

WELCOME TO NEW CITY CHURCH.

About 2,000 years ago Jesus Christ said he would build his church. In that first church in Jerusalem many people were forever changed as they turned to Jesus as Lord. That church grew exponentially and started other churches. Those churches grew and started still more churches. This cycle continues today.

While New City is separated from that very first church by time and distance, it is connected with that first church and all other churches because we meet together on Sundays for the same purpose—to proclaim Jesus is Lord. Our mission is the same as their mission: to make disciples of all nations and to proclaim God's glory to the nations.

Whether you are new to the Bible or know it deeply, whether you're rich or poor, whether you're old or young, whether your skin is light or dark or something in between, whether you're a high-school dropout or have a Ph.D., whether you're a single mom or a grandfather or have never been married, you're welcome here. What unites us as a group of people is Jesus Christ. There is one Lord and one faith.



Meeting for worship on Sundays at 10:30AM,
at Palmer School.

Nursery available up to age three.

MEETING ADDRESS:
309 Palmer St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

MAILING ADDRESS:
PO Box 150516
GrandRapids, MI 49515

COUNCIL OF ELDERS:
John-Thomas Richards
Dave Vermilye
Dan Lane
Joel Shaffer

616.334.0370
info@newcitychurch.org
<http://newcitychurch.org>

CITY GROUPS

At the heart of New City Church are City Groups. These are small groups that meet in homes, where people can experience authentic Christian community. In our City Groups we study the Bible, pray together, encourage one another, and serve our community together. Whether you are a new Christian, a mature Christian, or just interested in learning more about Jesus Christ, we would love for you to join a City Group. For more information, please go to <http://newcitychurch.org> and click on "Church Life" then "City Groups".

COSMIC CHRIST

DIVINE TRUTH FOR OUR EARTHLY REALITY

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

WELCOME TO NEW CITY CHURCH

Whether you are here for the first time or are a regular, we're glad you're here! We hope you enjoy your time with us today as we worship God together.

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

SERIES ~ Cosmic Christ: Divine Truth For Our Earthly Reality

TITLE ~ "Everywhere"

TEACHER ~ John-Thomas Richards

TEXT ~ Colossians 1:3-8

The gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached on every continent. There are followers of Jesus in China, Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Kyrgyzstan, and Algeria—all places where Christians are persecuted and oppressed.

How is this possible? In countries where it is both illegal and deadly to be a Christian, how is it possible that the church of Jesus exists, and even grows?

In our message from Paul's letter to the Colossians we will get a glimpse at the method Jesus uses to grow his church.

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25 ESV)

OFFERINGS

Our fiscal year is from August through July. Our budget for this year is \$148,420. About 40% of this budget will come from financial support from Calvary Church, with the remainder coming from the generosity of God's people at New City Church. We continue to trust God to work through New City while providing for our needs.

The records below reflect New City's offerings.

	Rec'd 02/10	Needed	YTD	YTD Need
Ministry	\$2,091	\$1,700	\$43,369	\$47,600
Special Offering*	\$0	—	\$6,957	—

* Not included in budget

The Pastors / Elders of New City Church are available to speak with you and pray with you after the service.

FEBRUARY 17, 2013

10:30AM

GET CONNECTED AT NEW CITY

New City is not a program-driven church. We believe that discipleship happens in relationship as God's people spend time with others. Rather than filling your week with church activities we want to make sure you have time to spend with others, whether a neighbor or a co-worker or a family member as you seek to share the good news of Jesus. Nevertheless, we offer a few opportunities for you to connect with others.

TITUS 2 MINISTRY

Discipleship happens in relationship. In Titus 2 Paul instructs men and women how to engage in ministry: live godly lives and spend time in relationship with people. Those who are mature in the faith ought to seek out those who are not; those who are not ought to seek out those who are. Invite someone to lunch or to a basketball game or have a game night at your home and break out Scrabble or Checkers. Spend time with others and share the good news of Jesus in the context of friendship.

CITY GROUPS

Want to really get to know people in the church? Join a City Group! City Groups are small groups that meet in a home regularly for a meal and a Bible study and lots of fun. We have several groups available that meet on different nights of the week. All are welcome to join. Please note that City Groups are not limited by stage-of-life, age, or any other factor, so as to better reflect the diversity of the church. For more information see Pastor J-T.

TEEN BASKETBALL

In your teens? Want to play basketball? Teens are invited to come to "the ROCK" on Saturday nights from 8:00-11:00 at Berean Baptist Church. For more information see Geoff DeHaan.

YOUTH GROUP

All middle school and senior high students are invited to "Thursday Night Hype" at Berean Baptist Church. At Hype students will study the Bible, enjoy good music, and have a great time. See Pastor Joel for more details.

YOUNG ADULTS

You are invited every third Sunday of the month to have lunch and lots of fun, right after the worship service. Please bring a snack or a drink to share. For more info, see Pastor Dan.

TEEN FUN

Teens, let's get together at the home of Dan and Brenda on the first Sunday of each month to have fun, eat, and have more fun. All teens are welcome. The party starts right after the worship service. Bring a soda and a snack and be ready to laugh! Lunch is provided. Mark your calendar!

BIBLE STUDIES

Join us on the second and fourth Wednesdays or Sundays for Bible study. Each group studies the same material.

The Wednesday night study is from 6:30-8:00PM and the Sunday night study is from 5:30-7:00PM.

We are studying Wayne Grudem's "20 Basics Every Christian Should Know", a study of twenty essential teachings every believer needs to know and understand. The Bible study meets at the Creston Church Ministry Center (1342 Buffalo Ave NE). For more information please see Pastor J-T.

NEW CITY CHURCH

PO Box 150516, Grand Rapids, MI 49515
<http://newcitychurch.org>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING PALMER

On Tuesday and Thursday this week we are serving supper to the faculty and staff of Palmer School. We still need people to sign up to bring food, especially Tuesday. Sign-up sheets are in the back of the gym.

All food needs to be delivered to Palmer by 3:30PM on Tuesday and/or Thursday. For more information, please see Shirley.

PALMER FUNDRAISER

Palmer School is having a fundraiser. If you would like to help the school and enjoy good sub sandwiches and/or soup, there is a sign-up sheet in the back of the gym.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have completed your membership application please be sure to turn it in to your City Group leader as soon as possible. If you do not have a City Group, please see Pastor J-T. Copies of the church constitution and applications are available in the back of the gym. For more information, please see one of the Elders.

FREE TAX PREP

Need help filing your taxes? Help is available! A collaboration between Creston Church, St Alphonsus Catholic Church, and New Development Corp provides free income tax filing services. This service is staffed by trained volunteers from Creston and St Alphonsus who work with New Development Corp February-April, on Thursdays and Saturdays (by appointment only). For more information, please see Pastor J-T.

BABY SHOWER

One of the great ways we participate in community as a church is by spending time together in our City Groups. City Group Awesome (meets Friday evenings) is hosting a baby shower for Felicia Osmolinski (and baby) on Saturday, February 23 at 1:00PM. All New City ladies are invited. For more information, see Brenda Lane. Felicia is registered at Target.

SOUND TECH NEEDED

We need a sound technician to help on Sunday mornings. If you have some experience running a sound board (including set-up and tear-down) or are willing to learn, please see Pastor Dan for more information.

VAN DRIVER NEEDED

Want to serve? Have a good driving record? Don't mind staying up late on Saturday night? A driver is needed to take volunteers home from The Rock on Saturday nights at 11:00 with the New City van. For more information see Pastor Joel.

URBAN FARM

New City Neighbors (not affiliated with New City Church) is an organization that focuses on the near-northeast of Grand Rapids. They offer a number of ministries reaching out to the Creston neighborhood. (See <http://newcityneighbors.org> for more information.) One of their ministries to the neighborhood is an Urban Farm. They hire high school students in the area to work the farm, helping to plant, water, weed, and harvest. Among the goals of the Urban Farm is to help students develop a biblical worldview of work and to understand better what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

To fund the program, the Urban Farm sells shares. A share entitles the shareholder to receive fresh vegetables each week during the harvest season. If you are interested in fresh veggies, brochures are available in the back of the gym. If you're a high school student looking for a great summer job, please see Pastor J-T.

LENT

Lent is the period of time before Easter. Traditionally it is the 46 days prior to Easter. Observance of Lent is very old in church history, and is very valuable. Christians were observing Lent regularly before they observed Christmas regularly!

An important figure in the early church is a man named Irenaeus. He was born in the year AD 115—less than 20 years after the book of Revelation was written! In a letter he mentioned the various ways people fasted in the days leading up to Easter. This is significant because it indicates the early church had been celebrating the resurrection on a yearly basis by fasting in the days and weeks prior to Easter Sunday.

At the Council of Nicea in AD 325, a call was made for regular meetings that were to take place each year "before the 40 days of Lent." Since the Council did not explain when that was, it must have been a widely recognized time. We can see that the celebration of Lent was widespread throughout the churches of the world.

