

LIVING THE STORY OF GOD THIS WEEK

M 6:30p Celebrate Recovery: Fellowship Hall
W 7:30p Prayer gathering at Don & Judy Godeke's home
Th 5:00p Christmas Eve Service
F **Merry Christmas**

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.

SHEPHERDING PASTORATES — Alphabetical by last name:

A-Bt — Elder Jack Crawford & Deacon Phil Knapper
Bu-E — Elder Thalia Towle & Deacon Kate Mogan
F-I — Elder Steve Stinson & Deacon Lauren McGrath
J-Mh — Elder John Vriesema & Deacon Beth Bol
Mi-Sv — Elder Mike Anema & Deacon Dexter Greene
Sw-Z — Elder Mark & Deacon Lillian Hackathorn

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 fourth 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 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 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 LOVING SYMPATHY is extended to the Wassenaar family, sons Ken, Dave, daughters Cindy De Vries, Karen Stinson, sister Jennie Berghuis—and their families in the passing of their loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother and sister, Fran—*The Lord be with you!*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF FRANCES WASSENAAR
September 12, 1931—December 16, 2020

“Saved by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.” + Ephesians 2

THANK YOU — To Pleasant Street for lifting us up in prayers, reaching out with encouragement and delivering delicious meals and treats to our doorstep in the days before and after our daughter, Isobel, was born. She is a wonderful, healthy baby and your prayers and support were absolutely felt and appreciated during what was an anxious time for our family! We feel very blessed and hopeful as we enter a new year!—*Emily & Dave Micucci*

GROW — Cultivate Your Faith

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP — Invite your family and friends to join us **next Thursday at 5:00pm** for a Christmas Eve service. A special offering will be received for the Deacons' Benevolent Fund. *‘O come let us adore Him!’*

DIVORCE CARE & GRIEF-SHARE — New group will start Tuesday, January 5 at 6:30pm. See Pastor Howard for more information.

THURSDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY — will meet again on January 7 at 6:30am every week in the fellowship hall. New members are welcome.

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

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

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).

REACH OUT — Connect with our Community

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE — Will be livestreamed today at 2:30pm. Please use BVUMC's facebook page. This service is to help folks who are finding this Christmas season especially difficult.

Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church

508.234.5268 + Office: 8a–3p Mon-Fri

December 20, 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

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

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

We gather in preparation

for good news is about to be proclaimed.

We gather in expectation

for joy is about to explode in our midst.

We gather in celebration

for we are those people who have said

yes to the manger,

yes to love enfleshed,

yes to the one incarnate for others,

yes to the wholeness of God.

With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

SONG: *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Lighting the Advent Candles

On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of hope and were reminded to put our hope in God's promises, even when we wait. On the second Sunday, we lit the candle of peace as we, with Mary, remembered God's mercy and rested in His plans for us. Last week, we lit the candle of joy, rejoicing in the expectation of the day when our Lord will come and bring everlasting joy to our world. Today we light the candle of love. Our 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 (John 3:16). We light this candle to remember God's love which brings hope eternal, peace on earth, and joy to the world!

SONG: *Come, Holy Ghost*

Renewal

Prayer of Confession

Father God, we confess to you that love is a word we use more than we understand or experience.

We want to be loved but only if we've earned it. We cannot imagine receiving a gift without having one to give in return.

And because we struggle to receive with open hands that which you give freely, we confess that we also struggle to open our hands and give freely. Forgive us, O God.

Beloved Jesus, come to us by your Spirit this Advent season and show us love; show us yourself coming into the world to die for us so that we might live for you. Breathe in us that we might love one another.

Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you

with joy, as the shepherds;

with humility, as Joseph;

with obedience, as Mary;

with love, as you have loved us.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Silent confession

SONG: *Shine On Us*

Words of Assurance—Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:1

God demonstrates his own love for us in this:

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

SONG: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

WORD

Morning Prayers

Luke 2:1-14 (p832) + On Earth, Peace

COMMIT

[Morning Offerings]

SEND

Benediction

God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for eternal life. God the Son, who comes to us as Redeemer and Judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light. God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness. **Amen.**

SONG: *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

[Sermon Notes](#)