



A Reformed PCA Church

Faithful to the Scriptures.

True to the Reformed Faith.

Obedient to the Great Commission.

Lord's Day 49

Second Week of Advent

December 4th, 2022

WELCOME

Grace to you and Peace!

On behalf of the elders, the diaconate, and all the saints: Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Bad Axe!

We are glad that you are with us today to worship our Triune God. This bulletin contains a liturgy which will guide you through our worship service and material for the rest of your week. Please join us after the service for fellowship and snacks. Here's a bit of info about who we are and what we believe:

We are a **Christian Church**. This means we believe in the Holy Trinity – One God, in three persons: the eternal Father, the eternally-begotten Son, and the eternally-proceeding Holy Spirit – thus, we confess the ancient creeds of the Christian Church: The Apostles' Creed, the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, the Chalcedonian Creed, and the Athanasian Creed.

We are a **Protestant Church**. Although Protestants trace their beliefs and practices to the Apostolic Church, we also have historical roots in the Protestant Reformation of the 16th and 17th centuries. As Protestants, we believe that salvation is by God's grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone, as revealed in Scripture alone. (Eph. 2:8–10)

We are a **Reformed Church**. Reformed Churches believe in the doctrinal summaries of the Holy Scriptures that come from the Protestant Reformation. For us, that means we confess the Westminster Standards, comprised at the Westminster Assembly in the 1640's. Thus, our beliefs do not change from year-to-year depending on who our pastor is, but our beliefs about what the Holy Scriptures teach have not changed for nearly 400 years.

We are a **Presbyterian Church**. Presbyterians believe that the biblical, and thus, God-ordained way of governing his Church is through elected and ordained elders (or, "presbyters"). Our elders shepherd the flock of God, protect the Church from false doctrine, and make decisions on her behalf. We also have deacons who take care of the physical needs of the flock of God.

Presbyterian Churches hold the public worship of God and the communion of the saints in high regard. Thus, the **Lord's Day Worship Service** is the most important event of the week. It is during this time that we gather together to hear the Word of God, pray, praise, and receive the Sacrament of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you have any questions, feel free to check out our website and connect with Pastor Scott or one of our elders.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Pastor Scott C. McDermand II

COMMUNITY LIFE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, December 4th

- 9:15 Hymn Sing
9:50 Announcements & Prelude
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:15 Fellowship: Coffee, Tea, & Snacks
11:45 Sunday School
4:30 Hymn Sing
5:00 PM Worship Service

Sunday School – Youth Catechism is held in the classrooms. Our Church History class “The Church in the Modern Age” is held in the Lounge.

Wednesday, December 7th

- 5:00 Prayer Meeting in the Sanctuary
6:00 Christmas Movie in the Lounge

Bulletin Board – We have a bulletin board! On it you will find announcements and sign-up sheets for Sunday Morning Fellowship, Wednesday Nights, & Church Feasts.

Christmas Movie Nights – Join us on Wednesday nights from Advent through Epiphany as we watch your favorite Christmas movies in the Lounge. Movies start on December 7th.

Social Media – Help increase our reach by subscribing, liking, and sharing our YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram pages. It's free advertising.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

General Fund Giving – Total for November: \$. Total amount needed to meet budget for November: \$. Thank you for your generosity!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Church Members in Need of Prayer: Pam Belew, Carol Holtrop, Chuck Lapka, Mary McDonald, Lori McLeod, Ann Thaut, and caretakers; our shut-ins: the

Belews, Lorrain Dutcher, Donna Noble, Bertha McTaggart; for our aging members with various health issues; and for those who have stopped attending public worship, that God would reveal to them the necessity of worship and the communion of the saints.

Our Missionaries: Jim DeWitt (Latin America), Lynn Hacker (Zambia), the Kawachis (France), the Nachtergaeles (Belgium), and the Wilsons (Middle East) as they work for the King and the advancement of the gospel of his kingdom; that we would be missionaries by sharing the gospel and inviting others to our church. That God would give us the words to speak as we interact with our family and friends. That we would not be afraid of sharing the gospel, but always ready to provide a defense for the hope that is within us.

