



Faithful to the Scriptures.

True to the Reformed Faith.

Obedient to the Great Commission.

Lord's Day 12

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

**WELCOME**

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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 and prayer meeting. We invite you to join us after the service for coffee, fellowship, and snacks. 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), as codified in the ancient creeds of the Christian Church: The Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Definition of Chalcedon, and the Athanasian Creed.

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

**We are a Reformed Church.** Reformed Churches originated from different regions in 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 trained, called, elected, and ordained elders. In the Greek New Testament, they are called *presbyters*, which is where the name "Presbyterian" comes from. Our Teaching and Ruling Elders preach, teach, shepherd, protect the Church from false doctrine, and make decisions on her behalf. We also have trained, called, elected, and ordained deacons who take care of the material needs of the Church.

Reformed & Presbyterian Churches hold the public worship of God and the communion of the saints in high esteem. Thus, **the Lord's Day Worship Service** is the most important event of the week. During this time that we gather together to hear the Word of God, to pray and praise him, to receive the Sacraments, and to enjoy Christian fellowship. If you have any questions, feel free to connect with Pastor Scott or one of our elders.

*Soli Deo Gloria,*

Rev. Scott C. McDermand II

## **CHURCH LIFE & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **This Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- 9:55 Announcements & Prelude
- 10:00 Morning Worship: Word, Sacrament, & Prayer**
- 11:15 Fellowship: Coffee, Tea, & Snacks
- 11:45 Sunday School: All Ages
- 4:00 Prayer Meeting
- 5:00 Evening Worship: Word, Sacrament, & Prayer**

### **\*Please Silence Your Cell Phones\***

**Lenten Devotions** are every Wednesday at 6:00 pm until Passion Week.

**Please join us next week** after our morning worship service for as we recognize and celebrate the work and ministry of our long-time office administrator, Linda Herndon, who will be retiring after six decades here at First Presbyterian.

**Session Meeting** – Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm in the Lounge.

**Next Feast: Palm Sunday Brunch** – Join us after our morning service on **April 13<sup>th</sup>**. Sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board. Ham provided – just need two volunteers to cook a ham!

As we do every year at Pentecost, we will be receiving new members into our Church. **If you are considering membership, our Presbyterianism 101 class** is beginning on Wednesday April, 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please let Pastor Scott know if you are interested in the class. Time of class to be determined based on participation.

**Theology Thursday: Book Club** – There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for the next book that we will read. Let us know what you want to read and we will read it. Our next book study will begin after Passion Week in late-April.

**Ways to Serve** – There are several different ministries that you can participate in here at First Presbyterian. Check the bulletin board where you can find sign-up sheets for Hospitality (fellowship and meals), Lord's Supper Preparation, Greeter Ministry, and the Marketing Team. You can also join us for our monthly **long-term care facility** services at Courtney Manor and Huron County Medical Care.

**Prayer Meeting** – Join us for the important ministry of prayer on Sundays at 4pm in the Lounge. We pray for our church, our family and friends, our community, our country, our missionaries, and the universal church every Sunday before our PM service. Note: if we have a dinner after the morning service, we do not have a prayer meeting that day.

**YouTube** – If you are unable to attend worship due to weather, illness, vacation, or if you have been otherwise providentially hindered, be sure to watch our livestream services on YouTube! Just type in “First Presbyterian Bad Axe” in the search bar, and you can subscribe to our channel and receive notifications. In addition to our live services, you can watch several years’ worth of sermons. You can also share these videos with your friends and family.

**Social Media** – Be sure to follow us on Instagram and Facebook where you can stay up to date with everything going on at our church. Just search for @badaxefirstpres

**Church App** – We have a church app for your smart phone. Go to the App Store and download “The Church App” for free on your mobile device and search for First Presbyterian Church of Bad Axe. You can watch all of our sermons from the past five years, give online, see upcoming events, request prayers, and get connected.

**Podcast** – We also have a Podcast where you can find audio versions of all of our sermons. Just search First Presbyterian Bad Axe on your favorite podcast app and subscribe.

