

LIVING THE STORY OF GOD THIS WEEK

M 7:15a Open Door Remote Learning: Foundation
6:30p Celebrate Recovery: Fellowship Hall
T 9:30a Coffee Break: Via Zoom
6:30p Divorce Care: Howard's Office
6:30p GriefShare: Fellowship Hall & Online
W 5:00p Celebrate Recovery Women's Step Study: Offices
7:30p Prayer Gathering: Becky VandenAkker's Home
Th 6:30a Men's Bible Study: Fellowship Hall
7:15a Open Door Remote Learning: Foundation
7:00p Celebrate Recovery Men's Step Study: Offices
F 6:30p High School Youth Group: Foundation

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@pscrc.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 second 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 Mary who is surprised by news that will change her life and her body forever. We wait with Joseph who is told that he must go down in reputation in order to do God's will, not up. 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.”*

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE REMEMBER — Our Congregation Meeting is this Wednesday, December 9. The new elders and deacons will be selected by lot. Nominations for elder are Tony Brookhouse and Dawn Lefrancois. Nominations for deacon are Connor Kuik, Ruth Bandstra and Ruth Haringa.

CARE— COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

MANY THANKS — From the Lewis family to everyone with their thoughts and prayers on behalf of Will and his family. As Will puts it *“it brought me through.”* As we experience the power of prayer we continue to ask for complete healing for we —*“Believe in God the Father, Almighty”*

CONGRATULATIONS — To Tim & Carly De Vries in the birth of their son, Elijah Carlton on December 2. We rejoice with the Howard and Marlene in becoming grandparents—Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

ADDRESS — If you would like to send a card to Leonard Wiersma & family on the passing of his wife, Gail Wiersma, the address is: 5982 North Maroon Way, Beverly Hills, FL 34465.

GROW — Cultivate Your Faith

CHRISTMAS EVE — Thursday, December 24, at **5pm**. 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

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

FAITH PROMISE UPDATE — thanks the congregation for their pledges given to support our Mission causes for 2021! 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 6, 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

God of Israel, with expectant hearts we your people await Christ's coming. As once he came in humility, so now may he come in glory, that he may make all things perfect in your everlasting kingdom. For he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship—based on Luke 1:46-50

Our souls magnify the Lord!

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

The mighty One has done great things for us!

Holy is God's name!

Let us worship God.

**For He is our Maker and our Redeemer;
from generation to generation God gives mercy.**

SONG: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

Lighting the Advent Candles

Last Sunday we lit the candle of hope.

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of peace.

We light this candle as a sign of our waiting and expectation for the coming of Christ.

SONG: *Come, Holy Ghost*

Renewal

Prayer of Confession

Our souls glorify you, O Lord, and our spirits rejoice in you, our Savior!

For you have been mindful of the humble state of your servants.

You have heard our cry and saved your people.

We shall be called blessed because we are called by you to be a blessing to others.

Your mercy extends from generation to generation.

Your mercy called Adam and Eve into being.

Your mercy saved Noah and his family from the flood.

Your mercy caused Sarah's womb to be fruitful.

Your mercy gave Joseph's dreams the power to save a nation.

Your mercy heard the Israelites' cry and called Moses to action.

Your mercy charged Mary with the most special of tasks.

Your mercy strengthened Joseph to care for her.

Your mercy sent Jesus Christ into the world to save us from the dark of night.

We give you thanks for your mercy; may it continue to shine upon us!

Restore us, O God,

and make your face shine upon us that we might be saved.

We remember this day those who crave your shining face, who long for the light, who need your power to drive out the darkness:

For those who live with depression or other mental illnesses.

For those who cannot bring themselves to forgive others.

For those who cannot forgive themselves.

For those who have lost loved ones in the past year.

For those who have lost physical or mental abilities.

For those who care for aging spouses or loved ones.

For those who have been living with cancer and other debilitating illnesses.

Restore us, O God,

and make your face shine upon us that we might be saved.

We ask that you would strengthen us as a congregation:

as we serve one another and those with whom you called us into fellowship,

as we seek to bring hospitality and hope to our community,

as we discern where you might be leading us,

as we hold in tension that which we have been with that which you call us to be,

as we seek to be the best stewards of the money and gifts with which we've been blessed,

as we search for the truth of your word and do our best to live it out in our lives,

as we wait, watch, and wonder in preparation for the coming of your Son.

Restore us, O God,

and make your face shine upon us that we might be saved.

Gracious God, on this Advent journey, may we wait with Mary's joyful anticipation as we prepare to welcome your Son, our Savior, into this broken world in need of his redeeming.

Gather us, guide us, and keep us as your people.

Send us into the world so that our hands might be Christ's own, and his mind one with ours in all that you would have us do.

Restore us, O God,

and make your face shine upon us that we might be saved. Amen.

Silent confession

Words of Assurance—based on Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

Thanks be to God.

SONG: *He Who is Mighty*

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

WORD

Morning Prayers

Luke 1:26-45 + "What Kind of Greeting is This?"

COMMIT

[Morning Offerings]

Song of response: Be Born in Me

SEND

Benediction

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