

December 14, 2025
3rd Sunday of Advent



St. Timothy Presbyterian Church
16700 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154
734-464-8844
Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm
Friday: 9:30 am to 12:00 pm
email: sttimothy@sttimothypcusa.org

Staff
Pastor - Joel Puntigam
Music Director & Accompanist – Tim Falk
Office Manager – Shelly Walldorff

St. Timothy Mission Statement
Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to: seek God, follow Christ, serve and love our neighbor.

Worship is also available via Live Stream just before 10:30 am or later in the afternoon as a video. Just use this link for both options:
<https://video.sttimothypcusa.org>

Welcome!

PRELUDE

INTROIT “Prepare the Way of the Lord! Lloyd Larson

PASTORAL WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: Joy
Today we light the candle of hope, the candle of peace, and the pink candle- the candle of joy. This candle is also known as the Mary candle. **As we light this candle of joy, we acknowledge our shared Incarnate Joy of Christ within us as we continue our journey of Advent. O Lord, fill us with your wonderful joy!**

(As the Hope, Peace, and Joy candles are lit, let us sing v3 of Advent Song):

***Light the Advent Candle three: Think of heavenly harmony;
Angels singing “Peace on earth” at the blessed Savior’s birth.
Candle, candle burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.***

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.
For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth.

HYMN *Prepare the Way, O Zion* see insert

CALL TO CONFESSION

SILENT CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

As we return to the Lord with joy and gladness, let us sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more because in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE *Gloria Patri* # 623
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. Allelu. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR ILLUMINATION

*Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet, and a Light unto my path.
Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet, and a Light unto my path.*

EPISTLE READING James 5:7-10

A TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN Matt Johnson

SPECIAL MUSIC "Pass the Advent Light"

ARR: Patrick M. Liebergen

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 35:1-10

SERMON Pastor Joel Puntigam
"Gladness and Joy"

HYMN *I Wonder as I Wander* see insert

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostle's Creed
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Doxology

625

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth, giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send Your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to Your children praying, Send us love, Send us pow'r, Send us grace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy 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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please step up to the microphone to make your announcement so everyone (including online guests) can hear what is being said.

HYMN *O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful* see insert

SENDING AND BENEDICTION

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to: seek God, follow Christ, serve and love our neighbor.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!***

POSTLUDE

**Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A,
Volume 1: Advent through Transfiguration*

**Sunday, December 14th
Following Along in Worship**

1. How many Advent candles did we light today? What is the theme of the candle that was lit today?
2. What has been something that you have learned about God during this Advent Season?
3. What was the topic of today's time for All God's Children?
Circle the correct one:
 - a. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!
 - b. Joy, joy, joy!
 - c. How many lights are too many?
4. How can we learn to have joy at Christmas time?
5. In the sermon, Pastor Joel is teaching from Isaiah 35:1-10.
Circle all that are true about God's plans:
 - a. The glory of the Lord will look like:
 - i. Flowers in the wilderness
 - ii. Streams in the desert
 - b. To those with fearful hearts:
 - i. Be strong, do not fear!
 - ii. God will come!
 - iii. God will come to save us all
 - c. When that happens:
 - i. The blind will see
 - ii. The lame will leap up
 - iii. The desert will become a pool
 - d. In Jesus these plans become reality!

Serving in Worship This Morning

Greeter:	Jean Suveg
Ushers:	Mary Baum, Lou Suveg
Advent Candle Readers:	Karen and Greg Kateff
Worship Assistant:	Beth Olko
Keyboard:	Paula Boegner
Technology:	Scott Gaines
Safety Officer:	Chris Korne
Tellers:	TBD
Fellowship Hour:	Taco Bar/Cookie Exchange

Weekly Bible Studies

Afterglow Bible Study – Sunday at 12:00 pm

In Room 17/18. Study will be an after-service sermon recap.

Zoom Bible Study – Tuesday at 1:00 pm

We are beginning a new study on the book of Deuteronomy.

This is the link address to join: <https://study.sttimothypcusa.org>

Zoom Bible Study – On hiatus

This is the link address to join: <https://study.sttimothypcusa.org>

Adult Weekly Bible Study - Thursday –Thursday at 9:30 am

Our study is on the passage that Pastor Joel will be preaching on December 21 – Matthew 1:18-25.



Chancel Flowers



In memory of my beloved dad, Howard.

Kathey Turnbull



The 2025 and 2026 Flower Charts are up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. One date is available for 2025 and many dates are available for 2026.



Birthdays:

December 14

December 19

Anniversaries:

Patty Kreitmeyer

Joan Hixson

No anniversaries this month



It's time for a Christmas Cookie Exchange! Today, Sunday December 14th, bring 2 dozen of your favorite cookies and take 2 dozen home.



Sunday, December 14 – Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, December 23 – Puntigam Open House

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service



Today! Vote on new officers and Pastor Joel's Terms of Call after service.



We have a member who has transportation needs. Please check out the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall if you can help. All the details are listed on the sheet. Thank you!



COC has a craft day in January and they are looking for folks to help. St. Timothy is hosting. Wednesday, January 7 at 10 am. Questions? Please reach out to Mary Baum.



In Isaiah 43:1, God says, "I have called you by name." Please remember to wear your name tag so our visitors know who you are. If you would like a name tag or you misplaced yours, please let the office know.



