First Plymouth

THE HERALD

ISSUE 12 • DECEMBER 2026

2000 D STREET • LINCOLN, NE 68502 • 402.476.7565 • FIRSTPLYMOUTH.ORG

Christmas

Join us for Worship

Service Times Have Changed This Year

Helpful tip: Looking for a little more room? The Wednesday 7:00pm service and the Thursday 1:00pm, 9:00pm, and 11:00pm services at our 20th & D Street location, as well as the 4:00pm worship at FP South, will have the most spacious seating.

Sunday, December 20

3:00pm - *A Light Within the Darkness*, a service for those who have lost a loved one or who are weary and heavy-burdened during this holiday season. Followed by a light lunch and fellowship time together.

Wednesday, December 23

7:00pm - Christmas Eve-Eve worship, Sanctuary. A vibrant and upbeat service with Josh Hoyer and his band that will have you dancing in your seat.

Thursday, December 24

11:00am

Christmas worship created for young children (ages 3-7) and their families in Mayflower Hall.

11:00am & Noon

Simple, joyful celebration of lessons and carols in the Chapel.

1:00pm

Family-friendly service with a Christmas message from Dr. Jim Keck and spirited music led by our youth orchestra and choir.

2:00pm

NEW! Christmas worship all in Spanish. A message from Pastor Juan Carlos Huertas, music by Andy Gomez in the Chapel.

3:00pm

Classic Christmas pageant for children of all ages.

4:00pm

FP SOUTH, Roper and Sons South Chapel (3950 Hohensee Dr) Christmas worship with a string quartet – perfect for families and friends of all ages! Accessible parking available.

5:00pm, 7:00pm , 9:00pm

Timeless festival of lessons and carols with choir, brass, and organ.

11:00pm

Peaceful candle lighting, communion, and carols to greet Christmas Day as we conclude at midnight.

Digital Worship 9:00am • Livestream 7:00pm (firstplymouth.org, Facebook, YouTube)
KFOR 1240Am Radio 7:00pm • FOX 42 TV Midnight

There is Room at the Inn



Over 80% of those who come to the Hope House are in need of rental assistance. In 2027 we will embark in a year of study, learning, and experimenting to find ways that First-Plymouth can join others in our neighborhood to provide income-based, affordable, dignity affirming housing for our neighbors.

We kickoff this important time with our *There's Room at the Inn*, an initiative that seeks to raise funds to pay for three months of rental for up to 8 families that live around our church and are connected to one of our missional partners. During this period our Hope House team and missional partner will work with these families to try to end the constant cycle of housing insecurity. We will learn much from this time and it is key to our continued work in this important need in our neighborhood.

Help us raise $50,000 this Advent Season and show our community that *There's Room at the Inn*.



Share the Joy of Christmas at FP South

Worship with us every Sunday at 9:30am at Roper and Sons South Chapel, 3950 Hohensee Dr

December 6, 9:30am

Runaway Joy – A Christmas pageant presented by youth and families.

December 13, 9:30am

Enjoy a FREE Christmas brunch, take pics with Santa, Christmas crafts, and a hot cocoa bar.

December 20, 9:30am

Celebrate the joy of Christmas with us before Christmas Eve.

December 24, 4:00pm

Christmas Eve Worship. All children in attendance will receive a Christmas keepsake.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Add to the joy and beauty of the season by giving to the altar poinsettia display. Complete this form and return it to church by **December 14**. Cost $25.

Honoree: _____

_____

_____ Poinsettias at $25 each

Given by: _____

_____

Questions contact marissa@firstplymouth.org.

All Out of Darkness We Have Light

Christmas With Abendmusik

FREE Concert Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 4:00 and 6:30 p.m.



Experience the spiritual power of the Christmas story, and reawaken your spirit to the hope and light of the season in this beloved concert offered by The Plymouth Choir, Plymouth Ringers, and Abendmusik Orchestra.

"The true light, which enlightens everyone, is coming into the world."

Livestream at Abendmusik.org/livestream

abendmusik
AT FIRST-PLYMOUTH

Freewill offering to benefit
Friendship Home

Sponsored by Abendmusik. Supported by the Nebraska Arts Council, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS arts.gov
NEBRASKA ARTS COUNCIL
NEBRASKA CULTURAL ENDOWMENT

It's Not Too Late to

Give Love, Find Your Joy

Our 2027 pledge campaign officially ended November 22, and we are so grateful for the generous pledges many of you have made as an expression of your commitment to the life of First-Plymouth.

