

## Ministry Staff — How can we serve You?

Sr. Pastor: Rev. Matthew Burns; matthew@pscrc.org / Children Ministries: Kate Martinka; kate@pscrc.org / Worship Leader: Steve Martinka; steve@pscrc.org / Office/Finance: Sadie Perkins; churchoffice@pscrc.org/finance@pscrc.org

## Shepherding Pastorates — Alphabetical by last name:

A-Br — Elder Sandy Wynja & Ruth Bandstra  
Bs-Eo — Elder Eric Wierenga & Deacon Karyn Schneider  
Ep-Hl — Elder Chuck McGrath & Deacon Jodie Woudenberg  
Hm-Mc — Elder Sue Cooper & Deacon Tanya Anema  
Md-S — Elder Dawn Lefrancois & Deacon Dexter Greene  
T-Z — Elder Tony Brookhouse & Deacon Mike O'Rourke

**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 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.
- **FAMILY SUNDAY** All ages worship together when there is a 5th Sunday; there is no Nursery, KidStreet, or Echo.

## CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

**LET'S PRAY TOGETHER** — Our deepest condolences to Flo Jorritsma in the passing of her son in law Don McMuffin last week—please pray for the family, especially her daughter, Sheri. Also keep in your prayers, our shut-ins, our missionaries around the world, those who serve in our nation's armed services and our Veterans—*We wish them a Very Merry Christmas!*

**THE DEACONS** — would like to extend a big *"THANK YOU"* to the congregation for your amazing support and generosity by donating gifts to 62 children and food cards to 27 families this year. We saw lots of big smiles and lots of gratitude for your generosity.

## GROW — CULTIVATE YOUR FAITH

**INTERACTIVE FAMILY SERVICE & GATHERING** — This morning we are thrilled to have our children lead us in worship for an interactive family service. After worship, we will celebrate with homemade cookies and treats—hope you can join us and celebrate the season with friends and festive fun!

**CHRISTMAS EVE — Today at 4pm.** Invite your family and friends to join us for a candle-light service. A special offering will be received for the Deacons' Benevolent Fund.

## SERVE — CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS & RESOURCES

**CHURCH GIVING** — The Council requests that members prayerfully consider their giving to the General Fund for the next 2 Sundays of the year. Thanks for your generous support of God's work through our church in 2023!— *PSCRC Council*

**WOMEN OF PLEASANT STREET** — Studying the Bible with others is an important part of growing in our Christian life. Join us for Coffee Break, an informal community Bible study on Tuesday mornings, 9:30-11am, beginning January 9. We will be studying *The Power of Forgiveness: Find Freedom in Forgiveness*. The coffee is hot, and the fellowship is sweet! Also are you available to care for pre-school children of Coffee Break ladies? Two people or a couple are needed from 9:30-11am. Please call Anna Bloem at 508.234.4902, if you can help.

## REACH OUT — CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

**THE FAIRWOODS BOARD** — is looking for two volunteers to serve a three year term on the Board. We are specifically looking for someone who has a financial background to serve as Treasurer. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please reach out to Michael Bangma at michaelb302@gmail.com.

**2024 JANUARY SERIES LECTURES** — You are invited to the Calvin College January Series beginning January 15 and continuing weekdays through February 2 at Fairlawn Church. Each lecture will be shown via live feed from Calvin College, 12:30-1:30pm. Visit [www.calvin.edu/january](http://www.calvin.edu/january) for more details on the presenters, topics, the remote site locations, times, online listening, and past presentation archives.

# WELCOME

## We're glad you joined us!

508.234.5268 +

Office Hours: 8am–4pm Mon-Fri

December 24, 2023 + 9:30am

*"Advent Series: "Waiting for God"*



*Advent is the first season in the liturgical calendar, a lonely one, in which we wait in the darkness in expectant longing for the coming of Christ. But it is also a time of profound hope, for we have a joyous assurance that a baby will be born in Bethlehem with the power to "ransom captive Israel." Every week a new candle is lit in an advent wreath to symbolize the growing abundance of hope, joy, love, and peace, so that we have the confidence to sing the beautiful words, "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!"*

*Prayer of preparation*

*Holy God of Hope, Give us ears to hear and hearts to trust the promises you offer to us in this season of Advent. As we worship together, we offer ourselves to you and we open ourselves to your abundant grace.*

*Amen.*

**GATHER**

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Call to Worship*

Let us praise our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Alleluia! Jesus is coming!**

At Christmas Jesus came as a baby.

**Alleluia! Jesus is coming!**

He came to be like us because he loves us.

**Alleluia! Jesus is coming!**

He came to save us from our sin.

**Alleluia! Jesus is coming!**

He died, rose from the dead, and lives in heaven.

He will come again because he loves us.

**Alleluia! Jesus is coming!**

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

**Candle Reading - PEACE**

SONG: *O Holy Night*

**RENEWAL**

*Confession — Psalm 85:1-7*

You, Lord, showed favor to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins. You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.

**Restore us again, God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.**

Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations? Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

**Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation.**

*Silent Confession*

*Assurance — Psalm 85:8-13*

I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—but let them not turn to folly.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.

**The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.**

**COMMIT**

*Morning Offerings: Pleasant Street Ministries*



SONG: *A Hallelujah Christmas*

*Passing the Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

**WORD**

*Morning Prayers*

*Luke 1: 26-38 + "Waiting for God – The Announcement"*

**SEND**

SONG: *Angels we Have Heard on High*

*Apostle's Creed*

*Benediction*

SONG: *Hark the Herald*

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Jesus Christ!*



*Cover picture and words by Annika Fortna*