The Puntigam's invite you to an Open House

When: Tuesday, December 23rd

Time: 4:00 – 9:00

Bring: Your joyous selves – nothing else please!

Address: 11300 Blackburn Livonia, MI 48150



End of year reminders:

- Just a quick reminder to turn in your pledge cards if you haven't already. We'd appreciate having them in by the end of the year, if possible.
- Please note: donations received after Dec 28, 2025, may not be able to be posted until 2026.
- New giving envelopes will be available the first week of December.
- If you haven't paid per capita yet and would like to, the cost is \$37.09 per member.



Join us at 7:00 pm for a candlelight service with communion. Please invite your friends and family! This service will also be streamed and a reminder email will be sent Christmas Eve with the link.



**Our own Cassy Sautter invites you to
Christmas Through Your Eyes –
Holiday 2025**

We are excited to present Christmas Through Your Eyes in celebration of the holiday season! We can't wait to share this year's tunes with you.

Christmas Through Your Eyes will be presented on Friday, December 19th at 8 pm and Saturday, December 20th at 4 pm at the Orchard United Methodist Church (no affiliation).

www.farmingtonchorus.com/content/tickets

Church Weekly Schedule

Sunday 12/14	9:20 AM	Handbell Rehearsal
	9:45 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 AM	Family Worship
		https://video.sttimothypcusa.org
	after worship	Congregational Meeting
	after meeting	Fellowship Hour
	12:00 PM	Afterglow Bible Study
Monday 12/15	6:00 PM	TOPS
Tuesday 12/16	7:30 AM	Prayer and Praise Call
		202-926-1029 - access code 235645
	9:00 AM	STARS
	1:00 PM	Zoom Adult Bible Study
		https://study.sttimothyPCUSA.org
	4:15 PM	Worship
	6:30 PM	Nominating and Personnel
Wednesday 12/17		
	6:30 PM	Strategic Planning
Thursday 12/18	9:30 AM	Thursday morning Bible Study
	5:55/7:00 PM	Handbell/Chancel Choir Rehearsals
Friday 12/19		
Saturday 12/20	8:00 PM	Men's Association Breakfast
Sunday 12/21	9:45 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 AM	Family Worship
		https://video.sttimothypcusa.org
	after meeting	Fellowship Hour
	12:00 PM	Afterglow Bible Study

Upcoming Fellowship Hours

12/21 Choirs

12/28 Faith Ed/Worship

1/4 Faith Circle

1/11 chips/dip/crackers/cheese

A BIG
thank
you


St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Dearborn Heights has sadly closed and is graciously donating several wonderful items to St. Timothy. Be sure to take a look at the new organ and speakers in the music area of the sanctuary! (These items are not set up yet so don't expect Tim to play.) We also received a generous collection of sheet music. In addition, we now have a new cross, communion table, fans, furniture and kitchen supplies. We are truly grateful and deeply blessed.



Dear Operation Good Cheer Donor,

Wow.

That truly is the only word that captures how moved and inspired I am by your incredible generosity. Operation Good Cheer is one of a kind in Michigan—by far the largest gift-giving program for children in foster care—and it continues to shine because of people like you.

This year, thanks to your commitment, we were able to make Christmas wishes come true for **6,243 children and young adults**. *Wow*, indeed.

Because of the wonderful media coverage, we welcomed many new donors this year. If this was your first time participating, we are grateful you joined us, and we hope the experience filled your heart as much as it did ours. To our faithful donors and volunteers—some of whom have been part of this effort longer than I've been alive 😊—*thank you* for your steadfast dedication.

We anticipate serving even more children next year. Our dream is to reach every child in Michigan's foster care system, and with your continued support, that goal feels truly within reach. We know many of you would love to see the children you sponsored opening their gifts. While we can't make that possible, we can assure you that your kindness created countless moments of joy—tears, laughter, and those unforgettable middle-schooler jumps of excitement 😊.

Operation Good Cheer is a year-round labor of love, and we invite you to stay connected with us throughout the year. Follow us on Facebook for updates and photos:
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Operation-Good-Cheer-100064920002874/>

If you haven't seen the pictures from this year yet, take a look—they're guaranteed to make you smile 😊

You are part of something truly special. This Operation, built to bring Good Cheer to children in foster care during the holidays, would simply not be possible without you.

We can't wait to share thank-you notes from the children with you next year! 😊

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! May you continue to live generously, leaving a trail of joy wherever you go.

With deep gratitude,
Emmanuel Boateng
Program Manager
Operation Good Cheer
Child and Family Charities

Prepare the Way, O Zion

*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, fore-told in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

*He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

*Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

I Wonder as I Wander

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor, orn'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*

*When Mary birthed Jesus, twas in a cow's stall,
With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
The promise of ages it then did recall.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause He was the King.*

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor, orn'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*

O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful

*O thou joyful, O thou wonderful Grace revealing Christmas tide!
Jesus came to win us From all sin within us; Glorify the holy Child!*

*O thou joyful, O thou wonderful Love revealing Christmas tide!
Loud hosannas singing And all praises bringing: May Thy love with
us abide!*

*O thou joyful, O thou wonderful Peace revealing Christmas tide!
Darkness disappeareth, God's own light now neareth: Peace and
joy to all abide!*

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