

PLEASANT ST. KIDS — We would love to help your children become devoted followers of Christ! Check in and get a name tag at the kids cart in the fellowship hall before service. Please pick your children up from nursery and KidStreet after the service, but students in Echo will be released to come to the fellowship hall.

- **NURSERY** (babies-age 3) during the service for Bible stories, music, play, and more!
- **KIDSTREET** (age 4-2nd grade) dismissed before sermon for a Bible story, craft/activity, music, and more!
- **ECHO** (3rd-5th grade) dismissed after the sermon to reflect and get to know each other, lasting 10 minutes. We don't meet on the last Sunday of each month.
- All ages are welcome to stay in the service. There is space under the balcony and in the fellowship hall if you need to get the wiggles out.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT

MARK YOUR CALENDAR — Our annual congregational meeting will be on Tuesday, December 13 at 7pm. Agenda items will include the selection of new elders and deacons, building update and approval of the 2023 budget.

CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER — Blessings to Thomas & Shiley Swart celebrating their 58th wedding anniversary, today! Pray for our missionary, John Berthelette who celebrates his birthday this week.

ON BEHALF — Of the Deacons and the NAC, a big **THANK YOU** to those who generously gave so that 19 families in Northbridge could truly have a Happy Thanksgiving. We saw lots of very grateful faces Sunday afternoon, one of the most rewarding "jobs" we Deacons are blessed to have. It would not have been possible without our generous church family.

GROW — CULTIVATE YOUR FAITH

CAREER TALK — A monthly career meeting for college, post-college, new professional, and working young adults—will gather for an evening of dessert, conversation, and networking. Join us next Wednesday, November 30 at 7pm in the foundation. Please email Jonathan Steele at jsteele1964@gmail.com, for more information.

LAST SUNDAY FOR CADET CHRISTMAS DECORATION FUNDRAISER — Decorations will be conveniently delivered free of charge to houses in Northbridge and adjoining towns the morning of Saturday, December 3.

CHURCH BREAKFAST — Next Sunday, December 4 at 8:30am: Join us before worship for an all church breakfast served to you by our high schoolers and leaders. Our high school youth group is very excited to host this event and cook breakfast for you all. Please see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOCIAL — December 14 at 5pm: Kicking off with a Holiday move night, featuring: *'It's a Wonderful Life'*. **Popcorn, hot cocoa and tons of laughter will be served!** Rsvp is required, please see the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall or see Sadie.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT — Saturday, December 17 at 10am: Our Christmas Pageant, followed by a soup and salad luncheon. If you are willing and able, please bring a dessert to share—**We hope you can join us and celebrate the season with friends and have some festive fun!**

CHRISTMAS EVE — Saturday, December 24, at 6pm. Invite your family and friends to join us. A special offering will be received for the Deacons' Benevolent Fund. *"O come let us adore Him!"*

SERVE — CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS & RESOURCES

FAITH PROMISE — We have collected 22 pledges totaling \$18,650 for our 2023 Missionary Support—thanks for your pledges! This is the **final Sunday** we will be collecting the cards. If you have not yet done so, please prayerfully consider filling out a pledge card and help us reach our goal of \$42,000.

NAC CHRISTMAS — Christmas Tags are located in the Fellowship Hall. This year we are giving gifts to 19 families in our community, including 41 children. Each child receives a clothing item and a toy item (approx \$25 per gift), and the parents will receive a food card from a local grocery store. We will need all gifts wrapped and returned for distribution to families on Sunday, December 18. Thank you for being a blessing to these families during this holiday season!

