

2021 - 2024



Radiant City Vision

ARISE, SHINE

*Arise, shine; For your light has come!
And the glory of the LORD is risen
upon you. For behold, the darkness
shall cover the earth, And deep
darkness the people; But the LORD
will arise over you, And His glory
will be seen upon you.*

—

ISAIAH 60:1-2 NKJV

Born with a Mandate

Radiant Church was born with a mandate from God to build a praying and worshipping church that would strengthen the body of Christ and reach the world.



Since 1996 we have seen God move miraculously in response to the faith and commitment of His people to this call. There isn't enough space or time to recount all of the divine interventions that have brought us to the place that we find ourselves today — He has made a way where there hasn't been a way in the natural and opened ridiculous doors of opportunity that have been beyond our wildest dreams. Thousands have found a relationship with God, experienced healing in body, soul and spirit, and the Name of the Lord has been amplified greatly.

It would be easy for us to become comfortable and content with all that God has done, yet I believe with all my heart that we are just getting started. In Matthew 9:37, Jesus told His first disciples that “the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray that the Lord of the harvest would send laborers out into the harvest.” This is the scripture that I preached from on our first service, Sunday, September 8, 1996. I believe that sense of urgency that we find in Jesus' words are still reverberating with God's heart for those far away from Him, today as they were then. We have not been called to step back, sit it out or slow down. In fact, I sense the Holy Spirit calling us to step forward, stand up and stretch out in order to reach more people with the message of the gospel, and to see our city, our nation and this generation, become more Radiant.

When Jesus told His disciples to stay awake, it was a command to stay calibrated to the new day of the Kingdom of God, which is the home of every believer. Don't allow your heart to get calibrated to the darkness. Resist it by staying in the light of revelation and the presence of the One we serve. The goal is for you, me, and the rest of God's people to not only stay in the light but understand the full implications of our calling to be the light. The Bible is clear that there would come a time upon the earth in which darkness would reach its zenith and the result would be spiritual pressure and heaviness.

In the prophetic passage of Isaiah 60:1-2 lies a promise. It is a promise as well as a commanding invitation to the people of God to respond and become who we were always meant to be.

I believe that part of what it means to stay awake is awakening to what God is doing, and about to do, in our day. It's stirring ourselves out of the slumber of this fading age. The world is looking for hope, and the Church is meant to be brokers of that message. Darkness does not have the final word—Jesus, the living Word of God, is the first and final word. It's time for each of God's children to open their eyes and rise from the place of fear, comfort, and indifference—to show forth the brightness of the radiance of our King. It's time for us to Be Radiant!

The Radiant City Vision is the strategy that God has given to us for a new season of impact. There are still so many people on God's heart that have not heard. There are thousands and tens of thousands in our own region that deserve to have an encounter with the Living God. It is time for us to rise up, accept the responsibility and shine... I believe as we do this together, we are once again going to see the goodness and miraculous favor of God upon all that we put our hands to.



Pastor Lee



ASKED & ANSWERED

A Radiant Story

AS A CHILD, my family attended a small community church. But as I grew up, I began to hate the religious routine. The enemy started to use religion to discourage my relationship and obedience to Christ. Instead of leaning on Christ and covering myself in His Word, my faith steadily devolved and I was led into a life of weakness and vulnerability.

To fill the void, I filled my life with business. I broke sales records in each of my territories and enjoyed the attached rewards. The achievements I had were absolutely intoxicating. Business was good, so I naturally sought out a religious experience that didn't require any obedience or sacrifice. I only listened to messages that preached that Jesus was great, everybody else is great, and therefore I was great. Everything I allowed into my religious right only reinforced what I wanted to hear.

But I couldn't keep up with the charade. Within years my wife and I were drowning in debt and were living far beyond our needs. Shannon was ready to leave me and I had no idea. Our life was completely empty and unsatisfied. In pure desperation, we finally decided to go check out my brother's church in Troy, MI.

After the first weekend, we were hooked. We decided to attend regularly and join a small group that fall. Through regular attendance, God did miraculous things in our marriage and developed us into willing and committed followers of Christ. I was baptized on August 26, 2010, and that week we prayed the dangerous prayer, "God, do what you want, in and through us."

One year later, without notice, my department closed and I lost my job of twelve years with no savings and triple digit debt. That was not the answer

to prayer I had in mind. Four months later I took a job in New Jersey and we started making progress with our finances. It seemed like God was on our side again, so we decided to start a family.

Biological babies didn't happen. Infant adoption failed. Foster care adoption failed. The movie UP came out- that was horrible.

