

# PEARCE CHURCH

NEWS, EVENTS & UPDATES | December 18, 2020

## WORSHIP

**This is the fourth weekend of Advent** and Pastor Todd will bring a message on God's Unexpected Direction from Luke 1:45-55. We'll also **welcome Sondra Anderson and Jeanne Daningburg as members** of Pearce Church. We hope you can **join us for worship** on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) at 5pm on Saturday and 10:30am Sunday. We're only meeting online right now, so help us continue to stay connected by commenting during the service—let us know how we can pray for you, tell us how you're doing, or just say hello.

**Our Christmas Eve Services are just around the corner!** We've pre-recorded a beautiful Christmas Eve Service and it will be streamed on Facebook and YouTube on December 24 at 4, 6, and 8pm. We may not all be together in person this year, but we look forward to sharing this special evening with you, celebrating the birth of our Savior and the hope that He brings. Christmas is a wonderful time to invite family and friends to church with you. This year especially, everyone needs a little hope, and we have hope and joy to share! If you're on Facebook, you can [share our event](#) on your page, RSVP to a service to let your friends know when you'll be watching, then invite them to join you. (It would be awesome if you comment a greeting to them when you see them join the service!) If you're not on Facebook, you can share our [Christmas Eve graphic](#) and [web page](#) via email or social media: [pearcechurch.org/christmas-eve](http://pearcechurch.org/christmas-eve).

Every year, **during our Christmas Eve Services, we receive a special offering for our Compassion Fund.** Pearce's Compassion Fund has been used in many ways over the years to bless those in our congregation and surrounding community. In 2020, we were specifically able to support Josh and Laura Sarchet in their journey through Josh's double lung transplant. The Sarchets were required to relocate to Pittsburgh for six months and the Compassion Fund helped cover their housing expenses during that time. We celebrate Josh's successful surgery, recovery, and rehabilitation, and pray that the Lord continues to bless the efforts of the Compassion Fund in supporting others in their unique seasons of need. Visit our Christmas Eve page ([pearcechurch.org/christmas-eve](http://pearcechurch.org/christmas-eve)) to hear Josh and Laura's story.

## COMMUNITY

***A Message from the Pearce Board:*** The pandemic of 2020 has affected all our lives in some manner or degree. As we enter the tenth month of COVID-19, the weariness and stress can be seen in workplaces, in retail stores, in homes, and in churches. As followers of Jesus, all of us can be a light to others we know in our neighborhoods, our work sites, and our homes through an encouraging word or act of kindness or by praying for individuals. From a discussion at a recent meeting, the board suggests that as a congregation we take a moment to encourage our Pearce staff as 2020 draws to a close. Usually, the board hosts a staff appreciation breakfast in December, but that is not possible this year. So, let's send a card or share a word of encouragement via social media or possibly in-person; as long as we follow COVID guidelines. If you choose to send a card to the entire staff, you can send it to the church for all to enjoy. Let's show our thanks and appreciation to them for all they have done for Pearce and the kingdom.

To responsibly attend to the health and safety of all youth ministry participants as the COVID-19 infection rate is rising, our **Youth Ministry programs will be conducted virtually** for the foreseeable future. Teens, look for a Zoom invitation in your email for each week's Bible Quizzing and Youth Group meetings. In January, we hope to conduct the Sunday Equip Hour on Zoom as well. Look for more details soon. Do you have questions, concerns, comments, or ideas about Youth Ministry activities using Zoom? Please share them with TC at [corbett\\_tom@pearcechurch.org](mailto:corbett_tom@pearcechurch.org).

