

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
W 5:00p Celebrate Recovery Women's Step Study: Offices
6:15p Mid-Week @ PS
6:30p MSYG: Fairlawn Church
7:30p Prayer Gathering: Becky VandenAkker'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

MINISTRY STAFF — HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

Sn. Pastor: Matthew Burns; Care Ministries: Pastor Howard DeVries; Youth: Pastor Annika Bangma; Children: Kate Martinka; Worship: Becky VandenAkker; Office/Finance: Sadie Perkins/
firstname@psrc.org

Today we continue in the season of Advent, a season that begins in the dark, where fears loom large and people long for light. On this third Sunday 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 living in fearful times: **“Do Not Be Afraid”**. 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 wait with them for those first words of good news that change everything: *“Do not be afraid, the Lord has heard your prayer.”*

CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

LET'S PRAY! — For and remember our shut-ins this time of the year and winter: Alice Cook, Nellie De Vries, Babe Nydam, Jim Nydam, Harold Swart, Theona Taylor and Grace Nyenhuis.

GROW — Cultivate Your Faith

CHRISTMAS EVE — Thursday, December 24, at **5pm**. 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!”*

FROM COUNCIL — Thank you to all who joined us this past Wednesday for our annual meeting. We heard encouraging ministry reports from our staff as well as updates from the elders and deacons. Tony Brookhouse & Dawn LeFrancois were received as new elders, Steve Haringa will remain on for another year, and Ruth Bandstra and Connor Kuik were selected as deacons. The 2021 budget was approved. We look forward to what God will do through our church in 2021! Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

2021 CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE — Please notify Sadie of any changes to your information (including college students!). Regular attendees, we'd love to have your information updated as well. Thanks for your help!

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.

FINANCIAL GIVING ENVELOPES — Are available in the mailboxes; if you did not receive envelopes and would like them, contact Sadie in the office. Forms to give electronically, or to change your giving for 2021 are available in the fellowship hall.

REACH OUT — Connect with our Community

THE FAIRWOODS ANNUAL — meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12 at 6:30pm, here at church. We encourage all church members to make time to be a part of the decisions that go into making Fairwoods a wonderful place for our church family to gather!

FAIRWOODS RECREATION SOCIETY — is looking for volunteers to be a part of our board, beginning in our 2021 season! Responsibilities of these positions vary based on skill set and interest, but include a monthly meeting and involvement in our 3-4 annual fundraisers. If you are interested, please contact Claire Macomber at fairwoodsrecreation@gmail.com.

Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church

508.234.5268 + Office: 8a–3p Mon-Fri

December 13, 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 126

The Lord has done great things for us!

And we are filled with joy!

Our God has turned our weeping into singing,

our tears into songs of joy!

O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day,

and remain in us forever.

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

Lighting the Advent Candles

As we anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ, we light candles of hope and peace as reminders of the promise that Emmanuel is our God with us and that God graciously gives us these gifts even if they sometimes come in ways that are mysterious to us. [Light two candles.] On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of joy. We fix our eyes on Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set before him, he came down to earth and took on our humanity, endured the cross with all its shame and sat down at the right hand of God in heaven. The day is coming when there will be everlasting joy to the world, for our Lord will come! Let all the earth receive her king! We light this candle of joy in anticipation of that day.

We light these candles as a sign of our waiting and expectation for the coming of Christ

SONG: *Come, Holy Ghost*

Renewal

Prayer of Confession

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, come. Sometimes we have a hard time imagining that you would come down from the glorious splendor of heaven to be born in a Bethlehem stable with straw, mud, and animals all around. We cannot imagine that you willingly took on our broken human flesh with bodies that ache and suffer from illness and pain. You walked into our sadness, into wars, into violence and persecution, and you did this all for us. We confess that it is difficult to comprehend and difficult to believe. Why, Lord, would you do that for us? We call you Emmanuel, God with us, but how often do we live out this Christmas story with the truth that your incarnation was for us? Continue to enter in, Emmanuel. Enter into our darkness and give us light. Enter into our lives and change them for your good purposes. Enter into our hearts and still them with the words “Be not afraid.”

Silent confession

SONG: *O Come, O Come Immanuel*

Words of Assurance—based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”
People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness. In Christ, we are made right with God.

Thanks be to God!

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

WORD

Morning Prayers

Matthew 1:18-25 (page 783) + Joseph, do not be afraid to come down

COMMIT

[Morning Offerings]

SEND

Benediction—Romans 15:12-13

Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SONG: *He Came Down*

[Sermon Notes](#)