Our Church's Ministries: That the work of the Session, Diaconate, Sunday School program, Family Night, Trustees, and Missions Committee would glorify God, edify the church, and facilitate growth. That our members would want to be involved our church's ministries and that the work of revitalization and reform according to the Word of God and our denominational standards glorifies God and brings about growth and unity in our church. That our members would take their vows seriously and attend church on a regular basis; that we would have better attendance at our PM services and our Wednesday Nights where the means of grace are offered and administered.

Our Country: That the civil magistrate would rule with justice and uphold laws. That they would protect and encourage the good and punish the evil. That the right to gather and worship God would be protected and the civil magistrate would not interfere in matters of faith. That our leaders would come to know Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords. That Christians in the United States would live quiet, godly, and dignified lives.

The Church Universal: That more people would come to faith through the preaching of the gospel. For the Christians throughout the world who are being persecuted: that they would be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ and that their persecutors would be converted through this witness. This month, we pray in particular for the Christians in Somalia where the Church faces extreme violence living under Islamic oppression.

{SILENT MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP}

PRELUDE

"Ode to Joy"

(Ludwig van Beethoven, 1785)

PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER

“Let us not neglect meeting together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

(Hebrews 10:25)

“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!”

(Psalm 72:18–19)

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of the father to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

(Malachi 4:5–6)

“Your wife Elizabeth shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord...And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

(Luke 1:13–17)

“Comfort, comfort my people says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare has ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God...And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it.’”

(Isaiah 40:1 – 3, 5)

THE DIVINE SERVICE

“Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

(The Collect, Second Sunday of Advent)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

*who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory!"*
(Psalm 72:18–19)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

- *GOD'S GREETING: Galatians 1:3–5
*CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 72:1–4, 17–19
*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #101 – Come Thou, Almighty King
*RESPONSIVE READING: From Psalm 72

Minister: *Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the Royal Son!,*

†Congregation: **May people be blessed in him
all nations call him Blessed!**

Minister: *Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.*

†Congregation: **Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory!
Amen and Amen!**

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

READING OF THE LAW: Malachi 4

Minister: *The Word of God is living and active.*

†Congregation: **Sharper than any two-edged sword.**

EXPOSITION OF THE LAW:

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

CORORATE CONFESSION:

Almighty God and most merciful heavenly Father,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent,
for the sake of your eternally-begotten Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: 1 John 1:9; Romans 3:24

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness; we have been justified by his grace as a gift by the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

OUR OFFERINGS

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Ruling Elder, Jim Philp

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.

PRAYER FOR WEEKLY OFFERING:

"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness." (1 Chronicles 16:29)

"God is the owner of all persons and all things, and that we are but stewards of both life and possessions; that God's ownership and our stewardship should be acknowledged; that this acknowledgement should take the form, in part, of giving at least a tithe of our income and other offerings to the work of the Lord through the Church, thus worshipping the Lord with our possessions." (BCO 54-1)

The presentation of offerings as an act of worship, stewardship, and grace, can be given by placing them in the offering plates upon entering or leaving the sanctuary, or by using the church app.

*OFFERING OF PRAISE

"The Doxology"

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above all ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE READING & PREACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON TEXT: Luke 1:5–25

Minister: The grass withers, the flower fades,

†**Congregation: But the Word of our God stands forever!**

SERMON: "Advent: The Promise of John, the Forerunner of the Lord"

SERMON NOTES:

1) What is the Context?

2) What is the Promise?

3) Why Does it Matter?

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

HYMN OF RESPONSE: #197 – Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

"I believe...in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God...who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate."

