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# NEW CITY

A Gathered Service of Worship

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DECEMBER 1, 2019 – FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

# WELCOME TO NEW CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



We're delighted that you've joined us this morning for our gathered service of worship. Our community is a collection of people of all ages and professions, from a wide variety of spiritual and social backgrounds. We embrace Jesus' claims to be true and transformational, and the central message of the Bible to be the good news, or "gospel," of a God who created us for Himself and desires us to live fully as we enjoy relationship with Him and with each other.

The Bible's radical message of grace centers on Jesus and creates a *new city* comprised of renewed individuals living not for themselves but for the God who redeems. For this reason, New City Presbyterian Church exists to be a community rooted in truth, real in conversation, and committed to renewing our lives and our city.

As the Senior Pastor of New City, it is my privilege to extend to you an invitation to come be part of the New City Church community and to be astonished, together with us, by the splendor and the grace of God.

Rev. Ryan McVicar

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*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory;  
to all who sin and need forgiveness;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;  
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
to whoever will come – this church opens wide her doors  
and welcomes you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

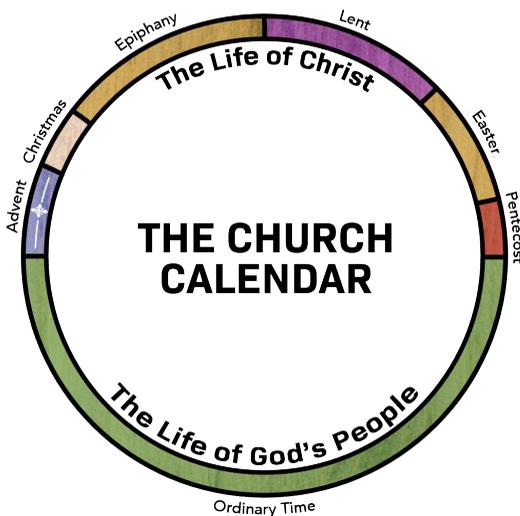
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# ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

## WORD ON WORSHIP

Formed from a Latin word meaning “coming” or “arrival,” Advent is the traditional celebration of the first advent of Jesus in humility and the anxious awaiting of His second advent in glory. This season is a time for remembering and rejoicing, watching and waiting. The whole point of Advent is to spend these four coming weeks in preparation for Christmas instead of celebrating Christmas. It’s about stepping into the shoes of the Israelites, longing and crying out for the Messiah to come. It’s about reflecting on our sin and shortcomings and our need for a Savior. It’s about looking around at our broken world and hoping for the second coming of Jesus. And, once we get to Christmas Day, the celebration of Jesus’ birth becomes that much more spectacular and meaningful.



As we remember and enter this story, the coming of Jesus Christ, we deconstruct and deny the false stories that we find ourselves caught up in, especially those connected to our culture’s concept of Christmas. Instead, we reconstruct and embrace the true story of the gospel in our lives, specifically the focuses and themes of Advent. We recognize the weight of sin personally, corporately and cosmically and why we need Jesus Christ, Immanuel, to dwell among us, restoring and reconciling creation back to the Father by the Spirit. Celebrating the Son of God coming as a gift, not to be served but to serve, we respond out of praise and gratitude, using this season to serve and to give to others.

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## ADVENT READING

A Time For Encouragement

## LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

## PRAYER

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

God always comes to us before we can come to Him. Biblical worship is a response to God's gracious revelation of Himself, calling us to worship.



ALL

## HYMN OF EXPECTANCE

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Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*Rowland Hugh Prichard, Charles Wesley.  
1744, Public Domain  
CCLI #31999*

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus  
Come Thou Long-Expected King*

READER

True worship is biblical worship. Throughout our worship service, we read, pray, and sing the words of Scripture.

## READING FROM THE PROPHETS

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Isaiah 42:1-4

<sup>1</sup> Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

READER

*The Word of the Lord.*

The Prayer of Adoration  
is a praiseful pondering  
of the attributes and  
works of God, intended  
to draw our hearts closer  
to Him, in awe.