While Lent is 46 days long, it is a 40-day fast. Whatever is given up during Lent is celebrated and enjoyed on Sundays since Sunday is a "mini-Easter." Jesus said his followers would not fast while he was present and he is present each Sunday as we assemble in his name.

Let's celebrate Lent this year. If you have not yet, choose something in your life that you can give up Monday through Saturday. Whether it's bread or basketball or soda or pasta or something else, give up something you enjoy (liver & Brussels sprouts don't count). When you desire that thing, spend time in prayer instead. On Sundays, enjoy the thing you have given up, thanking Jesus for His resurrection and our future resurrection. Let's use this time to pray for our community, for God to use us at New City Church for His glory in bringing many people to faith.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The apostle Paul tells us in his letter to the Corinthians that God has given to each of us a spiritual gift for service to the church (1 Corinthians 12:4-7). A spiritual gift is a divine enablement to do something for others, whether teaching or serving or encouraging or leading or one of several other gifts.

The best way to discover your gift(s) is to ask others. Oftentimes spiritual gifts are discovered as one uses a gift unknowingly. For example, one may speak words of encouragement that God uses in profound ways, even if the one encouraging has no idea that she has encouragement as a spiritual gift. Another way is to use a spiritual gifts test. They aren't foolproof, but can provide a general guide for discovering how God has enabled you to serve the body of Christ. To take such a free survey, go to <http://www.churchgrowth.org/analysis/intro.php>.

COMMUNION

We celebrate communion each week as a regular part of our worship together. Through communion we are proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes. This regular reminder points us to Jesus as the only one who makes us right with God; it is not based on us or our behavior, but on the work of Jesus on the cross. All who are followers of Jesus may participate in the celebration of communion. If you are not a follower of Jesus or are not prepared to participate, simply pass the tray of bread and juice without taking any.

PRAYER FOR CHURCHES

Pray for Creston Church, Fourth Reformed, East Leonard CRC, Berean Baptist and all the other churches that preach the gospel message in our community.

WORSHIP STYLE

The apostle Paul instructs us to teach one another by "singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Col 3:16). While the instruments or style of music may not be your preference, we trust that the rich theology in the worship music will strengthen and encourage you today. We are very intentional to choose songs that cause us to focus on Jesus as we are here to worship him and him alone. Expression in worship varies from person to person. Feel free to raise your hands, to stand, to sit. More important than physical expression of worship is our true worship, a heart that is engaged with the majesty of God.

Nursery Schedule

02/17: Lora and Bethany K.
02/24: Sherilyn and Kerri
03/03: Bethany S. and Dawnae
03/10: Emma and Kelsey
03/17: Alissa and Beth
03/24: Jerika and Amanda
03/31: Lora and Bethany K.

COMMUNION HELP

Would you like to help prepare for communion? This commitment involves filling the communion cups and breaking the bread prior to the service. If you are interested, please see Dawnae Richards for more information.

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

February: Dawnae
March: Beth

TUTORING

Have an extra hour or even half-hour between 9AM and 2PM? Why not tutor a student at Palmer? Tutoring is a great way to love your neighbor as yourself. Please see Shirley for more information and an application.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Our Council of Elders meets twice a month and devotes significant time to praying for you. If you have any concerns for which you would like prayer, please see any of the pastors (Dave, Dan, Joel, or J-T).

GREETERS NEEDED

Would you like to greet people on a Sunday morning? Greeters are needed! Please see Lora Kleis for more information.

MAILING LIST

Are you on the New City email list? This list is for announcements regarding ministry opportunities, prayer requests, and reminders about very New City activities. If you would like to join this fairly low-volume mailing list, give your email address to Shirley.

SERMONS

Past sermons are available on our website: <http://newcitychurch.org>, click on Resources then Sermons.

NEW CITY READING PLAN

We have a year-long reading plan that takes you through the whole scope of Scripture in a single year. With this plan you will read about half the chapters of the Bible (673 of the 1,189) but will cover the entire history of the Bible, from creation to new creation. The plan also includes the Psalms (on Sundays). This reading plan is for six days a week. Don't worry about falling behind; just continue reading according to the plan. Each day's reading generally consists of two chapters, but be sure to check the schedule. We will include the week's readings in each week's bulletin. Copies of the entire reading plan are available in the back of the gym.

Sun: Psalms 17-19
Mon: Exodus 19-20
Tue: Exodus 21-22
Wed: Exodus 23-24
Thu: Exodus 25-26
Fri: Exodus 27-28

see other side

February 17, 2013
