


FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BAD AXE

Faithful to the Scriptures.

True to the Reformed Faith.

Obedient to the Great Commission.

Lord's Day 1

January 4th, 2026

Second Sunday of Christmas

WELCOME

Grace to you and Peace!

On behalf of the elders, deacons, and all the saints: Welcome to **First Presbyterian Church of Bad Axe**. We are pleased that you are here with us today to worship our Triune God. This bulletin contains a liturgy which will guide you through our worship services. We invite you to join us after the service for coffee, snacks, and fellowship. Here's a bit of info about who we are and what we believe:

We are a Christian Church: Thus, we believe in the Holy Trinity: One God, in three persons: The Eternal Father, the Eternally-Begotten Son, and the Eternally-Proceeding Holy Spirit. As Christians, we confess the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3) and codified in the ancient creeds of the Christian Church: The Apostles' Creed (2nd century), the Nicene Creed (AD 381), the Definition of Chalcedon (AD 451) and the Athanasian Creed (5th century).

We are a Protestant Church: As Protestants, we trace our beliefs and practices to the Apostolic Church, but we also have foundational roots in the Protestant Reformation of the 16th and 17th centuries. Protestants believe in the authority of the inspired Holy Scriptures over unbiblical Church tradition. We also believe that salvation is by God's *grace alone*, through *faith alone*, in *Christ alone*, for the *glory of God alone* (Eph. 2:8–10).

We are a Reformed Church: Reformed Churches originated from different regions, mostly in Western Europe, during the Protestant Reformation. These churches believe and confess the doctrinal summaries of the Holy Scriptures that arose from that time period. Our tradition comes from the Scottish and English Reformations; thus, we believe and confess the Westminster Standards, written in England during the 1640's.

We are a Presbyterian Church: Presbyterians believe that the biblical form of Church government is through called, trained, tested, elected, and ordained elders. In the Greek New Testament, elders are called *presbyters*, which is where the name "Presbyterian" comes from. Our Teaching Elder preaches and teaches, and our Ruling Elders come alongside of him to shepherd, lead, keep the Church from false doctrine, and make decisions on her behalf. We also have trained, tested, called, elected, and ordained deacons who take care of the material needs of the Church.

Reformed Presbyterian Churches hold the public worship of God in high esteem. Thus, our **Lord's Day Worship Services** are the most important events of the week. During this time, we gather together to hear the Word of God, receive the Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), to pray, to praise, and enjoy Christian fellowship. If you have any questions, feel free to connect with me, or with one of our elders or deacons.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Rev. Scott C. McDermand II

CHURCH LIFE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS SUNDAY: JANUARY 4TH

- 9:55 Announcements & Prelude
- 10:00 Morning Worship: Word, Sacrament, & Prayer**
- 11:15 Fellowship: Coffee, Tea, & Snacks
- 11:45 Sunday School
- 1:00 Courtney Manor Service
- 5:00 Evening Worship: Catechetical Service**

THIS WEEK: JANUARY 4TH– JANUARY 10TH

Theology Thursday: Book Study – We will be discussing chapters 9–13. Charcuterie at 6:30, study begins at 7:00.

Birthdays & Anniversaries –

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FUTURE EVENTS

Epiphany Feast – Our annual Epiphany Feast is after our morning service on Sunday, January 11th. Join as we celebrate the Epiphany of Lord to the nations. Need volunteers to cook the turkey, which is provided by the church. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Men's Breakfast – Saturday, January 18th. Join the men of the church for a hearty breakfast, fellowship, hymns, prayer, and encouragement. Future men are also welcome. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Sign up and show up. Kitchen opens at 8:00, breakfast begins at 9:00.

Annual Congregational Meeting – Our Congregational Meeting will be held after our morning worship service on Sunday, January 25th. There will be fellowship and snacks afterward, but no Sunday School or PM

Service that day. Annual reports and write-ups will be available at the beginning of January prior to the meeting.

Missions Giving – Beginning in 2026, our giving toward missions will now be part of our budget. We will be giving 10% of our 2025 tithing toward foreign and local missions. If you are currently giving additional offerings toward missions, we encourage you to simply factor that into your weekly or monthly giving. We are also looking for several people who are missions-minded and would like to serve in local outreach. Thank you!