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## PRAYER OF ADORATION

## HYMN OF JOY

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation  
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation.  
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,  
But a humble gift of love—Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels  
As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.  
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,  
Cling now to a mother's breast, vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;  
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.  
Gold—a King is born today, incense—God is with us,  
Myrrh—His death will make a way, and by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom;  
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!  
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious mystery!  
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.

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### Joy Has Dawned

*Keith Getty, Stuart Townend.*  
© 2004, Thankyou Music  
CCLI #4408246

The Call To Repentance is an invitation to privately examine and prepare our hearts to confess our sins.

## CALL TO REPENTANCE

From Psalm 99

Today we are thinking of Advent as a "Time for Encouragement."

*As you ponder this season, how have you taken it for granted? How have you become callous to the encouragement therein? Is there any way you are preventing others from being encouraged by the gospel truths of this season? Are you holding back from sharing its comforts?*

ALL

Because of the gospel, our relationship with God is a relationship in which honesty about our sin is welcome and safe. Therefore, with one voice, we are able to openly and sincerely confess our sins to Him.

## CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, this Advent season, as we remember our Lord's incarnation—and as we wait for our Lord's return—we humbly confess our sin. Transform our spiritual complacency into satisfying worship, our anger into unshakable joy, our anxiety into everlasting peace; and our unbelief into flourishing faith. Have mercy upon us, we pray. Amen.

MINISTER

As God's Word assures us of our forgiveness in Christ, we cannot but respond in praise to the grace, mercy, and peace offered to us.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Isaiah 61:10

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness

 ALL

## DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Thomas Ken.  
1551, Public Domain  
CCLI #56204

The word "doxology" comes from a Greek translation of the Old Testament word for worship. We respond to the gospel of God's grace with a burst of praise!

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him, above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Amen.

All we have is given to us by God. Our offerings express this joyful dependance, and our commitment to join God in His work of renewal.

## **GOD'S TITHES & OUR OFFERINGS**

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Announcement Slides  
Musical Offertory

*\* Three through seven-year-olds are welcome to attend Kids' Bible Time during the sermon.  
A parent from each family will be directed to pick up their child(ren) from KBT following the sermon.*

### *MINISTER*

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

The Pastoral Prayer is a time to express our gratitude for—and dependance on—God's provision for the life and ministry of the Church.

In anticipation of the main focal point in our worship service, we lift a prayer to God asking Him to speak to us through His living Word.

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**



# THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

When we hear the Word of God proclaimed and preached, we are listening to the voice of God. The Holy Spirit makes the inspired texts and spoken words the chief means of nourishing and comforting God's people, and awakening others to new faith.

## Luke 21:1-9, 25-36 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, <sup>2</sup> and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. <sup>3</sup> And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. <sup>4</sup> For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

<sup>5</sup> And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, <sup>6</sup> "As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." <sup>7</sup> And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" <sup>8</sup> And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, I am he! and, The time is at hand! Do not go after them. <sup>9</sup> And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."

<sup>25</sup> "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup> people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup> And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup> As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> "But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup> For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

MINISTER  
CONGREGATION

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
But the Word of our God stands forever.

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# A Time For Encouragement

(Notes & Thoughts)

## Sermon Discussion Questions

1. What are some important considerations about the context (i.e. redemptive historical, literary context) that shape the way we interpret and apply these verses? Are there important cross references to consider that assist us in our interpretation or application of these verses?
2. How do these verses teach us something about the character of God?
3. In what ways does this passage expose our sinful hearts and actions? How does it show us our hopelessness left to ourselves and our utter dependence upon the gospel? How does it teach us about human nature or the world we live in?
4. What wisdom can we gain from these verses about how we are to live our lives? Discuss some specific applications for your own life. Do these verses reveal changes that need to be made in your life or areas in which you are not walking in line with the gospel? What does repentance look like for you, even this week?
5. Spend some time praising God for speaking these truths to us and then spend time in prayer for one another to embrace and live out these truths.

\* For parents who have children in Kids' Bible Time, please use this time to pick up your child(ren) from their class.



