

#### 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](mailto: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.

#### 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.pleasanthillpc.org)



Celebration of the Lord’s Day  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2023

Prelude Hyoun Joo Song

Sleepers Awake  
J.S. Bach  
Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Announcements The Rev. Katie Day

Introit

Advent Candle Lighting Bill and Hilda Bishop

One: How does a weary world practice love?  
**All: By sending cards, and picking up the phone.**  
One: By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others.  
By learning people’s stories and finding common ground.  
**All: By advocating for justice, and saving a place at the table.**  
One: There are a million ways to practice love.  
So today we light the candle of love as a reminder and a charge.  
**All: With God’s help, may we bring love into a weary world. Amen.**

\*Hymn 132  
*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Call to Confession Katie

Prayer of Confession Katie

Holy God, more days than not, hope feels like the rain. We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely. Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow. We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray: turn us into those people. Teach us how to sing songs of hope and love for the world. With open hearts we pray, amen.

Assurance of Grace Katie

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

\* Please stand in body or spirit.

Prayer for Illumination David Ashley

Scripture Reading David  
Luke 1:46-55

Scripture Reading Katie  
Luke 1:67-79

Sermon Katie  
How Does A Weary World Rejoice?  
We Sing Stories of Hope and Love  
Responding to the Word

\*Hymn 100  
*My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout*

\*Affirmation of Faith David  
We believe in a God who hears our prayers, who knows the shape and form of our weariness. We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us, not just survival and existence. We believe in a God who looks ahead, who is not done dreaming for the world—a God who sends hope in the form of people and change, movements and Spirit. And so we bring our joy and our weariness like two sides of the same coin, and we trust that God is already at work. Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

Prayers of the People Katie  
Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

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.

Moment for Ministry: Pastoral Care Shannon Hudson

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

Please sign the red friendship pad.

Offertory Hyoun Joo  
*The Bell Carol*  
arr. David Hicken

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  
*Lord Christ, the only Son of God*  
J.S. Bach



Embroidered Borders | Nicolette Peñaranda | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org  
Acrylic, ink, and mixed media collage on canvas

Parts of today’s liturgy have been adapted from  
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