



Baldwin Street  
Christian Reformed Church  
CHURCH PROFILE 2026

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## **Part I: Church Information**

Church Name: Baldwin Street Christian Reformed Church

Address: 2101 Baldwin Street  
Jenison, MI 49428

Telephone: 616-457-9440

Website: baldwinstreetcrc.org

Classis: Georgetown

Classical Church Counselor: Rev. Dave Jolman

Search Committee Chair: Mr. Ray VanDam

Contact: baldwinsearch9@gmail.com

### **Community Setting:**

Location: Suburban

Function: Bedroom Community

Growth: Continuous

Population: 17,000 (Jenison)

55,000 (Georgetown Township)

307,000 (Ottawa County)

1.5 million (West Michigan)

### **Paid Staff Positions:**

Full Time: Senior Pastor (open)

Part Time: Pastor of Visitation  
Administrative Secretary  
Custodial Team  
Choir Director  
Accompanists  
Technicians

## Part II: Position Details

Position Available: Lead Pastor, Full-time

Date of Vacancy: July 1, 2025

We are open to: Male Pastors

Bi-vocational Position: No

Required years of ministry experience: Open to all levels of experience

Required Languages: English

Previous Three Persons in this position:

- Rev. Don VanSlyke (2017-2025)
- Rev. Jerry VanGroningen (2001-2016)
- Rev. Jay Pruim (1985-2000)

General position description:

Our congregation is searching for a lead pastor of strong faith, prayer life, and spiritual vitality who can communicate those characteristics effectively through inspiring biblical preaching and empathic pastoral care. He should exhibit personal godliness, humility, integrity, and a passion to reach others for Christ.

Qualifications

- Ordained minister with a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) or equivalent.
- Strong theological knowledge and pastoral experience.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Demonstrated ability to lead and inspire a diverse congregation.
- Experience in staff leadership.
- Commitment to personal spiritual growth and continuous learning.

## Part III: Church Profile and Membership Statistics

Average Sunday Attendance: 160 in person; 75-80 via live stream

Active Adult Professing Members: 218

Membership Statistics:

Age:

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| ➤ 0-18 - 0.5% | ➤ 35-49 - 3%  |
| ➤ 19-24 - 0%  | ➤ 50-64 - 7%  |
| ➤ 25-34 - 0%  | ➤ 65+ - 89.5% |

Occupation:

- |                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| ➤ Business - 10%           | ➤ Retired - 65% |
| ➤ Professional - 10%       | ➤ Student - 0%  |
| ➤ Trades - 15%             | ➤ Nurse - 0%    |
| ➤ Stay-at-home Parent - 0% | ➤ Other - 0%    |
| ➤ Agriculture - 0%         |                 |

Membership Duration (includes regular attendees):

- < 5 years - 5%
- 5-10 years - 15%
- >10 years - 80%

Race/Ethnicity/Composition of Congregation:

Mono-Cultural; White; some diversity in community

## **Part IV: Worship, Leadership, and Church Characteristics**

### **Worship**

#### **Worship Service Details:**

Worship services are held on Sundays at 9:30 AM.

#### **Planning and Structure of the Liturgy/Worship:**

Baldwin Street has many active participants involved in the planning and implementation of our traditional worship services. In conjunction with the pastor, our Administrative Assistant develops a schedule for accompanists, tech people, readers, etc., as well as creates litanies, responsive readings, and/or corporate prayers that support the theme of each week's services. For special services (holidays, observances, commemorations), our Administrative Assistant consults with the pastor, music director, accompanists, and tech people to design meaningful events. Our Worship Committee meets periodically to coordinate all aspects of our services by sharing innovative ideas to help enhance the worship experience.

Worship at Baldwin Street is characterized by the integrated use of spoken word and music. We promote audience participation by means of read alouds, corporate prayer, litanies, or specifically chosen antiphonal music. Our means of worship includes a choir, a men's ensemble, praise teams, and various solo musical performances. We use music in combination with liturgy to create an integrated theme for each service. Instrumentation is blended among organ, grand piano, keyboard, and solo brass instrumentation. We offer our congregants words to the music and litanies on the projection screen as well as in the paper bulletin for each service. Our tech team excels in audio mixing and video transmissions for presentation within the physical sanctuary and by means of live stream online.

## Leadership

### **Council:**

Members: 12

Term Length: 3 years

Meetings: First Monday of each month

Council Subgroups:

Deacons who meet once a month

Elders who meet once a month

Other committees (meet as needed):

Worship, Building and Grounds, Fellowship, Congregational Safety,  
Tech, Finance, Education, Outreach

### **Discipleship:**

Our discipleship practices range from studies with curriculum to interest-based groups. These practices include: Men's and Women's Bible Studies, Cadets, Book Group, and a Women's Ministry Team.

