike Reynolds	Sandra Billingsley
Nancy Bradley	Larry Bell
David Preston	MaryMartha Melendy
Audrey Renner	Arlene Kuizema



Mike and Kim Bosma  
Gary and Beverly Teegardin

If you would like pastoral care, counseling, spiritual direction, aid, assistance, or a request added to the prayer chain, please call the church during business hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am - 4:00pm. Speak to Julia. We will connect you to the correct person within the church or community for your specific request.

Emergencies occurring after normal business hours, please contact

Pastor Nick  
at (360) 927-3782

We can lend a helping hand if you reach out. We are here for you.



## Worship & Work of the Session

### Highlights of The Worship and Work of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, MI

from the November 28th 2022 Regular Session Meeting



#### YOUR 2022 FPC

#### SESSION:

##### 2022

Dave Curtis  
Cindy Preston  
Dave Arnold  
Dave Logan  
Rick VanDenBerge

##### 2023

Mike Behrendt  
Tracy Solmes  
Steve Laubaugh  
Gary Kimble

##### 2024

Marsh Evans  
Jim Bruce  
Dave Allerdig  
Scott Allerdig  
Sally Keller



The meeting was held at the Church, 405 N-M37 Highway, Hastings MI in the Adult classroom. The minutes from the October 24<sup>th</sup> Regular Session Meeting and tonight's agenda were approved. **Clerk Report** Our Saints Report was filed with Presbytery, Sandra Drummond and Hilbert Medendorp will be recognized as Ruling Elders who died between Oct. 1, 2021 & Sept. 30, 2022, at the December Presbytery meeting.

**Pastor's Report** Nick read a selection from "The Art of Advent" book about "The Ancient of Days" a painting by William Blake. He then talked about Advent as a season that holds two things, our own smallness and also a great hope to be in the presence of God, in tension. He pointed out the natural tension that we as a body of sinners who are also as called leaders of the church will always feel as we try to discern what is God's will and what is our own will. He described how he sees his leadership role as one of leading from the middle, hoping that each Elder lends their wisdom to the conversation, while he facilitates the conversation moving forward, acknowledging that it is our job to be faithful to what God is calling us to do. He also recognized that efficiently using time is also important.

**Personnel** The Social Media Policy recommended by Personnel was approved; it will be added to the staff handbook.

**Trustees** The control solutions company did a recommissioning of our equipment. There were a potential 55 items that needed addressing. New controls that are less proprietary will be added. It is also possible that we need an ongoing service contract to monitor our controls software. NTA property Management out of Middleville has been contracted to plow our parking lot. Staking and reseeded are both part of that contract.

**Worship and Music** A second round interview is scheduled with a Worship Leader candidate for Thursday. Applications are still being accepted. The new outdoor Crèche is up. There will be one Christmas Eve service at 5:00 pm.

**Stewardship.** The financial statement was approved as presented, the 2023 budget was also reviewed, a deficit of 72 thousand dollars is currently showing, but all pledges are not necessarily in, this budget is reflecting 73 giving units. The budget was accepted as presented. A motion was then made to add passing the offering plates back into the service, as soon as the volunteers can be put in place to facilitate that. The motion was supported and passed. Also Nick stated that the Presbyterian Foundation will set up congregations with online giving platforms and provide QR codes for easy distribution to congregants if we want to explore that option, and he pointed out that passing the plate is a tangible reminder that we are called to give of ourselves.

**Family Ministry** Approximately 200 kids came to the Halloween Carnival. Next year they will cut the time down to 90 minutes. The Coffee, Tea, and Thee event had about 18 participants, and was a nice time. A Dinner Theatre night is being held Dec 10<sup>th</sup> and sanctuary use was approved for decorating the space from the 5<sup>th</sup> thru the 10<sup>th</sup>. The dinner will be in the gym and the show will be in the Sanctuary afterwards. Just as a follow up from Coffee Tea and Thee about scams, Pastor Nick reiterated that he will never solicit money via text. Several congregants were recently potential scam targets from a 510 area code number posing as Pastor Nick asking for assistance. The annual Spring Hill youth retreat is being held February 17<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup> and PATH is requesting permission to begin recruiting 20 kids and 10 leaders to attend, hopefully at no cost, they would like to use the van and have permission to take the kids.

**Missions Committee** did not meet in November. The Costa Rican trip was a success. Family Promise has requested that we host on Holy Week again this year, the mission committee will discuss it further, but Session agreed there is no reason not to host that week.

**Nominating** Jim Bruce reported that he has 7 nominated candidates that have agreed to serve. A special meeting was approved for Dec 11<sup>th</sup>, for the sole purpose of approving the nominated slate of officers so they can be trained before their installation at the annual meeting. A substitute clerk will be appointed as Cindy will be out of town.

**New Business:** The Annual Congregational Meeting date was discussed and February 5<sup>th</sup> was approved.

A discussion was held about removing the "covid notice" from the bulletin, its removal was approved, although masks and hand sanitizer will continue to be supplied.

**A motion to adjourn was made and Scott Allerdig closed with prayer at 8:29 pm.**

**Next Meeting December 26th at 7:00pm at the church**

These minutes respectfully submitted by Cindy Preston, Clerk of Session

**THE MESSENGER**



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Hastings, MI 49058  
[www.firstchurchhastings.org](http://www.firstchurchhastings.org)

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