

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



"I AM the
LIGHT of the
WORLD."

John 8:12, NIV

*Harvest Community
Church*

A Christian Reformed Ministry

620 Sixth Avenue

Lake Odessa, Michigan 48849

Welcome to Harvest Church

December 20, 2020

It's a blessing to gather together today!

"In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."
John 1:4-5

"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." Jesus, in John 12:46

Morning Worship

Message: The Light Bearer

Scripture: John 1:1-9

Page 750 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 continue our mini-series on "The Theology of Christmas" as the apostle John gives it to us in the prologue of his gospel. John identifies the One born on Christmas morning as the Light. It was an identity that Jesus would go on and claim for himself during his ministry, with the telling revelation that 'everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed' (John 3:20). With all the reasons that modern man gives for not believing in Jesus, could it all come down to simply and tragically hating the Light amid one's darkness? Preferring the darkness over the Light so that one can live whatever kind of life one wants to live?

Special offering this morning is for The Guiding Light Mission, a ministry in downtown Grand Rapids which helps the homeless not only with immediate needs of food and shelter, but also provides opportunities to learn how to break habits of destruction and enter a life of wellness and purpose.

Adult Sunday School will meet this morning following the service.

There will be no Coffee Break Women's Bible Study this week or next. We will plan to meet again on Wednesday, January 6.

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 Eve Candlelight Service will be held this Thursday evening at 7:00. Along with singing and a Christmas message, we will be having a candlelit part of the service. The difference for **that part** of the service will be that it will be held outdoors in front of church. We decided to do it that way for the sake of those who do not yet feel comfortable gathering indoors but would like to be engaged with the Body of Christ to celebrate His birth. The **outdoors** part of the service will begin no sooner than 7:45.

Advanced Notice: Outreach Purpose Group will be meeting on Monday, January 11 at 6:30. One of the things we will be discussing is the \$5000 grant made available to us to help fund a new and creative community outreach idea. As members of the purpose group have been thinking about this, YOU ALL are invited to do the same! Any ideas can be given to purpose group chairperson Tina Leazier.

Church Family: Dave Beach entered into the throne room of God this past Friday morning. Pray for our Lord's comfort for Kay and family. Visitation will be this Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8, with funeral taking place on Wednesday at 1:00—all here at Harvest Church.

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.

From Faith Formation Ministries—At home Faith Formation Tip – The Practice of Hospitality: "...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room available for them." In what ways might you make more space for Jesus in your everyday life? (For more on faith practices from



"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." 1 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	7:00 pm—Meet for prayer here at church

From the Deacons: Offerings received December 13

General Fund	\$ 2,908.00
World Renew	150.00
Guiding Light	75.00

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: Joann Gerke, Peighton Reser

December 27: Marilyn DeJong, Julie Kastanek

January 3: Mary Flohr, Julie Kastanek

January 10: Jessica Kastanek, Peighton Reser

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

Prayer Ministry

Today: Marshann Ludema December 27: Karilynn Ridder

Prayer Family:

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

This week: Daryl and Kay Hatrzler