

LIVING THE STORY OF GOD THIS WEEK

M 6:30p Celebrate Recovery

T 5:00p Christmas Eve Service: *Come Join us!*

W **Merry Christmas!**

MINISTRY STAFF — HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

Interim Pastor: Ron Vanderwell; Care Ministries: Pastor Howard DeVries; Youth: 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 Leona van der Meer

Bu-E — Elder Steve Haringa & Deacon John Hendrikse

F-I — Elder Steve Stinson & Deacon Alicia Wierenga

J-Mh — Elder John Vriesema

Mi-Sv — Elder Mike Anema & Deacon Sue Cooper

Sw-Z — Elder Mark & Deacon Lillian Hackathorn

CARE — COME ALONGSIDE OTHERS

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER — For our shut-ins, our missionaries around the world, those who serve in our nation's armed services and please remember our Veterans—*We wish them a Very Merry Christmas!*

GROW — Cultivate Your Faith

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP — Invite your family and friends to join us **this Tuesday at 5:00pm** for a Christmas Eve candlelight service. 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.

WOMEN'S COFFEE BREAK & WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY — will reconvene on January 6 & 7 at 9:30am in the fellowship hall. All women are welcome!

DIVORCE CARE & GRIEF-SHARE — New groups will start Tuesday, January 7 at 6:30pm. See Pastor Howard for more information.

THURSDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY — will meet again on January 9 at 6:30am every week in the fellowship hall with our continued study in Colossians using material from Faith Alive Christian Resources. New members are welcome.

SERVE — CONTRIBUTE YOUR TALENTS & RESOURCES

GIVING — As a reminder: If you are planning on a year end donation to the church, please bring it by next week Sunday or mail it to the church postmarked by December 31. Thanks for your generous support of God's work through our church in 2019!— *PSCRC Council*

REACH OUT — Connect with our Community

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.

2020 JANUARY SERIES LECTURES — You are invited to the Calvin College January Series beginning January 8 and continuing weekdays through January 28 at Fairlawn Church. Each lecture will be shown via live feed from Calvin College, 12:30-1:30pm. Visit www.calvin.edu/january for more details on the presenters, topics, the remote site locations, times, online listening, and past presentation archives.

Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church

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

DECEMBER 22, 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

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love, and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ, our Savior, and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth.

Amen.

GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship—based on Psalm 50:1-3, 6

The mighty God summons the earth from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets.

God calls, and we respond to his love.

The heavens declare God's righteousness.

We tell out God's glories!

Offer up to God your thanksgiving.

And our God will hear us, save us, and stay with us forever.

SONG: *Here I Am to Worship*

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.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all the people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

SONG: *Shine on Us*

Renewal

Prayer of Confession

Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved

but also our reluctance to love.

We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love

but also our refusal to forgive.

We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love

but also our resistance to follow you without question.

In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with love, as you have loved us.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Silent confession

SONG: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Words of Encouragement—John 3:16-17

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

This is the good news.

Thanks be to God!

SONG: *He Came Down*

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

KidStreet Dismissal

WORD

Morning Prayers

Isaiah 40:1-5 (p586) Philippians 3:17-21 (p952) + "Homesick: Daring to Believe the Good News"

COMMIT

ECHO Dismissal

Morning Offerings: Ministries of PSCRC

SONG: *Not That Far from Bethlehem*

SEND

Benediction—1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. **Amen.**

SONG: *King of Kings*

Dismissal

Let us go forth in love to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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*