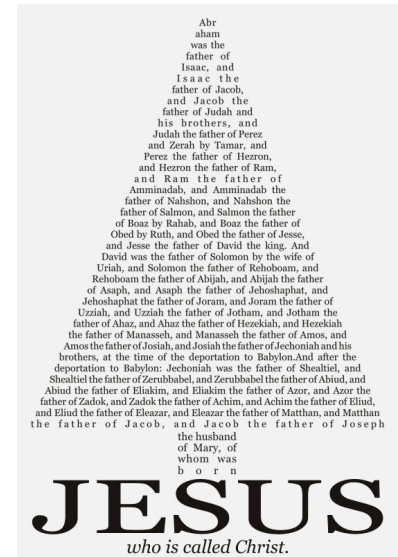
WELCOME

We're glad you joined us!

508.234.5268 + Office: 8a-4p Mon-Fri

November 27, 2022 + 9:30am

"Unexpected Advent; Tamar's Hope"



If you have been worshiping with us for a long time or you are entering the doors of a church for the first time, it is our hope that you will experience a kind welcome, a sense of genuine community, and the grace and truth of Jesus Christ that the Christian Church has celebrated for centuries.

LIVING THE STORY OF GOD THIS WEEK

- M 9:30a Women's Bible Study: Fellowship Hall
- 6:30p Celebrate Recovery: Fellowship Hall
- T 9:30a Coffee Break: Fellowship Hall; Childcare
- 6:00p Women's CR Step Study: Under the Balcony
- 6:30p Divorce Care: Classroom E
- 6:30p Grief Share: Fellowship Hall
- W 6:30p Prayer Meeting: Fellowship Hall
- 7:00p Young Adults Career Talk: Foundation

Prayer of Preparation

Spirit of the living God, we praise and adore you. Empower us anew, we pray, with tongues of fire and hearts of love to proclaim the reconciling word among people. Remind us that we are all members of the one body and if one member suffers, we all suffer. We give thanks that all of us are Christ's body, and rejoice in each one being a part of it. Accept our adoration and praise. In Jesus' name. Amen.

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship—Genesis 1; Matthew 1

In the beginning God created all things good, and the Spirit of God was over the waters. When humans ruined God's good beginning, God promised a New Beginning through Abraham.

God created a people through Abraham and promised that the Spirit of God would be poured out on all sons and daughters.

God's people struggled to believe his promises; they suffered oppression and exile. God created a tabernacle among them, and the Spirit of God was on the builders.

God's people sinned; the New Beginning was often at risk of ending.

When the time was right God took on flesh and created his dwelling among us. God kept his promise for New Beginning and the Spirit of God came upon Mary. God's promised savior was born in a manger, and New Creation was born from the tomb.

AMEN! Come Lord Jesus! Create in us Hope in our grief, Peace for our world, Joy from our anxiety, and Love through our lives. Come Holy Spirit, birth Christ in our hearts!

SONG: *O Come O Come Emmanuel*

Lighting the Advent Candle

Reading for the First Sunday in Advent; Tamar's Story:

Hope Today we light the candle of hope: the hope promised by prophets long ago; the hope born to bear our sin; the hope for a future provided by Jesus' sacrifice, the assurance that even as we wait his return, we can know God personally.

SONG: *King Of King's*

RENEWAL

Prayer of Confession—Psalm 51; Isaiah 61

It is Advent, the season in which we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, who is the bringer of all peace. We confess to you the ways in which we aren't open to the peace of Christ in our lives. We have been anointed with your Spirit, but are not always open to sharing your peace and love with others.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation.

Open our minds, hearts and hands, Lord.

Give us a willing spirit to show your love and peace to the world. Amen.

Words of Assurance

All the promises of God find their fulfillment in Christ. It is God who has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

By the power of the Spirit, we are united with Christ and have been given a new spirit.

Live in the joy and peace of that assurance.

COMMIT

Morning Offerings: Ministries of Pleasant Street



SONG: *Lord I Need You*

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you!

WORD

Morning Prayers

Matthew 1: 1-6; Genesis 38 + "Unexpected Advent; Tamar's Hope"

TABLE

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Tasting Grace

SONG: *Noel / All Who Are Thirsty*

SEND

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.

SONG: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Jesus Christ!

The candle in the front is lit as a symbol that Jesus Christ is present in our worship this morning.