**Reach the Forgotten Annual Banquet** (formerly *Forgotten Man Ministries*) – Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at Harvest Church in Bad Axe. Fellowship begins at 6:00 and the Dinner begins at 6:30. Let Wayne Copeland know if you plan on attending.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries** –

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

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**Church Members in Need of Prayer:** Jackson Fluegge, Michelle Green, Julia Mayes, Hailee McLeod; those who serve as caretakers; expecting mother Dana Fleugge; all who are ill or traveling; long-term care residents: Pam Belew, Lorrain Dutcher, Bertha McTaggart, Donna Noble, and Ann Thaut; our shut-in ministry; and those who have ceased attending public worship regularly, that God would reveal to them their sin, 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), the Shupes (British Colombia); 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 grant courage and the words to speak as we interact with our 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, Trustees, and all the saints would glorify God and always 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; that our members would take their public vows seriously and attend church on a regular basis; and that we would have better attendance at our PM services where the means of grace are offered.

**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 and worship; that our leaders would come to know Christ: The King of kings and Lord of lords, and that their governing 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 they live their lives.

**The Church Universal:** That more people would come to faith through the preaching of the gospel throughout the world; for Christians 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 living under communist persecution in North Korea.

## **PRELUDE & SILENT PREPARATION**

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"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Dominus Regit Me (John B. Dykes, 1868) | Brienne McCrea, Piano

## **PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER**

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"O God whose son is the Good Shepherd of your people; Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who call us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen."

The Collect | The Good Shepherd

"The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever."

King David | Psalm 28:8–9

"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep...I will rescue my flock...And I will set up over them one shepherd...He shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God."

The Prophet Ezekiel | Ezekiel 34:11–12, 22–24

"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'"

The Lord Jesus Christ | Luke 15:4–6

I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep...I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me...and I lay down my life for the sheep.

The Lord Jesus Christ | Luke 15:11, 14–15

## **~ THE DIVINE SERVICE ~**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*"I will rescue my flock...  
And I, the LORD, will be their God."*

(Ezekiel 34:22, 24)

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

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### \*GOD'S GREETING

*Galatians 1:3-5*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*from Psalm 28*

### \*PSALM OF PRAISE

*Shout to the LORD, All*

*Earth*

### \*RESPONSORIAL

*from Psalm 28;*

*124:8*

Minister: Blessed be the LORD!

For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

†Congregation: **The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;  
my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him!**

Minister: The LORD is the strength of his people;  
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

†Congregation: **Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!  
Be their Shepherd and carry them forever.**

Minister: Our help is in the name of the LORD;

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

### \*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE





# THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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## READING OF THE LAW

*Ezekiel*

34:11–24

Minister: The Word of God is living and active.

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

## EXPOSITION OF THE LAW

*Westminster Shorter*

*Catechism*

Minister: What is sin?

†Congregation: **Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the Law of God.**

Minister: What doth God require of us,  
that we may escape his wrath and curse to due to us for sin?

†Congregation: **To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, and the diligent use of the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption.**

Minister: What is repentance unto life?

†Congregation: **Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby, a sinner, out of a true sense of their sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.**

Minister: What are the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption?

†Congregation: **The outward and ordinary means**

whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption  
are,  
his ordinances, especially the Word, Sacraments, and prayer;  
all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

## SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### CORPORATE CONFESSION

*Book of Common*

*Prayer*

Almighty and most merciful Father,

We have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our hearts.

We have offended against Your holy laws.

We have left undone things which we ought to have done;

and we have done things which we ought not to have done.

O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.

Spare those, O God, who confess their faults.

Restore those who are penitent;

according to Your promises declared unto us in Christ Jesus.

Grant that we may hence live a godly, righteous, and sober life;  
to the glory of His name. Amen

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*1 John 1:9;*

*Romans 8:1*

### \*HYMN OF ASSURANCE

*457 – Come, Thou*

*Fount of*

*Every Blessing*

## OUR OFFERINGS

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### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Ruling Elder, Jim*

*Philp*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;  
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

### THE WEEKLY OFFERING

*2 Corinthians*

*9:7–9*

Each must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

\*OFFERING OF PRAISE  
*Page)*

*The Doxology (Next*



## **THE SERMON**

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\*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

## SERMON TEXT

*Luke*

*15:1–7*

Minister: The grass withers, the flower fades,

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

## SERMON

*The Ministry of*

*Jesus:*

*The Parable of the Lost Sheep*

## SERMON NOTES

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*473 – Jesus, Sinners Doth Receive*

*(1–4)*

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

**(381)**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again with glory,  
to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;  
who spoke by the prophets;

And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**



*"The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me besides still waters. He restores my soul...  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."*

(Psalm 23:1–3, 5)

## LORD'S SUPPER PREFACE

### COMMUNION PSALM

*184 – The King of Love, My*

*Shepherd Is*

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*Sursum Corda (3<sup>rd</sup>*

*Cent.)*

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*

*22:17–20*

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."

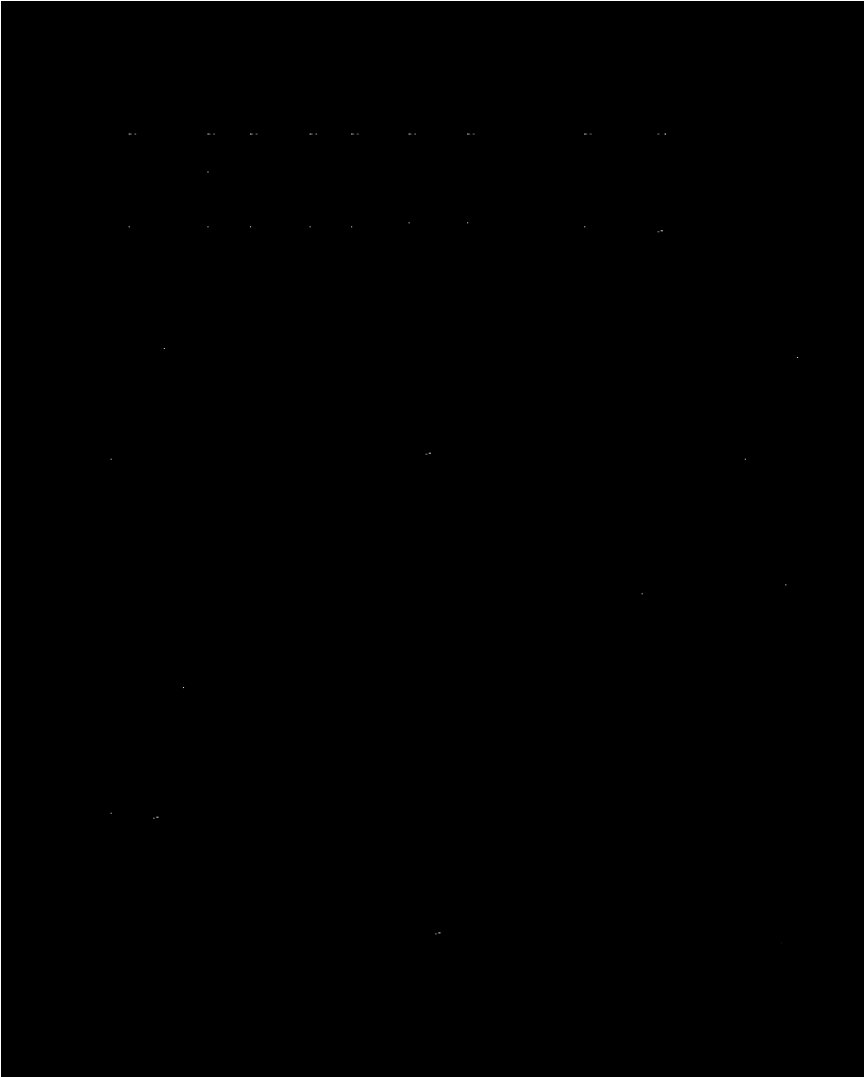
## \*THE LORD'S SUPPER

### PRAYER OF APPLICATION

**DOXOLOGY & BENEDICTION**

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\*DOXOLOGY



\*BENEDICTION

Hebrews

13:20–21

\*POSTLUDE

## CATECHETICAL

### WORSHIP SERVICE (5:00 PM)

#### PRELUDE

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"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Olivet  
*Lowell Mason (1832)*

#### PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER

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"The perseverance of the saints depends...upon the immutability of the decree of the election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father; upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Christ; the abiding of the Spirit...and the nature of the covenant of grace: from which ariseth also the certainty and infallibility thereof."

The Westminster Divines | WCF 17.2

"Nevertheless they may through the temptations of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of the means of their preservation, fall into grievous sins; and for a time continue therein: whereby they incur God's displeasure, and grieve his Holy Spirit; come to be deprived of some measure of their graces and comforts; have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded; hurt and scandalize others, and bring temporal judgments upon themselves."

The Westminster Divines | WCF 17.3

"Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, 'You also were with Jesus the Galilean.' But he denied it before them all, saying, 'I do not know what you mean.' And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, 'This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.' And again he denied it with an oath: 'I do not know the man.' After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, 'Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.' Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, 'I do not know the man.' And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter

remembered the saying of Jesus, 'Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly."