Over these years we experienced so much loss. No one talks about the discouraging side of foster care adoption. Country music singers won't even sing about it. In our case, we had 4 children close to placement, but they were disrupted. A disrupted adoption feels like you put your hopes and dreams in the road just to watch them get run over by a truck. My heart felt forever damaged.

“ *But despite a hurting heart, I kept showing up.*

Because of that decision, God met me in my pain, and I grew roots that I didn't know I needed. He showed me what was truly important in life, He showed me how to have compassion for those I didn't even notice before, and He showed me a strength that I didn't know I had.

My willingness to keep showing up created a promotion and career transfer to Kalamazoo, where our search for a new church family landed us at Radiant. After multiple attempts to find how I could fit into the church body, Trevor and Laurie Weaver invited me to the prayer partner ministry. I had limited prayer experience, and the position was completely outside of my comfort zone, but I was up for the challenge. Through the prayer ministry, I pushed myself to read the Bible more, learned to better discern the Holy Spirit's nudging, and found new ways to support my decisions with scripture.

“ *Through everything, I have learned that God is constantly asking for us to follow Him. Through daily surrender, in good times and bad, we can follow a path of righteousness and truth.*

My life doesn't look exactly like I planned it to look, but I don't care about that anymore. Instead, I want my life to look like He planned. ■

A History of Faithfulness...

JANUARY 2006

A Word for Pastor Lee from Dr. Lance Wallnau

“This is a house that has been set apart and designated to be on a hill so that others can see and observe the faithfulness of God through you...Build the House that will take the territory! Build the House that will touch the government! Build the House that will speak to professors and the teachers! Build the House that will have musical excellence, and entertainment and value! Build the House that will restore families so that you’ll be a pastor to this city and not just a congregation.”

1997

**Purchased
Richland**

*It all began with no money and
17 people in the Devil’s Den.*

2006

**Prophetic
Word**

JUNE 2012

Prophetic word from Marcus Brecheen

“God has a vision for you, not just for a church but for a city. And God wants to remind you tonight, that He has enough of everything to see that happen. There’s enough people, there’s enough money, there’s enough resources, to reach a city. And that’s exactly what you are going to do. So, hold the line.”

JULY 2014

Prophetic word from Jimmy Evans

“You are a city set on a hill. The foundation laid as a church is a base from which your apostolic anointing and influence can now flow from. God is giving you the city—North, South, East and West as a sphere of authority. This is a strategic time of preparation. There is coming and going, shifting people and positions and responsibilities. It is all strategic leading you towards a new level.”

2006 Chapter 2 Campaign

As our weekend services began hitting max capacity, we built a new sanctuary and Kids spaces.

2012 Prophetic Word

2013 Making Room Campaign

Expanded our Kids spaces to make room for more families.

2014 Prophetic Word

JANUARY 2018

Banning Liebscher

“I want to declare this — There is going to be a revival of prodigals in this church...I just feel like something shifted and I really believe that this is a house...and Pastor Lee and Jane, I really believe there is an anointing on them as a father and a mother to really have an environment where prodigals are going to come home...I believe this, that one of the main markings of what God is going to do in this house...and you’re going to see it...is you’re going to see prodigals start coming home in a pretty profound way. You’re going to begin to hear stories of sons and daughters you haven’t heard from in 5,6, 7 years...Different ones are going to start coming home. I think there is a real anointing on your pastors for this...I believe that God is setting this up. I believe that one of the testimonies that is going to come out of this house around the world is going to be that you are going to ignite in the heart of churches across America in the arena of faith...Ignite faith for the prodigals to come home. That the Spirit of our God is stronger than the “spirit” of our age...I saw it...I saw a knock on the door and something shift with the Father...He said “that’s my boy...he’s home.”

2017
Launched
Portage Campus

*God opened the doors for us to launch
a second campus in Portage.*

2018
Prophetic
Word

JUNE 2019

Tom Lane

“A day of harvest is approaching. It will be a day of bountiful abundance of souls. Those who have been closed and hard to reach will come with open hearts and ears to hear what they have previously been unwilling to receive. Your heart of outreach is connected to the harvest so think big. Think outside these walls. Expand your tent and prepare your mind for those who are to come. Your house will be filled with the joys of new life and the playful energy of the young. Expand your foundation, prepare the place and the systems to accommodate what is coming, for I am assigning you the work of parenting the new birth. When the work becomes tedious and taxing remind yourself that these you are preparing will possess nations and resettle desolate cities. Stand firm and do not give in to the fear of shame because you have thought big and prepared. Your expansion will not go unfilled. Yours are not the dreams of youthfulness or the desires of the unqualified. Your dreams are the projection of faith. Stand firm and I will pour my goodness into and through your willing hearts in the days ahead.”

