

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

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

616.334.0370
info@newcitychurch.org
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".

What Is



"The Church?"

a six-week study on God's people

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 ~ What Is The Church?

TITLE ~ "The Assembly, Part 1"

TEACHER ~ John-Thomas Richards

TEXT ~ Acts 2:42-47

Next week we will discuss the process for membership at New City Church. To prepare us for the discussion the Elders have asked Pastor J-T to teach about the church. Today we continue that series.

What is the church? We've looked at a number of issues that are foundational to the question. Today we will answer it.

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."
(Ephesians 2:11-22 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 01/06	Needed	YTD	YTD Need
Ministry	\$2,597	\$1,700	\$35,691	\$39,100
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.

JANUARY 13, 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 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

MEMBERSHIP

Interested in becoming a member of New City Church? Wondering what is required? The following requirements are from Article 5 Section 1 Paragraph A of the New City Church Constitution:

A To qualify for membership in New City Church, a person must:

- Be a follower of Jesus Christ and exhibit evidence of regeneration;
- Be a regular attender and committed to New City Church;
- Submit to the teaching of Scripture as expressed in the Statement of Faith;
- Serve the church with the spiritual gift(s) given by the Holy Spirit for the church;
- Participate in fellowship and in community with other members of the church.

Membership carries with it both privileges and duties. Article 5 Section 3 Paragraph A lists them.

A Each member of the church shall have the privilege and duty to:

- Submit himself or herself to the authority of the Scriptures to regulate his or her life and doctrine;
- Faithfully and regularly attend regular and special meetings of the church;
- Accept and fellowship with all members of the church;
- Use his or her spiritual gift(s) given by the Holy Spirit for the benefit of the church;
- Give of his or her finances cheerfully and sacrificially to the church for the work of the ministry;
- Submit to the authority of the Council of Elders;
- Abide by the Membership Covenant.

Next week we will explore some of the rationale behind these requirements. We will explore how a church is supposed to function and what the very tangible benefits are of being Christ's church in this place.

COMMUNION

We celebrate communion each week as a regular reminder that our faith and our salvation is not in any way based on us or our behavior, but solely on the finished work of Jesus Christ and his mercy and grace extended to us through it. 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.

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.

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.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

01/13: Sherilyn and Kerri
01/20: Bethany S. and Kristen
01/27: Emma and Kelsey
02/03: Alissa and Beth
02/10: Jerika and Amanda
02/17: Lora and Bethany K.
02/24: Sherilyn and Kerri

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

January: Pat
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).

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

On January 13 we will begin discussing formal church membership. We will share the process, the requirements for, and the benefits of church membership. We will also provide copies of the New City Church Constitution and Membership Covenant.

GREETERS NEEDED

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

SERMON SERIES

After the series on the church we will spend several months studying the book of Colossians, seeing how the uniqueness of Jesus Christ is not some abstract truth that is separated from how we live our lives today. Instead we will discover how this wonderful truth has a direct impact on how we live and love and work and play.

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.

ADDRESS CHANGE

The IRS requires that we provide you with a record of your giving for the year. In order to do this we must have an accurate address for you. If your address has changed, please contact Miss Shirley today to give her the correct information.

Please note that we can only provide giving info if your offerings were identifiable, whether by personal check or by the use of an offering envelope (with your name on it).

NEW CITY READING PLAN

Have you ever read through the entire Bible? Why not read through the entire history of the Bible this coming year? We have put together a year-long reading plan that takes you through the whole scope of Scripture. 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, starting in Genesis and finishing with Revelation. In addition, the Psalms are read every Sunday. 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 does change so 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 4-6
Mon: Genesis 19-20
Tue: Genesis 21-22
Wed: Genesis 23-24
Thu: Genesis 25-26
Fri: Genesis 26-27