## HYMN OF RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Tr. John Mason Neale, Bob Kauflin, Steve Cook.  
Ancient, © 2014, Sovereign Grace Praise  
CCLI #7031873*

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

O come, Thou, Dayspring from on high  
And cause Thy light on us to rise  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadow put to flight  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O come, true prophet of the Lord  
And turn the key to heaven's door  
Be Thou our comforter and guide  
And lead us to the Father's side  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall by His word our darkness dispel

O come, our great High Priest, and intercede  
Thy sacrifice, our only plea  
The judgment we no longer fear  
Thy precious blood has brought us near  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Has banished every fear of hell

O Come, Thou King of nations bring  
An end to all our suffering  
Bid every pain and sorrow cease  
And reign now as our Prince of Peace  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come again with us to dwell

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# THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion—also known as the Lord’s Supper—has always been a common, shared, joyous family meal. This meal is for those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ; for those Baptized Christians who trust in His once-for-all sacrificial death upon the cross for their salvation. When we celebrate this feast, we commune with the risen Lord Jesus who stands as our host to offer spiritual nourishment, renewal and life. We also commune with one another, participating together in the reconciling grace of God.

We warmly welcome to the table all who trust in Jesus and who have publicly professed their faith as members of a Christian congregation. At New City, we ask our children not to take communion until they have met with the elders to share of their faith in Christ, although all children are invited to come forward to receive a blessing and a word of encouragement. If you are not a Christian, we encourage you to spend this time reflecting on the prayers below in the hopes that a relationship with Jesus and membership in His Church may be considered.

**Jesus is truly and spiritually present and stands ready to feed you.  
Come hungry. Come thirsty. Come ready to be filled.**

## MINISTER

*This prayer is offered to set apart the bread and the wine as holy, for the purpose of nourishing us spiritually through our communion with Christ*

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

## MINISTER

*As God’s people, we pray the prayer that the Church has corporately prayed ever since Jesus Himself taught it to His disciples.*

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## MINISTER

*The Words of Institution echo Jesus’ words at the Last Supper, now inviting us to partake of the Bread and Wine in remembrance of Him.*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION & BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS FOR PRAYING DURING COMMUNION

### PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH

Lord Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who You are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following You as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of You that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that You promise. Amen.

### PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through You, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank You for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that You have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive You as my Savior. Amen.

### PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

I do not presume to come to Your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in my own goodness, but only in Your righteousness credited to me. I am not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Your table. But You are the same Lord whose manner is always to show mercy. Grant me, O Lord, the grace to commune now with Christ by faith, that I may evermore live in Him and He in me. Amen.



## HYMN AT THE TABLE

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### Behold The Lamb of God

*Andrew Peterson,  
© 2005 New Spring and Gleaning Publishing  
CCLI #4618782*

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away our sin  
Behold the Lamb of God, the life and light of men  
Behold the Lamb of God, who died and rose again  
Behold the Lamb of God who comes to take away our sin

Broken hearts; behold our broken hearts  
Fallen far; we need you  
Behold the sin of man

Son of God, Emmanuel  
Son of man, we praise you  
Behold the Lamb; the hope of man  
Behold the Lamb



## SENDING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Charles Wesley,  
1739 Public Domain  
CCLI # 27738*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Christ is born (Christ is born)  
Glory to the Prince of Peace  
Christ is born (Christ is born)  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Christ is born to redeem his own  
The Savior Christ is born*

### MINISTER

Our gathered worship service concludes with God's blessing; a joyful declaration of God's satisfaction in us through Jesus Christ, and a vow to be in fellowship with us as we scatter.

The benediction occurs in the context of praise, where children are then invited to come forward in joyful celebration of God's grace.

