

Project Angel - Last Day!

We are excited to support our community partners for Christmas this year with Project Angel. Again, we have monetary gift options for you to give to family, friends, and teachers and cards with your gift information available. Today is the last day to shop! If you have any questions, please contact Sara Woolley.

The Longest Night Prayer Service - Tonight @ 4pm

For those carrying sadness, the joyful season of Advent can be hard. We celebrate Jesus' birth, yet Advent also holds struggle: separation from family, lack of welcome, the search for shelter, flight from oppression, and the anxiety of childbirth. The Christmas story invites us to hold joy and grief together. You're invited to a prayer service honoring that tension on the longest night of the year. Meet Pastor Katie in the prayer chapel, Sunday, December 21 at 4:00pm.

Church Offices Closed - December 25- January 2

The church offices will be closed for the holidays from December 25 through January 2 and will reopen on January 5. We appreciate your patience with responses to calls and emails during this time. Sunday Worship will continue as normal.

Christmas Eve Services - December 24

We are looking forward to worshipping with the community on Christmas Eve. All are welcome, invite your friends, family and neighbors!

5:30 - Candlelight Worship with Interactive Nativity (child friendly)

7:30 - Candlelight Worship with Communion

Brunch Church - December 28

Worship with us on December 28 at 10am for a casual service, followed by a free Waffle House brunch in the Narthex at 11:15am.

Grief Support Group - January 12-March 2 @ 7pm

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 12 through February 23 in the Bride's Room, followed by a group dinner on March 2. Please use the link in the newsletter to sign-up.

Year End Giving

As you plan year-end giving, consider these options:

Donating Appreciated Stock – You may gain tax advantages by donating appreciated stock. Contact Katie Karel for instructions.

Donating from your RMD – You can direct all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution to PHPC for possible tax benefits. Donations must be received or postmarked by Dec. 31 for 2025 tax credit.

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 to subscribe to the Chosen Word weekly e-mail newsletter.



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 worshipping 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 with children sitting in the Playground 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 2026
Amanda Dannemiller
Alan Klein
Drew Phillips
John Reineking

Class of 2027
John Cason
Dave Huffman
Sharon McLeod
Linda Murphy

Class of 2028
Rob Keith
Dan Miller
Meg Watkins
Serena Wright

Deacons

Class of 2026
Isaac Assan-Mensah
Nora Badinger
Jan Mueller
Margaret Snyder

Class of 2027
Cindy Heuer
Jon MacLean
Shannon Scott

Class of 2028
Lee Bourgeois
Erik Mjorud
James Park

Church Staff

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

The Rev. Jennie Sankey, *Associate Pastor (on Maternity Leave)*

The Rev. Carrie Barnes, *Temporary Pastoral Care Support*

Adnan Zukanovic, *Facilities Director*

Katie Karel, *Financial Administrator*

Hilary Mize, *Ministry Support Assistant*

Steve Dean, *Director of Music*

Hyoun Joo Song, *Organist*

Andy Kim, *AV Technician*

Van Saltysiak, *Livestream Technician*

Talitha Minton, *Director of Preschool*

Grace Andrade, *Director of Youth Ministry*

Kayla Otim, *Director of Children's Music*

Hema Chudasama, *Nursery Caregiver*

Farzana Javaid, *Nursery Caregiver*

Alina Spring, *Play & Praise Leader*

Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church



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770.497.0233

www.pleasanthillpc.org

Celebration of the Lord’s Day
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025

Prelude Hyoun Joo Song
Bell Carol Medley
arr. Pam Asberry
Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Announcements The Rev. Katie Day

Introit

Call to Worship Mary Don King

One: We gather together in this place:
All: prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,
One: we who dare to imagine a world renewed;
All: we who dare to dream God’s dream.
One: We speak out with Zechariah.
All: God’s name be blessed forever!
One: For God has remembered us in mercy,
All: and remained faithful to us in love.
One: Because of God’s tender compassion,
All: the dawn from on high will rise over us.
One: Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.
All: We have come to wonder and praise.

Lighting of the Advent Candles The Peace Family

One: The birth of Jesus has been told and retold a thousand times
and in a thousand ways.
**All: Its impact cannot be contained in any one perspective. But
who is telling the story changes how we hear it, how we imagine
it, how we experience it. We light the candle of hope because hope
creates a path for a new, unknown story to unfold.**
One: We light the candle of peace because peace requires us to
pay attention to the needs of those around us...Love invites mercy,
justice, and peace.
**All: Today, we also light the candle of love because love makes the
impossible possible.**

***Hymn 110**
Love Has Come

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
God of love, you teach us songs of praise and call us to proclaim
justice. We confess the ways that we instead use our words and voices
in ways that cause harm. We share half-truths, spread gossip, and
speak unkindly. We fail to speak up for the vulnerable. We pay lip
service to our faith instead of taking risks in the name of love. **(Cont.)**

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Help us to love you and our neighbors with courage and conviction,
in word and in deed. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

***Passing of the Love**
One: The love 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.*

Prayer for Illumination Mary Don

Scripture Reading Mary Don
Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26

Anthem Chancel Choir
Carol of the Birds
Craig Courtney
Whence comes this rush of wings afar,
following straight to 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 greenfinch 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 man doth dwell, join in the shout, “Noel, Noel!”

Scripture Reading Luke 1:57–80

Sermon The Will to Dream: Merciful Love

Responding to the Word
***Hymn 347**
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

***Affirmation of Love**

We believe in the power of love, a love that not only comforts but
liberates. A love constructed with care, compassion, and courage,
providing shelter and safety for all God’s children. We believe in
love’s guardrails of grace and mercy. Love does not demand or
wait for perfection, but scoops us up in arms of unconditional
care, where we are, as we are. We believe, with gratitude, in a
legacy of love, a long thread of memory recalling who we are and
whose we are, stitching us into its tapestry of belonging. **(Cont.)**

We believe love is not earned. Love is not control. Love is care
and connection. We believe love holds no secrets. Love does not
shame. Love speaks up. Love makes space. Because God’s love
doesn’t give up on us, we will not give up on ourselves or each
other. We will remember and bless. We will fix what is broken. We
will look for the dawn of God’s love in and around us.

Prayers of the People
Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer
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: Mission and Outreach Ivie Goorsky

Invitation to Offering
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 and create a name tag.

*An offering for Laundry Love will be received in the Narthex
after today’s service. Gifts of coins and cash provide free loads of
laundry for our neighbors in need.*

Offertory Hyoun Joo
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
arr. Jason Tonioli

Prayer of Dedication

***Sung Response**
*Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

Following the Word Into the World

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude** Hyoun Joo
The Emperor’s Fanfare
Antonio Soler
Parts of today’s liturgy have been adapted from
Illustrated Ministry

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