The Apostle Matthew | Matthew 26:69–75

# **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

## **THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

\*GREETING

*Jude*

*1b–2*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*from Psalm*

*32*

\*PSALM OF PRAISE

*53 – Praise to the LORD, the*

*Almighty*

\*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

## **READING & RESPONSES**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Psalm*

*51*

WESTMINSTER CONFESSION

*17.1–3 – Of the Perseverance of the*

*Saints*

They whom God hath accepted in his Beloved,  
[and hath] effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit,  
can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace;  
but shall certainly persevere therein to the end,  
and be eternally saved.

This perseverance of the saints depends, not upon their own free will,  
but upon the immutability of the decree of election,  
flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father;

upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ;  
the abiding of the Spirit and of the seed of God within them;  
and the nature of the covenant of grace:  
these are the grounds of the certainty  
and infallibility of their perseverance.

Nevertheless they may

through the temptations of Satan and of the world,  
the prevalency of corruption remaining in them,  
and the neglect of the means of their preservation,  
fall into grievous sins;  
and for a time continue therein:  
whereby they incur God's displeasure,  
and grieve his Holy Spirit;  
come to be deprived of some measure of their graces and comforts;  
have their hearts hardened,  
and their consciences wounded;  
hurt and scandalize others,  
and bring temporal judgments upon themselves.

\*PSALM OF RESPONSE

486 – *God, Be*

*Merciful to Me*

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

*Matthew*

26:69–75

SERMON

*Of the Perseverance of the*

*Saints:*

SERMON NOTES

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

\*HYMN OF APPLICATION

657 – *In Sweet Communion, Lord, with*

*Thee*

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

### **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

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LORD'S SUPPER PREFACE

CONFESSION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed (Tune:*

*57)*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*Sursum*

*Corda*

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



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\*DOXOLOGY

*Now to Him Who is Able (Tune*

#66)

Now to him whose pow-r is able  
to protect our stumbling feet,  
and prepare our souls for glory  
there with joy our King to meet  
so that we may stand before him  
faultless at his judgement seat-

To the only God our Savior,  
through our Lord Christ Jesus' name,  
be dominion, power, glory,  
majesty and matchless fame,  
from before the world's foundation,  
now and evermore the same!

\*BENEDICTION

*1 Thessalonians*

*5:23-24, 28*

\*POSTLUDE

## **PRAYER MEETING: SUNDAY 4:00 PM**

*"For we do not have a high priest who is able to sympathize with our weakness,  
but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,  
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

(Hebrews 4:15–16)

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

**For the health of:** Jackson Fluegge, Ashley Franzel, Julia Mayes, Hailee McLeod, and Ann Thaut; expectant mother: Dana Fluegge; 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), Lorraine Dutcher (Huron County Medical Care Facility, Bertha McTaggart and Donna Noble (Meadow Lanes); that our shut-in ministry would be fruitful and that our members who are able, would participate in our shut-in ministry.

**For non-attending members:** that God would reveal to them their sin in and that he would grant them the 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 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 act like men and 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:** 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:** that the Lord would provide them support and fellowship through the church; that they would devote themselves to Christ and serve His body.

**For our College Students:** Mackenzie Copeland, Jackson Fluegge, Regan Hobkirk, Hailee McLeod, and Brennan Wissner; 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 Visitors:** That God would continue to bring in families, couples, and individuals who seek to glorify him, learn the Bible and the Christian Faith, and come to a Reformed understanding of Scripture. Praise for recent visitors and that they would consider membership in our local body of Christ.

**For Friends and Family Members:** for the physical and spiritual health of: Deb Cleland (Lori McLeod's friend: praise for recovery); Tom Fata (Annette Knapp's brother: colon cancer); Virginia Gembarski (Sharon Gisel's sister: Leukemia); Angie Gonzales (chronic pain); Andy Kish (Betsy Kish's stepson); Megan Knight and baby (Pastor Scott's sister who is expecting); Nicole Patterson; Libby Hill and Nancy McLeod (Allan McLeod's aunt and sister-in-law); Harvey Arthur Schmidt (The Ziel's newborn grandson: praise God for his recovery and health); Cecil Shuart (friend of the McLeod's); family of Tim Spitzley (Amanda McLeod's brother); Chip Vannest (Tammy Philp's brother); Brennan and Tiffany Winter (praise for a call to a PCA Church in Ferndale); Joe Yang (Pastor Scott's friend from seminary: colon cancer, chemotherapy); Bob Ziel (Kim's father: Courtney Manor, various health concerns); and Katie Ziel and Jack Thomas (born on March 5<sup>th</sup>).