2019 Purchased Downtown Campus

We were able to pay cash for a space right in the heart of Kalamazoo on the Downtown Mall. This will serve as the prayer and engine room of Radiant Church.

2019 Prophetic Word

The Problem We're Facing

There are more than 260,000 people in Kalamazoo County — it's time for us to recognize our mission field is not "over there," it's right here in our backyard.



How can we see the hurt and need in our city and not make room for those who are still searching? We can't be content that we have a place — we must allow our hearts to be moved to action, just like God's love drove Him to come in pursuit of us. This is our mission field, we can't neglect it. We have to build a radiant city to position ourselves to make an impact on that mission field.

Those called to be missionaries dedicated to reaching the lost — are not JUST those who have given up life in America to move to a third world nation, but each of us are called to be missionaries to the culture and place of influence that we live in. If we were to see ourselves this way and the Church as a mission base to reach our community, it would change the way we approach our life and priorities. The reality is this: North America, per capita, is the 4th largest mission field in the world. China, India, the Middle East and then, US. A growing majority of younger generations are distancing themselves or not identifying themselves with any particular religion. The percentage of people who truly understand the gospel beyond cultural rumors and stereotypes is alarming. It's time for the Church to retool and rethink who we are and what we are called to.

Americans with a Biblical Worldview



10%

Baby Boomers

7%

Gen X

6%

Millennials

4%

Gen Z

Gen Z Faith Segments



Only 9% of U.S. teens ages 13–18 are engaged in the Christian Faith

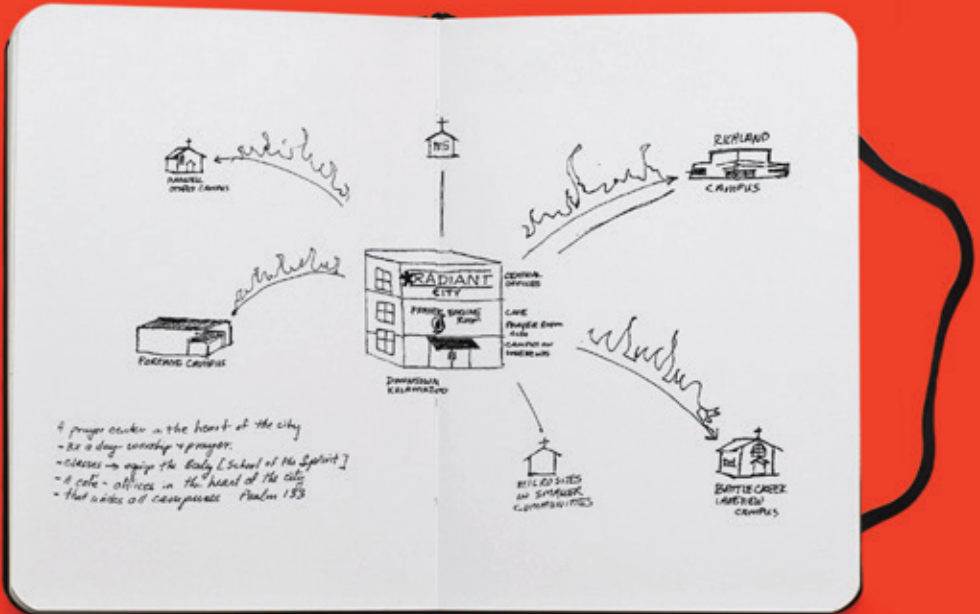
- 9% Engaged Christian
- 33% Churched Christian
- 16% Unchurched Christian
- 7% Other Faith
- 35% No Religious Affiliation

Suicide is the **10th** leading cause of death in Michigan, and the **2nd** leading cause of death for ages 10-34.

In March of 2020, public safety officers responded to 172 domestic violence calls in Kalamazoo, a **26%** increase from March 2019.

We have to make room to reach Kalamazoo!

Our Vision



We cannot accomplish all that God has called us to by the strength of our own hands. Jesus Himself said that some of these strongholds are only overcome with prayer and fasting.

A praying and worshipping Church is a church committed to the First Commandment and the Great Commission. We minister to God first and then go out in the strength of His Spirit. Prayer becomes the nuclear reactor that fuels that mission.

These last few years included things that none of us saw coming. Despite everything that happened, the Lord moved and we saw exponential growth leaving massive open doors for expansion in front of us. We believe that what God has in store for us in the coming years will be exceedingly, abundantly above all that we could imagine or think!

