Worship at New City Church

One thing you should notice about our service is that we are here to worship Jesus together. Each element of our service is designed to encourage worship of him in some way. There are seven elements that are included in each service. They are listed below with a brief explanation of each.

Songs

Scripture instructs us to teach one another in "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Colossians 3:16). As a regular part of our worship services we sing songs to God—songs that are about God. We are very intentional in choosing songs that strengthen our faith in some way by teaching us what God is like or what God has done.

Prayer

Since we worship God in our services, it makes sense that we also communicate to him. This happens a number of times each service, though most of the prayers are shorter in length. However, each Sunday we offer a "Pastoral Prayer" in which one of the Elders of the church prays for various people with needs in the church.

Offering

Each week we collect an offering. Paul instructed the church in ancient Corinth to collect their offerings on the first day of every week. In that tradition we collect an offering to support the ministry of New City Church. This is a voluntary gift to God via the church. As Paul instructed the Corinthians, "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Greeting

Scripture instructs believers to greet one another with a kiss (Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 13:12, 1 Peter 5:14). Kissing was a cultural expression in Paul's day yet greeting one another transcends culture. We take a few minutes of our service to greet one another with a handshake, fistbump, hug, or just a warm welcome.

Reading Scripture

Paul instructed Timothy to be devoted to the public reading of Scripture (1 Timothy 4:13). We think he meant it so we include a reading each week (separate from the sermon text).

Preaching

God has given us a written record of the revelation of Jesus Christ. Since this is a primary way God speaks to us today, we spend about a third of our time together with a sermon from God's Word. You can expect the sermon to explain what the text is saying, and then applying it to our context so that we can hear what God is saying to us through the text. Whether we are working through a book from the New Testament or from the Old, we believe all Scripture points us to Jesus so each sermon is ultimately about him (see the Gospel of Luke 24:44-48).

Communion / Baptism

The night before his death Jesus transformed the annual Passover celebration into a regular event to commemorate his death and resurrection. The frequency of this celebration is a matter of freedom; at New City we choose to celebrate communion each week. All who are followers of Jesus are welcome to participate (see 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

We also celebrate baptism as men and women make public professions of faith in Jesus. Baptism illustrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as the new believer is immersed into a pool of water. This celebration takes place during our regular worship services.

Questions? Please see one of our Elders.

Activities 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 fill 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. We want to follow the model in Titus 2 where the apostle Paul instructs men and women to 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.

Basketball

Teens are invited to come to "the ROCK" on Saturday nights at Berean Baptist Church for basketball and fun. For students 17 and under, the ROCK starts at 6:00PM. For those 18 and over the ROCK starts at 8:00PM. For more information see Pastor Joel.

Youth Group

Youth Group is Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:15PM. It is a joint youth group with Berean Baptist Church and is for seventh through twelfth graders. For more information see Pastor Joel or Pastor Dan.

Bible Study

Bible study will resume next Sunday with a study of Paul's letter to the Galatians. This study will take place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, from 5:30-7:00PM, at the Creston Church Ministry Center (1343 Buffalo Ave NE).

This study will utilize an inductive method for studying the Scripture, with special emphasis on using various tools and techniques that help flush out the meaning of a text. We will study each passage together to produce a summary statement of Paul's purpose in that text. It will be a very hands-on approach to group Bible study. For more information, see Pastor J-T.