## THE BENEDICTION & CHILDREN'S GATHERING

Christ, by highest Heaven adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time, behold Him come  
Offspring of a virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel

### CHORUS

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Ryan McVicar

Javier Contesse

## WORSHIP MUSICIANS

Adina Crawford

Tobiah Murphy

Joni SayGan

Marcelo Castro

Summer Jeromin

Rene Tsang

Evan Chisholm

## SCRIPTURE READER

Marcelo & Leticia Castro

James Waldecker

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# COMMUNITY LIFE AT NEW CITY



## SUNDAY OPERATIONS MINISTRY TEAM

Sunday operations is the team that serves behind the scenes in order to make Sunday mornings happen. The team is in need of volunteers for coffee and communion preparation, setting up the auditorium and hallway, setting up the nursery and classrooms, and putting up signs. For more information and to sign up, please email Eric Bonner at [eric.bonner@newcitypc.org](mailto:eric.bonner@newcitypc.org).

## ONLINE COMMUNITIES

In an effort to engage more people with the truths of the gospel, to edify both New City members and their networks with encouraging and challenging thoughts, to display the beauty of Christian community life, and through all this invite people to join us in the worship of our Lord, we've been developing new social media strategies to increase our presence with quality content that will surely be a blessing to you and to those you wish to share it with.

This is an invitation to "Like" and "Follow" us on Facebook and Instagram, hoping that these online communities will reflect our spiritual community and become an avenue to reach people that we would not be able to reach otherwise. Connect with us!



[facebook.com/newcitypc](https://facebook.com/newcitypc)



[instagram.com/newcitypc](https://instagram.com/newcitypc)

For an easier scan, cover the QR codes you do not wish to scan.

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# A NEW BUILDING FOR NEW CITY

New City has worshipped in the Royal Oak Middle School Auditorium every single Sunday since January 20th, 2013. From the beginning of our time there, we have recognized this space as a gift from God and a wonderful starting point for the early chapters of New City's unfolding story.

Our 4-year anniversary was in 2016 and the Elders of New City believed the need of the hour was to seek the Lord's wisdom for clarifying the main objectives we would focus on for the next 4 years, taking us into 2020. We called this our 2020 Vision. One thing the Session was convinced would be vital for the future of our church and for the generations to come is a place of permanence for our church family. We were unanimously persuaded that having a building of our own would better serve as a launch pad for the mission of our church. We were open to leasing or purchasing space as long as we had 24/7 permanence and the ability to live out and reflect our values in and through our physical space.

A commercial real estate agent named Chris Nagorski was strongly recommended to us. We began working with Chris and he worked tirelessly for New City searching for land, space and buildings of all sorts. For more than three years we have visited buildings on the market and have asked owners of buildings that are not on the market if they would consider selling or leasing to us. We began expanding our search, even looking a few miles outside of Royal Oak in every direction. Every door was closed. The main reason doors closed were because of the extremely high cost for very little space. Available land was very limited and the construction costs for building something that came anywhere near meeting the needs of our church were several million dollars more than we could reasonably afford.

New City members, officers, staff, small groups and even our friends and family continued to pray. In late Fall of 2018, another building was put up for sale that came to our attention. The building was the longtime home of a once thriving church who in recent years essentially disbanded, began meeting with another church in Berkeley and put their building on the market for \$999,000.

After an initial visit to the building, we were in awe that a church of this size, beauty and location (sitting on 2.5 acres within close proximity to our current worship site – a couple of miles down Woodward where Royal Oak meets Ferndale meets Pleasant Ridge) was available at a price so much lower than other buildings in much worse condition and proximity were selling for. However, there were a few reasons why the Session made a wise decision to wait on moving forward with the property. First of all, our 2018 giving was not as healthy as we would have liked to have seen and we believed we needed to communicate this to the congregation and see how our giving trended in 2019.

Secondly, there were unanswered questions about the cost of some repairs, improvements and what it would take to get the building up to code. We were not comfortable moving forward until we had better answers to these questions. The Session, together with the Finance Committee's input, made a difficult but wise decision to patiently wait and see how the Lord would lead us in 2019 if the building was still even available.

