

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.

June 19, 2022

The Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

Jackie Baker  
Evan Closser

### GOD GATHERS US

**The Call to Worship** (Ephesians 1:2 – 6 from The Message)

One: I greet you with the grace and peace poured into our lives by God our Father and our Master, Jesus Christ.

**All: How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is!**

One: He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him.

**All: Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love.**

One: Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!)

**All: He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.**

Opening Hymn      *Of the Father's Love Begotten*      *Glory to God #108*

**Opening Prayer in Unison** (Julian of Norwich, c. 1342 – 1416)

In you, Father almighty, we have our preservation and our bliss.

In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving.

You are our mother, brother, and Savior.

In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace.

You are our clothing; for in love you wrap us and embrace us.

You are our maker, our lover, our keeper.

Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. Amen

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

**A Time for Young People**

Jeannette Holton

*Kindergarteners and older children may get clipboards from the front pew.*

**Song of Preparation**

*Be Thou My Vision*

*Glory to God #450*

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 6:1 – 13 (The Message); Psalm 23 (KJV)

*(After the scripture readings)*

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

"Our Father: Divine Parental Presence"

Doug Petersen

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**Offertory**

Evan Closser

**\* Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Christ, all creature here below.

Praise Holy Spirit evermore. Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

**\* The Prayer of Dedication**

**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**

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

*Glory to God #700*

**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

Evan Closser

**Participants in Today's Service**

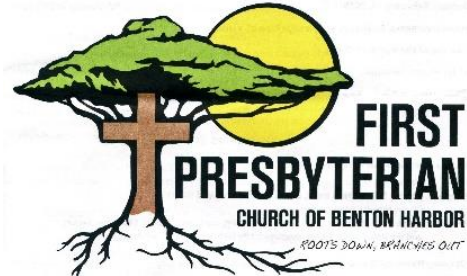
Worship Leader: Rev. Doug Petersen  
Musician: Evan Closser  
Children's Sermon: Jeannette Holton  
Worship Assistant: Jackie Baker  
Vocalist: Evan Closser  
Audio/Video: Bob Ziebart and Gordon Helm  
Greeter: Jeannette Holton

**Church Staff Members**

Pastor: Rev. Sheth Z. LaRue  
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Doug Petersen  
Music Minister: Evan Closser  
Child Care Teacher: Annabelle Lopez  
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**

PO Box 186, 475 Green Avenue  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022  
269-925-7075  
Email: [firstpresbh@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbh@gmail.com)  
Website: [FIRSTPRESBH.ORG](http://FIRSTPRESBH.ORG)  
Facebook: First Presbyterian in Benton Harbor

Beverages are available in Goff Hall after the service of worship.

Bible Study on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 10 a.m. at 300 Lake Court, Saint Joseph, Michigan.

Pub Theology on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 8 p.m. at The Livery.

Service of Worship, June 26, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. – The Third Sunday after Pentecost.

We will share an outside picnic following this service of worship.  
Please dress appropriately and bring a picnic dish to share, if you wish.

**The sanctuary doors of the First Presbyterian Church of Benton Harbor  
will be open for the 10 a.m. service of worship  
on Sunday, June 19, 2022!**

**NOTE: This service of 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 continue to 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.*
- 3. We encourage, but will not require, face mask wearing.*
- 4. 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.*

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 23 (King James Version)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

<sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

### The Gospel of Matthew 6:1 – 13 (The Message)

“Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don’t make a performance out of it. It might be good theater, but the God who made you won’t be applauding.

<sup>2-4</sup> “When you do something for someone else, don’t call attention to yourself. You’ve seen them in action, I’m sure—‘playactors’ I call them—treating prayer meeting and street corner alike as a stage, acting compassionate as long as someone is watching, playing to the crowds. They get applause, true, but that’s all they get. When you help someone out, don’t think about how it looks. Just do it—quietly and unobtrusively. That is the way your God, who conceived you in love, working behind the scenes, helps you out.

<sup>5</sup> “And when you come before God, don’t turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for fifteen minutes of fame! Do you think God sits in a box seat?

<sup>6</sup> “Here’s what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.

<sup>7-13</sup> “The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They’re full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don’t fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply.

Like this:      Our Father in heaven,  
                    Reveal who you are.  
                    Set the world right;  
                    Do what’s best—  
                            as above, so below.  
                    Keep us alive with three square meals.  
                    Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.  
                    Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.  
                    You’re in charge!  
                    You can do anything you want!  
                    You’re ablaze in beauty!  
                    Yes. Yes. Yes.

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