Sunday

- Tim & Rachael's wedding shower @ 4:00PM

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

- Youth Group at 7:00PM

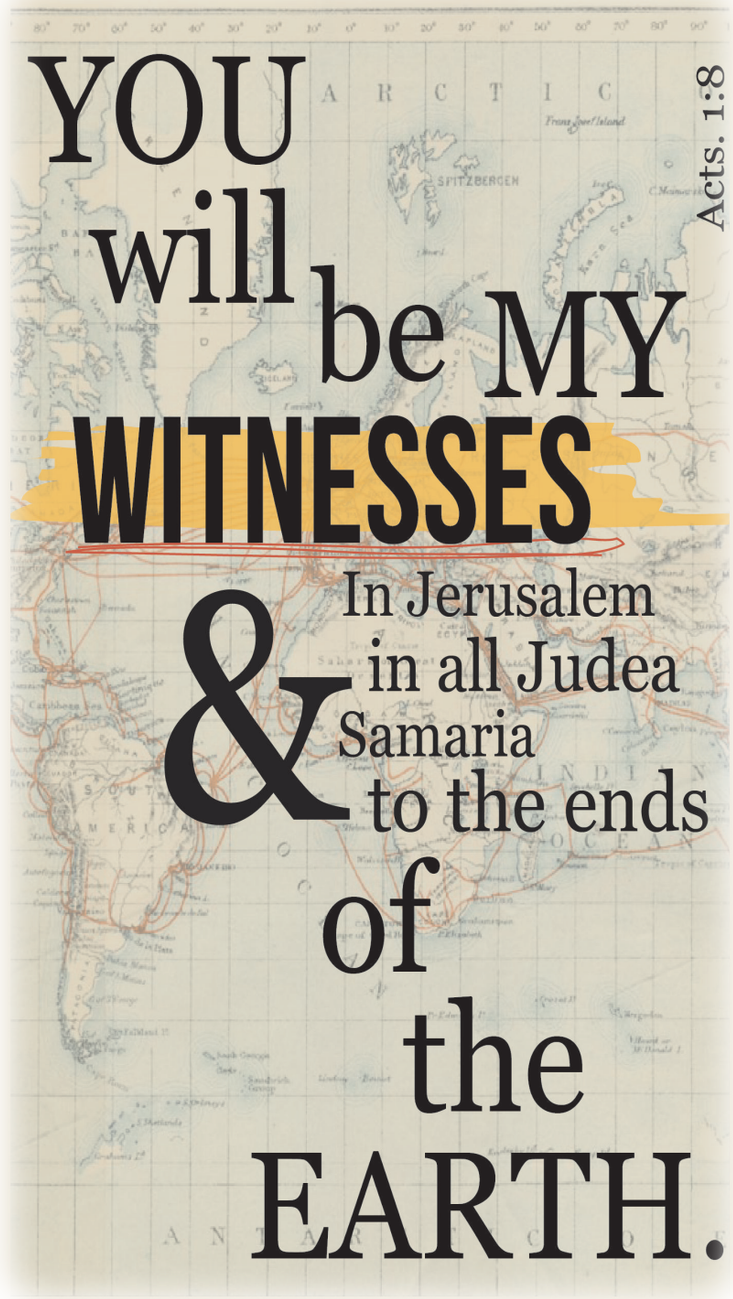
Thursday

- City Group Avengers @ 6:30PM

Friday

Saturday

- the ROCK Basketball @ 6:00PM (high school)
- the ROCK Basketball @ 8:00PM (young adults and older)



September 21, 2014

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 ~ Acts of Jesus
Title ~ "Pentecost"
Teacher ~ John-Thomas Richards
Text ~ Acts 2:1-41

Next Week ~ Acts 2:42-47

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

If you have any questions about the sermon or a song we sing or any question about New City, the Bible, or Jesus, feel free to ask. One of our Elders would be happy to speak with you. If you are a woman and would prefer to speak with another woman, we have several godly women who would also be happy to speak with you.

Offerings

New City Church's fiscal year is from August through July. Our budget for this year is $140,416.

	Last Week Offering	Needed	Over/(Under)
	$1,461	$2,700	($1,129)
Fiscal YTD	$14,892	$18,900	($4,008)

New City Church
PO Box 150516, Grand Rapids, MI 49515
http://newcitychurch.org

Announcements

Wedding Shower

You are invited to a non-traditional wedding shower. Please join Tim Passarelli and Rachael Dykstra as City Group Reset hosts a Celebration Open House for them from 4-6PM at 4546 Glen Hollow Drive in Hudsonville (maps are available in the back of the gym; if you would like a ride please see Pastor J-T). Tim and Rachael request no gifts beyond your attendance. If you desire to bring a money gift, all such gifts will be distributed to the New City Church Benevolence Fund and/or Urban Transformation Ministries.

Financial Peace University

Beginning October 7, Pastor Dave will lead a Financial Peace University seminar, hosted by Berean Baptist Church. The class will run from October 7 until December 9. The cost per family unit is $93. For more information, please see Pastor Dave.

Children

During October, November, and December, on the first Sunday of the month we will dismiss the children aged 4 through 9 to the library during the sermon. There they will receive an age-appropriate lesson on the same text as the sermon. They will return to the gym after the sermon has concluded. If you would like to help during this time, please see one of the Elders.

Volunteer Opportunities at Palmer

Palmer School has many opportunities for you to serve the school! Palmer needs math tutors (flash cards, review activities), reading tutors, and others to play educational games with students in need. In addition teachers need help with clerical tasks, help in the classroom with center activities, and help in the classroom on computer activities. If you would like to volunteer please see Shirley for more information.

Nursery Help

We provide a nursery as a ministry to new mothers so that they are able to focus during the service. If you are a woman aged 18 or older, have been attending New City Church for at least six months, and are willing to serve in this capacity once every six to eight weeks, please contact Sam Scholtens or Pastor Dan.

Faith Story

Would you like to share a brief story of God's faithfulness? Please see our 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.

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 Cor 12:4-7). A spiritual gift is a God-given ability to serve his people. The best way to discover your gift(s) is through Christian community. If you would like to meet with the Elders to talk about ways you can serve, or would like some help in discovering your spiritual gifts, please see Pastor J-T.

Membership

If you would like to become a member of New City Church be sure to grab a copy of the church constitution and of the application. Copies are available in the back of the gym. For more information, please see one of the Elders.

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.

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

September: Pat
October:

Prayer for Churches

Pray for the churches in our community, especially Creston Church, Fourth Reformed, East Leonard CRC, and Berean Baptist. No single church can accomplish the mission given by Jesus; these churches are partners with us in the gospel. This means we are not in competition with them, but in cooperation with them.

Serving In Nursery

[Date: Serving, Back Up (and Assistant)]
Sep 21: Bethany S & Pam, Chassida ()
Sep 28: Kayla & Chassida, Katherine (Tiara)
Oct 05: Rachael & Katherine, Sam ()
Oct 12: Bethany K & Sam, Caiti ()
Oct 19: Felicia & Caiti, Lisa ()
Oct 26: Bethany S & Lisa, Kayla ()

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).

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.

Greeters Needed

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

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 covers 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 113-115
Mon: Zechariah 11-14
Tue: Matthew 1-2
Wed: Matthew 3-4
Thu: Matthew 5-6
Fri: Matthew 7-8