Going into May of 2019, the Session and Finance Committee were greatly encouraged by how our congregation responded with generous and faithful tithing. Our giving increased significantly from 2018. This, combined with some cuts we made to the operating budget, resulted in a healthy financial position. In God's providence, interest rates on bank loans dropped significantly from where they were in the Fall of 2018. City officials reached back out to us to affirm that they would be delighted to have a church occupy the building and that they would work with us to ensure a good transition. In light of these developments, we reached back out to the church only to discover they had already entered into a contract with a developer who was finalizing his plans to either revamp the church into lofts and creative office space or to tear it down to build houses.

Disappointed but still prayerfully trusting the Lord, we requested a meeting with the developer to inquire about leasing the space from him ourselves. He was intrigued by the idea and proposed a lease to purchase agreement. The proposal was very fair considering market conditions but beyond our reach. Essentially, without even considering utilities, the deal was to rent the building for approximately \$200K annually with an option to buy in 5 years at \$1.9M. After developing a better relationship with the developer and sharing the story of our church with him, we asked him to consider leasing only a portion of the building to us for a lower cost, while leasing the rest of the space to other parties.

His response left us floored. He said that he had an overwhelming sense that this building was not his but should belong to New City. This developer happens to live in that very neighborhood and said that after getting to know us, he has no doubt that this building should belong to us and that he would allow us to buy it for \$850K if we could secure financing before his period of due diligence expired in September of 2019. Not only did the developer choose to not make any money from this deal, but he stepped away from a large amount of money to be made on the property.

This past summer, we met with several banks to discuss financing options. For various reasons, banks and credit unions are hesitant to loan money to churches, especially newer churches like ours. Again, in God's providence, through a member of New City we were introduced to the CEO of a local bank who became very excited about New City's story and worked with his team to put together a loan package that far exceeded what other banks were willing to do for us.

Upon this news, the Session decided to formally move forward with the purchase of this property. This necessitated two very important considerations. First of all, we hired a real estate transaction attorney to help us navigate the complexities of this transaction.

Secondly, the Session realized this is still a very large step of faith in which our congregation will need to come together in great unity and generosity to make this transition a fruitful one. Although the timing was such that we had to secure a loan from a bank to move forward with the parameters of the developer's contract, we knew that a financial campaign would be necessary to pay off our loan within the next two years in order to be financially responsible and to invest in the needed building renovations for the future of our church and ministry there.

We will begin our campaign in January of 2020 and will provide more detailed information about what this means for our members in the months to come.

On October 23rd, 2019, we officially signed the papers for the building and received the keys! A new chapter begins as we now have the opportunity in the months to come to gather as a church body to begin beautifying and preparing our new home so that for the centuries to come many will experience the love of Christ through our gospel ministry at 2441 Pincrest Dr. in Ferndale.

We have some work to do in the next few months. Information on these opportunities for service and fellowship at our new building can be found on our events page in the Church Center App. Please also continue in prayer for our transition into our new home and let's rejoice together with glad hearts that the Lord has opened this door.

## **NEW CITY CONTACTS**

To learn more about volunteering opportunities, ways to get plugged into community life, or if you have any questions please contact the following department heads:

### **PASTORAL NEEDS**

Ryan McVicar | [ryan.mcvicar@newcitypc.org](mailto:ryan.mcvicar@newcitypc.org)

### **FAMILY & STUDENT MINISTRY**

Matt Luchenbill | [matt.luchenbill@newcitypc.org](mailto:matt.luchenbill@newcitypc.org)

### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Meredith Sanislo | [meredith.sanislo@newcitypc.org](mailto:meredith.sanislo@newcitypc.org)

### **NURSERY & TODDLERS**

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### **WORSHIP, MEDIA, & COMMUNICATIONS**

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### **SUNDAY OPERATIONS**

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### **EVENTS**

Liz Chisholm | [liz.chisholm@newcitypc.org](mailto:liz.chisholm@newcitypc.org)

### **FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE NEEDS**

Tracy Reynolds | [tracy.reynolds@newcitypc.org](mailto:tracy.reynolds@newcitypc.org)

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Visit our website at:  
**NEWCITYPC.ORG**

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Thank you for being part of our service today. New City church seeks to be a catalyst for a church-planting movement throughout the Detroit region comprised of churches working together to establish worshipping communities who are biblically-faithful, gospel-centric, outward-facing and community-driven.

