

December 21, 2025  
4th 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@sttimothycusa.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.sttimothycusa.org>

*Welcome!*

PRELUDE

INTROIT

“A Great Light!”

Lloyd Larson

PASTORAL WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Love

Today we light the candle of love, along with the candle of hope, the candle of peace, and the candle of joy. On this last Sunday in Advent, we invite the fruit of love to enter our hearts.

**We remember that love surprises us from the darkness of the womb and the tomb. Love is with us, a saving love that transforms the world.**

May the lighting of this candle remind us that love is not just about words,

**But love is also about action and truth!**

*As the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love candles are lit, the congregation is invited to sing v4 of Advent Song:*

***Light the Advent Candle Four; Think of joy forever more;  
Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn  
Candle, candle burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.***

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

**Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.**

HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

see insert

CALL TO CONFESSION

SILENT CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.**

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world— not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Therefore believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Amen and Alleluia!**

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.***

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 7:10-14

A TIME FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Tina Puntigam

SPECIAL MUSIC “Joseph, Strong and Faithful Man”  
Pepper Choplin

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON Pastor Joel Puntigam  
“The Promise of God Fulfilled”

HYMN *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* 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:

**O Holy God, you bless us with many gifts, you retrieve us from despair and fear, you visit us with surprising proclamations, and you intend for us good things. We thank you for your steadfast love, for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need, reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. 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 *In the Bleak Midwinter* 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 21<sup>st</sup>  
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. The Love of God
  - b. Is pizza the most perfect food ever?
  - c. Christmas Trees: real, or artificial?
4. Why is God's love so amazing?
5. Today Pastor Joel is teaching from Matthew 1:18-25. Circle all that is true about this message:
  - a. The Holy Spirit is so amazing!
  - b. If God can create the world:
    - i. God can also do miracles through people
    - ii. There's nothing God cannot do
  - c. Because Joseph was righteous
    - i. He was vengeful!
    - ii. He took Mary as his wife
  - d. Though it was difficult
    - i. Mary and Joseph did their own thing
    - ii. Did what God asked them to do
  - e. Today, we celebrate God amazing love for us

**Serving in Worship This Morning**

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Greeter:               | Karen Kateff       |
| Ushers:                | Youth              |
| Advent Candle Readers: | Bob & Kimmy Taylor |
| Worship Assistant:     | Lexi Barsch        |
| Keyboard:              | Linda Delezenne    |
| Technology:            | Tina Puntigam      |
| Safety Officer:        | Lou Suveg          |
| Tellers:               | Paula Boegner TBD  |
| Fellowship Hour:       | Choirs             |

**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 doing 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 – See you on January 8**

***Thursday at 9:30 am***

Our study is on the passage that Pastor Joel will be preaching on January 11 – Matthew 1:18-25.



Chancel Flowers



Merry Christmas to St. Timothy!

Lou and Jean Suveg



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:**

No birthdays this week.

**Anniversaries:**

No anniversaries this month



**Tuesday, December 23 – Puntigam Open House**  
**Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service**



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.



**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.

# Church Weekly Schedule

|                 |               |   |
|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Sunday 12/21    | 9:45 AM       | Chancel Choir Rehearsal   |
|                 | 10:30 AM      | Family Worship  |
|                 |               | <a href="https://video.sttimothypcusa.org">https://video.sttimothypcusa.org</a> |
|                 | after meeting | Fellowship Hour   |
|                 | 12:00 PM      | Afterglow Bible Study   |
| Monday 12/22    | 6:00 PM       | TOPS  |
| Tuesday 12/23   | 7:30 AM       | Prayer and Praise Call  |
|                 |               | 202-926-1029 - access code 235645   |
|                 | 9:00 AM       | STARS   |
|                 | 1:00 PM       | Zoom Adult Bible Study  |
|                 |               | <a href="https://study.sttimothyPCUSA.org">https://study.sttimothyPCUSA.org</a> |
|                 | 4:00 PM       | Puntigam Open House   |
| Wednesday 12/24 | All Day       | Christmas Eve - Office Closed   |
|                 | 10:00 AM      | Chanko Family Christmas Party   |
|                 | 7:00 PM       | Christmas Eve Service   |
| Thursday 12/25  | All Day       | Christmas Day - Office Closed   |
| Friday 12/26    | All Day       | Office Closed   |
| Saturday 12/27  |               |   |
| Sunday 12/28    | 9:20 AM       | Handbell Rehearsal  |
|                 | 9:45 AM       | Chancel Choir Rehearsal   |
|                 | 10:30 AM      | Hymn Sing Worship   |
|                 |               | <a href="https://video.sttimothypcusa.org">https://video.sttimothypcusa.org</a> |
|                 | after worship | Fellowship Hour   |

**Upcoming Fellowship Hours**

**12/28 Faith Ed/Worship 1/4 Faith Circle**  
**1/11 chips/dip/crackers/cheese 1/25 Chili**

The Mission /Outreach committee is celebrating the New Year with a party for our Friendship Club friends on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30-6:00. Come join the fun with a dinner, playing bingo and singing with our own music duo, Greg and Mike. There is a sign up in the fellowship hall.



The Puntigam's invite you to an Open House

When: Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

Time: 4:00 ~ 9:00

Bring: Your joyous selves ~ nothing else please!

Address: 11300 Blackburn Livonia, MI 48150



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.

*Keep reading on next page for a special thank you!*



Dear St. Timothy,

Thank you all so much for the box of snacks! I am so grateful for them and you guys as well. The snacks were so good, most of them, I ate already. Sometimes during those late nights of studying I get hungry so I tend to eat some of the snacks. Also, my roommate Wyan had some too, so it definitely went to a good cause. Again, thank you all so much, I am beyond grateful. I hope to see you all soon!

Much love,  
Max

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*O come, O come Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Thou Wisdom on high,  
And order all things, far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,  
Fill all the world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.*

*Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him;  
heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;  
all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing.*

*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.  
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;  
praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glory.*

## In the Bleak Midwinter

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there;  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*