



Faithful to the Scriptures.

True to the Reformed Faith.

Obedient to the Great Commission.

Lord's Day 2

Epiphany

January 8th, 2023

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. McDermant II

CHURCH LIFE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, January 8th

- 9:15 Hymn Sing
- 9:55 Announcements & Prelude
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:15 Fellowship Meal: Epiphany Feast
- 4:30 Hymn Sing
- 5:00 Catechetical Worship Service

Wednesday Night, January 11th

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

Next Sunday, January 15th

Join us for our public worship service of Word, Sacrament, and prayer in the morning and evening. In the AM service, we will be looking at the infant Jesus' Presentation in the Temple to Simeon the priest. In the PM service, we are considering the effectual calling of elect infants who die in infancy. Be sure to join us before our services for our hymn sings!

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

Newsletter – Please check your mailbox for this month's newsletter.

Birthdays & Anniversaries –

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Church Members in Need of Prayer: Pam Belew, Michelle Green, Chuck Lapka, Julia Mayes, Mary McDonald, Ann Thaut, and those who serve as caretakers; our shut-ins: the Belews, Lorrain Dutcher, Lynn Pangborn, and Donna Noble; 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 where the means of grace are offered and administered as well our Wednesday Nights with prayer, Word, and fellowship.

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 China where the Church faces extreme violence living under communist oppression.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

As the prelude plays, please take this time to quiet your heart and mind, being respectful of others, as you silently consider the passages provided on this page. As the psalmist writes, "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

PRELUDE

"Kings of Orient"

(John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857)

PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER

"O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. Amen."

(The Collect, Epiphany)

"Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar... Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD."

(Isaiah 60:4-6)

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea... behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense, and myrrh."

(Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11)

“For in him all the fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ.”

(Colossians 2:9–11)

THE DIVINE SERVICE

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| *GOD’S GREETING: | Galatians 1:3–5 |
| *CALL TO WORSHIP: | Psalms 72:1–2, 8–11, 15 |
| *HYMN OF RESPONSE: | #203 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing |
| *RESPONSIVE READING: | From Psalm 72 |

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

†Congregation: **May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!**

Minister: *May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render
him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!*

†Congregation: **Long may he live;
may the gold of Sheba be given to him!**

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!**

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

READING OF THE LAW: Matthew 2:1-12

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; Galatians 4:4

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness; when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who are under the law.

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING: “We Three Kings”

OUR OFFERINGS

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.

THE WEEKLY OFFERING:

"And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh." (Matthew 2:11)

"God is the owner of all persons and all things, and we are but stewards of both life and possessions. God's ownership and our stewardship should be acknowledged, in part, by 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, online, 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 2:21

Minister: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON: "Epiphany: The Circumcision of Christ"

SERMON NOTES:

1) The Sign of Circumcision

2) The Circumcision of Christ

3) The Circumcision of Gentiles

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE:

#213 – What Child is This

THE DOXOLOGY & BENEDICTION

*DOXOLOGY:

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”

*BENEDICTION:

Hebrews 13:20-21

*POSTLUDE

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

5:00 PM CATECHETICAL SERVICE

Prelude

"Amazing Grace"

Prayerfully Consider

"Effectual calling is of God's free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man; who is altogether passive therein, until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it."

(WCF 10.2)

"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)

"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out."

(John 6:37)

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.”

(John 6:44)

“No one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

(John 6:65)

“Share in the 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.”

2 Timothy 1:8b-10)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

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|---------------------|------------------------------|
| *GREETING: | Jude 1:1b-2 |
| *CALL TO WORSHIP: | From Psalm 34 |
| *PSALM OF RESPONSE: | #692 – To You, O Lord, I Fly |
| *PRAYER OF ENTRANCE | |

READING & RESPONSES

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| OT READING: | Ezekiel 37 |
| *PSALM OF RESPONSE: | #457 – Come Thou Fount |
| *CONFESSION OF FAITH: | WCF 10.1-2 – “Of Effectual Calling” |

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.

This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone,
not from anyone at all foreseen in man;
who is altogether passive therein,
until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit,
he is thereby enabled to answer this call,
and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it.

THE READING & PREACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD

NT READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

SERMON: "Of Effectual Calling: Effectual Grace"

1) Effectual Calling

2) Effectual Grace

3) Living as Recipients of God's Grace

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE:

#460 – Amazing Grace

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

“By giving and receiving bread and wine according to the appointment of Jesus Christ, his death is shewed forth; and they that worthily communicate feed upon his body and blood, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace; have their union and communion with him confirmed; testify and renew their thankfulness, and engagement to God, and their mutual love and fellowship each with other, as members of the same mystical body.”

(WLC 168)

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

Nicene Creed (p. 846)

EXPLANATION

COMMUNION HYMN:

#429 – “Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured”

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

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 is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 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:

#11 – Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God

*BENEDICTION:

Hebrews 13:20–21

A DAILY LITURGY

FOR PRIVATE & FAMILY WORSHIP

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

(BCO 63-1, "Christian Life in the Home")

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.*

Lord's Prayer

Confession of Faith:

Nicene Creed

Confession of Sin :

Psalm 51

Catechism:

Westminster Shorter Catechism Qs 1–3

Old Testament:

Genesis 1–6

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 1–4

Epistle Reading:

Romans 1–3

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

“The preface of the Lord’s Prayer, which is, ‘Our Father which art in heaven,’ teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.”

(WSC 99)

READING: Ephesians 6

HYMN: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

For the health of: Pam Belew, Michelle Green, Chuck Lapka, Julia Mayes, and Mary McDonald; caretakers in our congregation; various health issues for older members. **For our shut-ins:** The Belews, Lorraine Dutcher, 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:** 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:** Virginia Gembariski (Sharon Gisel's sister; Leukemia), Angie Gonzales (chronic pain), Andy Kish and Jim Ribbens (Betsy Kish's stepson and brother; health), Nicole Patterson, Dar Farnum and Alyce Theaker (Bonnie Perry's brother and niece), Kathy Green and Nancy McLeod (Allan McLeod's sisters).

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, and Missions Committee. 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, law enforcement, nurses, and EMTs.

OUR DENOMINATION:

Good Shepherd, Kalamazoo MI-Pastor Neil (Leandra) Quinn – We rejoice and praise the Lord that we are having more college students attending our Sunday services, and that we have seen a handful come to faith in recent months. Please pray for the Campus Outreach staff at our church as they continue to proclaim the gospel on the campus of Western Michigan University, and please pray for us as a church that we would love these students well by standing firmly upon the truth of the gospel and welcoming them into Christian fellowship. **Heart City, Elkhart IN – Pastor Joel (Jamie) Irvin** – Praise God that: 1) our worship space has many improvements as we celebrate our 2 yr anniversary service Christmas Eve 2) God provided us another new member in December 3) Pastor Joel's chaplaincy continues to bring souls to Christ. Pray: 1) that God rend the heavens and bring Revival in our community and for preparation on our part 2) God raise up new leaders in 2023) Finances for future renovations (sanctuary carpet, kitchen, side porch).

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 China who suffer under communist oppression.