

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK

### SUNDAY • JANUARY 4

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 8:15am      | Worship Service                          |
| 8:15am      | Nursery                                  |
| 9:15am      | Bible Study - Meeting Room               |
| 9:30am      | Worship Service & Livestream             |
| 9:30am      | Engage High School - High School Room    |
| 9:30am      | Radiate Middle School - Gym              |
| 9:30am      | Nursery / Kids Club - Kids Wing          |
| 11:00am     | Worship Service                          |
| 11:00am     | Nursery / Kids Club - Kids Wing          |
| 11:00am     | Bible Study - Meeting Room               |
| 6:30-8:00pm | Engage High School Group - Gym - Door 6* |

### MONDAY • JANUARY 5

|               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 10:00-11:00am | MiniCo - Nursery - Door 4* |
|---------------|----------------------------|

### TUESDAY • JANUARY 6

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 10:00am-2:00pm | Food Pantry Open                            |
| 5:30pm-7:00pm  | Food Pantry Open                            |
| 6:00-7:30pm    | Radiate Middle School Group - Gym - Door 6* |

### WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 7

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 10:00am | Senior Bible Study - Meeting Room - Door 4* |
| 7:00pm  | Worship Team Practice                       |

### THURSDAY • JANUARY 8

### FRIDAY • JANUARY 9 - Office Closed

### SATURDAY • JANUARY 10

### SUNDAY • JANUARY 11

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 8:15am      | Worship Service                          |
| 8:15am      | Nursery                                  |
| 9:15am      | Bible Study - Meeting Room               |
| 9:30am      | Worship Service & Livestream             |
| 9:30am      | Engage High School - High School Room    |
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\*Door numbers refer to the large white numbers on the building's exterior, above each outside door.



13980 Schavey Rd.  
DeWitt, MI 48820

517-669-3430

#### Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs: 8:30am - 4:30pm

#### Sunday Services:

8:15, 9:30, & 11 am

Online: 9:30 am (FB & YouTube)

#### FOLLOW US



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# Prepare the Way



Apart from Jesus, John the Baptist is probably one of the most theologically significant figures in the Gospels. Like Jesus, his birth was marked by angelic proclamation and divine intervention. Although his formative years were lived in obscurity in the desert, his public ministry ended nearly 400 years of prophetic silence. Let's allow John the Baptist to lead us into this new year with Jesus.

MESSAGE: STARTING OFF RIGHT

January 4, 2026

Text: Matthew 3:1-12

Pew Bible: 800-801

# Welcome to Redeemer!

#### CHECK IN

Whether you're online, new, or here all the time, be sure to sign in on a connection card, on the Redeemer app, online, or use the QR code! You can also share prayer requests, ask questions, & more.



Sign up for our weekly eNews! Email us at: [office@dewittredeemer.org](mailto:office@dewittredeemer.org)



**ENGAGE HIGH SCHOOL SKATE** - Sunday, January 25 • 6-8 pm

**MEN'S MINISTRY EVENT** - Thursday, January 29 • 6-7:30 pm

**ROOTED CLASSES** - Tuesdays, February 3 - March 10 • 6-7:30 pm

- The Digital Fast - Led by Pastor Debbie
- Financial Peace University
- Bible Study on James - Led by Cal Long
- Men's Group Bible Study

**HIGH SCHOOL WINTER WEEKEND** - February 13-15

**#BETHECHURCH1000** - Sunday, March 1 • 2:00pm

**KIDS BIBLE CAMP (VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL)** - June 15-18 • Registration opens in April

**HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP** - June 20-25 • Tennessee

**SUMMER FUN NIGHT** - Wednesday, August 13



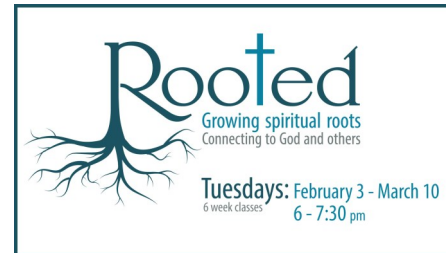
**RAMSEY FPU | SIGN UP NOW!**

- 9 week class starting January 27, 2026
- Tuesdays from 6-7:30 pm
- Location: Here at Redeemer
- Luke Thompson and Cassie Kornexl will teach the Financial Peace University course by Ramsey Solutions
- Registration is now open!
- Learn more online under [EVENTS](#)



**THE DIGITAL FAST | SIGN UP COMING**

- Bid farewell to the endless scroll and hello to mental clarity and spiritual rejuvenation. Join us for a 28-day transformative journey to de-clutter your digital life.
- Message Series: January 18 - February 22
  - Digital Fast Program: February 1-28
  - Activities for the whole family, including kids and teens
  - One devotion for each of the 28 days
  - Small Groups available



