

## LIVING THE STORY OF GOD THIS WEEK

Today 8:30a HS Youth Group Breakfast: Foundation  
M 9:30a Women's Bible Study: Fellowship Hall  
2:00p Open Door: Foundation  
6:30p Celebrate Recovery  
T 9:30a Coffee Break: Fellowship Hall; Childcare  
2:00p Open Door: Foundation  
6:30p Divorce Care: Howard's Office  
6:30p GriefShare: Fellowship Hall & Online  
W 5:00p CR Women's Step Study: Office in the Nursery  
7:00p Prayer Meeting: Classroom E  
Th 2:00p Open Door: Foundation  
7:00p CR Men's Step Study: Office in the Nursery

### COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT

**PLEASE JOIN US** — Next Wednesday, December 8 at 6:15pm and spend some time with Howard to honor his service and stay for our annual congregational meeting, starting at 7pm. We sincerely hope you come to celebrate and anticipate God's transforming Story through our church. If you would like a printed copy of the meeting materials (sent via email), please contact Sadie. We will select new elders (4) and deacons (1), provide an update on the search/survey for a Worship Director, the building restoration project, and review and approve the 2022 budget. Please also prayerfully consider you're giving for the remainder of the year as we are still in a deficit situation. **Thank you for your prayers and support!**

### CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER — For Denise Audette, as she was released from hospital today. She had a bacteria called Campylobacter, which the doctors think, was from some undercooked chicken she ate several weeks ago. Please also keep in your prayers Alysia McGrath's uncle, Hilpolito Velez, who suffered from a stroke and is in need of our prayers for comfort and recovery—*Have mercy, O loving God and grant strength and hope to envision new days ahead and a spirit of faith to take the risk of living fully once again. Amen!*

OUR LOVING SYMPATHY is extended to Jack Crawford and family in the passing away of his brother, Thomas, in South Carolina. There are no services planned at this time. Burial is planned to be at the Pine Gove Cemetery in Whitinsville at the convenience of the family—*The Lord be with each of you!*

### GROW — CULTIVATE YOUR FAITH

PAGEANT FAMILY SERVICE & GATHERING — Sunday, December 12, 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!

NAC CHRISTMAS — tags are on the table in the Fellowship Hall, we are providing gifts to 27 families, including 43 children. Each child will receive a gift item (approx \$25) and a clothing item (approx \$25), and each family will also receive a food card. Please help to support this great cause to help those in our community less fortunate than we are so we can show them Christian love. The Deacons thank you in advance for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS EVE — Friday, 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!"*

BEREA DEEP FREEZE RETREAT — Will be January 14-16. Registrations and \$50 deposit are due to Diane Williams by next Sunday, December 12. All students in grades 6-12 are welcome to attend!

### 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.

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 2022! If anyone has not yet turned in their pledge, pledge cards will continue to be available at the entrances through December.

## Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church

508.234.5268 + Office: 8a–3p Mon-Fri

December 5, 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*

*God of all grace and mercy, you have desired to reveal yourself to us through your Word. Through all the accounts of the prophets and the fulfillment of their words you have directed our attention to Jesus Christ. Now as we hear those words proclaimed this day, we ask that you illumine our minds and open our hearts that we may yearn for his coming in glory and may be willing to serve him with joy, for his name's sake. 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 with God's Water-Mark.*

*(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*

*Open Up the Heavens*

*Behold Our God*

*Lighting the Advent Candles*

*\*The First Reading: Hebrews 11:1, 5, 6, 13*

Friends, this is God's Word!

**Thanks be to God!**

*\*The Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:13-17*

Friends, This is the Gospel of Jesus!

**Thanks be to God!**

SONG: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

## **RENEWAL**

*Prayer of Confession*

O God, you give us your good news and call us into a new covenant relationship with you. Help us to prepare the way of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let the valleys be lifted up!

**Draw us away from degrading thoughts and actions, and lift from us depression and worry.**

Through humble people, prepare your world, O God. Let the mountains be leveled off!

**End our pride and take away our arrogance: save us from false hope and unwarranted presumption.**

Through faithful people, prepare your world, O God. Let the crooked be made straight!

**Forgive our sin, and pardon our wrongdoing; defeat evil and overcome the power of death.**

Through saved people, prepare your world, O God. Let the rough be made smooth!

**Help us grow in understanding, and give us wisdom to discern that which is good and true.**

Through sanctified people, prepare your world, O God. Let all people see the salvation of our God.

**Redeem your world, and make all things new, and bring us into your holy and perfect presence, now and for all eternity.**

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

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

*Silent Confession*

*Words of Assurance*

Jesus, the long-expected Savior, was born to set us free. He releases us from our fears and sins and helps us find our rest in him. Jesus delivers us from the way of sin and death. Yet he remains the desire of people in every nation, and he will direct us in the ways of his kingdom. And so, with hopeful hearts, we call to him:

**Come now, long-expected Jesus, come again to rule in our hearts. Amen.**

SONG: *Come, O Redeemer, Come*

*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 40:1-5 (p 586) + "This Great Hope: Light in Darkness"*

## **COMMIT**

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

*Morning Offerings: Ministries of Pleasant Street;*

## **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 morning*