

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 ~ "The Blood"

TEACHER ~ John-Thomas Richards

TEXT ~ Colossians 1:18b-20

We are continuing our series in the apostle Paul's letter to the Colossians. Today we are finishing our look at the "Christ Hymn" in chapter 1:15-20. The text in these verses are widely believed by scholars to be the lyrics to a hymn sung in the first century. We do not know the exact wording of the hymn; Paul may have adapted them to fit his letter. The words as recorded represent an incredible reminder that Jesus is truly cosmic; his every thought, action, decision, and action determine the course of every atom in the universe.

Today we will see how the incredible truth of this Divine Man affects us today, and forever.

I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory."
"O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Corinthians 15:50-57 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 03/10	Needed	YTD	YTD Need
Ministry	\$2,457	\$1,700	\$51,069	\$52,700
Special Offering*	\$0	—	\$7,177	—

* Not included in budget

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

MARCH 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.

All are welcome.

NEW CITY CHURCH

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISM

On Easter Sunday, March 31, we will celebrate baptism. In the New Testament as men and women repented and turn to Jesus in faith, they made their faith in him public by declaring Jesus is Lord through baptism. In baptism we are identified with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. While faith is how we become a follower of Jesus, baptism is how we tell the world.

If you would like to be baptized this Easter, please see Pastor J-T.

GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday (March 29) New City is joining Creston Church and Fourth Reformed at Fourth Reformed for a Good Friday service. The service is called "Tenebrae." Tenebrae is a Latin term meaning darkness or shadows. A Tenebrae service is the only worship service in which the death of Jesus is celebrated apart from his resurrection. In this service we will focus on Jesus' final hours before his death. The service ends with a proclamation of his death. This tension will remain unresolved until the joy of Easter morning.

Fourth Reformed is at 1226 Union NE. The service begins at 7:30PM and will last approximately one hour. Please join us for a meal at 6:00PM! This is a great opportunity to spend time with two of our sister churches serving the northeast of Grand Rapids.

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.

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.

NEW CITY T-SHIRTS

A few New City t-shirts are available from our last order. Very few small, medium, large, and extra-large shirts are available. Please see Shirley for more details.

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

March: Beth
April: Pat
May: ?

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.

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 a free survey, go to <http://www.churchgrowth.org/analysis/intro.php>.

FAITH STORY

Would you like to share a brief story of God's faithfulness? Please see our new Worship Leader, Eric Scholtens. Sharing a story of what God has done or is doing in your life is a great way to encourage God's people and to praise him publicly.

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.

SERVING IN NURSERY

03/17: Alissa and Beth
03/24: Jerika and Amanda
03/31: Lora and Bethany K.
04/07: Sherilyn and Kerri
04/14: Bethany S. and Kristen
04/21: Emma and Kelsey
04/28: Alissa and 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 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 29-31
Mon: Leviticus 19-20
Tue: Leviticus 21-22
Wed: Leviticus 23-24
Thu: Leviticus 25
Fri: Leviticus 26-27