**ROOTED | SIGN UP COMING SOON**

- Tuesdays: Feb 3 - Mar 10 | 6-7:30 pm
- Four Classes:
  - The Digital Fast - Led by Pastor Debbie
  - Financial Peace University
  - Bible Study on James - Led by Cal Long
  - Men's Group Bible Study
- Sign up coming soon!
- Learn more online under [EVENTS](#)



**HIGH SCHOOL ICE SKATING**

- Sunday, January 25 | 6-8 pm
- For: HS Students Grades 9-12
- Entry and skate rental fees will be covered by Redeemer, but you're welcome to bring your own skates.
- Bring your friends!
- Learn more online under [EVENTS](#)



**WOMEN'S SHELTER | SIGN UP**

**Friday, January 9**

We need volunteers to join us in serving dinner at the Women's Shelter in Lansing.

**MEN'S SHELTER | SIGN UP NEW!**

**Thursday, January 15 | 5:30 pm**

**We need volunteers** to join us in serving dinner at the new Lansing City Rescue Men's Shelter.

**HELPING HANDS | NO SIGN UP**

**January, 14 | 2-4 pm (Monthly, 2nd Wednesdays)**

All skill levels needed: sewing, stringing bags, cutting, ironing, and more!

**ADVENT HOUSE | SIGN UP**

**Monthly, 3rd Weekend**

Looking for groups to provide 100 Advent House Sack Lunches: purchasing, preparing, and delivering on Saturdays or Sundays.

**Available Months:** June, July, August, September, November, and December

**#BETHECHURCH EVENT CALENDAR**

Find sign-ups & learn more online under [Outreach](#) or on the Redeemer mobile app under sign ups.

**Jan 8 - Ronald McDonald House - Deliver Dinner**  
(please join us by saying a special prayer this day for the kids in the hospital)

**Jan 9 - Women's Shelter - Serve Dinner**

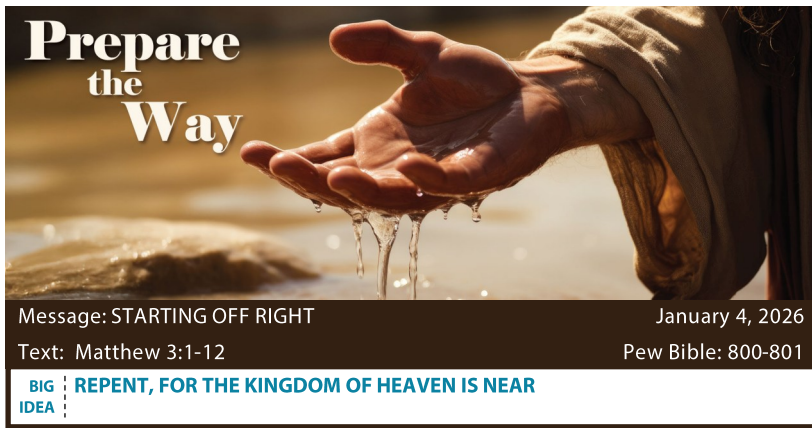
**Jan 14 - Helping Hands**

**Jan 15 - Men's Shelter (NEW EVENT) Serve Dinner**

**Jan 16 - St. Vincent de Paul - Sort Donations**

**Jan 18 - Advent House**

Follow Redeemer Outreach on Facebook to see all the ways your donations and volunteer efforts are sharing the love of Jesus and supporting those facing tough times.



“In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, ‘Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.’ The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said, ‘He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming!’ John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair... For food he ate locusts and wild honey. People from Jerusalem and from all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.”

Matthew 3:1-6

## MY NOTES:

### GETTING STARTED

What was the best part of your Christmas celebration this year?

### REFLECTION/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you like to have John the Baptist as your pastor? How would his dress code be accepted in your church?
2. Why would anyone go out of their way to hear this radical preacher (v.7)? Who did they think he was (2 Kings 1:8)?
3. How would you paraphrase John’s message (v.2) for people today? What is the “kingdom of heaven?”
4. What similarities and differences do you find in John’s ministry and Jesus’ ministry?
5. When has repentance been especially important in your life? Where have you perhaps strayed off the path and want to get back on track as we start 2026?
6. What do “fruits worthy of repentance” look like in your life today?
7. What are the prayer requests on your mind and heart today?

**PRAYER:** Lord God, thank you for the ministry of John the Baptist. He came to prepare the way in the hearts of your people. Help us to hear your message through his words today and apply them to our lives. May we repent of what is needed as we start this new year. May our lives reflect the fruit of your Holy Spirit at work in our hearts. Thank you for this fresh start. In the name of Christ, we pray, Amen.

**GOING DEEPER:** Read Matthew 3:1-12, Mark 1:1-8, and Luke 3:1-20. What similarities and differences do you find in these accounts of John’s mission and ministry? Why is John so important to the story of Jesus? Who has been a John the Baptist in your life? How did he or she prepare you to meet Jesus?