In the new year, the **Genesis Conference of the Free Methodist Church will be introducing opportunities to learn and engage on the issue of racial reconciliation.** Pastor Marissa Heffernan is launching "Be the Bridge" small groups the first week of January. Marissa is an ordained elder in the Genesis Conference and newly appointed as the founding Director of the Genesis Justice Network, the first affiliate group of the national Justice Network of the FMC. The mission of the Justice Network is to extol and deepen the Free Methodist Church's historic commitment to oppose oppression and restore God's wholeness to those who have been disenfranchised both in society and within the church. [Check out this video](#) to learn more. Groups will be available for both clergy and laypeople. The first offerings are: **Be the Bridge 101**—small online group discussions, specifically designed for white participants, aimed at creating racial awareness and a conversational space where it's safe to ask those awkward questions. **Be the Bridge: People of Color Guide (A BIPOC**

**Guide to Healing Ourselves**)—with a practical plan for self-care, this discussion guides ministers to the needs of POC who work or worship in majority-white spaces. Classes begin the first week of January. If you are interested, [register here by December 31](#). Send questions to [genesisjusticenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:genesisjusticenetwork@gmail.com). Join the [Genesis Justice Network Facebook group](#) for ongoing updates.

Did you know that by being a part of Pearce Church, you have **FREE access to RightNow Media**? RightNow Media is a library of video resources for all ages from churches and pastors all across the country, to help you develop and grow as both a disciple of Jesus and a disciple-maker. Streaming directly to your computer, tablet, or mobile device, you'll find the online Bible Study Library includes relevant content for every age group or spiritual season. Parents, RightNow also has a lot of videos and resources for your kids. [Click this link to register](#). The Pandemic has made it difficult to be involved in some discipleship opportunities, such as small groups and Sunday school classes. **If you are interested in starting or participating in an online small group** using this or another resource, please contact Pastor Todd ([daningburg\\_todd@pearcechurch.org](mailto:daningburg_todd@pearcechurch.org)) or Kim Brittin ([brittin\\_kimberly@pearcechurch.org](mailto:brittin_kimberly@pearcechurch.org)).

## GIVE

**Let's make Christmas meaningful this year—join us in Advent Conspiracy this December!** Advent Conspiracy was founded on the radical idea that we can celebrate Christmas humbly, beautifully, and generously. Advent is the greatest story ever told, when God entered our world to make things right, and it changes everything—including the way we celebrate Christmas. Over the last decade, thousands of churches have celebrated with more relational traditions, partnered with more organizations, and have channeled more resources to the poor, marginalized, and forgotten. You can learn more about Advent Conspiracy at [adventconspiracy.org](http://adventconspiracy.org). There you'll find links to many resources like their blog that provides practical ways to participate in AC and an AC Spotify playlist curated to help us remember the gift of Jesus all season long.

**One way we join the conspiracy at Pearce is by receiving an Advent Conspiracy Offering throughout December.** This year's AC offering will go to the school in **Nzige, Rwanda**. They need to build new classrooms for the 2021/2022 school year so that the children who will age out can continue in school—many kids would drop out if there was not a grade to promote to. Also, government regulations require the school to have smaller class sizes due to COVID so the extra rooms will help spread the children out and allow more children back into school. Like our [Linked with Love / Pearce & Nzige FMC Facebook page](#) to stay updated on our Nzige connection. **Our goal for this year is \$8,000 and so far, \$4,661 has been given—thank you!** You can designate giving to Advent Conspiracy by marking your giving envelope or check for “Advent Conspiracy.” During the month of December, **you can give directly to Advent Conspiracy from the [giving page of our website](#)**: click “Pearce Church Online Giving” then choose “Nzige – Advent Conspiracy” from the Fund drop-down menu.

**Thanks for supporting Pearce!** Your continued financial support of Pearce is deeply appreciated. **Ways to give:**

- Online giving: click the “Pearce Church Online Giving” link on the [Giving page of our website](#)
- text “GIVE” to 585-617-0773 on your cell phone
- drop a check in the mail or our outdoor dropbox (just outside the café entrance)
- contact your bank and set up automatic giving

### Pearce Year-to-Date Giving Update

	2020 Budget thru 50 weeks	2020 Actual thru 50 weeks	2019 Actual thru 50 weeks
Operations	1,082,252	1,023,244	1,082,148
Building	165,539	152,816	161,836
Missions	38,943	35,133	39,016