

We Believe...in God the Father

Prelude “Christ, Thou Art My Life”
“He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought”

J. Walther/ arr. J. Jones
W. Bradbury/ arr. R. Haan

The Call to Worship

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and
guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him. Psalm 67

***The Hymn of Praise** “I Love Your Church, O Lord”

LUYH 247

***The Welcome**

***The Opening Prayer**

**Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments,
may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known,
worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever
Amen.**

***The Song of Worship** “Come As You Are”

Crowder

We Believe...in God the Son

The Call to Repentance

And he will come to Zion as Redeemer, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression, says the Lord. And as for me, this is my covenant with them, says the Lord: my spirit that is upon you, and **my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouths of your children, or out of the mouths of your children's children, says the Lord, from now on and forever.** Isaiah 59:20–21

The Prayer for the Forgiveness of Sins

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and apart from your grace, there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare all those who confess their faults. Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

The Proclamation of Pardon

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. Galatians 1: 3-5

The Song of Assurance “Jesus Paid it All”

CH 305 vs 1-3

We Believe...in the Holy Spirit

The Prayer of Blessing

Almighty Father, Your Spirit inspires us to speak the truth: that Jesus is the Messiah and your own Son. Keep us all strong and steady on the rock of this faith. Help us to live together in peace and kindness, so that we may share your truth and follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Children 4 years- 5th Grade are invited to Walk Out Worship.
They are dismissed at 1:20 from their classrooms in the lower level)

The Scripture Reading Revelation 5:1-10

p. 1030

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

The Prayer of Illumination

The Sermon "The Church"

The Prayer of Response

***The Hymn of Response** "Spirit of God, Unleashed on Earth"

LUYH 237

We Believe...in one holy Church

***The Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary, and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.**

**The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory to judge the living
and the dead. His kingdom will never end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

The Offering *Missions - New City Kids*

The Offertory "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

arr. T. Chesterton

***The Sending Song** "Build Your Kingdom Here"

Rend Collective vs. 1,3

***The Benediction**

The Postlude "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing"

arr. D. Wagner

Worship Leaders & Liturgical Notes

Preaching: Rev. Tim Blackmon

Organ: Jean Schuitman

Piano: Julie Hordyk

Prayers of People: Paul LaMaire

Vocalist: Chris Hordyk, Christie Vander Heide

We display music on the screen. LUYH (red hymnal) in pew rack; OneLicense.net #A-721176, CCLI#7750

Welcome Guests:

Welcome, we are glad you are here! Please fill out a Guest Card (in the pew rack) and place it in the offering basket or scan the back of this bulletin for an online form. Also, join us for coffee and sweet treats after church so we can meet you!

This Sunday:

Today's Ministry Spotlight: New City Kids-GR, one of our mission partners, offers faith-based after-school programs for local youth. Children and teens actively engage in spiritual, leadership, academic and musical development in a challenging and fun environment.

Walk-Out Worship: Today our children will hear the story of John baptizing Jesus. Who was John the Baptist? A prophet? Elijah? The Messiah? Children will hear and read about John's answer.

Prayer Requests, Praises & Gratitude:

Please keep the family of Carolyn Sturris in your prayers. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Carolyn was held on Saturday afternoon with Pastor Tim officiating.

“Thank you to the congregation for your prayers, meals, calls, and cards during my shoulder surgery, infection, and lung issues. Joan and I are blessed to be part of such a caring church family.” ~ Lou and Joan Baker

Church Announcements:

2026 Giving Envelopes: The Envelopes for 2026 are available for pickup in the Atrium near the Kitchen/Office. The boxes are labeled and organized alphabetically.

You will notice that the envelope design and fund options are updated: General Fund, Christian Education, Future Building Maintenance, Missions (previously Faith Promise) and Today's Ministry Spotlight (previously Special/Loose).

Art Gallery: *"Connections. Pause. Reflect. Wonder."* will be showcasing until the end of January. Please invite your family and friends to visit the Atrium Gallery during regular office hours. Also, a list of pieces for sale is available in the office.

Book Club: New Year-New Book! We will meet on Monday Jan, 19th at 1:30pm in the Church Parlor. Open to anyone interested. Book to discuss, “The Other Einstein” by Marie Benedict. Interesting and informative, plus fellowship and refreshments.

January Series: The January Series begins on Monday at 12:30 in North Hall. Come join us for interesting speakers, good fellowship, and delicious treats. The speakers this week are:

Monday: Rev. Naomi Tutu - Our Shared Humanity: Creating Understanding Through the Principles of MLK.

Tuesday: Kaitlin Curtice- Journeying with Story

Wednesday: Majora Carter - Developing Equitable Cities for All.

Thursday: Dr. Vivek Murthy - Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World.

Friday: Harry Smith - Less is more. More or less.

