

**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. Please pick your children up from nursery and KidStreet after the service, but students in Echo will be released to come to the fellowship hall.

- **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.

### COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** — Our annual congregational meeting will be on Tuesday, December 13 at 7pm. Agenda items will include the selection of new elders and deacons, building update and approval of the 2023 budget.

### CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

**LET'S PRAY TOGETHER** — For our high school youth group with their leaders, for cooking and serving breakfast this morning—*Dear God, turn your loving gaze upon our youth. They carry in their hearts a great hope: make them strong and pure, so that they can build their tomorrow with confidence. Let them receive freely the gift of the faith, accept it with gratitude, and develop it with generosity. Help them to be now and forever faithful to Christ and the Church. Amen.*

**OUR LOVING SYMPATHY** is extended to Dawn Lefrancois and family in the passing of her loving father, Ted Koopman—*The Lord be with you!*

### GROW — CULTIVATE YOUR FAITH

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOCIAL** — December 14 at 5pm: Kicking off with a Holiday movie night, featuring: *'It's a Wonderful Life'*. *Popcorn, hot cocoa and tons of laughter will be served!* Rsvp is required, please see the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall or see Sadie.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** — Saturday, December 17 at 10am: Our Christmas Pageant, followed by a soup and salad luncheon. If you are willing and able, please bring a dessert to share—*We hope you can join us and celebrate the season with friends and have some festive fun!*

**CHRISTMAS EVE** — Saturday, December 24, at 6pm. 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!"*

### SERVE — CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS & RESOURCES

**NAC CHRISTMAS** — Christmas Tags are located in the Fellowship Hall. This year we are giving gifts to 19 families in our community, including 41 children. Each child receives a clothing item and a toy item (approx \$25 per gift), and the parents will receive a food card from a local grocery store. We will need all gifts wrapped and returned for distribution to families on Sunday, December 18. Thank you for being a blessing to these families during this holiday season!

**OUR SECOND OFFERING** — Next Sunday, 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.

**FAITH PROMISE TEAM** — Thanks the congregation for their pledges given to support our Mission causes for 2023! If anyone has not yet turned in their pledge, pledge cards will continue to be available at the entrances through December. Please prayerfully consider filling out a pledge card and help us reach our goal of \$42,000

### REACH OUT — CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

**FAIRWOODS** — Is looking for volunteers to serve a three year term on the Fairwoods Board. Board members attend monthly board meetings, serve on one of our committees, help out with our three annual fundraisers and help complete projects on the property. If you would like to know more about the Fairwoods Board, please reach out to Board President, Michael Bangma at michaelb302@gmail.com.

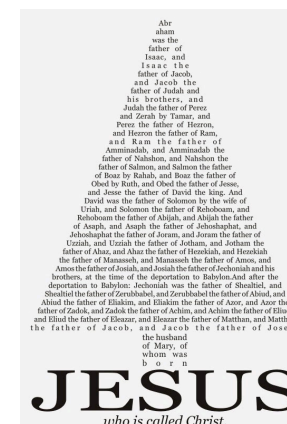
# WELCOME

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

508.234.5268 + Office: 8a-4p Mon-Fri

December 4, 2022 + 9:30am

*"Unexpected Advent; Rahab's Faith"*



*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.*

### LIVING THE STORY OF GOD THIS WEEK

- Today 8:30a All Church Breakfast: Fellowship Hall
- Tonight 6:30p HS Youth Group Study: Foundation
- M 9:30a Women's Bible Study: Fellowship Hall
- 6:30p Celebrate Recovery: Fellowship Hall
- T 9:30a Coffee Break: Fellowship Hall; Childcare
- 6:00p Women's CR Step Study: Under the Balcony
- 6:30p Divorce Care: Classroom E
- 6:30p Grief Share: Fellowship Hall
- W 6:15p Midweek @ PS 🍷
- 6:30p Adult Bible Study: Classroom E
- 6:30p Prayer Meeting: Under the Balcony
- Sa 9:00a Praying The Psalms; Women's Study: Fellowship Hall

### Prayer of Preparation

*Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all day long. 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 the Lord has done great things for us!**

With preparation and expectation, let us celebrate!

SONG: *Angels from The Realms Of Glory*

*Lighting the Advent Candle*

*Reading for the Second Sunday in Advent; Rahab's Story:*

Today we light the candle of Faith. By faith we too are freed from judgment and receive new life and family. By faith we believe that the God of heaven came down to earth to offer salvation to enemies and strangers, to kings and even prostitutes. No deals necessary, just faith.

SONG: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

## RENEWAL

*Prayer of Confession*

Lord, God your salvation is nearer today than before. We confess that we have not kept watch for you with the eyes of faith.

**We have been preoccupied with our own concerns.**

With selfish sights, we overlook the needs of the people around us and have been dull to the gifts you've given us.

**Forgive us our lack of watchfulness, help us to wait in faith for your coming.**

Lord God, you came into the world to bring light into darkness. Prepare us for your arrival by illuminating our minds and hearts – let the crooked be made straight and the rough be made smooth! Shine your life and love into our lives and teach us about your will.

**Restore us, Lord Jesus, place your wisdom in our hearts.**

Keep us humble and faithful, save us and sanctify us, O God.

**For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance*

All the promises of God are fulfilled in Jesus Christ who has come, will come again, and comes even now by his Spirit. He comes with good news – forgiveness of sin and New Life! Through his death and resurrection, he has opened to us a path to New Life. In the light of his forgiveness, let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

**By the power of the Spirit, we are forgiven.**

By the Spirit we await his return with expectant faith and lives of love.

**Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

## COMMIT



*Morning Offerings: Ministries of Pleasant Street*

*Reading —“A Christmas Carol” by Christina Rossetti*

SONG: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

*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*

*Matthew 1: 1-5, Joshua 2:1-21; 6: 22-25 + “Unexpected Advent; Rahab’s Faith”*

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

SONG: *Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me*

## SEND

*Benediction*

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.

SONG: *Joy To The World*

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

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