MORGEN'S STORY

Without Fuel, the Fire Dies



WHEN I WAS YOUNG, my family was very involved in church, but by the time I was eight years old it had become an occasional event. I knew God was calling me back, but with no real desire for God left in my household, it was easy to ignore.

In high school I was invited every summer to church camp, and I remember being so on fire for God during those months. But every year when I went back home, the passion would fade and slowly so would the fire I had felt inside. Going home from summer camp meant going back to a cycle of loneliness and depression. I had a hole in my life, and I felt as though no one at home could understand. No one even seemed to care.

The cycle of depression led me into a deep hole where eventually it felt like even God didn't care. If God truly cared about me, how could he allow my own mind to be my own worst enemy?

I struggled with suicidal thoughts daily. I would cry and scream out to God to take me, and I would wake up each morning cursing God for not putting me out of my misery. I became full of anger and resentment, and began to feel disgusted at the thought of Christianity and this God who clearly didn't love me.

“ *But then, God sent a warrior. Disguised as a coworker, God sent the only person in the world who could reach me at that point. After years of isolation, I finally felt cared for by someone.*

This feeling grew even deeper when she introduced me to her family. They talked to me about church and God, and my heart slowly began to soften. I began to feel God reach out to me with so much love! While I could feel His love for me grow stronger, I found it difficult to give any love back. That's when I found Radiant.

After every service I would walk away feeling as though God was speaking right to me, and was asking me to fully open up my heart to Him. After all I had been through, my depression began to lift and I finally knew that my home was in His arms!

Without Radiant and the wisdom that has been poured into me through the Holy Spirit, I would never have found God again, I would never have found the strength to pray to Him again, and I would never have been baptised and ultimately saved by His grace.

Today, I can feel myself growing stronger and closer to God each and every day. I know now the only way I could have gone from someone who was truly sickened by Christianity, to the strong and loving relationship I now have with God, was through Him and Him alone. ■

Project Overview



To accomplish the mandate that God has laid before us, we must invest in expansion. We believe by stewarding and expanding our current facilities, we will be able to make more room for people to encounter God and become radiant disciples of Jesus Christ.

We have prayerfully identified three phases of development that will strategically position us for growth in multiple areas. The total cost calculated by our architectural team, for all three phases, will be 7 million dollars. We're praying and believing that God will provide this amount over the next three years.

Project Costs & Details



MATCHHEAD COFFEE

RSM/RSW CLASSROOMS

“Having all our students in one place has added fresh unity and spiritual power to the schools.”

– Toby Cavanaugh, RSM Director

Phase 1

**DOWNTOWN
COMPLETION**

**FULLY
FUNDED**

- ▶ A staging area for local outreach
- ▶ Downtown Campus (Lobby, egress, etc.)

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- ▶ Renovate Central Office Space
- ▶ Complete Prayer Room
- ▶ Expand Radiant’s community presence
- ▶ State of the art coffee shop on the Kalamazoo Mall — A place to engage in evangelism, fellowship, and discipleship
- ▶ Radiant School of Worship & Radiant School of Ministry classrooms

Phase 2

RICHLAND & PORTAGE OPTIMIZATION

\$2M



RICHLAND

Radiant Kids Space 2.0

- ▶ Create room and hallway features that assist with ministry engagement
- ▶ Revitalize interior surfaces
- ▶ Install increased safety features

COMPLETED PROJECT

Sanctuary 2.0

- ▶ Increase capacity by 100 seats and improve foot traffic layout
- ▶ Revitalize interior surfaces
- ▶ Update audio and visual elements
- ▶ Optimize parking layout for easier access and traffic flow

PORTAGE

- ▶ Create room and hallway features that assist with ministry engagement
- ▶ Revitalize interior surfaces
- ▶ Install increased safety features
- ▶ Build a community engagement centerpiece (playground, etc.)

