

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 Divorce Care for Kids: Room 5
6:30p GriefShare: Room E

W 5:30p Midweek @ PS
5:30p Celebrate Recovery Women's Step Study: Offices

Th 6:30a Men's Bible Study: Fellowship Hall
2:00p Open Door: Foundation
7:00p Celebrate Recovery Men's Step Study: Offices

CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER — Our loving sympathy to the Kuipers family in the passing of Oscar Kuipers brother, Gordon in New Jersey—he was 91 and had been declining in health since this summer. Oscar & Henny came home for the holidays this week and were able to travel to Wayne, NJ for the funeral—*May the Lord bless and keep you all!*

GROW — Cultivate Your Faith

FROM COUNCIL — Thank you to all who joined us this past Wednesday for our annual meeting. We heard encouraging ministry reports from our staff as well as updates from the deacons. Chris Epplert reported on the work of the Transition Team. Emily Fortna & Thalia Towle were received as elders and Beth Bol, Dexter Greene, Phil Knapper, Lauren McGrath and Kate Mogan were selected as deacons. The 2020 budget and changes to our bylaws were also approved. We look forward to what God will do through our church in 2020! Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

CHRISTMAS EVE — Tuesday, 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!"*

CHRISTMAS TEA FOR SENIORS — Saturday December 28 from 2-3:30pm: Come for some tea & light refreshments as we extend hospitality to seniors from our Church and beyond. It's an inspirational time of fellowship and coming together to renew existing relationships and form new ones.

MIDWEEK @ PS — This Wednesday! Dinner is served from 5:30-6:30pm. Classes and groups start right after dinner and end at 8:00pm. Bring your friends and join us!

SERVE — CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS & RESOURCES

CHURCH GIVING — We are currently running a slight deficit. The Council requests that members prayerfully consider their giving to the General Fund in the final weeks of the year.

FAITH PROMISE UPDATE — Thanks the congregation for their pledges given to support our Mission causes for 2020! If anyone has not yet turned in their pledge, pledge cards will continue to be available at the entrances through December.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS & CLOTHES — To bless 45 children in our community through the *NAC Christmas Gift Program*. To participate, please sign-up in the fellowship hall and help us show the love of Christ during this Christmas season by helping those in need—*The Deacons*

REACH OUT — Connect with our Community

FESTIVALS OF CAROLS — Tonight, at 5:30pm at Fairlawn CRC. The offering will be for the NAC Food Pantry. Refreshments will be served after the service.

THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHORUS — will perform AN ACAPPELLA CHRISTMAS. The BVCC Celebrates 15 Years today at 3pm at Valley Chapel in Uxbridge. Admission is free, though donations are greatly appreciated.

THE FAIRWOODS ANNUAL — meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28 at 6pm. We encourage all church members to make time to be a part of the decisions that go into making Fairwoods a wonderful place for our church family to gather!

FAIRWOODS RECREATION SOCIETY — is looking for volunteers to be a part of our board, beginning in our 2020 season! Responsibilities of these positions vary based on skill set and interest, but include a monthly meeting and involvement in our 3-4 annual fundraisers. If you are interested, please contact Claire Macomber at fairwoodsrecreation@gmail.com.

Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church

508.234.5268 + Office: 8a-3p Mon-Fri

DECEMBER 15, 2019 + 9:30 am



Welcome! We're so glad that you're here. If you've been worshipping with us for a long time or you're entering the doors of a church for the first time, it is our hope that you'll 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!

WORSHIP — Celebrate What God Is Doing

We would love to assist in helping your kids become devoted followers of Christ! Please visit the KidStreet check-in station in the foyer to get a security tag so your children can join us downstairs. If you arrive after the worship service has started and need help checking in, assistance is available at the nursery. The nursery is open for infants through 3 year olds. We are downstairs ready to serve you! Our KidStreet Class for PreK-2nd grade is dismissed to go with teachers right before the sermon. Please bring your security tag to pick up your children after the service. We are excited to serve you!

Prayer of Preparation

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship—based on Psalm 126

The Lord has done great things for us!

And we are filled with joy!

Our God has turned our weeping into singing,

our tears into songs of joy!

O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day,

and remain in us forever.

SONG: *Hymn of Joy*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her sin has been paid for.

In the wilderness prepare the way of our Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

The Lord will give you a sign. A young woman is with child and shall bear a son.

And they shall name him Immanuel, which means “God is with us.”

Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

SONG: *He Came Down*

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

WORD

Morning Prayers

God’s Story (Part 1): Exiled from the Garden

Scripture reading: Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Prayer of confession

Lord God, our lives are filled with sin. We forget our neighbor’s needs and do not love you above all else. We need a Savior. Help us to be ready for Jesus in our own hearts. O come, O come, Savior of the world. Amen.

SONG: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Scripture reading: Isaiah 9:6-7 (p560)

God’s Story (Part 2): Restored from Babylon

SONG: *God Made Low*

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20 (p832)

God’s Story (Part 3): Restored in Jesus

COMMIT

Morning Offerings: Ministries of PSCRC

SONG: *When Hope Came Down*

SEND

Benediction—Romans 15:12-13

Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

Dismissal—Luke 2:29-32

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” **Thanks be to God!**

If I find myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.

- C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity