

Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance Prayer for Peace

Join with the Gwinnett Interfaith Alliance today from 4pm-6pm as they pray for peace in the Middle East and recognize all victims of the conflict regardless of religion, nationality, ethnicity or political affiliation. *Please do not bring flags or symbols that support only one side.* You're welcome to bring items that are relevant for prayer such as religious text and artifacts. Find the registration link and more information in this week's newsletter.

Project Angel

Today is your last chance to shop and support our community partners for Christmas this year with Project Angel. We'll have monetary gift options for you to give to family, friends, and teachers. There will be gift certificates listing your gift information. Look for our table after worship today, and come shop!

Sign Up for PHPC's Advent Daily Devotional

There's still time to embark on a daily journey of reflection, inspiration, and community through our exclusive Advent daily devotional newsletter. Immerse yourself in the spirit of the season as we share beautiful art, heartfelt writings, and delicious recipes submitted by our wonderful PHPC community. To join this uplifting experience, simply scan the QR code provided or reach out to Veronica at veronica@pleasanthillpc.org.



Year-end Donation Planning

Thank you for your generous financial support of PHPC this year. If you're planning your year-end donations, here are some things to consider:

Donating Appreciated Stock

There are significant tax advantages when you donate stock that has appreciated to a church or qualified charitable organization. Ask your tax advisor how you might benefit. If you plan to donate to PHPC, email Mary at mary@pleasanthillpc.org for simple instructions.

Donating Some or All of your RMD

If you are 73 or older, you may know that RMD stands for Required Minimum Distribution, or the amount that the IRS requires you to withdraw annually from your IRA. Doing this has tax consequences and you may benefit from directing all or a portion of your RMD to a church or other qualified charity. Ask your tax advisor first, but all you have to do is to instruct your IRA custodian to send the RMD payment directly to PHPC. Please let us know if we can help with your year-end giving in any way. Donations must be received or postmarked by Sunday, December 31 to be tax deductible in 2023.

Youth Fellowship Opportunity

Celebrate the joy of the season with other PHPC youth! Join us on Friday, December 22, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm, as we embark on a magical Christmas lights tour. Further details can be found in this week's newsletter.

Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group provides a free and confidential structured environment to explore the complex feelings evoked by the loss of a loved one. Led by Stephen Minister Mary Winkeljohn and Pastor Katie Day, the group will meet 7 consecutive Tuesday evenings at PHPC from 7:00pm-8:30pm, starting on January 9 through February 20. For questions or to join, please contact Mary at 770-246-9363 or email Pastor Katie at katie@pleasanthillpc.org.

Join Our Weekly Newsletter

Stay informed of the latest PHPC events, as well as news about our various ministries and opportunities to grow in your faith and connect with God and neighbor. Scan the QR code and subscribe to the Chosen Word email newsletter to receive weekly updates.



Welcome

Welcome to Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church. We have been part of the Duluth community since 1985. Our vibrant congregation embraces people from all walks of life as we live out our mission statement of "connecting faith with everyday life." We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

We are delighted you are worshiping with us and we invite you to become part of our church family. To learn more about us, make a note on the red Friendship Pad or contact the church office.

Worship services are livestreamed at www.pleasanthillpc.org/phpc-live. Worshipers may appear on this live feed. If you wish to remain off camera, sit in the back rows of any section of pews.

Hearing enhancement devices and printed copies of today's sermon are available for use during our service. Ask an usher for assistance.

For Our Younger Worshipers

All children are welcome in worship at PHPC.

Elementary age children are invited to the Playground after the Children's Sermon. Worship Bags and Worship Journals are available. Parents must sit in the pews closest to the Playground.

Parents may walk **children age 3-Kindergarten** (potty-trained) to Room B103 for Play & Praise following the Children's Sermon.

A nursery is available for **children under 3** in room A114.

