



A Reformed PCA Church

Faithful to the Scriptures.

True to the Reformed Faith.

Obedient to the Great Commission.

Lord's Day 48

First Week of Advent

November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**WELCOME**

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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 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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**

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**This Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**

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

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

### **Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**

- 5:00 Prayer Meeting in the Sanctuary  
6:00 Bible Study in the Lounge  
7:00 St. Andrews Day Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

**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. Vote for your favorite Christmas movies on Bulletin Board. Movies start on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

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

### **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

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

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

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**Church Members in Need of Prayer:** Pam Belew, Carol Holtrop, Chuck Lapka, Mary McDonald, Lori McLeod, Ann Thaut, and caretakers; our shut-ins: the Belews, Lorrain Dutcher, Donna Noble, Bertha McTaggart; for our aging members with various health issues; and for those who have stopped attending

public worship, that God would reveal to them the necessity of worship and the communion of the saints.

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

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

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

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

*{SILENT MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP}*

### **PRELUDE**

"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"

("Picardy," arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906)

### **PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER**

“Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him all the earth! For he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.”

(Psalm 96:9, 13)

“The Return, or Second Advent of Christ refers to the future return of Christ to earth at the end of the age. This return will be visible and physical as he comes from heaven on the clouds to bring final judgement and salvation.”

(Alan S. Bandy)

“Since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.”

(St. Luke, “The Gospel According to Luke” 1:3–4)

“The rule of faith (*regula fidei*) was vital for the ancient church fathers. They considered it a summary of the apostolic teaching as set down in Scripture and was fundamental regulating principle for faith and life. The preeminent example of the rule of faith for the ancient church is the Apostles’ Creed.”

(Sine Nomine)

“I believe in Jesus Christ...He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.”

(The Apostles’ Creed)

“Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.”

(Acts 17:26–27)

## **THE DIVINE SERVICE**

“Almighty God, give us grace to cast away works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

(The Collect, First Sunday of Advent)

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*“Behold, he is coming with the clouds,  
and every eye will see him.”*

(Revelation 1:7)

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

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- \*GOD'S GREETING: Revelation 1:4b–5a  
\*CALL TO WORSHIP: Revelation 1:5b–8  
\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending  
\*RESPONSIVE READING: Revelation 1:5b–7

Minister: *To him who loves us  
and has freed us from our sins by his blood  
and made us a kingdom,  
priests to his God and Father,*

†Congregation: **to him be glory and dominion  
forever and ever. Amen.**

Minister: *Behold, he is coming with the clouds,  
and every eye shall see him,  
even those who pierced him,*

†Congregation: **and all the tribes of the earth  
shall wail on account of him.  
Even so. Amen.**

### \*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

#### **Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending**

C. Wesley & J. Cennick (1760)  
Tune: Picardy, French Carol

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,  
once for favored sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him,  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,

deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.

**3** Ev'ry island, sea, and mountain,  
heav'n and earth, shall flee away;  
all who hate him must, confounded,  
hear the trump proclaim the day:  
Come to judgment! Come to judgment!  
Come to judgment, come away!

**4** Now Redemption, long expected,  
see in solemn pomp appear!  
All his saints, by man rejected,  
now shall meet him in the air.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
See the day of God appear!

**5** Yea, amen! let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
O come quickly, O come quickly;  
alleluia! come, Lord, come.

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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READING OF THE LAW: Romans 13:8–14

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,  
as we prepare our hearts to receive the One whom you are sending,  
grant to us forgiveness of our sins:

for all the times we have missed seeing you in our midst,  
for all the times we have doubted your presence,  
for all the times we have failed to love others,  
and for all the times we have not helped others find their way.  
Forgive us, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
the One who is returning on the clouds.  
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: #309 – Rejoice, the Lord is King

## OUR OFFERINGS

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THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Teaching Elder, Scott McDermand

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:

*"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest...You will be enriched in every way, and produce thanksgiving to God." (2 Corinthians 9:10)*

"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 1:1–4

*Minister: The grass withers, the flower fades,*

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

SERMON: "Advent: An Orderly Account"

SERMON NOTES:

1) Luke's Dedication to Theophilus

## 2) The Things You Have Been Taught (The Rule of Faith)

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## 3) The Return of Christ

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PSALM OF RESPONSE: #316 – The Mighty God, the Lord

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

## **DOXOLOGY & BENEDICTION**

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\*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**

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

#### **THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

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\*GREETING: Galatians 1:3–5

\*CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 46

\*PSALM OF RESPONSE: #40 – God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

\*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

#### **READING & RESPONSES**

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OT READING: Psalm 73

\*PSALM OF RESPONSE: #642 – Be Thou My Vision

\*CONFESSION OF FAITH: WCF 9.2–5 – “Of Free Will”

Man, in his state of innocency,  
had freedom and power to will  
and to do that which is good and well-pleasing to God,  
but yet mutably, so that he might fall from it.

Man, by his fall into a state of sin,  
hath wholly lost all ability of will  
to any spiritual good accompanying salvation;  
so as a natural man, being altogether averse to that good,  
and dead in sin, is not able, by his own strength,  
to convert himself, or to prepare himself thereunto.

When God converts a sinner,  
and translates him into the state of grace,  
he freeth him from his natural bondage under sin,  
and by his grace alone enables him freely  
to will and to do that which is spiritually good;  
yet so as that, by reason of his of his remaining corruption,  
he doth not perfectly, nor only, will that which is good,  
but doth also will that which is evil.

The will of man is made perfectly and immutably free  
to good alone, in the state of glory only.

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

### **THE READING & PREACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD**

NT READING: Revelation 21:1–8, 22–27; 22:1–5

SERMON: “Of Free Will: Man in the State of Glory”

- 1) The Fourfold State

2) The State of Innocency, Sin, and Grace

3) The State of Glory

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #539 – Jerusalem the Golden

## **THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM**

*“Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”*

(Revelation 19:9)

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed (p. 846)

LORD'S SUPPER EXPLANATION

COMMUNION HYMN: #420 – At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

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: Mark 14:22–25

And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant” which is poured out for man. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

\*THE LORD'S SUPPER

## PRAYER OF APPLICATION

\*DOXOLOGY: #11 – Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God (1, 2)

\*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 88, 98–107

Old Testament:                Proverbs

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**

“Prayer meetings are the throbbing machinery of the church.”

(C. H. Spurgeon)

### **READING:**

Mark 1:32–39

### **HYMN:**

#629 – What A Friend We Have in Jesus

### **PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:**

**For the health of:** Pam Belew, Sharon Carpenter, Chuck Lapka, Mary McDonald, caretakers, and the family of Sandy Sams, Nettie Whear, Diana Bensinger, and Doug Glaza.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

### OUR COMMUNITY & COUNTRY:

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

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

## OUR DENOMINATION:

**University Reformed Church, East Lansing MI –Sr. Pastor Jason (Leah) Helopoulos, Assoc. Pastor Kevin (Emily) Phipps** - Praise for a busy and full fall with lots of ministry opportunities and people visiting. Pray for wisdom and clarity as we consider a church plant in Mount Pleasant. Pray for generous giving and faithful praying toward year-end needs.

**Rev. Walter (Mynda) Lorenz (Pastor at Large of GLP)** Please join in faithful prayers of (1) Thanksgiving to God for a wonderful year of church plants becoming particular churches in our GLP (Faith Church, Jennison, MI and Good Shepherd, Kalamazoo, MI) and for God leading other churches to join us in our GLP (Christ Church, Blantyre, Malawi and Hudsonville Reformed in Hudsonville, MI). (2) And in prayers of petition that God will raise up men strong and wise in faith as Elders and Deacons in our many newer ministries of church planting (currently at least 7).

Gracehill in Grand Rapids, Ben Seneker pastor; wife Janae - Heart City in Elkhart, Joel Irvin pastor; wife Jamie - Metro North in Sterling Heights, Steve Van Noort pastor; wife Mandy - Dearborn Heights, Jerry Riendeau, wife Katherine - Ann Arbor plant by Ryan McVicar, wife Megan - Potential Novi plant with Shiv Muthukumar, wife Namhui - Detroit Project, Dan Millward, wife Laura - URC looking to Mount Pleasant/CMU; Devon Rossman Fellow at URC, wife Taylor.

## 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 Somalia who suffer under Islamic oppression.

# **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**

**6:00 PM – In the Lounge**

*"The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."*

(Ephesians 6:16)

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1–15

Hymn: #4 – To God All Praise and Glory

New Testament Reading: Mark 12:38–44

Bible Study: "The Scribes and The Widow"

Notes:

Hymn: #585 – Take My Life and Let it Be

Closing Prayer