

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

PLEASE REMEMBER — Our annual congregational meeting will be **next 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 — Our deepest condolences to Chuck McGrath and family in the passing of his father, Brian—*So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy*—John 16:22

MANY MANY THANKS — To the congregation for supporting us by coming to the high school breakfast—we loved cooking for you and seeing so many happy faces. We also want to take this opportunity and give a big shout-out to Tom & Sue Cooper and Emily Fortna who worked tirelessly behind the scenes in making this event a success. We hope to do this again next year—*Your high school youth group!*

GROW — CULTIVATE YOUR FAITH

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOCIAL — December 14 at 5pm: Kicking off with a Holiday movie 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!"*

WOMEN'S COFFEE BREAK — will reconvene on Tuesday, January 3 at 9:30am in the fellowship hall. All women are welcome!

WOMENS BIBLE STUDY — will reconvene on Monday, January 9 at 9:30am in the fellowship hall. Please join us!

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 office.

SERVE — CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS & RESOURCES

OUR SECOND OFFERING — Today is for *"Healing Heart Hospitality House"*; Carol Lewis' charity that provides physical, emotional and spiritual support and comfort to the families and friends of hospitalized patients in the greater Worcester area.

NAC CHRISTMAS — LAST CALL!! Christmas Tags are located in the Fellowship Hall. There are NINE (9) clothing tags and FOUR (4) toy tags that need to be claimed **TODAY!** Also, we have NINETEEN (19) Food cards that need to be picked up today. We will need all gifts wrapped, the food cards and gift cards to be in gift bags, and returned so the Deacons can distribute to families next Sunday, December 18 after the service. Make sure to attach the child's tag (for example: Child 4-B) to each gift. Thank you for being a blessing to these families during this holiday season!

REACH OUT — CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

FAIRWOODS — Is looking for volunteers to serve a three year term on the Fairwoods Board. If you would like to know more about the Fairwoods Board, please reach out to Board President, Michael Bangma at michaelb302@gmail.com.

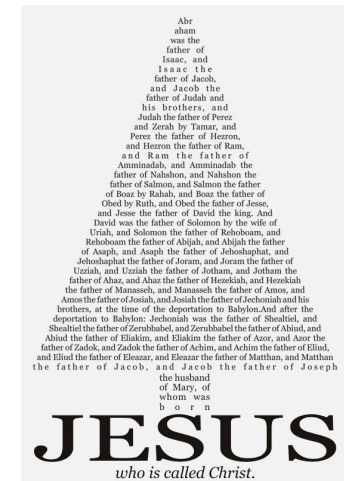
WELCOME

We're glad you joined us!

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

December 11, 2022 + 9:30am

"Unexpected Advent; Ruth's Joy"



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.

LIVING THE STORY OF GOD THIS WEEK

- Today 8:30a HS Youth Group Breakfast: Foundation
- M 6:30p Celebrate Recovery: Fellowship Hall
- T 6:00p Women's CR Step Study: Foundation
- 6:30p Divorce Care: Via Zoom
- 6:30p Grief Share: Classroom E
- 7:00p Congregational Meeting: Sanctuary
- W 5:00p Movie Night: Foundation (*It's a Wonderful Life*)
- 6:30p Prayer Meeting: Fellowship Hall
- Sa 10:00a Christmas Pageant & Lunch 🍷

Prayer of Preparation

Lord Jesus, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus". Amen.

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

In this season of expectation.

We prepare to welcome Jesus, Messiah.

Into the busyness of our lives and the hard to find moments of solitude.

We prepare to welcome Jesus, Messiah.

Into our homes and situations along with friends and families.

We prepare to welcome Jesus, Messiah.

Into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives

We prepare to welcome Jesus, Messiah.

You entered this world as vulnerable as any one of us in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross. We cannot comprehend the reasoning, only marvel that Salvation comes to us through a baby born in a stable, and reaches out to a world in need.

In this season of anticipation

We prepare to welcome Jesus, Messiah.

SONG: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Lighting the Advent Candle

Reading for the Third Sunday in Advent; Ruth's Story:

Today we light the candle of joy. Joy that God adopts us into his family. Joy that the Messiah has come to redeem people of every tribe and tongue. Joy to have found God's love to be deep, and high, and long and wide.

SONG: *Lord I Need You*

RENEWAL

Prayer of Confession—based on Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine: for your light has come.

God, we live as though the light has not defeated the darkness in the world or the darkness in us.

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

We confess that we ignore the light you sent to be among us.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness is over the people; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season. We do not yearn for him each moment in our waiting hearts.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.

Forgive us for not opening our eyes.

It is time to prepare. Draw us to your light

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance—John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Through Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

COMMIT

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



SONGS: *O Day Of Peace*

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

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

Matthew 1: 1-6; Ruth 4 + "Unexpected Advent; Ruth's Joy"

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

SONG: *God We Sing Your Glorious Praises*

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: *Angels We Have Heard On High*

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.