



Faithful to the Scriptures.

True to the Reformed Faith.

Obedient to the Great Commission.

Lord's Day 1  
Second Week of Christmas  
January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

## 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, January 1<sup>st</sup>

- 9:15 Hymn Sing
- 9:50 Announcements & Prelude
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:15 Fellowship: Coffee, Tea, & Donuts
- 4:30 Hymn Sing
- 5:00 Catechetical Worship Service

### Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

- 5:00 Prayer Meeting in the Sanctuary
- 6:00 Christmas Movie in the Lounge

### Next Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

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

Bulletin Board – We have a bulletin board. Yes, it's true! On it you will find announcements and sign-up sheets for Sunday Morning Fellowship, Wednesday Nights, and Church Feasts.

Newsletter – Please check your mailbox for this month's newsletter.

Birthdays & Anniversaries –

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

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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Church Members in Need of Prayer: Pam Belew,, Michelle Green, Chuck Lapka, Julia Mayes, Mary McDonald, Ann Thaut, Kirk Winter, and those who serve as caretakers; our shut-ins: the Belews, Lorrain Dutcher, and Donna Noble; for our aging members with various health issues; and for those who have stopped attending public worship, that God would reveal to them the necessity of worship and the communion of the saints.

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

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

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

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

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*This is a time of silent meditation as the people of God prepare their hearts and minds to worship the majestic Triune God. As the prelude plays, please consider the passages provided on this page, being respectful of others as you silently prepare your heart for worship. As the psalmist writes, "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)*

### PRELUDE

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

(Gustav Holst, 1906)

### PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER

"Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him all the earth! Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary."

(Psalm 96:6, 9)

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore."

(Isaiah 9:6, 7)

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth...And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace."

(Micah 5:2-5)

"Fear not, behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloth and lying in a manger."

(Luke 2:10-12)

"Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen."

(The Collect, Second Sunday of Christmas)

# THE DIVINE SERVICE

*"Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."*

(Hebrews 12:28–29)

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

(Luke 2:14)

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

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| *GOD'S GREETING:     | Galatians 1:3–5                        |
| *CALL TO WORSHIP:    | Luke 2:13–14                           |
| *PSALM OF RESPONSE:  | #218 – Angels from the Realms of Glory |
| *RESPONSIVE READING: | From Luke 2                            |

Minister: *Behold, I bring you good news of great joy  
that will be for all the people!*

†Congregation: For unto you is born this day in the city of David,  
a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.

Minister: *And suddenly there was with the angel  
a multitude of the heavenly host  
praising God and saying,*

†Congregation: Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

\*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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READING OF THE LAW: Isaiah 7:14; 9:2–7

Minister: *The Word of God is living and active.*

†Congregation: Sharper than any two-edged sword.

EXPOSITION OF THE LAW

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

CORORATE CONFESSION:

Almighty God and most merciful heavenly Father,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent,  
for the sake of your eternally-begotten Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: 1 John 1:9; Galatians 4:4

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and  
cleanse us from all unrighteousness; when the fullness of time had  
come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to  
redeem those who are under the law.*

\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING: #211 – God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

## 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

*"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, come into his courts." (Psalm 96:8)*

"God is the owner of all persons and all things, and we are but stewards of both life and possessions. God's ownership and our stewardship should be acknowledged, in part, by 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 or by using the church app.

\*OFFERING OF PRAISE: "The Doxology"

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above all ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

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

\*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON TEXT: Luke 2:8–20

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

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

SERMON: "Christmas 2:  
The Shepherd Who Brings Peace"



1) The Angels Bring Good News

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2) The Shepherds Look for a Sign

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3) The Response

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PRAYER OF APPLICATION

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #214 – Angels We Have Heard on High

**THE CREED OF CHALCEDON (451)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

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

(Liturgy of St. James, 5<sup>th</sup> Century)

\*CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Creed of Chalcedon

LORD’S SUPPER EXPLANATION

COMMUNION HYMN: #193 – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

Minister: *Lift up your hearts.*

†Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

†Congregation: It is good and right for us to give thanks.

