

Mission Statement

To the glory of God, the Harvest Community Church is to gather and nurture God's growing family.

Purpose

To **Glorify** God through worship in spirit and in truth
To **Gather** God's family through outreach
To **Grow** in grace and knowledge of Jesus through discipleship
To **Give** back of ourselves what God has given through service
To be **Grafted** to one another through Holy Spirit fellowship

Core Value

If anything good is going to happen, God has to do it.

Therefore, it is important for us to always look to discern what God is doing and join Him in His work.

Such discovery will be

- **Led by scripture**
- **Based on spiritual giftedness**
- **Bathed in prayer**
- **An outgrowth of small group intimacy**

ELDER/DEACON DISTRICTS:

J. Flohr/J. Leazier—Baum thru T. Hilley

K. Oosterhouse/R. Duits—Jackson thru Reynolds

R. Oosterhouse/B. Green—B. Ridder thru T. Zook

Church phone—616-374-8697
Church email—info@harvestcrc.com
Pastor's email—ben@harvestcrc.com
Church website: www.harvestcrc.com

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services

Worship Service—9:30 a.m. (Children's Worship during service)

Sunday School—11:00 a.m. Sept-May

Small Group Ministry—Sunday evenings

(CHEERS in the home 1st and 3rd Sundays,
Bible Study at church 2nd and 4th Sundays.)

Weekday Ministries

Coffee Break/Story Hour/Little Lambs

Wednesdays 9:00—10:45 a.m. Sept.—May

Moms in Touch Prayer

Wednesdays—11:30 a.m. Sept-May

*CHEERS (Caring, Hope, Encouragement, Enlightenment, Respect, Support)

Consistory-

Pastor Ben Ridder

Elders Ken Oosterhouse—2021

Jason Flohr—2022

Ryan Oosterhouse—2023

Deacons Richard Duits—2021

Joe Leazier—2022

Bob Green—2023

IN THE
beginning
WAS THE
word.

John 1:1

*Harvest Community
Church*

A Christian Reformed Ministry

620 Sixth Avenue

Lake Odessa, Michigan 48849

Welcome to Harvest Church

December 13, 2020

It's a blessing to gather together today!

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and has appeared to us." -the Apostle John as he begins his first letter: I John 1:1-2

Morning Worship

Message: In the Beginning

Scripture: I John 1:1-2

Page 862 in the blue Bibles

There will be no Children's Worship this morning.

Coffee and Fellowship Time in the building will be suspended for the time being while we comply with social distancing guidelines due to Covid-19 restrictions. You are welcome to bring your own coffee and to fellowship outside following the service this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This morning we begin our Advent series which is entitled **The Theology of Christmas**. Before sighing too deeply, which lines do you want to know more about:

- The wisemen followed a star the way I followed my heart, and it led me to a miracle..
Justin Bieber -"Mistletoe"
- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
Apostle John as he begins his gospel

In an increasingly post-Christian society, the Bible's Christmas continues to lose ground to the Christmas of the American culture. This year's series will look to strengthen the underpinnings of our faith and keep us grounded in the incredible wonder and mystery that is the first Christmas.

Second Offering next Sunday is for the Guiding Light Mission, a ministry for men in downtown Grand Rapids that have fallen or dove into hard times. It's a ministry that provides food, shelter,

education and tools for the way out of poverty and hopelessness.

Adult Sunday School will meet this morning following the service.

Women's Coffee Break Bible Study will meet this Wednesday at 9:00 with precautions taken to protect those who attend. Our new study, entitled "Faith-Depending on God" begins with a look at the faith chapter—Hebrews 11:1-16. All women are invited.

Consistory meets this Wednesday at 7:00. Joe Leazier will serve as host. Please keep you consistory in prayer as we always depend on the wisdom of God, Christ Jesus in us.

From the Consistory: At our last meeting we talked about how to stay connected, or in some cases, get reconnected during the current COVID pandemic. It was a discussion that perhaps is a little overdue, but in having it we wondered if folks outside of consistory have some input on the questions. How can we stay connected, get reconnected. Please think about those questions and email your ideas to Pastor Ben at ben@harvestcrc.com. Thank you!

Christmas Greeting Videos: Please record your household's Christmas greetings (if you have the ability to do that with your smart phone) and send it to the church office marshann@harvestcrc.com. We would like to have them by this Wednesday so we have time to put them all together. The video will be put on You Tube in a way that it will be viewable only to those who are given the link, which will be you!

Christmas Eve Service. Please mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Eve service, to be held on Christmas Eve, 7:00.

Church Family: Dave Beach was put on a ventilator this past week and is in ICU at Spectrum downtown Grand Rapids. Keep him and Kay in your prayers before the Father please.

From Faith Formation Ministries. At-home Faith Formation Tip - The Practice of Hospitality: Ponder this quote from Mother Teresa: "This Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own concern." How might you and your family love and serve others during this season? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit crna.org/FaithFormation/Practices)

COVID Reminder: Please wear a mask inside the building. You may remove it while you are seated, but have it on while walking around. Also, please keep in mind the horizontal distancing that has been recommended.

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him for he cares for you." I Peter 5:6,7

Please pray for _____

Date _____ (tear off and place in offering or prayer room bowl.)

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Today	9:30 am—Worship Service 11:00 am—Adult Sunday School
Wednesday	9:00 am—Coffee Break Bible Study for Women 7:00 pm—Meet for prayer here at church 7:00 pm—Consistory Meeting

From the Deacons: Offerings received December 6

General Fund \$ 2,840.00

World Renew 200.00

ASSIGNMENTS

We have changed our regular schedule to better protect the health of our members during the unusual circumstances brought about by the COVID 19 pandemic.

Children's Worship is not meeting at this time.

Nursery Today: Jenny Reynolds, Chelsea Booth Zook

December 20: Joann Gerke, Peighton Reser

December 27: Marilyn DeJong, Julie Kastanek

January 3: Mary Flohr, Jessica Kastanek

Coffee Host and Hostess—please feel free to bring your own coffee.

Prayer Ministry

Today: Cindi Green December 20: Marshann Ludema

Prayer Family:

Please be praying for this household over the next week. Each Harvest household is rotated through the schedule.

This week: Cathy Griffin