Christmas
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Tip: Friday, 6:00pm and the Saturday, 9:00 & 11:00pm services will be the most spacious.

Friday, December 23, Christmas Eve-Eve
6:00pm  O Holy Night: The Christmas Story in Three Acts: Hear the story of Jesus’ birth as found in scripture, alongside meditations and musical offerings that set the tone for this important celebration in the story of our faith

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve
11:00am  Worship for young children (ages 3-7) and their families in Mayflower Hall
12:00, 1:00 & 2:00pm  Simple, joyful celebration of lessons and carols in the Chapel
3:00pm  Classic Christmas pageant for children of all ages
5:00pm  Family-friendly service with spirited music led by our youth orchestra & choir
7:00 & 9:00pm  Timeless festival of lessons and carols with choir, brass, and organ
11:00pm  Candlelighting, Communion, and carols to greet Christmas day as we conclude at Midnight

Digital, Television & Radio Christmas Eve
• Christmas Through the Years 9:00am on firstplymouth.org, Facebook, and YouTube.
• Tune into the television broadcast at Midnight on FOX 42.
• The 7:00pm service will be livestreamed at firstplymouth.org and will air live on KFOR 1240 AM radio.

Christmas, December 25
9:00am, 10:30am, 11:59am services
Hot cocoa, coffee and pastries will be served in Pilgrim Hall after all services.
There will not be childcare, children/youth programs that morning.

Be a Part of Christmas History
The Music and Fine Arts Board invites you to be a part of FP history by donating an ornament to the Heritage Tree (blue, gold, silver) in the hallway just outside Pilgrim Hall, or the new outdoor Remembrance tree (red, silver, clear, or red cardinals) in the columbarium. Bring an ornament(s) of your choice, label with your name and place it on the tree. Be a part of the history as we preserve these ornaments as heirlooms for years to come!

Remembrance Tree
NEW! M&FA will be creating a Remembrance Tree to be displayed in the courtyard Columbarium. This white tree will be decorated with red cardinals. Tradition states to see a cardinal represents the spirit of loved visiting you. They usually appear when you most need them. Add a silver or clear ornament to the tree, or your own cardinal.
The Word Becomes Flesh: The Gospel in the Headlines

An advent spiritual gathering on Sunday mornings, 8:15am with Pastor Juan Carlos Huertas, Mayflower Hall. Join for coffee, donuts and discussion!

December 4
A Great Multitude: Racism, Ethnocentrism, and Xenophobia - Revelation 7:2-7

December 11

December 18

“The Nativity” in Art through the Ages

Presented by Dr. Andrea Bolland,
Associate Professor of Art History, UNL
Sun. December 18, 11:30am-Noon, Mayflower Hall
The presentation will showcase artistic depictions of the nativity of Jesus from the earliest centuries of Christianity through the Renaissance. The earliest works emphasize the regal status of Mary and the divinity of her son, but over the centuries, paintings and sculpture show their relationship in increasingly tender ways. The talk will move from the earliest depictions, in which the ox and ass serve as Jesus' babysitters while his parents are elsewhere, to scenes in which Mary is shown as a tender, loving mother, Jesus as a believable infant, and Joseph (for centuries depicted as a bit of an outsider) a doting father. All are welcome to join for this fascinating presentation!

Women in the Bible: The Three Women of Advent
Sundays (Dec 4-18) 11:30am-12:30pm, Tower Room (lower level). Led by Dr. Leah Cech, Doane Univ. Join us as we reconsider the women immediately surrounding the birth of Jesus. Learn more about Elizabeth (mother of John the Baptist), Mary (mother of Jesus), and Anna (prophetess at the temple).

Advent Hymns
Tuesdays through December 20, 9:30-11:00am Calvert Parlor. Led by Carolyn Zeisset. God hears cries of despair & longed-for hope. The answer is found in love. Notice the messages in scripture & Advent hymns.

Holiday Giving Tree
Purchase a gift for a person in need!
Pick up a gift tag on Sunday between services in the hallway. Return gifts to church by Dec. 19. Sponsored by Board of Christian Outreach.

Anybody, Everybody Christmas Pageant
Sat. Dec 10, 6:00pm, MF Hall. Join us for Destination Bethlehem as we journey through the Christmas story. RSVP by Dec 4 to karen.firstplymouth@gmail.com. Bring new hats/gloves to donate to those in need.

Singles Christmas Party
Sun. December 11, 2:00-4:00pm, Calvert Parlor. Open to all singles in our community. Free. Register at firstplymouth.org/singles
WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

In the midst of your busy week, join us to refuel your body, mind, and spirit with a variety of children, youth and adult programs.

WNL will not meet Dec 21, 28, Jan 4 (Christmas Break)

5:00-5:30pm
• Dinner - EZ Meals by Chef au Chef in Pilgrim Hall. Freewill donation.
• Middle & High School Check-in (Youth Room) with open gym.
• FP Littles/FP Kids Check-in (2nd floor)

5:30-7:00pm
• FP Littles (ages 0-5)
  Learn the stories of faith, have fun and build relationships.
• FP Kids Studio (Kdg-5th)
  Fun with gifts and treats in our “Christmas Factory” Focus on giving to others!

5:45-6:45pm
• Adult Programs & Classes
  Advent with our Christian and Jewish Neighbors
  Dec. 7 & 14, Chapel. Led by Dr. Dan Clanton, Assistant Professor of Religion, and Dr. Leah Cech, Doane University. Discuss the interpretation of Advent readings from the book of Isaiah in a way that is inclusive of both our Christian and Jewish neighbors. Class Materials: Book: Unto Us a Child is Born: Isaiah, Advent, and Our Jewish Neighbors, by Tyler D. Mayfield, Bible, notebook and pen.

• Symbols of the Sanctuary
  Dec. 7, Sanctuary. Join Dr. Keck for a brief tour around our historical sanctuary to discover why these symbols were chosen and what they represent.

• Dr. Keck’s Book Talks: “Exodus” by James Baldwin
  Dec. 14, Otis Young Room.
  In this short story, a young black woman must decided whether to leave her elderly mother and seek her own freedom. Baldwin weaves together the complexity of the word “freedom” with the ever-present conflict between generations. And as always, Baldwin leaves us haunted by the omnipresence of racism in our world. Join Dr. Keck for an exploration of how fiction can be so terribly real.

• Yoga

FP Climate Action Team January Events

• Learn how to effectively advocate for issues that matter to you, whether it's climate change, poverty, education or any public policy issue. Join us for a one-hour advocacy primer via Zoom 7:00-on Tues, Jan 3, 8:00pm. Learn how to contact an elected or appointed official, get a letter to the editor published, and talk to friends and family in a respectful way about issues you care about.

• Join members of the CAT as we offer a fast-paced review of a half-dozen climate change-related books. The books discuss climate change from various perspectives including human behavior, national security, economics, solutions, and of course faith. Sun, Jan 29, 11:30-11:59am.
First Welcome is Back on Sundays
You might have noticed our new First Welcome volunteers standing by our new “First Welcome” desk in the main hallway. This team will help greet newcomers to our church, answer any questions or give directions. If you are interested in joining this important ministry, contact krista@firstplymouth.org.

A New Look for West Entrance
The FP Garden Committee supported the embellishment of the landscape on the West side of the building. Thanks to Art Thompson for the design plan, Karen Creswell for the generous donation for materials, and the facilities committee.

Thanks for Pet Care Donations
We received supplies ranging from pet foods, collars, harnesses, leashes, toys, beds, litter and other needed items. Lincoln Animal Ambassadors lovingly and gratefully accepted our gifts. --Jean Keister Co-chair of Animal Ministry.

Lenten Devotional Book
FP is looking for volunteers to write a brief reflection for the 2023 Lenten Devotional Book. Consider offering your voice. For details, contact Dale Hauptmeier at dale.hauptmeier@gmail.com or (402) 429-1371.

Grape Expectations Church Social
Meet others who attend First-Plymouth! Fri. Dec. 2, 6:30-9:00pm at Rebecca & Ryan Wells home. RSVP to rwellscnm@yahoo.com.

Weather cancellation notices for First-Plymouth events and classes will be announced on firstplymouth.org, facebook, and local news stations.
FP Family

Contact Hollie at hollie@firstplymouth.org

FP Kids | Sundays @ 9:00 & 10:30am
We are “Journeying to Bethlehem” as we learn the story of Christ’s birth through games, cooking, and more.

IRL | Sundays @ 10:30am
Learn about the “Promise” and Christmas Story.

HSYG | Sundays @ 5:00 – 6:00PM
Work alongside Mourning Hope to get the heart of the Christmas spirit.

Wed Night Live
See page 3 for updates on FP Kids Studio, FP Littles, MSYG and more!

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals | Mondays @ 5:30pm
We have our Annual Christmas Pageant rehearsals beginning Dec 5 for kids Kdg-5th! Sign-up on our website!

Readers Needed for Christmas Eve
Be a part of the 5:00pm Christmas Eve service. Sign-up on firstplymouth.org.

Joys & Concerns

Baptisms
Sullivan Joseph Eller
Collin Brandes Barker
Selena Rae Casebolt
Bennett David Dolson

In Memory
William Bivin, member since 2006, passed away Oct 24
Dorothy Tice, member since 1983, passed away Oct 25
John Boyd, a member since 2022, passed away Nov 13

Weddings
Tamika Rodriguez & Craig Veburg Oct 22,
Jeff Hoppenstedt & Ashley Nanfito Nov 11
Anthony Procacina & Stephanie Vocasek Nov 12
Aaron Behne & Lacey Goff Nov 19

Welcome New Members
Jacques & Barbara Bossaers
Daniel Harris
Susan Hancock
Jena Nicole Lambert
Amy Metzger
Jodee West
Zach Flor
Marcia Davis
Martha White
Kelly Jo Hinrichs
James and Diane Lane

JOIN THE
YOUTH ORCHESTRA & YOUTH CHOIR
ON CHRISTMAS EVE

REHEARSALS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
EMAIL ARIEL@FIRSTPLYMOUTH.ORG TO SIGN-UP

be part of this year's pageant:
firstplymouth.org/children-youth

CALLING ALL ANGELS & SHEPHERDS & WISE ONES...

PAGEANT REHEARSALS
MONDAYS IN DECEMBER
5:30–6:30PM
Community Christmas Workshop
Dec 4, 1:00-2:00pm, Free
All families, friends, and neighbors are invited to this fun and festive event that includes cookie decorating, hot cocoa, crafts and Santa. Join us on the East side of the building and in our gym!

Formerly the Advent Workshop.

Sunday, December 11 | 4:00 and 6:30 PM
A Thrill of Hope: Christmas with Abendmusik
Plymouth Choir, Ringers, Brass, and Abendmusik Chamber Orchestra.
Freewill offering benefits Food Bank of Lincoln

Saturday, December 31 | 7:00 PM
Last Blast with the Plymouth Brass
Lincoln’s beloved New Year’s Eve tradition with organist Nathaniel Gumbs.
Freewill offering benefits Lincoln Music Teachers Association

FIRST-PLYMOUTH PRESENTS
THINGS WE CAN’T SAY IN THE PULPIT
HEAR PASTORS JIM AND JUAN CARLOS GET REAL AND OFF SCRIPT

6:00pm  Live music from the Screamers Singers. Grab a soda, beer or even dinner (available for purchase)!

6:30pm  Program

Sunday, December 4 | Screamer’s Restaurant (803 Q Street)