Chili Cook-Off – Our annual Chili Cook-Off will be held after our morning worship service on Sunday, February 8th. We need at least 10 chili-makers to enter the Cook-Off and many sides, drinks, and desserts will also be needed! Feel free to use chicken, ground turkey, venison, or duck in place of beef.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH IN NEED OF PRAYER: Ann Armstrong, Mark & Michelle Green, Tom & Julia Mayes, and Lisa Schember; those who serve as caretakers; all who are ill or traveling; long-term care residents: Pam Belew (Courtney Manor), Bertha McTaggart, and Ann Thaut (Meadow Lanes); for those who have ceased attending public worship, that God would reveal to them their sin, and the necessity of worship and fellowship.

OUR MISSIONARIES: Jim DeWitt (Latin America), Lynn Hacker, the Kawachis (France), the Nachtergaeles (Belgium), the Shupes (British Colombia), and the Wilsons (Middle East), as they work as ambassadors of the King for the advancement of the Gospel of his Kingdom; that we would be missionaries by sharing the gospel and inviting people to our church; that God would grant courage and the words to speak as we interact with family and friends; that we would not be ashamed 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, Missions Committee, and of all the saints would glorify God and be Great Commission-focused; that our service would edify the church and facilitate growth; that we would remain vigilant and faithful to the Word of God and our denominational standards; that our Sunday school classrooms would be full; for the peace and purity of our church; that our members would take their public vows seriously and attend church regularly; that our people would attend our PM services where the means of grace are offered; that God would be glorified and we would be sanctified as we worship him.

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; for our local, county, state, and federal civil servants; for the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches; that our leaders in government would come to know Christ: The King of kings and Lord of lords, and that their governance would demonstrate that knowledge; that Christians in the United States would live quiet, godly, and dignified lives; that Christians would direct others to God in the way that we live as salt and light.

THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL: That the Kingdom of God on earth would advance through the preaching of the gospel throughout the world; for Christians who are being persecuted and martyred: that they would be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ and that their persecutors would be converted through this witness. This month we pray for Christians living under communist oppression and persecution in North Korea.

PRELUDE & SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“”

Piano, Briynne McCrea

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share in 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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Collect | Second Sunday of Christmas

“Jospeh, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceive in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

St. Matthew | Matthew 1:20a–23

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth...For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made himself known.

St. John | John 1:14, 16–18

Christ humbled himself in his conception and birth, in that, being from all eternity the Son of God, in the bosom of the Father, he was pleased in the fullness of time to become the son of man, made of a woman of low estate, and to be born of her, with diverse circumstances of more than ordinary abasement.

The Westminster Divines | Westminster Larger Catechism 47

~ THE DIVINE SERVICE ~

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*GOD'S GREETING

Galatians 1:3-5

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Luke 1 &

2

*PSALM OF PRAISE

218 – Angels from the

Realms of Glory

*RESPONSORIAL

from Luke 1 &

Psalms 124:5

Minister: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people;

†Congregation: **and has raised a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,**

Minister: that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;

†Congregation: **to show his mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant;
the oath that he swore to our father Abraham,**

Minister: to give the knowledge of salvation to his people,
because of the tender mercy of our God,

†Congregation: **whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high,
to give light to those who sit in darkness,
to guide our feet in the way of peace.**

Minister: Our help is in the Name of the LORD!

†Congregation: **Who made heaven and earth!**

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

READING OF THE LAW

Luke

2:8–21

Minister: The Word of God is living and active.

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

EXPOSITION OF THE LAW

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION

Almighty and ever-blessed God,

We come before you with humbled hearts,
acknowledging that we have sinned against your holy law.

You are the God of our salvation,
and you have visited and redeemed your people,
and raised up a horn of salvation for us in Jesus Christ,
the sunrise from on high who gives light to those in darkness
and guide our feet in the way of peace,

We confess, that although we have heard the good news,
“Glory to God in the highest,
and peace on earth among those whom he is pleased,”
our lives often reflect fear, anger, pride, and self-reliance,
rather than peace, love, trust, and obedience.

Have mercy on us, forgive our many sins,
and by your Holy Spirit turn our hearts again to your Son,
that like the shepherds, we might glorify and praise you,
for all we have heard and seen in him,

our only Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 John 1:9; Luke

1:68, 78

*HYMN OF ASSURANCE

211 – God Rest You Merry,

Gentlemen

OUR OFFERINGS

It belongs to those in the office of elder...to watch diligently over the flock committed to his charge, that no corruption of morals enter therein...They should pray with and for the people, being careful and diligent in seeking the fruit of the preached Word among the flock.