Elders

Class of 2024

Michael Armstrong
Marian Miller
Pat Miller
Robin Prater
Ben Badinger

Class of 2025

Kristen Ching
Gail Funderburk
Shannon Sligar
Kay Strickland

Class of 2026

Amanda Dannemiller
Alan Klein
Angie O'Farrell
John Reineking

Deacons

Class of 2024

Mark Goodson
Shannon Hudson
Bernie Kida

Class of 2025

Marianne Anderson
Holli Kyle
Bill Maguire

Class of 2026

Isaac Assan-Mensah
Jan Mueller
Margaret Snyder

Church Staff

The Rev. Katie Day, *Senior Pastor and Head of Staff*

The Rev. Jennie Sankey, *Associate Pastor for Christian Education - on sabbatical*

Mary Cooper, *Church Administrator*

Steve Dean, *Director of Music*

Veronica Pennington, *Director of Ministry Support*

Talitha Minton, *Director of Preschool*

Adnan Zukanovic, *Facilities Assistant*

Hyoun Joo Song, *Organist*

Grace Andrade, *Director of Youth Ministry*

Andy Kim, *AV Technician*

Hannah Smith, *Children's Choir Director*

Hema Chudasama, *Nursery Caregiver*

Farzana Javid, *Nursery Caregiver*

Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church



3700 Pleasant Hill Road
Duluth, Georgia 30096
770.497.0233
www.pleasanthillpc.org

Celebration of the Lord’s Day
Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023

Prelude Hyoun Joo Song
May You be Praised, Jesus Christ
J.S. Bach

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Announcements The Rev. Katie Day

Introit Children’s Choir
Christmas Means God Loves You
arr. John E. Coates and Lynn Hodges

Advent Candle Lighting Brit and Nessa Jones and
Veronica DeBroy

One: How does a weary world practice joy?
All: By dancing, and throwing birthday parties.
One: By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies.
By singing loudly, and looking for good news.
All: By telling the story of Jesus, and showing up for our community.
One: There are a million ways to practice joy.
So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder and a charge.
All: With God’s help, may we bring joy into a weary world. Amen.

***Hymn 82**
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Call to Confession Katie

Prayer of Confession Katie

God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news. We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us. Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity. We lean into fear. We lean into isolation. Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared. Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors. Show us how to find joy in connection. Amen.

Assurance of Grace Katie

***Passing of the Peace** Katie
One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

* Please stand in body or spirit.

The Word Read and Proclaimed

Children’s Sermon
Parents may walk their children age 3 to Kindergarten to Room B103 to check-in to Play & Praise.

Prayer for Illumination Serena Wright

Scripture Reading Serena
Isaiah 40:1-11

Anthem Chancel Choir
Carol of the Birds
arr. Craig Courtney

*Whence comes this rush of wings afar,
Following straight the Noel star?
Birds from the woods in wondrous flight, Bethlehem seek this Holy night.
“Tell us, ye birds, why come ye here, Into this stable, poor and drear?”
“Hastening we seek the newborn King, And all our sweetest music bring.”
Hark! how the green-finch bears his part, Nightingale,too, with tender heart,
Chants from her leafy dark retreat, “Re, mi,fa, sol,” in accents sweet.
Angels and shepherds, birds of the sky,
Come where the Son of God doth lie;
Christ on earth with many doth dwell,
Join in the shout, “Noel, Noel!”*

Scripture Reading Katie
Luke 1:24-45

Sermon Katie
How Does A Weary World Rejoice? We Find Joy in Connection

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 143**
Angels, from the Realms of Glory

***Affirmation of Faith** Serena
We believe that joy is a sacred gift, existing on a plane deeper than happiness, stemming from the truth that we belong to God. We believe that joy is not meant for isolation. Joy is meant to be shared, weaving us together in laughter and in hope. And when joy feels impossibly out of reach, we believe that part of being sacred community is leaning on one another. So together we say: I will share my joy when yours runs out. You will share your joy when mine runs out. And in doing so, we will both see God. Amen.

Stephen Leader Commissioning Clay Keller
A Note to Today’s Worshipers
While this liturgy reminds us that caring ministry is a part of the life of every Christian, it specifically recognizes those who are offering themselves to organize, teach, and supervise our Stephen Ministers, the trained caregivers who will minister to hurting people in our congregation and community.

The Lord’s Prayer Katie
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering Katie
Drop in the plate when the Usher comes by.
Scan the QR code.
Go to www.pleasanthillpc.org and click on the Giving tab.
Text givePHPC to 73256.



Please sign the red friendship pad.
An offering for Laundry Love will be received in the Narthex after service. Gifts of coins and cash provide free loads of laundry for our neighbors in need.

Offertory Hyoun Joo
I Wonder as I Wonder
arr. Jason Tonioli

Prayer of Dedication Katie

***Sung Response**
Hymn 88
*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanza 7)
O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Following the Word Into the World

***Charge and Benediction** Katie

***Postlude** Hyoun Joo
The Emperor’s Fanfare
Antonio Soler

Parts of today’s liturgy have been adapted from
Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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