Pledges represent your intention to support FP in the coming year and are vitally important to our planning and budgeting process.

If you plan to give in 2027 but haven't yet made a pledge, it's not too late! Please take a few minutes to complete your pledge:

- Online at firstplymouth.org/giving
- By completing and returning a pledge card (available in the pews)
- By contacting LeEtta Suhr in the church office at leetta@firstplymouth.org or 402-476-7565, ext. 203.

Pledge Today

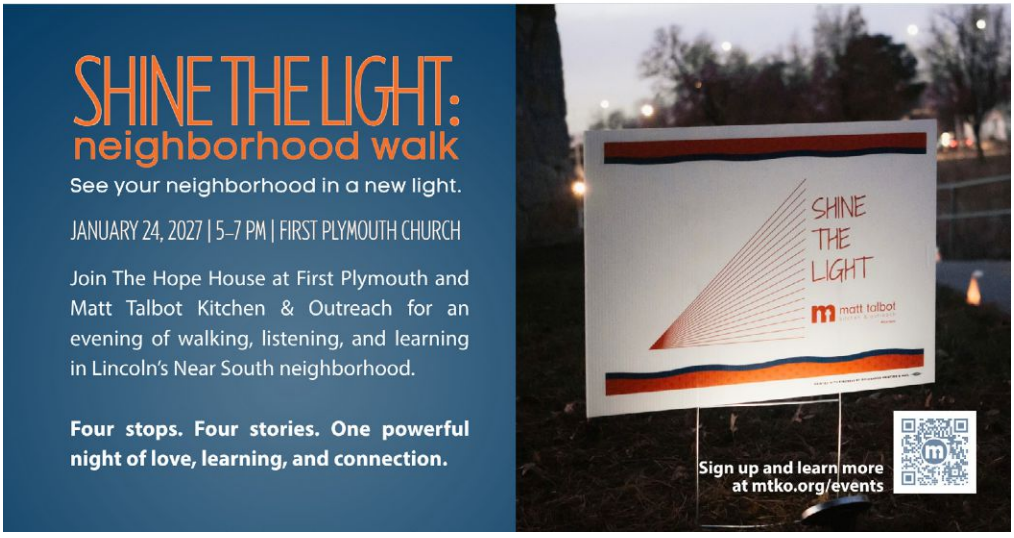
2026 Contribution Deadlines

Walk-ins December 30, Noon
Mail postmarked & stock transfers December 24

Church offices and the building will be closed December 25 & January 1.
Office hours Dec 28-30, 9:00am-2:00pm | Dec 31, 9:00am-Noon

matt talbot kitchen & outreach
BOLD HOPE

HOPE HOUSE
at First-Plymouth Church



Joys & Concerns

BAPTISMS

Declan Gerrity

IN MEMORY

Alan Bellairs, a member since 2012, died Oct 14
Richard Egger, a member since 1988, died Oct 20

WEDDINGS

Cristina Prentice & Daniel Carraher, Nov 14

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Tyler Hale & Becky Boesen
Andrew Buller
Bailey & Chad Eckery
Mary Ellen & Neil Elliott
Donia & Rick Erickson
Sue Green
Bruce Hoard
Kirsten & Jed Hollenbeck
Patricia Meyers
Janice Olson
Pamela Olson
Laura Peterson
Sarah & Nicholas Phillips
Vicki & Will Quindt
Luis Sotelo
Alyssa & Kyle Tautenhan

Share Your Voice in the 2027 Lenten Devotional Booklet

FP is seeking volunteers to contribute brief reflections for the 2027 Lenten Devotional Booklet. All are welcome to participate—no writing experience is necessary. For more information, contact Dale Hauptmeier at dale.hauptmeier@gmail.com or call/text (402)429-1371.

Our Doors Are Open, Especially When Life Is Hard

Pastor Wayne Alloway, Minister of Congregational Care



One of the things I've come to appreciate about First-Plymouth is the many ways this congregation reaches beyond its walls to care for our community. It's a wonderful expression of our belief that the church exists not simply for its members, but for our neighbors as well.