Our vision is to see renewal take place at every level—personally, spiritually, socially and culturally—renewal that is rooted in the truth of God’s Word.

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CONTACT US AT:

**OFFICE**

301 W. 4th Street, Ste. LL 75

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## SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent is a word that means “coming” or “arrival.” It is a four-week period in which the church remembers the promises of Jesus’ first coming, and looks forward to his promise to come again. Thus, Advent is a season of tension. Christ has come, and yet not all things have reached completion. While we remember Israel’s waiting and hoping and we give thanks for Christ’s birth, we also anticipate his second coming at the end of time. Just as John the Baptist told the Jewish people to “prepare” for the Lord’s coming, we need to encourage each other to be ready for his coming again, when he will fulfill God’s promises. Indeed, the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away.

The Christian Church has observed a Christmas season since the 4th century. There was always a period of preparation before Christmas Day, which varied from between 3 to 7 weeks, and functioned as a penitential season, a time for discipline and intentional repentance in the confident expectation and hope of Christ’s return. In the 10th century the 4-week pattern was finally settled (so we’ve only been doing this for a millennium)! European Christians used greenery and candles to enhance the season, and that practice has caught on in America and around the world in recent years. The Advent wreath itself is a tradition that is centuries old. A candle is lit during and for each week until Christmas Eve when all 5 candles are lit. Three of the candles are purple, which is a penitential color (i.e. a symbol of self-examination and preparation). They remind us that, just as the prophets and John the Baptist called Israel to “get ready for the Lord,” we need to be doing the same thing! The pink candle for the fourth week of Advent signals a transition to the white candle, the “Christ candle,” which is lit on Christmas Eve. This reminds us that it is not all “preparation” – Jesus really came, and will really come again.

At New City, it is our desire that you and your family experience the fullness of life God intended for you in Jesus Christ. This Advent and Christmas season, may we at New City celebrate the “coming” of Jesus together as his body, knowing with full confidence and joy that we will be together in his presence when he comes again.

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## VISITOR INFORMATION

We are very glad to have you as our guest today!

Please give us your information so we can contact you and let you know about the ways you can take steps to deepen your involvement in our church community, find encouragement in your walk with Christ, pursue membership or service opportunities, and more!

Hand this tear-off to one of the Greeters in the Lobby to receive a Welcome Bag with helpful information about New City.

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_



Alternatively, Scan this QR code with your smartphone's camera and tap on the pop-up notification to fill out a contact form and request more information about New City.

**Visit our website at:**  
**NEWCITYPC.ORG**

**I WOULD LIKE PRAYER FOR:**

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## SMALL GROUPS

New City is committed to deep, transformational community life. The backbone of this is found in our New City Groups. These groups of 8-12 adults serve as our primary vehicle for Christian formation, study, prayer, discipleship and mission.

### **Baileys – Royal Oak**

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.  
brigbailey@me.com

### **Bakkers – Troy**

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.  
maris.bakker@newcitypc.org

### **Cairos & Contesses – Warren**

Every other Friday at 6:00 p.m.  
javier.contesse@newcitypc.org

### **Georges – Novi**

1st, 3rd, and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.  
tomgeorge05@gmail.com

### **Holladays – Detroit**

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 p.m.  
meganmholladay@gmail.com

### **Kriegs & Luchenbills – Beverly Hills**

Every other Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
matt.luchenbill@newcitypc.org

### **Ngs – Troy**

1st, 2nd, and 4th Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.  
ngstevenm@gmail.com

### **Smiths – Royal Oak**

Every other Thursday at 6:30 p.m.  
smith.dick@gmail.com

### **Woods & DeLaurelles – Royal Oak/Harrison Twp.**

2nd and 4th Fridays at 6:30 p.m.  
mmdelaruelle@gmail.com

### **Young Professionals – Madison Heights**

Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.  
michkatosan@gmail.com

For addresses, contact information, and more details please visit:

**<http://newcitypc.org/smallgroups>**