(The Nicene Creed)

*CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed

LORD'S SUPPER EXPLANATION

COMMUNION HYMN #193 – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

Minister: *Lift up your hearts.*

†Congregation: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

†Congregation: **It is good and right for us to give thanks.**

Minister: *Let us pray to the Lord.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Matthew 26:26–29

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it, broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which poured out for many for the forgiveness of sin. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

*THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*DOXOLOGY:

O Come Messiah, Come Again

*BENEDICTION:

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24, 28

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

5:00 PM CATECHETICAL SERVICE

Prelude

"Hyfrydol"

Prayerfully Consider

"The union which the elect have with Christ is the work of God's free grace, whereby they are spiritually and mystically, yet really and inseparably, joined to Christ as their head and husband; which is done in their effectual calling."

(WLC 66)

"Effectual calling is the work of God's almighty power and grace, whereby (out of his free and special love to his elect, and from nothing in them moving them thereunto) he doth, in his accepted time, invite and draw them to Jesus Christ, by his Word and Spirit; savingly enlightening their minds, renewing and powerfully determining their wills, so as they (although themselves dead in sin) are hereby made willing and able freely to answer his call, and to accept and embrace the grace offered and conveyed therein."

(WLC 67)

"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those

whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

(Romans 8:29–30)

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”

(Ezekiel 36:25–27)

“Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality through the gospel.”

(2 Timothy 1:8–10)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*GREETING: Jude 1:1b–2

*CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 29

*PSALM OF RESPONSE: #64 – God, the Lord, A King Remaineth

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

READING & RESPONSES

OT READING: Ezekiel 36:22–37

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #335 – Come Spirit, Dwell with Me

*CONFESSION OF FAITH: WCF 10.1 – “Of Free Will”

All those whom God hath predestined unto life, and those only,
he is pleased, in his appointed and accepted time,
effectually to call, by his Word and Spirit,
out of that state of sin and death,
in which they are by nature,
to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ;

enlightening their minds, spiritually and savingly,
to understand the things of God;
taking away their heart of stone, giving them a heart of flesh;
renewing their wills, and by his almighty power,
determining them to that which is good,
and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ;
yet so as they come most freely,
being made willing by his grace.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE READING & PREACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD

NT READING: John 6:35–51

SERMON: “Of Effectual Calling: Calling, Regeneration, & Union
with Christ”

1) Calling

2) Regeneration

3) Union with Christ

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #480 – Come, for the Feast Is Spread
PRAYER OF APPLICATION

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

*‘Come, for the feast is spread...come to the Living Bread offered to all.
Come to his house of wine...all that he has is thine; come sinner, come.
Come where the fountain flows, river of life, healing for all thy woes, doubting and
strife. Millions have been supplied, no one was ever denied, come to the crimson tide;
come sinner, come.’*

(Henry Burton)

LORD’S SUPPER EXPLANATION

CONFESSION OF FAITH HYMN: #742 – The Apostles’ Creed (Tune: #196)

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

Minister: *Lift up your hearts.*

†Congregation: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

†Congregation: **It is good and right for us to give thanks.**

Minister: *Let us pray to the Lord.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*BENEDICTION: Hebrews 13:20–21

*“In addition to public worship,
it is the duty of each person in secret,
and of every family in private, to worship God.”*

Gloria Patri

*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. Amen. Amen.*

Confession of Faith Nicene Creed

Catechism: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Old Testament: Proverbs

Epistle Reading: Colossians & Philemon

Prayer of Application

Doxology: *Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above all ye heavenly hosts,*

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING – 5:00 PM

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

(2 Chronicles 7:14)

READING:

Romans 12:9–13

HYMN:

#528 – My Faith Looks up to Thee

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

For the health of: Pam Belew, Sharon Carpenter, Chuck Lapka, Mary McDonald; caretakers in our congregation; various health issues for older members.

For our shut-ins: The Belews, Lorraine Dutcher, Bertha McTaggart, and Donna Noble.

For non-attending members: that God would bring them back to the body of Christ and that they would not forsake the communion of the saints and the public assembling of his people.

For our College & Seminary Students: Alaina Fluegge, Wil Hobkirk, Ashley Kerr, Carlee McLeod, Brennen Winter.

