

LIVING THE STORY OF GOD THIS WEEK

M 2:00p Open Door: Foundation
6:30p Celebrate Recovery
F 6:00p Christmas Eve Service
Sa **Merry Christmas**

MINISTRY STAFF — HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

Sr. Pastor: Rev. Matthew Burns / Care Ministries: Rev. Howard De Vries; Youth: Pastor Annika Bangma / Children: Kate Martinka; Worship: Becky VandenAkker; Office/Finance: Sadie Perkins/
firstname@pscrc.org.

CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER — For our shut-ins, our missionaries around the world, those who serve in our nation's armed services and please remember our Veterans—*We wish them a Very Merry Christmas!*

OUR THANKS — to the congregation for your prayers, cards & expressions of sympathy shown to us during the recent passing of my brother, Tom—*Jack & Paula Crawford*

GROW — CULTIVATE YOUR FAITH

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP — Invite your family and friends to join us **next Friday at 6:00pm** for a Christmas Eve service. A special offering will be received for the Deacons' Benevolent Fund. *'O come let us adore Him!'*

THE 125th — Anniversary Books are here! They include pictures and information about our church history, the many ministries and activities we have, and the 125th Anniversary celebration weekend. Go to your mailbox to get your copy. If an extra book is needed, stop by the table in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy!

WOMEN'S COFFEE BREAK — will reconvene on January 4 & at 9:30am in the fellowship hall. All women are welcome!

DIVORCE CARE & GRIEF-SHARE — New groups will start Tuesday, January 11 at 6:30pm. See Pastor Howard for more information.

WORSHIP SURVEY — The Director of Worship Transition Team wants your input. Please complete the Worship Survey on-line <https://bit.ly/PSCRCWorship> or via a paper copy which is available on the table by the entrance to the sanctuary. **Today** is the deadline to complete the survey. Feel free to contact Emily Fortna or Chris Epplert if you have any questions.

PAGEANT FAMILY SERVICE & GATHERING — Is rescheduled for next Sunday, **December 26**, at 9:30am. Join us for stories, songs and an interactive pageant. After the pageant we will celebrate with a gathering. Desserts will be provided—hope you can join us and celebrate the season with friends and festive fun!

WEATHER RELATED CHURCH CANCELLATION — Notices will be posted on our website and social media pages as well as with WBZ (CBS Channel 4) and WCVB (ABC Channel 5).

SERVE — CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS & RESOURCES

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, or to change your giving for 2022 are available in the fellowship hall.

GIVING — As a reminder: If you are planning on a year end donation to the church, please bring it by next week Sunday or mail it to the church. Thanks for your generous support of God's work through our church in 2021! *Soli Deo Gloria!* — PSCRC Council

FAITH PROMISE TEAM — Thanks the congregation for their pledges given to support our Mission causes for 2022! If anyone has not yet turned in their pledge, pledge cards will continue to be available at the entrances through December.

REACH OUT — CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS — The Festival of Carols will be held **TODAY** beginning at 5:30pm at Fairlawn CRC. Fairlawn's choir will be joined by singers from Pleasant Street and the Village Hand bell Choir. A free-will offering will be taken for the NAC Food Pantry. Refreshments will be served after the service. You are welcomed to join us for this joyous service.

Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church

508.234.5268 + Office: 8a–3p Mon-Fri
December 19, 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!

Prayer of Preparation

Immanuel, as we wait for your return, help us to see your glory and love through the reading and preaching of your Word. We pray in your name. Amen.

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship — Hebrews 11:16; Psalm 130

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We continue on our Advent journey with a reminder - this world is not our home.

Even now we live by faith, longing for a Better Country and a New Creation.

Even now I wait for the Lord and in his Word I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

Even now there is no darkness with you, O Lord.

People of God, hope in the Lord! For even now we do not wait in vain.

(The water is poured in the font) We wait marked by God's promises.

(Bread is placed on the table) We walk toward God's Future Feast.

(the Bible is set on the Pulpit) We carry the book of God's Story.

People of God – Welcome home!

Even now there is no darkness with you, O Lord.

SONGS: *My Soul in Stillness Waits*

O Come All Ye Faithful

Lighting the Advent Candles

**The First Reading: Hebrews 11:1, 17-19, 13*

Friends, this is God's Word.

Thanks be to God!

**The Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 26-38*

Friends, This is the Gospel of Jesus!

Thanks be to God!

SONG: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel/Come,*

Thou Long Expected Jesus

RENEWAL

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, our lives have sin in them - in our thoughts, and our words, and our actions. And sometimes we have forgotten it is there.

Come, Lord Jesus. We do not see our sins without You.

We do not notice our neighbor's needs and we do not love You above all else. We have forgotten that this is what You asked of us.

Come, Lord Jesus. We cannot face our sins without You.

Jesus, you came to show your people where the Sin is, and to save your people from it. We also need to see and to be forgiven.

Come, Lord Jesus. We have no hope apart from you.

Silent Prayer

Jesus, our king and shepherd, you came to us by the Spirit and were born in Bethlehem. Come by your Holy Spirit now; Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

AMEN.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance — Isaiah 40

Friends, to all who turn from sin in sorrow, to all who turn to God in hope, this is God's Word of Grace: We are forgiven, and we are loved. This is the gift we have from God and the good news of this Advent season: forgiveness of sin and new life.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

SONG: *He Leadeth Me*

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

Isaiah 40: 1-11 (p 586) +

“This Great Hope: The Return that Turns Everything”

COMMIT

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

Morning Offerings:) Pleasant Street Ministries;

SEND

Benediction

Now may the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SONG: *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

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