

Ministry Staff — How can we serve You?

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

Shepherding Pastorates — Alphabetical by last name:

A-Br — Elder Sandy Wynja & Ruth Bandstra
Bs-Eo — Elder Eric Wierenga & Deacon Karyn Schneider
Ep-HI — 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.

TODAY IS GEMS SUNDAY! We warmly welcome our GEMS and their families and are grateful for their participation and leadership in this morning's worship.

CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER — For Joy Wierenga recovering from hip surgery. This Thursday is the National Day of Prayer. Please once again PRAY for our Nation, for our Church and God's people around this Broken World. Blessings to our Straight Ahead Missionary, Hanne Larson who celebrates her birthday today.

GROW — CULTIVATE YOUR FAITH

FAITH FORMING LECTURE SERIES — We are excited to host and welcome Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin, the author of 'Confronting Christianity.' Dr. McLaughlin will be leading a seminar on **Saturday, May 13 at 9:30am** called: "The Secular Creed." It used to be that people thought North America was getting more and more secular. Today we see that actually the world is more religious than ever. Statements of faith are everywhere today. Here are some we might see on our morning drive:

*Science is Real | Black Lives Matter | Love is Love
Women's Rights are Human Rights | Kindness is Everything*

Rebecca will encourage us to resist simply defending our tribe, but rather to take secular criticism of the church seriously. Please join us as Rebecca helps us to understand these complex issues better and more biblically ourselves.

ASCENSION DAY WORSHIP — Thursday, May 18, 7pm in the sanctuary. Join us with our brothers and sisters from Fairlawn, as we celebrate Christ's ascension as a witness and guarantee of our own resurrection as well as a call to evangelism, justice, and compassion.

SERVE — Contribute your Talents & Resources

VBS VOLUNTEERS — We are looking for teen and adult volunteers for the NAC Ecumenical VBS at Pleasant Street on July 10-14, 830am-noon. Please email NorthbridgeVBS@gmail.com for the volunteer registration form or for more information. Thanks!

REACH OUT — Connect with our Community

AHADI MARATHON — Run, walk, or sponsor a runner! On Saturday, May 13, from 10am-Noon, join us at WCS for the Ahadi Family Kenya's Annual Marathon Fundraiser. Or just show up to cheer everyone on and enjoy a morning of fun, food, and fellowship! Our goal this year is \$15,000, which is greatly needed as we financially assist families, who have taken in our boys. Sign-up/Sponsor forms will be available next Sunday in the fellowship hall, or you can mail your donations to SCREAM USA, Inc. 31 Benson Rd. Northbridge, MA 01534.

WELCOME

We're glad you joined us!

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

April 30, 2023 + 9:30am

"I AM the Light of the World"



If you have been worshiping 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

M 9:30a Women's Bible Study: Fellowship Hall
6:15p Men's Softball Game: Home vs. Bethany Christian
6:30p Celebrate Recovery: Fellowship Hall
T 9:30a Coffee Break: Fellowship Hall; Childcare
6:30p Grief Share: Fellowship Hall
W 6:15p Final Midweek @ PS
6:30p Adult Bible Study: Classroom E (Confronting Christianity)
6:30p Prayer Group Meeting: Under the Balcony

Prayer of preparation

O God, with faces touched by the light of a new day, and hearts warmed by our prayers and praises. We come before you to pray for the needs of our world. Guide us all with your Light. Amen.

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

For fifty years, girls and women from generation to generation have been uniting their voices to recite *Micah 6:8* in their GEMS Clubs. Whether their club is in Canada, the US, Uganda, or 13 other countries, it sounds like this. What does the Lord require of us? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. This is who God is! In Jeremiah 9:24, the Lord declares; **“I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight.”**

In grateful response to who He is and what He’s done for us through Jesus, we act, love, and walk.

We act justly by taking action and doing what is right.

Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right.

We love mercy by serving one another with love, kindness, and compassion.

Serve one another humbly in love.

We walk humbly with God by saying “YES” to God and walking in His way for our lives.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Equipped with God’s Word and compelled by His love, these girls are making a difference as they act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Let’s encourage them, pray for them, and join them. Because *Micah 6:8* isn’t just for girls in GEMS, it’s for all. What does the Lord require of us?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. Amen.

SONGS: *My Lighthouse*
Because He Lives

RENEWAL

Call to Confession

Almighty God, we long for peace and we long for harmony in our families, for serenity in the midst of our struggles. We long for the day when our homes will be a dwelling place for your love.

We confess that we are anxious and often do not love those around us the way we should.

Look upon us with kindness and grace. Rule in our homes and in all the world.

Show us how to walk in your path, through the mercy of our Savior. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

This is the message that we have heard from God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. Amen.

COMMIT

Morning Offerings: Ministries of Pleasant Street



SONG: *It Is Well With My Soul*

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you!

WORD

Morning Prayers

“Prayer of Illumination - Christ be our Light”

John 8:12-20 + “I AM the Light of the World”

SONG: *The Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)*

SEND

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

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: *This Little Light Of Mine*

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.