



A Reformed PCA Church

Faithful to the Scriptures.

True to the Reformed Faith.

Obedient to the Great Commission.

Lord's Day 52

First Week of Christmas

December 25th, 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 25th

- 9:15 Hymn Sing
9:50 Announcements & Prelude
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:15 Fellowship: Coffee, Tea, & Donuts

Wednesday, December 28th

- 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.

Epiphany Feast – Join us for our Epiphany Feast after worship on Sunday, January 8th. Ham and Beef Roast provided. Please sign-up for a side dish, drink, or dessert. Sign-up sheet on the...bulletin board.

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 giving for December: \$. Total amount needed to meet budget for December: \$. Thank you for your generosity!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Church Members in Need of Prayer: Pam Belew,, Michelle Green, Chuck Lapka, Mary McDonald,, Ann Thaut, Kirk Winter, and those who serve as caretakers; our shut-ins: the Belews, Lorrain Dutcher, 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 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

"In Dulci Jubilo"

(German Melody, 14th Century)

PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER

"It is the duty of every person to remember the Lord's Day; and to prepare for it before its approach. All worldly business should be so ordered and seasonably laid aside, as that they may not be hindered thereby from sanctifying the Sabbath, as the Holy Scriptures require."

(The Book of Church Order, 48-3: "The Sanctification of the Lord's Day")

"Let all enter the assembly, not irreverently, but in a solemn and appropriate manner...abstaining from private whisperings, conferences, salutations, gazing, sleeping, and other indecent behavior, which may disturb the minister or the people."

(Directory for the Public Worship of God)

"You have made him a little lower than angels and crowned him with glory and honor; you have given him dominion and put all things under his feet."

(Psalm 8:5, 6)

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."

(Philippians 2:5-7)

"Joseph went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child...And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloth and laid him in a manger, since there was no place for them in the inn."

(Luke 2:4-7)

"Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time."

(WSC 27)

THE DIVINE SERVICE

"O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

(The Collect, Fourth Sunday of Advent)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*"O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!"*

(Psalm 8:1)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*GOD'S GREETING: Galatians 1:3–5

*CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 8

*PSALM OF RESPONSE: #208 – O Come, All Ye Faithful

*RESPONSIVE READING: From Psalm 8

Minister: *O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

†Congregation: **When I look at your heavens,
the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars,
what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?**

Minister: *Yet you have made him a little lower than angels,
and crowned him with glory and honor.
You have given him dominion,
You have put all things under his feet.*

†Congregation: **O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

READING OF THE LAW: Philippians 2:1–11

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: #207 – Good Christian Men, Rejoice

OUR OFFERINGS

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Ruling Elder in Training, Chris Fluegge
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:

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:35)

"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 2:1–7

Minister: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON: Christmas: The Incarnation"

SERMON NOTES:

1) The Birth of Jesus

2) What Child is This?

3) The Humiliation of the Incarnation

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

HYMN OF RESPONSE: #162 – Of the Father's Love Begotten

THE CREED OF CHALCEDON (451)

We, then, following the holy fathers,
who all with one consent, teach men to confess
one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood;

Truly God and truly man, of a rational soul and body;
coessential with the Father according to the Godhead,
and consubstantial with us according to the manhood,
in all things like unto us, without sin;

Begotten of the Father before the ages regarding the Godhead,
and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation,
born of the Virgin Mary, the God-bearer,
regarding the manhood;

One and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten,
to be acknowledged in two natures,
without confusion, without change,
without division, without separation;

The distinction of natures, being in no way annulled by the union,
but rather the property of each nature being preserved,
and concurring in one person and one subsistence,
not parted or divided into two persons,
but one and the same Son, and only begotten,
God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ;

As the prophets from the beginning
have declared concerning Him,
and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us,
and the creed of the holy fathers has handed down to us.

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

*"Begotten of the Father before the ages regarding the Godhead,
and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation,
born of the Virgin Mary, the God-bearer, regarding the manhood."*

(Creed of Chalcedon, 5th Century)

*CONFESSION OF FAITH:

The Creed of Chalcedon

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:

Luke 22:26–20

And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

*THE LORD’S SUPPER

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*DOXOLOGY:

O Come Let Us Adore Him

*BENEDICTION:

2 Corinthians 13:14

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

Questions 30–34

Old Testament:

Song of Solomon

Gospel Reading: John

Epistle Reading:

Titus

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 whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer, but the special rule of his direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called, The Lord’s Prayer.”

(WSC 99)

READING:

Matthew 6:7–13

HYMN:

#725 – The Lord's Prayer

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

For the health of: Pam Belew, Michelle Green, Chuck Lapka, Mary McDonald, and Kirk Winter; 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: 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: 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 (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:

First Presbyterian Church, Bad Axe MI—Pastor Scott (Vicki) McDermid-- Please pray for continued reform in our church according to the Word of God and our denominational standards; peace and unity in our church as we make these reforms; continued growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ; strength and wisdom for our leaders; our witness in our community; continued numerical growth; and that God would bring more families to our church. Thank you for your prayers.

Pathway Community Church, Brighton MI— Pastoral Resident Andrew (Vanessa) Chesebro – Praise God for a number of visitors in recent weeks, and for our recently received new members! **Pray** for continued evangelistic efforts in Brighton, and that we would see growth in worship attendance. **Pray** for progress and patience regarding our new building, as we wait for the seller to find a new home for their congregation.

Confex (Mwai) Makhalira—Evangelistic Missionary, MTW – Join us in thanking the Lord for his blessings upon us and our ministry in the past year. Help us pray for continued blessings in the year ahead. Help us pray for the new member's class and deacon training that is starting January.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: LESSONS & CAROLS

Announcements

Prelude:

“The First Noel” (John Stainer, 1833)

The Collect:

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of the Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit, he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Opening: Luke 2:13–14

Carol: #203 – “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Prayer

1st Lesson: Genesis 3:1–15, Scott McDermand

[Reader: *The Word of the Lord*]

[Congregation: ***Thanks be to God!***]

Carol: #196 – “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

2nd Lesson: Isaiah 7:14; 9:6–7, Chris Fluegge

[Reader: *The Word of the Lord*]

[Congregation: ***Thanks be to God!***]

Carol: #194 – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

3rd Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:8–14a, Chris Fluegge

[Reader: *The Word of the Lord*]

[Congregation: ***Thanks be to God!***]

Carol: #218 – “Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

4th Lesson: Luke 1:26–38, Bob Hobkirk

[Reader: *The Word of the Lord*]

[Congregation: ***Thanks be to God!***]

Carol: #201 – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

5th Lesson: Luke 2:1–7, Bob Hobkirk

[Reader: *The Word of the Lord*]

[Congregation: ***Thanks be to God!***]

Carol: #210 – “Silent Night! Holy Night!”

6th Lesson: Luke 2:8–20, Jim Philp

[Reader: *The Word of the Lord*]

[Congregation: ***Thanks be to God!***]

Carol: #214 – “Angels We Have Heard on High”

7th Lesson: Matthew 2:1–12, Jim Philp

[Reader: *The Word of the Lord*]

[Congregation: ***Thanks be to God!***]

Carol: #213 – “What Child is This”

8th Lesson: John 1:1–14, Scott McDermant

[Reader: *The Word of the Lord*]

[Congregation: ***Thanks be to God!***]

Homily: “Christmas Eve: The History of Redemption and the Incarnation”

Carol: #208 – “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Prayer for the Offering

Carol: #195 – “Joy to the World!”

Benediction: Romans 16:20

Postlude: Gloria in Excelsis Deo