Minister: *Let us pray to the Lord.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Luke 22:17–20

*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:

O Come Let Us Adore Him

\*BENEDICTION:

Hebrews 13:20–21

## 5:00 PM CATECHETICAL SERVICE

### Prelude

*"In Christ Alone"*

### Prayerfully Consider

"The union which the elect have with Christ is the work of God's grace, whereby they are spiritually and mystically, yet really and inseparably, joined to Christ as their head and husband; which is done in their effectual calling."

(WLC 66)

"Effectual calling is the work of God's almighty power and grace, whereby (out of his free and special love to his elect, and from nothing in them moving them thereunto) he doth, in his accepted time, invite and draw them to Jesus Christ, by his Word and Spirit; savingly enlightening their minds, renewing and powerfully determining their wills, so as they (although themselves dead in sin) are hereby made willing and able freely to answer his call, and to accept and embrace the grace offered and conveyed therein."

(WLC 67)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

(John 15:1–5)

"[Union with Christ is] that intimate, vital, and spiritual union between Christ and His people, in virtue of which He is the source of their life and strength, of their blessedness and salvation."

(Louis Berkhof)

"God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

(Ephesians 2:4–6)

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

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- \*GREETING: Jude 1:1b–2
- \*CALL TO WORSHIP: From Psalm 104
- \*PSALM OF RESPONSE: #2 – O Worship the King
- \*PRAYER OF ENTRANCE

### READING & RESPONSES

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- OT READING: Psalm 73
- \*PSALM OF RESPONSE: #657 – In Sweet Communion, Lord,  
with Thee
- \*CONFESSION OF FAITH: WCF 10.1 – "Of Effectual Calling"

All those whom God hath predestined unto life, and those only,  
he is pleased, in his appointed and accepted time,  
effectually to call, by his Word and Spirit,  
out of that state of sin and death,  
in which they are by nature,  
to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ;  
enlightening their minds, spiritually and savingly,  
to understand the things of God;  
taking away their heart of stone, giving them a heart of flesh;  
renewing their wills, and by his almighty power,  
determining them to that which is good,

and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ;  
yet so as they come most freely,  
being made willing by his grace.

PASTORAL PRAYER

## THE READING & PREACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD

NT READING: Ephesians 1:1–14

SERMON: "Of Effectual Calling: Union with Christ"

1) What is Union with Christ?

2) What Happens by Virtue of our Union with Christ?

3) How are those United to Christ to Live?

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: In Christ Alone

## THE LITURGY OF THE UPPER ROOM

*"Our Lord Jesus, in the night wherein he was betrayed, instituted the sacrament of his body and blood, called the Lord's Supper, to be observed in his Church, to the end of world; for the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of himself in his death, the sealing all the benefits thereof unto true believers, their spiritual nourishment and growth in him, their further engagement in and to all duties in which they owe unto him; and to be a bond and pledge of their communion with him, and with each other, as members of his mystical body."*

(WCF 29.1, "Of the Lord's Supper")

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Nicene Creed (p. 846)

LORD'S SUPPER EXPLANATION

COMMUNION HYMN: Union with Thee

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

Minister: *Lift up your hearts.*

†Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

†Congregation: It is good and right for us to give thanks.

Minister: *Let us pray to the Lord.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: Matthew 26:26–29

As they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

\*THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF APPLICATION

\*DOXOLOGY: #11 – Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God

\*BENEDICTION: Hebrews 13:20–21

## A DAILY LITURGY:

FOR PRIVATE & FAMILY WORSHIP

*"In addition to public worship,  
it is the duty of each person in secret,  
and of every family in private, to worship God."*

(BCO 63-1, "Christian Life in the Home")

Gloria Patri:

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

## Lord's Prayer

Confession of Faith:            Nicene Creed

Confession of Sin : Psalm 51

Catechism: Westminster Shorter Catechism Qs 1-3

Old Testament: Genesis 1–6

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1–4

Epistle Reading: Romans 1–3

## Prayer of Application

Doxology: *Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise him all creatures here below,  
Praise him above all ye heavenly hosts,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING – 5:00 PM

*"The preface of the Lord's Prayer, which is, 'Our Father which art in heaven,' teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others."*

(WSC 99)



READING: Romans 8:15–17, 26–27

HYMN: #725 – The Lord’s Prayer

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

For the health of: Pam Belew, Michelle Green, Chuck Lapka, Julia Mayes, and Mary McDonald; caretakers in our congregation; various health issues for older members. For our shut-ins: The Belews, Lorraine Dutcher, and Donna Noble. For non-attending members: that God would bring them back to the body of Christ and that they would not forsake the communion of the saints and the public assembling of his people. For our College & Seminary Students: Wil Hobkirk, Ashley Kerr, Carlee McLeod, Brennen Winter. For our Families: that husbands would love their wives as Christ loves the Church and that wives would submit to their husbands as the Church submits to Christ. That parents would raise and train their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. That children would obey their parents. For our singles: that they would devote themselves to the Lord and to the ministries of the Church. That God would grant marriage to those who desire it. For our widows/widowers: that the Lord would provide them support and fellowship through the church. That they would devote themselves to Christ and his Kingdom. Friends and Family Members: Virginia Gembariski (Sharon Gisel’s sister; Leukemia), Angie Gonzales (chronic pain), Andy Kish and Jim Ribbens (Betsy Kish’s stepson and brother; health), Nicole Patterson, Dar Farnum and Alyce Theaker (Bonnie Perry’s brother and niece), Kathy Green and Nancy McLeod (Allan McLeod’s sisters).

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

For our worship services: That the Holy Spirit would work through the Ministry of the Word, Sacraments, and prayer for the salvation and preservation of God’s people. That through these ordinary means the people of God would be built up in the faith once and for all delivered to the saints. That we would worship God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength for his glory. That Christ crucified would be preached faithfully,

week in and week out. That the gospel would go forth and people would be brought into the local body. That God would raise up singers or musicians from our midst who seek to glorify him with their gifts. That our giving would increase and be congruent with the blessings that God blessed us with. That we would properly sanctify the Lord's Day and attend to the means of grace.

#### OUR COMMUNITY & COUNTRY:

That in our community, we would be faithful witnesses of our Lord Jesus Christ, ready to give a defense of the gospel and the hope that is in us. That we would be lights in a dark place, salt in a flavorless world, a city on a hill. That there would be a need for church planting Reformed Churches in the Thumb. That our local, state, and federal civil magistrates would lead, rule, make and enforce laws according to Scripture; that our state and federal laws would protect rather than allow for the destruction of the unborn. That the Church in the United States would live according to God's Word and for his glory. That we would "kiss the Son, lest he be angry." For our armed forces, veterans, law enforcement, nurses, and EMTs.

#### OUR DENOMINATION:

Good Shepherd, Kalamazoo MI—Pastor Neil (Leandra) Quinn – We rejoice and praise the Lord that we are having more college students attending our Sunday services, and that we have seen a handful come to faith in recent months. Please pray for the Campus Outreach staff at our church as they continue to proclaim the gospel on the campus of Western Michigan University, and please pray for us as a church that we would love these students well by standing firmly upon the truth of the gospel and welcoming them into Christian fellowship. Heart City, Elkhart IN – Pastor Joel (Jamie) Irvin – Praise God that: 1) our worship space has many improvements as we celebrate our 2 yr anniversary service Christmas Eve 2) God provided us another new member in December 3) Pastor Joel's chaplaincy continues to bring souls to Christ. Pray: 1) that God rend the heavens and bring Revival in our community and for preparation on our part 2) God raise up new leaders in 2023) Finances for future renovations (sanctuary carpet, kitchen, side porch).

#### 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 China who suffer under communist oppression.