As your Minister of Congregational Care, I'd like to help extend that spirit of compassion in a very particular way.

When someone dies, families often find themselves navigating one of life's most difficult experiences. For those with a church home, pastoral support is usually close at hand. But what about families who don't have a church or a pastor to turn to?

First-Plymouth has a longstanding tradition of welcoming families from throughout our community who need a place to hold a funeral or memorial service. We want people to know that pastoral care is available to them as well.

I'm happy to meet with families, listen to their stories, help them plan a meaningful service, and officiate, regardless of whether they have any connection to First-Plymouth.

And here's where you can help.

If you know a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member who has lost a loved one and doesn't have a pastor to turn to, please think of First-Plymouth. Let them know we're here, and feel free to give them my name.

I've always believed that some of the church's most meaningful ministry happens outside of Sunday morning worship, especially when we walk alongside people during life's most difficult moments.

I would consider it a privilege to offer that care to anyone who needs it.

Wayne

Grief Support

- 2nd Friday (Dec 11) monthly, 3:00pm, Calvert Parlor. Group led.
- Tues Dec 15, 6:00-7:30pm. Facilitated by Lisa Borchardt, Associate Professor Nebraska Wesleyan University. Each month a different topic will be presented to help us acknowledge our grief and move through the mourning process. Free, but registration requested.
  Register with addie@firstplymouth.org.

Compline

Sunday, January 10

7:00-7:30pm, Sanctuary.

Ancient Worship for the modern soul.

There will not be a Compline service in December.

Not Your Ordinary Bible Study with Dr. Jim Keck

Thursdays, Noon-1:00pm,
in the Choir Room.

A spiritual adventure using the Bible to launch the imagination and catapult us into far-ranging topics of real interest.



Sponsor Altar Flowers

Sign-up on
firstplymouth.org/events-calendar
COST $95.

Stephen Ministry: Christ Caring for People through People

Do you know a First-Plymouth congregant who would appreciate a monthly phone call or visit from one of our Stephen Ministers?

Perhaps it's someone you used to see regularly at worship who is now homebound, someone experiencing the loss of a loved one who could benefit from a compassionate and listening ear, or someone facing a serious medical diagnosis or recovering from surgery who needs encouragement and reassurance.

Our Stephen Ministers are committed to sharing God's love through compassionate care, meaningful connections, and a listening heart. We want every member of our First-Plymouth family to know they are remembered, valued, and never alone.

If you know someone who would benefit from this caring ministry, please contact First-Plymouth Church at (402) 476-7565 or KJ Langlais at kj@firstplymouth.org.



Wednesday Night Live

A New Midweek Tradition

No WNL December 23 & 30

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

5:30-6:00PM SANCTUARY

Life doesn't always leave room for Sunday mornings, so we're creating a new opportunity to gather as a church family in the middle of the week. Join us for a joyful, intergenerational worship service where families can worship, sing, and grow together. *No worship services will be held on Dec 16, 23, & 30.*









Church Christmas Party

December 16, 5:30-7:00pm

A fun-filled celebration for the whole family. Take a pic with Santa as he stops by to spread Christmas cheer, kids can dive into festive crafts, cookies will be decorated, and joy will be overflowing! Bring your Christmas spirit and enjoy a merry night with your church family. WNL Pizza Dinner will be provided at 5:30pm ($5 suggested donation). No WNL evening worship or adult programs offered.

FP Kids Children's Choir and Worship Arts

Join us for Christmas fun at WNL! Kids will sing in the children's choir, try their hand at handbells, and create liturgical art to be displayed in our church throughout the holiday season. A joyful way to share their gifts and celebrate Christmas!

SCHEDULE

4:45-5:30pm
Dinner – by Greggo's in Pilgrim Hall, $5 suggested donation. As supplies last.

MENU

5:30-6:00pm
Worship, Sanctuary

5:45-7:15pm
- Children's Choir and Worship Arts (K-5th)
- FP Littles (3-5 years)

6:00-7:15pm
- Adult Programs
- 6th Grade Youth Group (Ends at 7:30pm)
- Confirmation (7th & 8th grade) *Ends at 7:30pm.

7:15pm
Plymouth Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday Night Live Continued . . .

Adult Programs

Contact Addie Vortherms, Program Director, addie@firstplymouth.org

The History of First-Plymouth



Dec 2 & 9, 6:00pm, Pilgrim Hall.
Led by Jacob Mason_

What makes First-Plymouth who we are? Explore the stories, history, and beliefs that have shaped our congregation. Join Jacob Mason for sessions of discovery and conversation about our roots, our values, and the faith tradition that continues to shape who we are today.

Advent Yet to Come: *A Christmas Carol* and the Theology of Waiting



Dec 2, 6:00pm, Art Room.
Led by Pastor Katie Miller

Explore Advent through Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, reflecting on the theology of waiting, the power of hope, and the possibility of transformation. What does it mean to hope for a better world—and how can we help bring it about?

Putting ME in Time

Dec 9, 6:00pm, Art Room. Led by Margaret Rickers

We all have the same 24 hours in a day, yet so often we feel hurried, stressed—or even bored. Together, we'll identify common time-wasters, discover what we value most, and consider how those priorities can guide the way we spend our time.



Yoga

Dec 2 & 9, 6:00, Chapel. Free. Led by Jessica Jewell. All ages and abilities, including beginners, are welcome. Bring your yoga mat. No class Dec 16th.



New Year's Eve *Last Blast*

With The Plymouth Brass

FREE Concert Thursday, December 31, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

Featuring a prelude performance by instrumentalists from Lincoln Northwest High School.

Freewill offering to benefit
Lincoln Northwest High School Performing Arts Boosters

FP KIDS

firstplymouth.org/children-youth

Contact shelby@firstplymouth.org



FP Littles & FP Kids | Sunday Mornings in December

Discover the joy of the Christmas story and learn that Jesus is the Savior God promised and His birth brings joy to the whole world. We'll celebrate the amazing gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives!



Christmas Eve Pageant | 3:00 PM | December 24

Our children will share the story of Christmas in their own special way, reminding us of the joy and wonder of the season. It's a sweet and meaningful way to begin your Christmas celebration!

FP Kids WNL- Wednesday Night Live – 5:45-7:30pm

Details on page 7.

FP Families Event - Church Christmas Party

Wed December 16, 5:30-7:00pm.

You won't want to miss this! See page 7 for details.

A Christmas Service Made for Little Ones

Dec 24, 11:00am, in Mayflower Hall. An interactive celebration created especially for children 7 and under and their families. We'll bring the Christmas story to life through storybook moments, a playful skit, and opportunities for kids to become part of the nativity themselves. Enjoy joyful songs, help decorate our FP Kids & Littles Christmas tree with ornaments, and dance along as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Pageant Rehearsals

Dec 6	Rehearsal 2:00-3:00pm | Costume Fitting 3:00-3:30pm Only necessary if your child hasn't been fitted for a costume yet. A parent must be present during the fitting. Scenes 3 & 4 | Narrators, 10-15 | All Shepherds & Angels
Dec 13	Rehearsal 1:30-2:30pm Full Cast & Choir | 2:30-3:00pm *Final Day for Costume Fittings.* A parent must be present during the fitting.
Dec 16	Choir Rehearsal 5:30-6:00pm
Dec 20	Dress Rehearsal | 2:00-3:30pm - Full Cast & Choir
Dec 23	Choir Rehearsal 5:30-6:30pm



FP YOUTH

firstplymouth.org/children-youth

Contact Tori@firstplymouth.org

9th-12th High School Youth Group

Sundays, 5:30-7:30pm, Dinner included. Who is God, and why does it matter to us.

7th-8th Confirmation

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm

Building a foundation of faith and discovering what we believe.

6th Grade Youth Group

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30pm

Discovering God's story and finding our place in it.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00am & 10:30am

Study of the Sermon on the Mount.

6th-12th Youth Singers

Sundays 4:30-5:30pm

Open to all abilities and levels

Email Jeremy@firstplymouth.org to sign up.

Young Adult Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:00-7:00pm

Join us in the Otis Young Room for a time of connection, conversation, and Bible study. Open to college students, young professionals, couples, and parents. Come as you are, build relationships, and let's build a village together!