For our Families: that husbands would love their wives as Christ loves the Church and that wives would submit to their husbands as the Church submits to Christ. That parents would raise and train their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. That children would obey their parents.

For our singles: that they would devote themselves to the Lord and to the ministries of the Church. That God would grant marriage to those who desire it.

For our widows/widowers: that the Lord would provide them support and fellowship through the church. That they would devote themselves to Christ and his Kingdom.

Friends and Family Members: Sharon Gisel's sister Virginia Gembarski (Leukemia), Angie Gonzales (chronic pain), Betsy Kish's step-son Andy Kish (health), & brother Jim Ribbens (health), Nicole Patterson, and Bonnie Perry's brother Dar Farnum and her niece, Alyce Theaker.

For all of our ministries: the ability to lead and shepherd for the Elders, strength for Diaconate, wisdom for Trustees, Sunday School attendance, Family Night, Missions Committee, and Marketing. That those who participate in these would be blessed as they work for the glory of God. That these ministries would facilitate growth in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. That God would raise up and send more faithful men to lead and serve our Church. That we would be faithful in obedience to the Holy Scriptures, the Westminster Standards, and the Book of Church Order. That God would bless our Church with more people who desire to glorify God, grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, and serve in the ministries of our Church.

For our worship services: That the Holy Spirit would work through the Ministry of the Word, Sacraments, and prayer for the salvation and preservation of God's people. That through these ordinary means the people of God would be built up in the faith once and for all delivered to the saints. That we would worship God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength for his glory. That Christ crucified would be preached faithfully, week in and week out. That the gospel would go forth and people would be brought into the local body. That God would raise up singers or musicians from our midst who seek to glorify him with their gifts. That our giving would increase and be congruent with the blessings that God blessed us with. That we would properly sanctify the Lord's Day and attend to the means of grace.

OUR COMMUNITY & COUNTRY:

That in our community, we would be faithful witnesses of our Lord Jesus Christ, ready to give a defense of the gospel and the hope that is in us. That we would be lights in a dark place, salt in a flavorless world, a city on a hill. That there would be a need for church planting Reformed Churches in the Thumb. That our local, state, and federal civil magistrates would lead, rule, make and enforce laws according to Scripture; that our state and federal laws would protect rather than allow for the destruction of the unborn.

That the Church in the United States would live according to God's Word and for his glory. That we would "kiss the Son, lest he be angry." For our armed forces, veterans, and law enforcement.

OUR DENOMINATION:

Redeemer Presbyterian, Holland, MI, - Pastor Charles Byrd (Lisa) Pray for the Lord's continued blessing on the church, numerical growth, and an increased joy in knowing our Lord. Pray for the Lord's blessing on our efforts to reach the over-churched in Holland with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for success for a new podcast and social media ministry. Pray the Lord would raise up biblical counselors for the Shepherd's Way of Holland Biblical Counseling Center.

Covenant Presbyterian, Holland MI – Pastor Ken (Laurie) Klett;—

1. For our ongoing preaching and teaching ministry
2. For our need for more musicians for worship services
3. For our church officers for the shepherding ministry and wisdom
4. For a couple of holiday projects we are involved in

Trinity PCA, DeMotte IN - Pastor Stephan (Gabi) Van Eck: Praise the Lord that TE Van Eck has returned to regular duties and the Gabi Van Eck continues to do well.

OUR MISSIONARIES & THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH:

Pray for all of our missionaries: Jim DeWitt (Latin America), Lynn Hacker (Zambia), the Kawachi's (France), the Nachtergaele's (Belgium), the Wilsons (Middle East), our congregation: that we would take our duty as gospel-sharers seriously. That we would understand that we have the ability to influence those around us for the Kingdom of God. That we would invite and bring our family, friends, and neighbors to participate in the many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and learning that our Church offers. As Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." (Jn. 4:34).

For persecuted Christians throughout the world who are suffering because of the Cross. That they would be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ and that their persecutors would be converted through this witness. This month, we pray in particular for the Christians in Burkina Faso who suffer under Islamic oppression.