Book of Discipline | BCO 8-3

The Holy Scriptures teach that 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 acknowledgment 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 Church of Jesus Christ, thus worshipping the Lord with our possessions.¹

Book of Worship | BCO 54-1

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ruling Elder,

Mr. 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.

¹ Offerings can be placed in the offering plates in the back of the sanctuary, given online, or by using the "Church App" on your mobile device.

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

2 Corinthians

8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

*THE OFFERING OF PRAISE

O Come, Let Us Adore

Him

THE SERMON

It is required of those that hear the Word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate upon, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.

The Westminster Divines | WLC 160

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON TEXT

1 John

1:1–2:6

Minister: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

SERMON

Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany with John:

Christmas 3

The Incarnation: Its Reality,

Reason, & Result

SERMON NOTES

THE REALITY OF THE INCARNATION

THE REASON FOR THE INCARNATION

THE RESULT OF THE INCARNATION

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

213 – *What Child Is*

This

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

CONFESSION OF FAITH

DEFINITION OF CHALCEDON (AD 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;
co-essential with the Father according to the Godhead,
and consubstantial with us according to the manhood;
in all things like unto us, yet 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 acknowledge in two natures,
without confusion, without change,
without division, without separation;

the distinction of the 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 as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us,
and the creed of the holy fathers has handed down to us.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

LORD'S SUPPER PREFACE

COMMUNION HYMN

193 – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep

Silence

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Sursum Corda (3rd

Cent.)

Minister: Peace be with you.

†Congregation: **And also, with you!**

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.

*THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

DOXOLOGY & BENEDICTION

*DOXOLOGY

203 – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(1, 2)

*BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians

13:14

*POSTLUDE

EVENING WORSHIP: **CATECHETICAL SERVICE (5:00 PM)**

PRELUDE

"Stricken, Smitten, & Afflicted"
Sterben

O Mein Jesu, Ich Muss

Paderborn (1850)

PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER

God was pleased to give to the people of Israel, as a Church under age, ceremonial laws, containing several typical ordinances, partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, his graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits; and partly holding forth diverse instructions of moral duties. All which ceremonial laws are now abrogated under the New Testament. To them also, as a body politic, he gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the State of that people, not obliging any other, now, further than the general equity thereof may require.

The Westminster Divines | WCF 19.3–4, "Of the Law of God"

The moral doth forever bind all, as well as justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof; and that not only in regard of the matter contained in it, but also in respect of the authority of God the Creator who gave it. Neither doth Christ in the gospel any way dissolve, but much strengthen this obligation.

The Westminster Divines | WCF 19.5, "Of the Law of God"

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment, he was taken away...And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

The Holy Prophet Isaiah | Isaiah 53:7–9

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

St. Paul | 2 Corinthians 5:21

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*GREETING

1 Peter

1:1b–2

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 107:1–9,

15

*PSALM OF PRAISE

4 – All Praise to God, Who

Reigns Above

*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

READING & RESPONSES

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah

52:13–53:12

CONFESSIONAL STATEMENT

WCF 19.3–5 – Of the Law of

God

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as a Church under age, ceremonial laws,
containing several typical ordinances,
partly of worship, prefiguring Christ,
his graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits;
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he gave sundry judicial laws,
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further than the general equity thereof may require.

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as well as justified persons as others,
to the obedience thereof;
and that not only in regard of the matter contained in it,
but also, in respect of the authority of God the Creator who gave it.
Neither doth Christ in the gospel any way dissolve,
but much strengthen this obligation.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

257 – Stricken, Smitten, and

Afflicted

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE READING & PREACHING OF THE WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew

4:1–11

SERMON

Of the Law of God: Three Kinds of

Laws

SERMON NOTES

THE CEREMONIAL LAWS OF THE OLD COVENANT

THE JUDICIAL/CIVIL LAWS OF OLD COVENANT ISRAEL

THE MORAL LAW

THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST & THE LAWS

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE & THE LAWS OF GOD

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*PSALM OF APPLICATION

558 – That Man is Blest, Who Fearing

God

THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

CONFESSION OF FAITH

845 – Apostles'

Creed

LORD'S SUPPER PREFACE

COMMUNION HYMN

246 – *Man of*

Sorrows

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Sursum

Corda

Minister: Peace be with you.