Mission Updates: We have received notes from several of our mission people expressing their thanks for the generous Christmas gift each of them received from Second CRC. They are thankful for the continued support and prayers of our congregation.

Ping Pong: We will continue on Mondays at 1:30pm in the church basement.

Prayer Volunteers: You may have noticed that our Sunday "prayer of the people" is often delivered by a member of the congregation...one of the people. If you love to lift praise and petition to God, please volunteer to lead in this way. Contact Amy Wolffis or Julie Hordyk for more information or to add your name to our volunteer list. Thank you!

SWANs: Let's start our New Year by having breakfast at the Pine Street Cafe in Ferrysburg on January 20 at 9:30. Reservations are needed, please call Barb at (616)-485-7595 or Carole (616) 502-2015. Carpooling from church can be arranged.

Tool Time Men's Bible Study: We will begin our Winter Session this Saturday January 17 at 8:00am at church. Questions, call Tony Razzini at (614) 753-2164.



MIDWEEK GATHERING

Winter Session: Wed. January 14- Wed. February 11
Dinner at 5:30pm | Bible Study at 6:30pm
Register online or at the Welcome Desk.

Nunc Coepi: Now I Begin with Pastor Tim

Do you ever feel like you're "failing" at your spiritual life?

Many of us want a deeper walk with God but struggle to find a rhythm that sticks. This class is centered on the practice of *Nunc Coepi*—the habit of beginning again *with* God, no matter how many times we stumble. We will be using Jonathan Gibson's *Be Thou My Vision*, a beautiful guide that draws from the great treasures of church history to structure our daily prayer, Bible reading, and meditation. Whether your devotional life feels dry or you're looking for a robust structure, this class will provide the tools and the community to help you dwell in God's presence, one day at a time.

On the Love of God with Erik Veker

What does it really mean that God is love (1 John 4:16)? It's a powerful truth—but easy to misunderstand, and when we do, we miss so much. In this class, we'll trace a line through the Bible to see who this loving God truly is. What is he like? How does he show his love? And how does it shape who we are and what we do? We can't cover everything—God's love is too vast. But it's worth slowing down, reflecting, and praying for a fresh experience of the love that surpasses knowledge.

Midweek Kids: How Great Is Our God

Children ages 4 - 5th grade are invited to join us to learn about the wonders and mysteries in outer space, revealing God's majesty. We will stand in awe of our Creator God!

CHAOS: Middle School

Leaders and kids explore the Bible and what their faith really means in today's world. There are also games, events, and lots of, well chaos!
We welcome any middle school student to join this fun fellowship.

Volunteer Schedule

Jan 18, 2026

Projection: Paul Marotti

Video: Chuck DeWitt Jim Query Mark Boelens Jason Zuidema

Sound: Jim Warners

Ushers: Ken Terpstra, Jon Mulder, Jim Sacks, Carl Vertregt

Coffee Hosts: Dan & Melissa Meindersma

Nursery: Kerry Bierma, Carisa Marotti

Little Lambs: Manette deJonge, Sheila Warners

Walk Out: Annie Hoekzema, Rio Gasser, Kyla Zuidema

Greeters: Dan Braak, Chuck & Carol DeWitt

Council in Parlor: Rick Clapp, Steve Marotti

Offering: Missions- New City Kids

Jan. 25, 2026

Projection: Eric Wolffis

Video: Gary Roelofs, Paul Marotti, Jay Brace, Ethan Hodge

Sound: Todd Cunningham

Ushers: Steve Marotti, Todd Cunningham, David Brace, Mike Buitendorp

Coffee Hosts: Jim & Sheila Warners- Levi Hoekzema; Mauricio & Elisa Espinal

Nursery: Cathy Brolick, Kari DeLange

Little Lambs: Onika Beswick, Sydney Marotti, Amy Bunce

Walk Out I: Carla Byma Ian Clapp

Walk Out II: Joslyn Wagenmaker, Dawn Rotman

Greeters: Dale Schuitema, Doug & Cheryl Diephouse

Council in Parlor: Steve Marotti, Deborah Erickson

Offering: Teen Challenge West Michigan

Calendar

Sunday, January 18

10:00 AM–Worship Service

Monday, January 19

Office Closed

12:30 PM – January Series

1:30 PM Book Club

1:30 PM – Ping Pong

Tuesday, January 20

9 AM-1 PM – Office Hours

12:30 PM – January Series

Wednesday, January 21

9 AM-1 PM – Office Hours

12:30 PM – January Series

1:00 PM – Knitting/Craft Group

5:30 PM – Midweek Gathering

6:30 PM - CHAOS

Thursday, January 22

9 AM-1 PM – Office Hours

12:30 PM – January Series

7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 23

Saturday, January 24

Sunday, January 25

10:00 AM–Worship Service

11:30 AM- Bell Rehearsal

6:30 PM – Focus High School

Connect with Second CRC

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YouTube: @2ndCRCGH

Give Online:



Guest Registration:

