

**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church where our motto is “Roots Down, Branches Out”
Celebrating 125 years of Ministry on Morton Hill, since 1892**

“Promise without law, is like a tent without tent poles. . . ” --Barbara Brown Taylor

Sunday, October 8, 2017

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Announcements, Birthdays and Recognition of Visitors

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Elder Prayer Blessing

Daniel Van Beek

Prelude and Setting the Table for Worship

~ GOD GATHERS US ~

Call to Worship *(Please Stand if able) (from Psalm 19)*

One: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul

ALL: The words of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple

One: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart

ALL: The commandments of the Lord are clear, enlightening the eyes

One: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever

ALL: The rules of the Lord are true and righteous altogether

One: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to You

ALL: O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

Opening Hymn *(Please Stand if able)*

Here In This Place

Glory to God # 401

Prayer of the Day: *(Please Stand if able)*

God of truth and mercy, we confess that we forget who we are. We forget that you love us and that we belong to you. When we make idols of power and belongings, we forget the baptism water that claims us. When we compete with our brothers and sisters for position and honor, we forget that we are your family at the table. When we work as if the Kingdom depends on our efforts and fail to rest, we forget your faithfulness. Set us free, once again Holy One, to receive your promises and be transformed by your steadfast love. Thank you for words that help lead us in your way and thank you for sending the Word to dwell among us and show us the way. In the name of the Living Word, our Jesus, we pray, Amen.

~ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD ~

A Time for Young People

Julie Brien

All Children 5 & under can go with Latasha Louis to the nursery. Kids K+ can get worship bags from coat rack at this time.

Song of Illumination

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Glory to God # 418

Scripture

Matthew 22:34-40

Exodus 20:1-4; 7-10; 12-17

(After each scripture reading)

One: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks Be to God

Sermon

“Words’ of Life for a Broken People”

Pastor Laurie Hartzell

~ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ~

Song of Response

Yes, Lord!

The Choir

Offering & Offertory *Nursery children collect quarters for our “Open Wide Our Front Door” and Ghana Mission Youth Leave for ICE Class; Children leave for Kids’ Time with Claudia Pozo and Peter Helm*

Doxology *(Please Stand if able)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Praise Christ, all creatures here below

Praise Holy Spirit evermore

Praise Triune God, whom we adore, Amen

Joys and Concerns

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Closing Hymn

What A Fellowship, What A Joy Divine

Glory to God # 837

Benediction

Participants in Today's Service

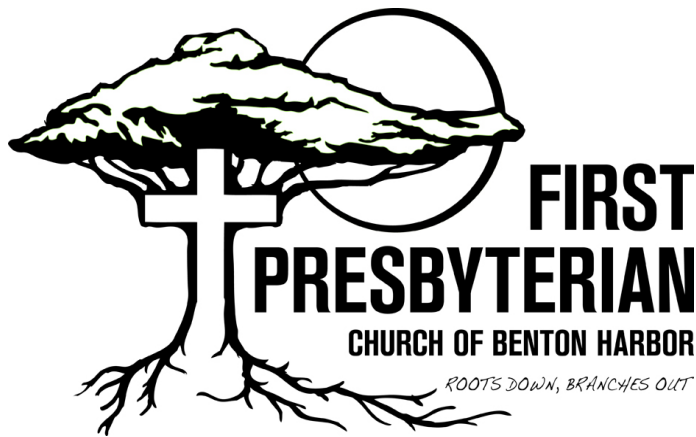
Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie Hartzell
 Musicians: Susan Burkholz and Nancy Thompson
 Children's Sermon: Julie Brien
 Worship Assistant: Jackie Baker
 Nursery:
 Greeters: Gordon and Mary Helm
 Audio: Bob Ziebart, Gordon Helm & Ben Schadler
 Ministers: All the Church Members

Church Staff Members

Pastor: Rev. Laurie Hartzell
 Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Doug Peterson
 Church Pianist: Susan Burkholz
 Music Minister: Nancy Thompson
 Youth Missioner: Julie Brien
 Youth Teacher: Gentry Phillips
 Children's Ed:
 Custodians: Lee Hamilton & Charase Dorsey

MISSION STATEMENT

We of First Presbyterian Church of Benton Harbor are a small family of believers committed to bridging the gulf of racial and class separation. As a part of the body of Christ in Benton Harbor and acknowledging Christ's claim on our lives, our congregation is called to proclaim the Gospel and witness to Christ's love, both within the faith community and in our larger community. In doing this we will share our faith with openness, love, warmth and respect for the dignity and individuality of all people; we will welcome and value diversity; we will strive to meet the needs of people in our community for sustenance and nurturing and we will seek to deepen and broaden our own faith as we journey. We will do these through the doctrine and structures of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

**Contact Information**

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