**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, wisdom and a view of the Great Commission for Trustees, for our Sunday School program: attendance (especially for children's catechism), Sunday School teachers, and for those who serve in the Missions Committee. 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 the local body. That God would send or raise up more musicians and singers to serve 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. 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.

### 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; 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 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.

**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 "kiss the Son, lest he be angry." 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 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 DENOMINATION

**Redeemer Presbyterian, Holland, MI, - Pastor Charles Byrd (Lisa)** Pray for the Lord's continued blessing on the church, numerical growth, and an increased joy in knowing our Lord. Pray for the Lord's blessing on our efforts to reach the over-churched in Holland with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray the Lord would raise up biblical counselors for the Shepherd's Way of Holland Biblical Counseling Center.

**Covenant Presbyterian, Holland MI: Pastor Ken Klett (Laurie)** Ongoing ministry of the Word preached and taught, Spirit-filled worship, effective outreach, a continued atmosphere of unity and love within the congregation. The Lord's guidance and blessing on our efforts to be a better-known, more impactful ministry in our community. The launching of Trail Life, a Christ-centered program for boys.

**Trinity PCA, DeMotte IN: TE S Van Eck** Thanks for recent visitors. Pray for our aging members, the Ministry of the Word, growth in grace, strength and health. Pray for our newly added Afternoon Service. Pray for outreach and new members. Pray especially for the family of Shirley, Evelyn and Thomas who went home to be with Jesus in the last few weeks.

**Stonebridge PCA, Toledo, Ohio:** Taylor Wright (Sarah) – Praise for passing exams and coming into the PCA. Strength and wisdom for the session, energy and balance for Pastor Wright as he works in the church, as a chaplain, and has a growing family.

## 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 Aaron Shupe and family: as they transition from West Africa to a new ministry to refugees in British Colombia. 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." (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 Christians living under communist oppression, labor camps, and prisons in North Korea.

## INFORMATION & STATISTICS

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## **The Session**

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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**

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

## **Church Office Hours**

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Linda Herndon (*M–F, 8:00am–12:00pm*)  
Scott McDermand (*By appointment*)

## **Church Attendance: March 16<sup>th</sup>**

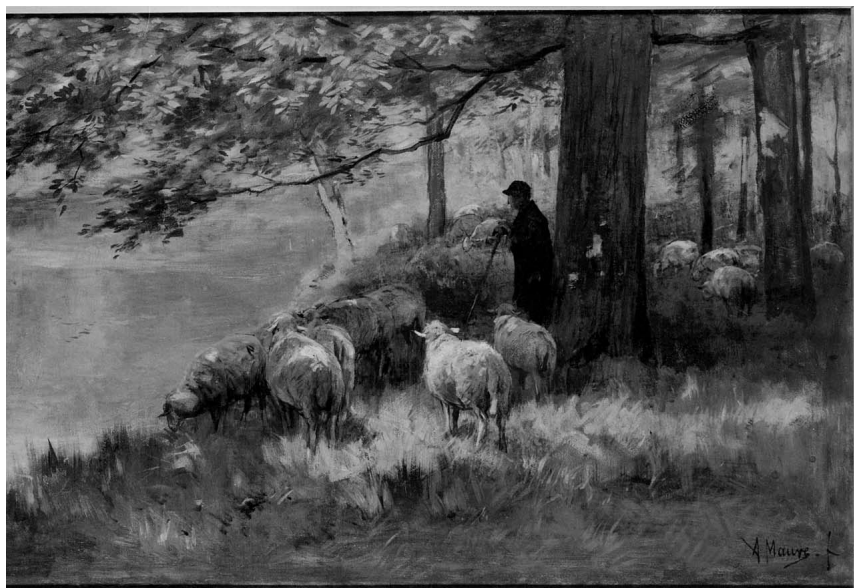
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AM Service	74
AM Livestream	5
AM AVG. 2025	63
AM AVG. 2024	64
PM Service	No PM Service
PM Livestream	---
PM AVG. 2025	12
PM AVG. 2024	14

## **General Fund Giving**

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March Giving	\$
March Budget	\$



“Shepherd and Sheep Under the Trees”

Anton Mauve (1838–88)