

## LIVING THE STORY OF GOD THIS WEEK

M 7:15a Open Door Remote Learning: Foundation  
6:30p Celebrate Recovery: Fellowship Hall  
T 9:30a Coffee Break: Via Zoom  
6:30p Divorce Care: Howard's Office  
6:30p GriefShare: Fellowship Hall & Online  
W 5:00p Celebrate Recovery Women's Step Study: Offices  
6:15p Mid-Week @ PS  
6:30p MSYG: Fairlawn Church  
7:30p Prayer Gathering: BeckyVandenAkker's Home  
Th 6:30a Men's Bible Study: Fellowship Hall  
7:15a Open Door Remote Learning: Foundation  
7:00p Celebrate Recovery Men's Step Study: Offices

**BE NOT AFRAID** — This year we've seen the rise of a global pandemic, job loss and economic depression, and overwhelming prophetic anger at injustice in the world. This, not even to mention, the uncertainties and hard losses that have touched our lives this year.

*The people living in Darkness have seen a great light.* This year we are people who know something about living in darkness; darkness like the kind that Isaiah is describing. We are a people who also know the fears that accompany living in a land with little light.

This Sunday, we begin the season of Advent, a season of waiting for Jesus to come back and to bring all the glory of a world made new with him. And Advent begins in the dark, where fears loom large and people long for light. As we wait during the four Sundays of Advent, we will offer up our fears to God and hear the bright, surprising news that comes when angels appear with Good News to those in the dark and to people living in fearful times: "Do Not Be Afraid". We will not be alone. We will wait with Zechariah who hears good news he cannot fathom and learns to hope again. We will wait with Mary who is surprised by news that will change her life and her body forever. We wait with Joseph who is told that he must go down in reputation in order to do God's will, not up. We will wait with the shepherds who in the dark are overwhelmed by an angelic host. In the dark of our own fears, in the silence of our own suffering, in the longing for hope we cannot imagine, we will wait with them for those first words of good news that change everything: **"Do not be afraid, the Lord has heard your prayer."** Join us as we wait for The Dawn.

## CARE— COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

**LET'S PRAY:** — For Carol Lewis' son Will who was hospitalized at Milford Regional Medical Center with Covid—he has been experiencing terrible headaches and has a fever—please pray for the whole family.

**WE REJOICE** — With the Micucci family in the birth of another daughter, Isobel Joy on November 24. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

**NOTE FROM PASTOR MATTHEW** — Dear Pleasant Street, as Diana and I continue to settle in we wanted to take a moment to say thank you. We have seen how hard you have worked to prepare a home for us to live in. We have sensed your eagerness for it to be comfortable. And we were encouraged immensely by how you filled it with prayer and food. Thank you for extending love to us. What a gift to be among you! With Gratitude in abundance—*Pastor Matthew*

## GROW — Cultivate Your Faith

**ON BEHALF** — Of the Deacons and the NAC, a big THANK YOU to those who generously gave so that approximately 30 families in Northbridge could truly have a Happy Thanksgiving. The NAC blessed approximately 170 families in Northbridge this 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.

**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 5. For details or to place an order by **today**, please contact one of our cadet boys, Scott Schneider, Chuck McGrath or Mike Anema. Order forms are placed in the mailboxes and fellowship area.

## SERVE — CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS & RESOURCES

**FAITH PROMISE UPDATE** — We have collected 30 pledges totaling \$19,265 for our 2021 Missionary Support—thanks for your pledges! If you have not yet done so, please prayerfully consider filling out a pledge card and help us reach our goal of \$50,000. For Jesus and his Kingdom! —*Your Faith Promise Team*

## Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church

508.234.5268 + Office: 8a–3p Mon-Fri

November 29, 2020 + 9:30 am



*Welcome! We are so glad that you are here!*

*If you have been worshipping 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. If you're asking questions about faith and spirituality, join us in our formation opportunities and ministry events to learn more and meet others. Help us get to know you or let us know how we can pray for you by filling in the Communication Card in the pew and putting it in the offering basket—we'll be in touch.*

*The Lord be with you!*

*Prayer of Preparation*

*O Lord Jesus Christ, whose first coming brought joy to your waiting people, keep us in faith and hope as we eagerly await you're coming again. Amen.*

**GATHER**

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Call to Worship—based on Psalm 130:5-7*

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his Word I hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

***There is no darkness with you, O Lord.***

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plenteous redemption.

***There is no darkness with you, O Lord.***

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

***There is no darkness with you, O Lord.***

SONG: *Shine on Us*

*Advent Candle lighting*

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope.

***We light this candle as a sign of our waiting and expectation for the coming of Christ.***

SONG: *You Are Mine*

*Renewal*

*Prayer of Confession*

Emmanuel, God with us, we confess how hard it is for us to wait. Like Zechariah, we have a hard time waiting on you, and we lose hope so quickly when it seems as though you aren't answering our prayers in the ways we hope. Sometimes your timing is mysterious. Sometimes you answer our longings and our prayers in ways we have a hard time comprehending.

Take away all the barriers in our lives that keep us from being able to hear you, to know you, and to love you with all our hearts. And give us ears to hear your gentle voice saying, "Be not afraid." **Amen.**

*Silent confession*

*Words of Assurance*

To all who turn from sin in sorrow, to all who turn to God in hope, this is God's Word of grace: We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.

This gift we have from God.

***Thanks be to God.***

SONG: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

*Passing the Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you.

***And also with you!***

**WORD**

*Morning Prayers*

*Luke 1:5-25 + "Zechariah, Do Not Be Afraid"*

SONG: *Come, Holy Ghost*

**COMMIT**

*[Morning Offerings]*

**SEND**

*Benediction—Based on Psalm 29:2, 9; Exodus 20:18; Matthew 3:17; Isaiah 41:10*

The same voice that speaks over the waters and calls us to follow and obey,

the same voice that promises "I am your God, you are my people,"

the same voice that spoke "This is my beloved Son," now blesses you with peace:

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"

The blessing of Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is with you now and forevermore. **Amen.**

SONG: *Soon and Very Soon*

[Sermon Notes](#)