

To Our Visitors

We welcome you and hope our worship enables you to draw near to God through Christ Jesus, and that you feel welcome among us. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Prayer needs

Brenda, possible job loss. And for brother, Bernard with health issues
Kay, continued faith, poor prognosis
Maureen, dear friend of Lisa
Jean, friend of Cheri, breast cancer
Justin, discernment re: job location
Pastor Scott McKee, new suffering
All who hate their neighbors, to be restrained.
Shiv for employment in Seattle
Leona, 5th grader, for confidence
Elder Jack E, severe vision problems
Senie E, severe pain in back
Our children who are learning about Jesus at home and in Sunday School.
Our children's Sunday school teachers
Claudine Sordyl's uncle, Richard
Ellen Dorman, low iron, treatment
Cheri's friend, Nancy, in hospice
Elaine's Aunt, age 90, fall

Thank you for your faithful giving.

Giving on July on July 21: \$6,835.72
Giving to date in July: \$19,550.723

Heidelberg Catechism. Q. 34. Why do you call him "our Lord"? **A.** Because—not with gold or silver, but with his precious blood—he has set us free from sin and the tyranny of the devil, and has bought us body and soul to be his very own.

Prayer need

Patty Bodnar, continued breathing problems
Chet Doak, for infection and respiratory improvement
Carolyn Krueger, moved to senior facility
Mike Mathers, deteriorating, Annette for comfort, peace
Bunny, for continued strength
Lance, liver failure, relative of Isles family
Krystal's friend, Lolita, esophageal cancer
Lisa, Pastor's niece, multiple cancers
Pray for strength for caregivers in families of the ill
Pray for our military as they serve in dangerous places
Family (3 members) of Carolyn K, health issues
Johnny, injury in a fall, not doing well, and wife, Betty
Marie, respect in her new job
Emilee for a job, and for several family members' health
Patrick's daughter, Marie, hospitalized, alcoholism
Hester Family, 2 in hospital
For Alan, brother recently committed suicide
Diane, friend of Cheri, fall with injury,
Karen's aunt Rose, age 87, a fall and hip fracture
Kadyjah's family, for peace
Pam's father, Nathan, in pain, for surgery on 7/30

Pray for our elderly in care facilities, for good care, and for adjustment to the changes: Bunny, Mike M, and Carolyn K. If you want to send a card, call the office for addresses.



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

23455 Novi Road
Novi MI 4837
Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire
248-719-7787

Welcome to Worship

August 4, 2024

Gathering Song : O Mighty Cross (page 7)

†Call to Worship (Psalm 95:1,2,6,7)

Pastor: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

People: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Pastor: Come, let us bow down and worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

Unison: For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

† Hymn: God Has Spoken by His Prophets (page 8)

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

†Standing as you are able

First Scripture Readings

Today's Reader: Donna Whiting

Isaiah 64:1-4, 65:17 Responsive

¹Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!

²**As when fire sets twigs ablaze
and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!**

³For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

⁴**Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.**

¹⁷ "See, I will create
new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.

Galatians 1:15-24 Responsive

¹⁵ But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. ¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ **Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother.**

²⁰ **I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.**

²¹ Then I went to Syria and Cilicia. ²² I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they praised God because of me.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Lord's Prayer—2

The Lord's Pray—1

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.

† **Hymn: Hallelujah, What a Savior** (page 9)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: ?

arr: Yuta Sugano

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Second Scripture Readings

Matthew 13:1-17 Responsive

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.

³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed.
⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.
⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.

⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear."
>>>>>

¹⁰ **The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”**

¹¹ He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. ¹² Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables:

**“Though seeing, they do not see;
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.**

¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

**““You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.**

¹⁵ **For this people’s heart has become calloused;**

they hardly hear with their ears,

and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,

hear with their ears,

Understand with their hearts, And turn and I would heal them.

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷ For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Responsive

¹And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ²For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

³ **I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.**

⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ However, as it is written:

>>>>

God Has Spoken by His Prophets

**What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived”—
the things God has prepared for those who love him—**

¹⁰ **these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.**

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

¹² **What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.**

¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. ¹⁵ The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, ¹⁶ for

**“Who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”**

But we have the mind of Christ.

Sermon: The Message of the Cross

Dr. James N. McGuire

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (see insert)

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: The Lord's Prayer (pages 10-11)

Responsive Litany (1 Corinthians 1:4-9)

Pastor: I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.

People: For in him you have been enriched in every way, with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you.

Pastor: Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

People: He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Unison: God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements and Prayers