

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church,
where our motto is "Roots Down, Branches Out!"
Since 1892 we are celebrating 130 years of Ministry on Morton Hill.

January 9, 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

Announcements, Birthdays, and Recognition of Visitors
Safe-distance Passing of the Peace of Christ

Ruling Elder Prayer Blessing
Prelude and Setting the Table for Worship

Libby Globensky
Evan Closser

GOD GATHERS US

The Litany for The Baptism of The Lord

One: In the beginning, darkness covered the deep,
and God said: Let there be light.

All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

One: Through the words of the prophet, the Lord said:
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

One: Do not fear, says the Lord; I am with you. I call you by name; you are mine.

All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

One: When Jesus was baptized by John, suddenly the heavens were opened.

All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

One: And as Jesus was coming out of the water,
the Spirit of God rested on him like a dove.

All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

One: And a voice said: You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased!

All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Opening Hymn *Sing Glory to the Name of God* *Glory to God #10*

Opening Prayer in Unison

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit
and revealed him as you beloved Son.

Keep us, you children born of water and the Spirit,
faithful in your service,
that we may rejoice to be called children of God;

through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A Time for Young People Scott Paul-Bonham
Kindergarteners and older children may get clipboards from the front pew.

Song of Preparation *The God of Heaven* *Glory to God #259*

Scripture Psalm 29 and Luke 3:21 - 22
(After the scripture reading) One: The Word of God for the People of God.
ALL: Thanks be to God!

Sermon "The Voice of the LORD" Scott Paul-Bonham

Song of Commitment *Take Me to the Water* *Glory to God #480*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* The Prayer of Dedication

The Installation of Ruling Elders Elisabeth Allen, Terry Allen, and Gloria Winn

Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People
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 *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* *Glory to God #408*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Evan Closser

Participants in Today's Service

Worship Leader: Rev. Scott Paul-Bonham

Musician: Evan Closser

Children's Sermon: Scott Paul-Bonham

Worship Assistant: Libby Globensky, Session Clerk

Vocalist: Evan Closser

Audio/Video: Bob Ziebart and Gordon Helm

Church Staff Members

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Scott Paul-Bonham

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Doug Petersen

Church Pianist: Cheryl Schadler

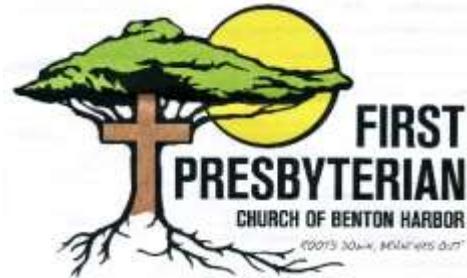
Music Minister: Evan Closser

Custodians: Lee Hamilton and Charase Dorsey

Ministers: All the Church Members

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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Bible Study on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 10 a.m.

Session Meeting on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in person or on Zoom.

Service of Worship, January 16, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. – Ben Ackerson preaching.

The Session has established a Scholarship Fund to assist students from this congregation achieve higher education. For example, Danny Jennings does not need tuition or room and board money, but he does not have resources to purchase a good used car to get him to school and to his two jobs.

If you wish to contribute to this Scholarship Fund, please so earmark a check to the church or put money in the special designated envelope.

The sanctuary doors of the First Presbyterian Church of Benton Harbor will be open for the 10 a.m. service of worship on Sunday, January 9, 2022!

NOTE: This service or worship will be broadcast on Facebook Live.

Out of an abundance of caution, especially for the sake of any unvaccinated members or guests, we will use the following precautions.

- 1. IF you feel unwell, please stay home and worship with us through Facebook Live. Or, if you are just uncomfortable gathering in a worship community at this time, please continue to worship with us on Facebook Live.*
- 2. We ask everyone to maintain social distance by sitting in family groups either on the ends of pews or in the middle of a pew. Seating areas in pews will be designated by blue tape on the back of the pews.*
- 3. We strongly recommend, but will not absolutely require, face mask wearing.*
- 4. We will not have congregational singing at this time, but we do invite individuals to sing the hymns for the congregation so that it may follow along.*
- 5. Any activity that might bring people into close contact with each other, like the Passing of the Peace, the Offering, and the Sacrament of Communion, will be done at a distance.*
- 6. We ask that BOTH before and after the service of worship that worshippers only visit with each other outside the church building, since visiting outside is much safer. We recommend the patio in front of the Open Space as a wonderful gathering spot.*
- 7. For safety reasons, at this time we will not be serving coffee or any other refreshments before or after the service of worship.*

Of course, the Session will evaluate these precautions each month during its stated meeting. (Note: If Berrien Counties 14-day average new case rate and/or its 14-day average positive test rate rise above the thresholds again, the Session will need to consider going back to virtual or outdoor services of worship.)

Our goal is to worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth, and with love and consideration for all who may attend our service of worship.

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Psalm 29 – The Voice of God in a Great Storm

A Psalm of David.

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.
- ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
- ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, “**Glory!**”
- ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
- ¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Luke3:21 – 22 – The Baptism of Jesus

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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