Join the GroupMe to stay connected:

Join

Participate in the Christmas Eve Youth Service

Youth Choir, Youth Orchestra, Youth readers, Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes help needed on Dec 24, at 1:00pm. Email tori@firstplymouth.org to learn all the ways you can participate.

Movie Night for 6th-12th grades

December 13, 5:30-8:00pm. Bring a snack to share. Youth Leadership is hosting.

6th-12th grade Youth Christmas Party

December 20, 5:00-8:00pm. Blind Karaoke, White Elephant, Christmas Jeopardy, and more! RSVP to tori@firstplymouth.org

Gingerbread House Decorating Competition – For all ages!

December 16 6:00-7:00pm. Sign-up required. This is not limited to youth but is open for anyone.





Thank you for Pet Supplies

Thank you for your support of pet supplies for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. All the contributions were welcomed by families needing community help so they may continue to provide for their animals. – FP Animal Ministry

FP Men's Noon Discussion with Dr. Keck

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, Noon-1:00pm, online via Zoom

Topics Vary. Email addie@firstplymouth.org to get on the email list.

FP Singles Ministry

Join our email list for monthly events. Email addie@firstplymouth.org.

Plymouth Pride Annual Christmas Party

Fri. December 11, 6:30pm, Pilgrim Hall.

Ugly Sweater Contest, Cookie Exchange, White Elephant Gift Exchange (bring a wrapped gift not more than $15 value), and more! RSVP to FirstPlymouthPride@gmail.com



Church Social

Fri. December 11, 6:30-8:30pm, at Rebecca & Ryan Wells home. Meet others who attend FP! Bring an appetizer and beverage to share (most bring wine). RSVP to rwellscnm@yahoo.com



Thank you to everyone who participated in our **Bread for the World Offering of Letters.** We had a total of 160 letters, emails, and phone calls to urge our members of Congress to end hunger at home and abroad. We delivered the letters to their offices and met with their staff to discuss cuts to SNAP, global hunger, and changes in the Farm Bill. Before delivering your letters, Pastor Juan Carlos blessed them and prayed for wisdom and open hearts for our members of Congress.



"The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage"

Academic Bible Study. Sundays, Dec 6, 13, 20, 11:30am, Tower Room. Led by Leah Cech.

The Tears of Things:

Join us for a study of Richard Rohr's *The Tears of Things*, exploring how the biblical prophets teach us to move beyond anger and grief toward compassion in a world filled with injustice and suffering. Together, we'll consider how faith calls us beyond criticism toward a deeper love that challenges injustice and brings hope to a hurting world. Purchase the book prior to the first class.

Purchase Book today

Love The Planet

A helpful tip from FP Sustainable Living Ministry and Climate Action Team

Tired of that soup or casserole you've been eating for several days? Freeze what's left for later instead of throwing it out.

Submitted from FP Sustainable Living Ministry

14TH ANNUAL RECYCLE HOLIDAY LIGHT DRIVE

2026 – 2027

BRIGHTER HOLIDAYS • CLEANER COMMUNITIES

MAKING A BRIGHTER IMPACT

Over the past **13 years**, Lincoln has recycled more than **125,000 pounds** of holiday lights, keeping those materials out of local landfills.

The collected lights are transported to *Scrap Central Inc.* in Omaha, which pays **$0.80 per lb** for the recycled materials.

Thanks to Scrap Central's partnership, these efforts have raised over **$55,000** for community programs!

DROP OFF COLLECTION SITES

Eastridge Elementary School
6245 L Street
Parking Lot on SW side of building, near the playground

Lincoln Children's Zoo
2847 "A" St.
Overflow Parking Lot, south of the zoo

All Lincoln Fire Stations

SCAN TO SEE HOW SCRAP CENTRAL SUPPORTS OUR COMMUNITY.

DONATION GUIDELINES

Holiday lights may be donated at any Lincoln Fire Station, Eastridge Elementary School, and the Science Focus Program, beginning **November 15, 2026,** through **January 10, 2027.**

Lights can be in working or non-working condition.

Extension cords and insulated wire are also accepted.

No boxes, brown paper sacks, plastic bags, ornaments, artificial trees, etc. are permitted.

FUNDS RAISED BENEFIT:

Lincoln Firefighters Operation Warm | Eastridge Elementary PTO | Science Focus Program Booster Club