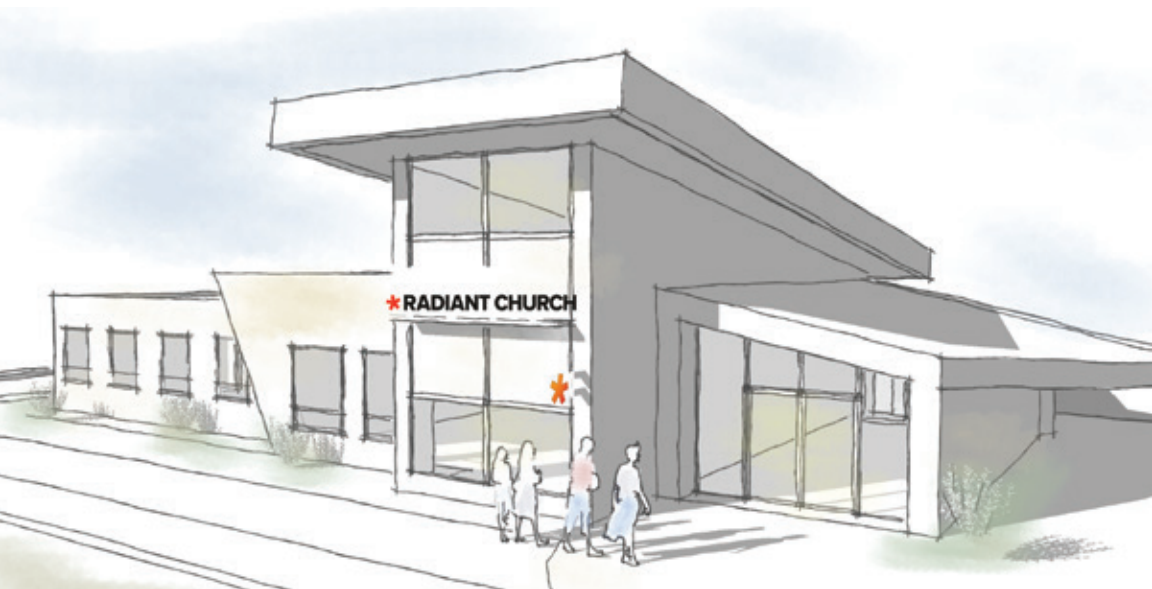
With the new downtown coffee shop and Prayer Room in the heart of the city uniting our campuses, we're praying for a miracle to lead and guide as we add locations in the future.

Phase 3

NEW CAMPUS EXPANSION

\$3M

- ▶ New Build or Big Box Renovation
- ▶ 400–600 Seat Sanctuary
- ▶ Approx. 25,000–30,000 sq ft
- ▶ Approx. \$6M in Total Cost



Project Scope

Why do we think we can raise this kind of money? Because we're not doing it alone.



Proverbs 24:27 says, "Prepare your fields before you build your house." Feeling the direction of the Lord, the first action we took was to do our homework. We hired InJoy, architects, consulted with our elders, and did our most exhaustive audit ever with a nationally reputable accounting firm. We wanted to ensure that the Radiant City Vision we are aspiring to is both good stewardship and a wise business decision.

Total Project Cost

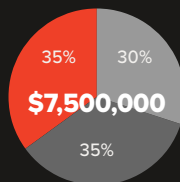
\$7,000,000

Project Timeframe

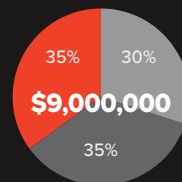
36 Months

Projected Giving over 36 Months

- Core/Emerging Giving Units
- High Capacity Giving Units
- Intermediate Giving Units



MID PROJECTION



HIGH PROJECTION

Help Us Build a Radiant City!

WATCH

- ▶ Watch the Radiant City Vision Documentary Series “New Rain” on YouTube today. This documentary gives texture to the story of Radiant. Through personal experiences and testimonies, New Rain tells the overarching story of God’s faithfulness through the eyes of those who have been a part of Radiant throughout the years.


It’s our hope that as you watch and see God’s miraculous hand at work, that it would inspire, provoke, and create a desire in you to be a part of what God is calling us to next - the Radiant City Vision.

LEARN MORE at radiant.church/newrain

LISTEN FOR GOD’S VOICE

Ask the Lord to connect your heart with what He is doing through Radiant. Listen for Him to give you direction on how He would have you participate in the Radiant City Vision. The Lord is doing a new thing, and we get to be a part of it!

GIVE SACRIFICIALLY

Partner with the Lord by giving to the Radiant City Vision. We each have a role to play, and it may not look the same for each of us. God often uses what may appear insignificant to do the miraculous. No matter the dollar amount you feel led to give, we believe that if you truly give what God has laid on your heart, we will see the fruition of our prayers as Kalamazoo becomes the Radiant City that God designed it to be. 

HOW TO GIVE TO THE RADIANT CITY VISION

1. Give a One-Time Gift

2. Set Up Scheduled Giving

- ▶ Easy, convenient, and accessible anytime. By giving weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly, you're helping us plan and steward your gifts with excellence.



How to Give:

- ▶ Give online via pushpay by scanning the QR code
- ▶ Give in an offering envelope during weekend services and mark "RCV"



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

about previous foundation gifts or intent to give commitments you've made in the past year, visit the FAQ section on radiant.church/radiantcityvision.



RADIANT.CHURCH/RADIANTCITYVISION