

Ministry Staff — How can we serve You?

Sr. Pastor: Rev. Matthew Burns; matthew@psrc.org / Children Ministries: Kate Martinka; kate@psrc.org / Worship Leader: Steve Martinka; steve@psrc.org / Office/Finance: Sadie Perkins; churchoffice@psrc.org/finance@psrc.org

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.

- **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.

CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

THANK YOU — For your prayers, cards, calls, and meals during my recent surgery. It was and is wonderful to experience the community of believers. Praise God - it is awesome to walk without pain—*Sandi Vriesema*

MANY THANKS — I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful cards, meals and prayers after my surgery. Also the expressions of love and condolences regarding the loss of my brother, Hank. All glory to God—*Ahleen Ebbeling*

GROW — CULTIVATE YOUR FAITH

PAGEANT FAMILY SERVICE & GATHERING — Sunday, December 24, at 9:30am. Join us for our Christmas pageant. After the pageant we will celebrate with homemade cookies and treats—hope you can join us and celebrate the season with friends and festive fun!

CHRISTMAS EVE — Sunday, December 24, at 4pm. Invite your family and friends to join us for a candle-light service. A special offering will be received for the Deacons' Benevolent Fund.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY — Will reconvene on January 8 at 9:30am in the Foundation. All women are welcome!

SERVE — CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS & RESOURCES
OUR SECOND OFFERING — Today, is for "Healing Heart Hospitality House"; a charity that provides physical, emotional and spiritual support and comfort to the families and friends of hospitalized patients in the greater Worcester area.

THE DEACONS — Will have Christmas Gift Tags in the fellowship hall. Our congregation needs to buy both clothing gifts and toy gifts for 60 children (120 total gifts), in addition to 26 food cards. Gifts will be distributed on Sunday, December 17. We encourage each of you to participate, as many hands make light work. Thank you in advance for your generosity by being a blessing to those in our community!

CHRISTMAS COOKIE EVENT — The Christmas season is a wonderful time to share your gifts with family, friends, neighbors, and guests. Help us make our **Christmas Eve Day Service** merry and bright with your gifts of baking. Please bring in some of your favorite Christmas cookies or treats and share some family traditions after the worship service. We hope you take this opportunity to showcase your culinary skills with others who appreciate the art of baking and celebrate the season, one cookie at a time!

FINANCIAL GIVING ENVELOPES — Are available in the mailboxes; if you did not receive envelopes and would like them, contact Sadie in the office. Please note your envelope number has more than likely changed. Forms to give electronically are available in the fellowship hall and office.

REACH OUT — CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

THE RIVER — is hosting a *Blue Christmas Service* tonight at 7pm. Perhaps there is a member or two - or more! - who might benefit from attending.

THE FAIRWOODS BOARD — is looking for two volunteers to serve a three year term on the Board. We are specifically looking for someone who has a financial background to serve as Treasurer. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please reach out to Michael Bangma at michaelb302@gmail.com.

WELCOME

We're glad you joined us!

508.234.5268 +

Office Hours: 8am–4pm Mon-Fri

December 10, 2023 + 9:30am

"Advent Series: "Waiting for God"



Advent is the first season in the liturgical calendar, a lonely one, in which we wait in the darkness in expectant longing for the coming of Christ. But it is also a time of profound hope, for we have a joyous assurance that a baby will be born in Bethlehem with the power to "ransom captive Israel." Every week a new candle is lit in an advent wreath to symbolize the growing abundance of hope, joy, love, and peace, so that we have the confidence to sing the beautiful words, "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!"

Prayer of preparation

*Holy God of Hope, Give us ears to hear and hearts to trust the promises you offer to us in this season of Advent. As we worship together, we offer ourselves to you and we open ourselves to your abundant grace.
Amen.*

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord.

We trust in the Lord's goodness. We rely on his mercy. We find shelter in his steadfast love.

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord.

We walk in the Lord's way. We follow his example of love.

In this Advent season of waiting.

Lord, forgive our sins. Remember your love. Remember each one of us. Remember your people everywhere.

In this Advent season of waiting.

Lord, we wait for your salvation. We wait for your leading. We wait for your coming.

Silence

You draw the hearts of shepherds, You draw the hearts of kings;
Even as a baby, You were changing everything. You called me to
Your Kingdom, before Your lips could speak; and even as a
baby, You were reaching out for me. And now we are awaiting,
the day of Your return; when every eye will see You, as heaven
comes to earth. until the sky is opened, until the trumpet
sounds; the bride is getting ready, the church is singing out
-Merideth Andrews

SONG: *All Creation Sing (Joy to The World)*

Candle Reading - JOY

SONG: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

RENEWAL

Confession / Assurance — from Psalm 130

Lord, God your salvation is nearer today than before. Yet we
Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

Lord have mercy.

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with
reverence, serve you.

Christ have mercy.

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word,
I put my hope.

Lord have mercy.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning. Put your hope in
the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full
redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Silent Confession

COMMIT

*Morning Offerings: 1) Pleasant Street Ministries;
2) Healing Heart Hospitality House*



SONG: *I Will Wait for You*

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

2 Peter 3: 1-5, 8-15 + "Waiting for God – God Has Time"

SEND

ECHO Dismissal

[Students in grades 3-5 are dismissed]

SONG: *O Day of Peace*

Apostle's Creed

Benediction

SONG: *Praise to The Lord (Joyful Joyful)*

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