

**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 for 10 minutes of connection (except the last Sunday of the month).

All ages are welcome for the duration of the service. There is always space under the balcony and in the fellowship hall if you need to get the wiggles out.

**FAMILY SUNDAY** — On 5th Sundays we will hold a family service where we all worship in the sanctuary together during the duration of the service. We will now be offering nursery during these services.

**FAITH PROMISE 2026** - Thank you to the congregation for the pledges given to support our Mission causes for 2026. Our Missionaries are so thankful for the support given to them as they serve both locally and abroad. Please keep them in your prayers. *-The Faith Promise Team*

**NOTE OF GRATITUDE** - The love of the family of God was evident to me during my weeks in rehab. Your prayers, get well cards, and visits, were much appreciated. *-Don Koopman*

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Join us as we continue to pray for Randy Bol (Brother, Alan Bol), as Randy continues to heal from abdominal surgery this past week.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** **Steve Frieswick**, TODAY, December 14th.

**SECOND OFFERING** - Our monthly second offering will take today. We are collecting for the Whitinsville Retirement Home.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & POTLUCK** - Join us today following worship service for the Christmas Pageant and potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

**FINANCIAL GIVING ENVELOPES** - Will be distributed in the fellowship hall mailboxes. If you did not receive envelopes, please contact Sadie in the church office with your envelope number at: [finance@pscrc.org](mailto:finance@pscrc.org). Forms to give electronically are available in the fellowship hall and office.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE ~ THE RIVER COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
This year's service will be held on **Sun., December 14, at 6:00pm**. The beauty of the Christmas season can sometimes remind us of loved ones we've lost or challenges we've faced. Our annual Blue Christmas Service offers a quiet, gentle space to acknowledge these losses, share in reflection, and find comfort together. Join us as we seek hope and peace in the midst of the season.

**CONCERT** - The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus & Orchestra presents *Here We Come A'-Caroling*, a free Holiday Pops Concert on **Sun., December 14th at 4:00pm** at Valley Chapel, 14 Hunter Rd., Uxbridge. Donations are welcome, and the BVCC will also collect non-perishable food and personal-care items for the People First Food Pantry of Uxbridge. Enjoy a festive program for all ages!

**LESSONS & CAROLS AT VILLAGE CONGREGATIONAL** - Join us for a Lessons & Carols service on **Sun., December 14 at 7pm!** We will hear the story of the Nativity through Bible readings and enjoy music featuring WCS Vocal Ensemble!

**NAC CHRISTMAS GIFT TAGS** — If you have not had the opportunity the last two Sundays to pick up a gift tag or food card request, **THIS IS THE LAST SUNDAY!** The Deacons still have gift tags left, in addition to 23 (out of 41) Food Cards. This year we have the privilege to bless 36 kids! Each child will receive a clothing item and a toy item, from babies up to age 17. We suggest gifts in the \$25-\$35 price range, but there are no "rules" and we ask that you give as the Spirit leads. Gift suggestions are in the fellowship hall. Please consider helping out this Sunday by picking up what remains on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up, buy the gift(s), wrap them, and put the "tag" on the outside so to indicate the child(ren) receiving the gift. Deacons need the gifts returned **on or before Sun., December 21st**, when they will be distributed immediately after the church service. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**VERMONT TRIP** — **Save the Date: June 20-27th, 2026!** Pleasant Street is partnering with World Renew Disaster Response Services for a mission trip to Barre, Vermont, to help families affected by recent catastrophic flooding. We will be assisting with work like drywall, flooring, insulation, and painting. No experience is necessary, and all are welcome! If you are age 14 or older and would like to join or have questions, please email Emily Fortna at [ebolde@gmail.com](mailto:ebolde@gmail.com).

**Ministry Staff — How Can We Serve You?**

Sr. Pastor: Rev. Matthew Burns; [matthew@pscrc.org](mailto:matthew@pscrc.org)

Children Ministries: Kate Martinka; [kate@pscrc.org](mailto:kate@pscrc.org)

Worship Leader: Steve Martinka; [steve@pscrc.org](mailto:steve@pscrc.org)

Finance: Sadie Perkins; [finance@pscrc.org](mailto:finance@pscrc.org)

Office: Colleen King; [churchoffice@pscrc.org](mailto:churchoffice@pscrc.org)

Hours: Monday-Friday 8am–12pm / 508-234-5268

**Shepherding Pastorates — Alphabetical By Last Name:**

A-Br — Elder Sandy Wynja & Deacon Kelly Lariviere

Bs-Eo — Elder Eric Wierenga & Deacon Karyn Schneider

Ep-HI — Elder Tom Cooper & Deacon Mike O'Rourke

Hm-Mc — Elder Mike Anema & Deacon Brian St. Denis

Md-S — Elder Steve Stinson & Deacon Cathy Greene

T-Y — Elder John Woudenberg & Deacon Jodie Woudenberg

# WELCOME

**We're so glad you've joined us!**

*Sunday, December 14, 2025, 9:30 am*

Far As the Curse is Found: Awaiting the Messiah

*"Awaiting the Way Home"*

Text: Isaiah 35:1-10



If you have been worshiping 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. Welcome, we are so glad that you are here.

## ***LIVING THE STORY OF GOD THIS WEEK***

S	11:00a	Christmas Pageant
M	9:30a	Women's Bible Study
M	6:30p	Celebrate Recovery
T	9:30a	Coffee Break
W	6:15p	MidWeek
	6:30p	Prayer Group
Th	7:30a	Men's Bible Study

### *Prayer of Preparation*

*The Lord reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment.  
He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity.  
The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.  
Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord,  
have never forsaken those who seek you. (Psalm 9:7-10)*

## **GATHER**

*Welcome*

*Call To Worship*

All creation holds its breath.

**The time is almost here.**

The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

**Excitement is all around us.**

Prepare your hearts—The grace of God takes on human form.

Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

**We gather to make ready our hearts  
for the coming of Christ, our hope.**

**SONG:** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

*Advent Candle Reading*

Prepare the way of the Lord. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life.” We light this candle of Joy as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

The Lord says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. (*Isaiah 49:6*)

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

**SONG:** What Wondrous Love Is This

## **RENEWAL**

*Silent Meditation*

*Call To Confession*

Restore us, O Lord, we pray, bring us back to that place where we once met, as shepherds to the stable after hearing angels sing. Bring us back to that place when our love was fresh, not embarrassed to express itself in praise to our heavenly King.

**Restore us, O Lord, we pray.**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your patience with a rebellious people.

**Loving you one moment, forgetting you the next.**

Thank you for your endless love which does not give up but wants the best for us, despite our faults.

**Thank you for your promise to all who believe and put  
their trust in you.**

Everlasting God, in this Advent season, may your call resound in hearts and minds, drawing many to the living water where they might find forgiveness and knowledge of your Salvation.

**Restore us, O Lord, we pray. Amen.**

*Words Of Assurance*

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (*Romans 15:13*)

**Thanks be to God!**

*Offering: Ministries of Pleasant Street*



*Second offering: Whitinsville Retirement Home*

**SONG:** It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

**Passing The Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

**KidStreet Dismissal**

**[ages 4 through 2nd grade are dismissed]**

## **WORD**

*Congregational Prayer*

*Scripture reading:* Isaiah 35:1-10

*Sermon* Awaiting the Way Home

## **SEND**

*Pageant Dismissal*

**SONG:** House Of The Lord

*Apostles' Creed*

*Benediction*

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

***Go In Peace To Love And Serve The Lord, Jesus Christ!***