## Church Characteristics

Presently, the focus of our church's ministry is:

- Community exclusively
- Community primarily
- Community & current members/participants equally
- Current members/participants primarily
- Current members/participants exclusively

In our church, the worship service is designed for:

- Designed for unchurched
- Emphasis on unchurched
- Unchurched and believers
- Emphasis on believers
- Designed for believers

In our church, the style of music used in the worship service is:

- Contemporary
- Mostly Contemporary
- Blended
- Mostly Traditional
- Traditional

In our church, leadership is generally provided by:

- Predominantly lay leaders
- Frequently lay leaders
- Lay leaders & pastoral staff share leadership
- Lay leaders function under pastoral staff
- Predominantly pastoral staff

Our church seeks to encourage spiritual growth through:

- No specific ministries
- Ministries for a few groups
- Ministries for selected groups
- Ministries for most groups
- Ministries for all groups

In our church, evangelism strategies and methods are:

- Predominantly unplanned
- Generally unplanned
- Equal emphasis
- Generally planned
- Predominantly planned

Our church is representative of the economic diversity of our community:

- Strongly representative
- Mostly representative
- Moderately representative
- Mildly representative
- Weakly representative

Our church is representative of the ethnic diversity of our community:

- Strongly representative
- Mostly representative
- Moderately representative
- Mildly representative
- Weakly representative

Our church's response to compassion, mercy, and justice needs is:

- Commitment to church-based action
- Encouragement of church-based action
- Church-based and personal action
- Encouragement of personal action
- Commitment to personal action

Our church's missional focus is:

- All local
- Mostly local
- Equally local and global
- Mostly global
- All global

## Part V: Building, Financials, and Compensation

Present annual budget: \$344,518

Last year's annual budget: \$358,869

Percentage of financial obligations met for previous complete year:

Budget: 100%

Denominational Ministry Shares: 100%

Classical Ministry Shares: 100%

Facilities:

Description: Built in early 1960s; several additions; narthex area remodeled in 2022

Are your buildings adequate for your ministries? Yes No

Is a building program projected? Yes No

Does the church own a parsonage? Yes No

Location of office or study: On site (lower bi-level location).

Salary range based on CRC Minister Compensation Survey: Yes No

Average annual increase over the past three years: Cost of Living.

Housing allowance included in salary

Benefits and expenses:

- Pension: Yes, through the denomination.
- Medical insurance: Full premiums paid by the church.
- Life insurance: Basic Life Insurance through the denomination.
- Mileage Allowance: Yes No
- Continuing education fund: Yes No
- Continuing education time: negotiable
- Sabbatical available: negotiable
- Annual vacation time: Yes No

## Part VI: Narrative and Church History

### Our Mission:

Baldwin Street exists to minister to all people as they:

- **GATHER** God's family for worship.
- **GROW** in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- **GO** out in the power of the Holy Spirit to spread the Good News of the gospel to Jenison and the world.

### Our Vision:

We seek to live out our calling to follow Christ in our worship, the way we engage one another in community, in our discipleship of all believers, and through servant leadership. Baldwin Street's worship is an outpouring of love in response to what God has done for us. As a community of believers, our corporate worship transforms our individual lives and strengthens our life together.

Baldwin Street strives to exemplify this dedication in our community, both by deepening relationships inside our church and within the Jenison area. We are a spiritual home where all are encouraged and enabled to take the next step along their path to becoming what God has envisioned for them. Baldwin Street seeks to carry out servant leadership following the example of Christ in the way we organize and collaborate on the work of the church—with our pastors, staff, council, and congregation being accountable to one another.

### Our Strengths/Gifts/Passions as a Church:

Baldwin Street has exemplified compassion and empathy to all who are in need, both locally and globally. We have quickly responded by raising funds or providing needed items for food pantries, Resource Centers, city mission shelters, benevolent support for families experiencing sudden losses of spouses or children, inner-city church congregations in need of repairs or covering heat bills, Between Friends meal support, comfort clothing items for cancer patients, school supplies for needy urban school children, winter coats for children in desperate need, personal care products for those with limited finances, and monetary collections for storm victims, refugees of war, and missionary support. This needs-based generosity is complemented by a strong ethic for regular, consistent budget maintenance; the financial health of Baldwin Street is extremely stable.

The congregation at Baldwin warmly welcomes all visitors, initiates introductions, and encourages return visits. Our guests are invited to enjoy fellowship around our coffee cafe located in our newly redesigned narthex area. This open, well-lighted space is conducive to conversation, communication, and sharing. It is also a quiet place to watch the service live on big screen televisions. For those unable to attend in-person worship, all of our services are live streamed and available any time on our website.

### **Our Participation in Ecumenical Activities:**

Baldwin Street is an extremely welcoming congregation. We have partnered with other CRC congregations and denominations for joint communal services, community activities (i.e. Memorial Day parades, distribution of tract materials at fairs), and community outreach programs. Our Cadet program flourishes within our Jenison community. Boys from all backgrounds and affiliations are invited and become influenced by the servant hearts of our dedicated Cadet leaders.

### **Challenges in Our Church:**

We have all dealt with social changes and technological advancements in recent years. COVID resulted in a shift away from in-person worship, and we have had to find new ways to get our messages and bring fellowship into people's homes. Baldwin Street also has many members whose age and health cause them to remain home-bound. In an effort to confront these challenges, we have been introduced to new and varied ways of long-distance worship and service transmission. This has forced many of us out of our comfort zones and necessitated some new training and "out of the box" thinking. It has caused many of us to refocus our energies and try some new Internet worthy worship strategies. Maybe in the end, not such a bad situation.

### **Our Strengths and Passions:**

Baldwin Street is a welcoming community where guests are quickly greeted. We care deeply for one another and we do our best to meet each other's needs. We value strong preaching and active participation in worship.