



A Reformed PCA Church

Faithful to the Scriptures.

True to the Reformed Faith.

Obedient to the Great Commission.

Lord's Day 51
Fourth Week of Advent
December 18th, 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 11th

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

Wednesday, December 21st

- 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.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day – Join us for Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at 5pm. More importantly, join us for our final Lord's Day worship service of the year featuring God's means of grace: Word, Sacrament, and prayer. Yes, we have church on Christmas, as we do every year, not to mention, it's the Lord's Day!

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

“Antioch”

(George Friedrich Handel, 1742)

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)

"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!"

(Psalm 98:4, 6b)

"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil...Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."

(Hebrews 2:14, 17, 18)

"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins."

(Luke 1:76-77)

"John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus."

(Acts 19:4)

THE DIVINE SERVICE

"Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; 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

*"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
Make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!"*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*GOD'S GREETING: Galatians 1:3–5

*CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 98

*PSALM OF RESPONSE: #195 – Joy to the World! The Lord is
Come

*RESPONSIVE READING: From Psalm 98

Minister: *Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!*

†Congregation: **The LORD has made known his salvation;
He has revealed his righteousness to the nations.**

Minister: *He has remembered his steadfast love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen;
the salvation of our God.*

†Congregation: **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
Make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

READING OF THE LAW: Hebrews 2:14–18

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: #196 – Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

OUR OFFERINGS

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Ruling Elder, Kim Ziel

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:

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves the cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

"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 1:57–80

Minister: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON: "Advent: The Birth of John, the Forerunner"

SERMON NOTES:

1) The Birth of the Forerunner

2) Zechariah's Prophecy

3) The Ministry of John

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

HYMN OF RESPONSE:

Song of Zechariah

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

*"King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful, his own self for heavenly food."*

(Liturgy of St. James, 5th Century)

*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

“Blessed Assurance”

Prayerfully Consider

“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)

“And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”

(Deuteronomy 30:6)

"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)

"Jesus answered him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"

(John 3:3)

"You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God...And this word is the good news that was preached to you."

(1 Peter 1:22, 25b)

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

(Romans 6:4)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*GREETING: Jude 1:1b–2

*CALL TO WORSHIP: From Psalm 104

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #115 – All Creatures of Our God and King

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

READING & RESPONSES

OT READING: Ezekiel 36:22–36

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #334 – Breathe on Me, Breath of God

*CONFESSION OF FAITH: WCF 10.1 – "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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE READING & PREACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD

NT READING: Titus 3:1–11

SERMON: “Of Effectual Calling: Regeneration”

1) What is Regeneration?

2) How Does Regeneration Occur?

3) How are the Regenerate to Live?

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #529 – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

*'The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word:
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.'*

(Samuel J. Stone, "The Church's One Foundation," 1866)

CONFESSION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed (p. 845)

LORD'S SUPPER EXPLANATION

COMMUNION HYMN: #347 – The Church's One Foundation
(1 – 2, 4 – 6)

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 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

Questions 30–33

Old Testament:

Ecclesiastes

Gospel Reading: John

Epistle Reading:

2 Thessalonians

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

“Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.”

(WSC 98)

READING:

Luke 18:9–14

HYMN:

#486 – God, Be Merciful to Me

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: 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, 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, and law enforcement.

OUR DENOMINATION:

Good Shepherd, Valparaiso IN – Pastor Andrew (Jenni) Gretzinger –

Continued prayer for our member attending full time studies at Mid America, that they'd be provided for in every way (financially and spiritually). Prayer for love, strength, and endurance for our pastor, session, and diaconate as they deal with some on-going matters. Also please pray for our first ever Christmas Eve Children's Program.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Traverse City, MI - Pastor Austin (Michelle)

Reed Please pray that as the gospel is proclaimed weekly, the Holy Spirit would draw unbelievers to Himself and encourage and strengthen believers to be faithful.

Rev. Satoshi (& Cally) Kawachi - Please pray for our efforts (1) to minister to the refugees and migrants living on the street in an Italian town across the border, (2) to network with Italian churches in order to establish a partnership for this work in Italy, (3) to raise up more workers for this work, especially for His blessings on David, Rashel & their family as they prepare for MTW missions candidate orientation in March 2023 and (4) that the Red Cross Center be reopened so that these migrants no longer have to live on the street; (5) for Cally's ministry to our neighbors via her ESL/Crafting groups at our home; (6) for our twin daughters' medical studies and their financial needs: Suzi is in her 4th qtr. at a PA program in Tampa, FL and Sophi continues her studies at a DO medical school in Blacksburg, VA. Merci!

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.