†Congregation: **And also, with you.**

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

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THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

*DOXOLOGY

11 – Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God

(1, 2)

*BENEDICTION

Hebrews

13:20–21

EXTENDED PRAYER LIST

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstance;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

(1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

For the health of: Ann Armstrong (cancer), Mark (recovering at home from back surgery) & Michelle (caretaking) Green, Tom & Julia Mayes (constant pain and a recent fall), and Lisa Schember; for all those who serve as caretakers in our congregation; for those who are ill; and for those who are traveling. **For those living in long-term care facilities:** Pam Belew (Courtney Manor), Bertha McTaggart and Ann Thaut (Meadow Lanes); that our shut-in ministry would be fruitful and that our members would participate. **For non-attending members:** that God would reveal to them their sin and grant them an understanding of the necessity of public worship and the means of grace; that by his Spirit, he would bring them back to the body of Christ so that they would not forsake the communion of the saints and the public worship on the Lord’s Day for his glory and their edification. **For Visitors:** That God would continue to bring in families, couples, and individuals who seek to glorify him, learn the Christian Faith, and come to a Reformed understanding of Scripture. Praise for recent visitors and that they would consider membership here in our local body of Christ. **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 take seriously their duty to raise and train their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. That fathers would bring their families to Church. That parents would bring their children to Sunday School every Lord’s Day. That children would obey their parents and show respect to authorities in the home, church, and society. **For our singles and divorced:** that they would devote themselves to the Lord and to the ministries of the Church; and that God would grant marriage to those who desire it. **For our widows:** that the Lord would provide support and fellowship through the church; that they would devote themselves to Christ and serve His body. **For our College Students:** Regan Hobkirk and Hailee McLeod; that they would glorify God in their studies; that they would attend a local church on the Lord’s Day; and that God would grant them vocational clarity. **For Family Members & Friends of our Church:** for the physical and spiritual health of: Amanda Armstrong (Ann’s niece: cancer); Linda Dumaw (Bonnie Perry, Judy Stokan, and Sharon Carpenter’s friend); Tom Fata (Annette Knapp’s brother: colon cancer); Virginia Gembariski (Sharon Gisel’s sister: Leukemia); Libby Hill and Nancy McLeod (Allan McLeod’s aunt and sister-

in-law); Marge Mauer (Bonnie Perry's friend: stroke, surgery); Nicole Patterson (Gina's daughter: seizures); Cecil Shuart (friend of the McLeod's); Bob Ziel (Kim's father: Courtney Manor, various health concerns); Anita (Kristin Smith's mother: recovery from heart surgery). **For all of our ministries:** for faithfulness in our ordained officers, the ability to lead and shepherd for the Elders, strength and energy for the Diaconate as they take on numerous projects, wisdom and a view of the Great Commission for Trustees, for our Sunday School program: attendance (especially for children's catechism), Sunday School teachers, for those who serve in the Missions Committee; for a stronger local outreach; and for our men's and women's ministry's that they would be a blessing to us and to others. That those who participate in these would be blessed as they humbly serve for the glory of God. That these ministries would facilitate growth in the grace and knowledge Christ and be fruitful. That God would raise up and send more faithful men to lead and serve. 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 families, couples, and individuals who desire to glorify God, grow in Christ, and serve in our Church's ministries. **For our worship services:** That the Holy Spirit would work through the Ministry of the Word, Sacraments, and prayer for the salvation, sanctification, and preservation of God's people. That through these ordinary means, we 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. That Christ and him crucified would be preached faithfully, week in and week out. That the gospel would go forth and people would be brought into this local body. That God would send or raise up more musicians and singers to serve him with their gifts, especially a second pianist so that our pianist would be able to receive days of rest. 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. That our members would have a higher view of the Lord's Day and the worship services, and this would be evident in the fruit of their attendance of our morning and evening services. **For our sanctuary improvement project:** That God would provide the means and the labor for our pews to be reupholstered and re-painted, for the sanctuary to be re-painted, and for new carpet/flooring; that those who are able, would give towards this project as we anticipate our 150th year anniversary as a church.

