



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

23455 Novi Road
Novi MI 48375
Pastor: Dr. James N. McGuire
248-719-7787

Welcome to Worship

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Gathering Song: "Wonderful, Merciful Savior" (Page 6)

† Call to Worship (From Psalm 145)

Pastor: The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.

People: The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

Pastor: He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.

People: The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

Unison: My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Cathie Cheslak and Annette Mathers

† Hymn: "This is My Father's World" (Page 7)

**† Invocation
The Lord's Prayer**

† Standing as you are able

First Scripture Readings Jim Lochrie

Genesis 11:27-32, 12:1-8 Responsive

²⁷ This is the account of Terah's family line. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot.

²⁸ **While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, in the land of his birth. ²⁹ Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milkah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milkah and Iskah.**

³⁰ Now Sarai was childless because she was not able to conceive. ³¹ Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there. ³² Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Harran.

¹ **The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."**

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

⁵ **He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.**

⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸ **From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.**

Joshua 24:1-4 Responsive

¹ Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

² **Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.**

³ But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants.

I gave him Isaac, ⁴ and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I assigned the hill country of Seir to Esau, but Jacob and his family went down to Egypt.

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

† 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: "How Great Thou Art" (Pages 8-9)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Faith of Our Fathers"

arr. Linda Johnson

† 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

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 Responsive

¹ For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

² **Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, ³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.**

⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

⁵ **Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. ⁶ Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷ For we live by faith, not by sight.**

⁸ We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

¹⁰ **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.**

Hebrews 11:8-12 Responsive

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

⁹ **By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.**

¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹ And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.

¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Keeping an Eye on the Prize
Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

+ Hymn: "I Love Your Church, O Lord" (Page 10)

Responsive Litany (from Colossians 3)

Pastor: Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

People: Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Pastor: For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Unison: When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Benediction

Announcements & Prayer Requests

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Linda Johnson, Pianist

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning 9:30 - 10:10am

Survey of the New Testament

Teacher - Dr. James N. McGuire

Phone: (248) 444-9487 / Email: jamesnmcguire@yahoo.com

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**2 Timothy 2:15-16**

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.*

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Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Dec. 13: Session Meeting
- ◆ Dec. 13: Ladies Advent Tea
- ◆ Dec. 21: Annual Congregational Meeting

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**Announcements:**

**Treats and cleanup needed for fellowship time.  
Please sign up in the fellowship hall.**

**Due to various reasons, we will not be ordering  
giving envelopes for the 2026 giving year.**

**The Angel Tree has been decorated, thanks to Cheri and Ray Boone.  
For further info on gifts to purchase / what is needed see Brenda Cook.**

**Please join the ladies for an Advent Tea and Christmas Boutique  
at Christ Presbyterian Church on December 13, at 2pm.**

### ***A Note from the Elders***

**Session (your current Elders) voted to recommend that we join the PCA and then, on October 5th, our congregation voted overwhelmingly to petition to join the PCA as a church plant/reboot.**

**Please see the bulletin insert giving notice of Congregation meetings for important updates and formal matters relating to this process.**

**Session still encourages you to review the PCA's website at [www.pcanet.org](http://www.pcanet.org) where you will find a wealth of information on this denomination, as well as the same for their local churches in Detroit, Dearborn, Trenton, Fenton, Brighton, and Ann Arbor.**

**Feel free to contact any of your current Elders with questions:**

**Bruce Terras, Justin Isles, Jack Engebretson  
Ray Boone, Mark Tarpinian, Pastor Jimmy McGuire**

### ***Prayer Needs***

Prayer for **Judy's friend Laurie** for peace and accurate diagnosis

Prayer for **Judy's friend Jimmy** for safe travels and strength

Prayer for healing for **Vincent's grand nephew** in car accident

Continue to pray for your **Session** for God's wisdom and protection in making the transition to the PCA.

Pray for the Lord's guidance, peace, and care for our upcoming **Congregation meetings** to discuss and decide important matters for the future of our church.

Pray for the nomination and election of **new Trustee(s)** to take the helm of important church affairs moving through our transition to the PCA.

Pray that God will bring us a new, wonderful, able, and enthusiastically Scripture-centered **pastor** to shepherd us in the near future.

Pray for **Pastor Jimmy and Lucy** for strength, healing, peace, and guidance in preparing for their retirement.

**Thank you for your faithful giving.**

**November giving last week: \$2,595**

**November giving so far: \$11,475**