

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

*"When doubt crowds out hope, we can be confident that Jesus will come to meet us. . ."*

*--Rev. Serene Jones*

*Our eyes see "facts" while our hearts see "truth" -- Frederick Buechner*

**Sunday, April 8, 2018**

**Second Sunday in Easter**

**Announcements, Birthdays and Recognition of Visitors**

**Passing of the Peace of Christ**

**Elder Prayer Blessing**

Elder Allene Smith

**Prelude and Setting the Table for Worship**

**~ GOD GATHERS US ~**

**Call to Worship** *(Please stand in body or spirit)*

**One:** This is the Good News! The Cross is Empty! The Stone is rolled away!

**ALL:** Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**One:** This is the Good News! Once we were not a people, now we are God's people!

**ALL:** Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**One:** This is the Good News! The Word of God is near to us!

**ALL:** Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**One:** This is the Good News! We are nourished by the love of Jesus!

**ALL:** Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**One:** This is the Good News! The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot comprehend it!

**ALL:** Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!

**Opening Hymn** *(Please stand in body or spirit)*

*Lift High the Cross*

Glory to God # 826

**Prayer of the Day** *(please remain standing in body or spirit)*

*O God, you are greater than all we might imagine or even dream, yet in Christ you have made Your Kingdom open to all who would risk faith and belief. As we continue our celebration of Christ's Resurrection, we ask for the courage to live by faith, for the grace to see You at work in the world and in our lives, for the hope that despite our doubts, we are loved beyond measure and invited to new lives of freedom. Thank you for continuing to show up in our lives. In the name of the Risen Christ we pray, Amen.*

**~ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD ~**

**A Time for Young People**

Julie Brien

*Children 5 & under can go with Mrs. Lopez to the nursery. Kids K+ can get worship bags from coat rack at this time.*

**Song of Illumination**

*Be Not Afraid (three times)*

Glory to God #243

**Scripture**

**Psalm 133**

**John 20:19-31**

*(After each scripture reading)*

**One:** This is the Word of the Lord

**All:** Thanks Be to God

**Sermon**

*The Jesus Who Comes to Meet Us*

Rev. Laurie Hartzell

**~ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ~**

**Song of Response**

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

Glory to God # 775

*(verse 3: "In my doubting" instead of "When I'm in trouble")*

**Offering & Offertory** *Nursery children collect quarters for our "Open Wide Our Front Door" and Ghana Mission. Youth Leave for ICE Class with Gentry; Children leave for Kids' Time with Margie Troike.*

**Doxology** *(Please stand in body or spirit)*

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.*

**~ WE ARE SENT ~**

**Closing Hymn**

*Come! Live in the Light!*

Glory to God # 749

**Benediction**

### Participants in Today's Service

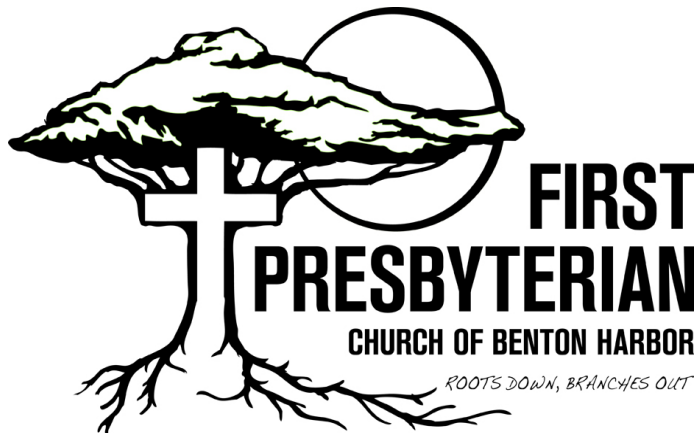
Worship Leader: Rev. Laurie Hartzell  
Musicians: Susan Burkholz and Nancy Thompson  
Children's Sermon: Julie Brien  
Worship Assistant: Isabel Jackson  
Nursery: Annabelle Lopez  
Greeters: Paul Sellers; Gordon and Mary Helm  
Audio: Bob Ziebart, Gordon Helm and Ben Schadler  
Ministers: All the Church 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  
Custodians: Lee Hamilton and 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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**FIRSTPRESBH.ORG**

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