OUR PRESBYTERY:

Good Shepherd, Valparaiso IN – Pastor Andrew (Jenni) Gretzinger - Prayer for a lasting impact on our community and faithful discipleship of members and

congregation. Continue praying for the men of the congregation to be strengthened and built up, to lead their families, and to serve our church. May we glorify our Lord and stand steadfast on His word. **Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Traverse City, MI - Pastor Austin (Michelle) Reed** Praise God for the many blessings He has given to Redeemer. Please pray for the continued preaching and teaching of the gospel that believers in Jesus would be encouraged and strengthened in faith and those who do not yet believe would be drawn to Jesus. **Rev. Satoshi (& Cally) Kawachi** - Please pray (1) for our efforts to reach out to local communities in various ways including Cally's art workshops for neighbors and new migrants at our place; (2) for an Iranian MBB theology student whom Satoshi mentors and with whom we are seeking His guidance & wisdom, re. a Farsi speaking Church Plant project in town along with other Farsi-speaking MBB's as well as a potential CP project in Yerevan, Armenia; (3) for His blessings on our Church Planting project for the refugees and migrants, led by our teammates, Pastor David & Rashel and their children in their city in Southern Europe, along with our team's national partners, Alejandro & Victoria and their children. The latter is urgently in need of legal documents and other financial needs. In addition, for our new teammate, James M's (Knox PCA--Harrison Township, MI) partnership development in the US; (4) for his blessings on our Brazilian co-workers, Pastor José & Marli's CP project for the locals on the other side of the border; (5) for our twin daughters, age 27, Suzi, a Dermatology PA, who is seeking a PA job after being laid off on 12/1, due to her office's financial slow down and Sophi, a 4th year D.O. Med school student in Danville, VA, who is on an Ob/Gyn Audition Rotation in Vineland, NJ, 12/15-1/11 and for her 17 residency job interviews through February 5, 2026; (6) for the spiritual welfare of Cally's bedridden 96-year-old mother in Northern Virginia, as well as, for His intervention & provisions so that she can receive the best care possible.

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. (1 Peter 3:15) 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; for wisdom, provision, and buy-in regarding the starting a Christian School. 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 all of our leaders would bend the knee to Christ and his Rule. For the protection of our armed forces, veterans, law enforcement, doctors, nurses, EMTs and all others serving

in dangerous vocations, domestically and abroad. **That the Church in the United States** would live according to God's Word and for his glory. That Christians would live quiet, godly, and dignified lives, setting an example for non-believers and bringing glory to God. That our lives and good works would bring God glory and direct others to him and his kingdom. That we would lose influence and the ability to witness because of hypocrisy in the church. That we would all "kiss the Son, lest he be angry." (Psalm 2) That God would raise up leaders who seek to bring him glory as they serve on behalf of the community, county, state, and federal levels. For the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches in our country. For the Church's protection from government overreach and that the right to gather and worship would be protected regardless of the circumstances. That the Church in the United States would grow and thrive from a robust preaching of the Gospel and the whole counsel of God. That God would remove dead branches from the true church as well as false churches who teach things contrary to the Word of God or preach a false gospel. That he would be glorified in all of this.

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), and the Wilsons (Middle East), and the Shupes (Canada). This month, we pray in particular for the Nachtergaele's in Belgium. For our congregation: that we would be missionaries in our own contexts by inviting and bringing 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." That our new Missions budget would be a blessing to our foreign missionaries and facilitate more local outreach. **For persecuted Christians** throughout the world who are suffering because of the Cross. That they would be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ, even unto death, and that their persecutors would be converted through their witness. This month we pray in particular for Christians living under Communist oppression and persecution in North Korea (North Korea continues to be the most dangerous country for Christians, where simply owning a Bible can lead to severe punishment, including imprisonment or execution. [Open Doors World Watch List]).

INFORMATION & STATISTICS

THE SESSION

Wayne Copeland	Ruling Elder, Missions
Chris Fluegge	Ruling Elder, Trustee
Scott McDermand	Teaching Elder, Moderator
Jim Philp	Ruling Elder, Clerk, Trustee
Kim Ziel	Ruling Elder

THE DIACONATE

Bob Hobkirk	Board Member, Trustee
Allan McLeod	Board Member
Scott McDermand	Advisory Member, Moderator
Sharon Carpenter	Diaconal Assistant
Dan Clarkson	Diaconal Assistant
Greg Davis	Diaconal Assistant
Linda Herndon	Diaconal Assistant
Carol Holtrop	Diaconal Assistant
Lori McLeod	Diaconal Assistant
Alex Smith	Diaconal Assistant

CHURCH ATTENDANCE: CHRISTMAS & DECEMBER 28TH

Christmas Eve	64
Christmas Morning	34
AM Service	52
AM Livestream	
AM AVG. 2025	65
AM AVG. 2024	64
PM Service	---
PM Livestream	---
PM AVG. 2025	17
PM AVG. 2024	14

GENERAL FUND GIVING

December Giving	\$
December Budget	\$