

LIVING THE STORY OF GOD THIS WEEK

- M 6:30p Celebrate Recovery
T 9:30a Coffee Break: Fellowship Hall; Childcare
2:00p Open Door: Foundation
6:30p Divorce Care: Howard's Office
6:30p GriefShare: Fellowship Hall & Online
W 5:00p CR Women's Step Study: Office in the Nursery
7:00p Prayer Meeting: Office in the Nursery
Th 2:00p Open Door: Foundation
7:00p CR Men's Step Study: Office in the Nursery

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR — Our annual congregational meeting will be on Wednesday, December 8. Agenda items will include the selection of new elders and deacons and approval of the 2022 budget.

CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER — For Mark Hackathorn as he recovers at home from heart surgery. If you would like to place a request or be in prayer through our active prayer chain—please contact the office. Thanks for praying!

GROW — CULTIVATE YOUR FAITH

THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER — Divorce Care, Griefshare or Celebrate Recovery, and for those who have no place to go for Thanksgiving? Join us here! Share the day and make new friends. Please sign up in the fellowship hall at the dinner table to coordinate what to bring. Please see Marlene De Vries for more information at 508.282.0436 or mrsrevhowie@gmail.com.

COFFEE BREAK — You are invited to Coffee Break's Connect Conference, a two-day virtual experience for people who love the gospel, discipleship, and leaders. You can watch this virtually on November 12-13 or at Fairlawn Church. Contact Anna Bloem 508.234.4902 for questions or if you are interested in attending at Fairlawn Church.

THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE — We will join Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church for a Thanksgiving Day service at 9am —Hope to see you there!

CAMP BERA — Registration is now Open for our winter retreat at Camp Berea January 14-16! All 6-12 graders are invited to participate. Please see Diane Williams for more information and to sign up.

CADET CHRISTMAS DECORATION FUNDRAISER — Our cadets are now taking orders for Christmas decorations. Decorations will be conveniently delivered free of charge to houses in Northbridge and adjoining towns the morning of Saturday, December 4. For details or to place an order by November 28, contact one of our cadet boys or counselors. Order forms are placed in the mailboxes and fellowship area.

SERVE — CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS & RESOURCES

FAITH PROMISE FOR MISSIONS — Please remember to put the colored tear-off tag in the offering today or any Sunday in November as a faith pledge of how much God would have you give in 2022 for local and global missionaries our church supports. Thanks!

SECOND OFFERING — Our second offering next week will be for the UMASS Spiritual and Pastoral Services. Thank you for your generosity!

REACH OUT — CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

BLACKSTONE VALLEY EMERGENCY SHELTER — Has decided that our goal would be to meet the needs of the less fortunate by providing a motel/hotel room for those that are in distress or in transition. We are looking for donations to help as many people as we can, for as many nights as we can. Please call 508.266.5122 or bv.emergency.shelter@gmail.com if you can help in anyway.

PLEASANT STREET CHORAL SINGERS — are invited to be part of a combined choir to sing at Fairlawn's Festival of Carols on December 19, at 5:30pm. The Village Bells will also be joining us for this Christmas service. Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, November 14 at 11:35am. Rehearsal dates include November 14, 21, December 5 & 12. Please consider joining the Fairlawn choir for this joyous Christmas event—Laurie Vander Baan

Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church

508.234.5268 + Office: 8a–3p Mon-Fri

November 7, 2021 + 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 fellowship hall and putting it in the offering basket—we'll be in touch.

WORSHIP — Celebrate What God Is Doing

We would love to help your kids become devoted followers of Christ! Please visit the Children's Ministry check-in station in the fellowship hall to get a security tag so your children can join us downstairs. The nursery is open for infants through 3 year olds during the whole service. KidStreet Children's Church for age 4-2nd grade is dismissed to go with teachers right before the sermon. Please bring your security tag to pick up your children in the nursery or classroom C after the service. Echo for kids in 3rd-5th grade will meet in classroom B but will be dismissed to the fellowship hall at the end of the service.

We are excited to serve you!

The Lord be with you!

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

God invites us into his presence, saying: “I am the Lord, who heals you”

Diseased, depressed, dysfunctional, defeated, we come for the Healing that only God can provide.

God meets us saying: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Harried, hurried, anxious, and fearful, we come for the Rest that only God can give.

God beckons us with a gracious call: “All who thirst, come to the water. Come, all who are weary; who yearn for forgiveness.”

Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.

Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

SONGS: *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven*
Indescribable

RENEWAL

Prayer of Confession

Loving God,

There is enough evil within us to dampen our confidence that we could ever come home;

We doubt anyone would answer the door.

Some days there is enough weariness in us to darken our hope that anything could change;

We can't imagine why anyone would show us compassion.

Yet, thankfully there is also enough hunger in us to keep us unhappy.

We are discontent enough to take the road Home anyway.

God of our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me a sinner.

Amen. Have mercy on me a sinner.

Silent confession

God of monumental patience and of prodigal mercy, forgive your people their numerous sins, have pity on our pride and folly, lead us to the fountain of your grace, and wash us thoroughly from all that defiles us. Through Christ Jesus our Redeemer.

Amen!

Words of Assurance — based on Luke 15

Jesus told us: “Then the Father said: Bring quickly the best clothes for him, and put a signet ring on his finger and shoes on his feet, and kill the fattened calf, and let us eat and celebrate, for this my child was dead and is alive again, was lost and is found.”

My friends, this fellow Jesus, welcomes sinners and even eats with the likes of us! Welcome back home.

Thanks be to God!

SONG: *Is He Worthy?*

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

KidStreet Dismissal

[Children age 4 through 2nd grade are dismissed]

WORD

Morning Prayers

Jonah 3:10 - 4:11 (p 754) + “Two ways to be lost & the open Question”

COMMIT

ECHO Dismissal [Students in grades 3-5 are dismissed]

Morning Offerings: Ministries of Pleasant Street

SONG: *Mercy*

SEND

Dismissal & Benediction

Go in peace, in the knowledge of God's power. Go in confidence, in the knowledge of God's strength. Go in joy, in the knowledge of God's love. Thanks be to God. God the Sender, send us. God the Sent, go with us. God the strengthener of those who go, empower us, that we may go with you and find those who will call you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

AMEN.

SONG: *God of This City*

Quote & Question:

The final verses of the book tell us that the mark of those who have been immersed in the grace of God is compassion and love, not contempt, for people who aren't like them... Anyone who uses the internet and social media... is being daily encouraged... to become like Jonah with regard to 'those people over there'... The book of Jonah is a shot across the bow. God asks, how can we look at anyone – even those with deeply opposing beliefs and practice – with no compassion?

Tim Keller, The Prodigal Prophet, 224-25.

As Walter Brueggemann summarizes, the main difficulties of the Christian faith are 'the problem of trusting a God [whom we can't control]... and the problem of caring for a neighbor who is experienced as an enemy' [In worship]... we encounter God and learn that God is trustworthy, that God is large enough to care for us in everything. [In worship]... God [teaches his]... concern and welcome for all of our neighbors and invites us to participate in God's purposes on their behalf.

Marva Dawn, Reaching Out without Dumbin Down, 126.

Jonah resists God's mercy more than once in the story. But not in the same way. Are there times in your life when you have run from the presence of God? Are there times when you have resisted it but stayed closer to home?

In Jesus parable of the prodigal son (*Luke 15*) both sons are lost but in different ways. Both sons are alienated from God and therefore exclude. In your own words, how would you describe what the younger son does? What the older son does? What the Father does? And how might God come and find you today?

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