

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 12, 2025

10:00 a.m.

*Please stand if you are comfortable standing.

LITURGIST: "CGPI Cohort"

PRELUDE *Prelude on My Lord What a Morning* Charles Callahan

WELCOMING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

INTROIT *Shall We Gather at the River*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: God anointed Christ to console the afflicted.

All: Come, let us worship the Lord our Comforter!

One: God anointed Christ to emancipate the enslaved.

All: Come, let us worship the Lord our liberator!

One: God anointed Christ to bind up the wounded.

All: Come, let us worship the Lord our healer!

One: God anointed Christ to deliver the troubled.

All: Come, let us worship the Lord our Savior!

***HYMN #480** *Take Me to the Water* Take Me to the Water

CALL TO CONFESSION (liturgist)

In our baptisms, we put on the life of Christ. And yet too often we fail to live as the One who has claimed us. Do not fret, though! The waters of baptism penetrate deep and help bring us back to God in humble confession of our every failure, being assured that we will be forgiven. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of all mercy, in our baptisms you have marked us as your own; you have given us a new identity and made us part of the body of Christ. In doing so, you have called us to rise to new life and to live together in community. However, we have not been faithful to your call. We have forged our own identity and held to destructive habits. We confess we have failed to welcome others, broken bonds we have had with our siblings in the faith, and served ourselves more than you. Forgive us, we pray, for the sake of Christ, our Savior.

SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE *Kyrie*

DECLARATION OF PARDON (responsive)

One: Friends, hear the good news! Though we are unworthy, we are granted God's favor in Jesus Christ and are baptized into the church of his beloved Son. Friends, believe the good news!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Hymnal Page 582

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,
whose grace has pardoned me and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. (3X)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MOMENT FOR EDUCATION

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 43:1-7

ANTHEM *Do Not Be Afraid* Sally Ann Morris

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:15-22

SERMON *"Baptism: Answering Your Hearts' Questions"*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*The Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; the life everlasting. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS

Offertory

*Doxology (Unison) Hymn #606

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #493 *Now There Is No Male of Female* Omni Die

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Baptized in Water*

POSTLUDE *Shall We Gather at the River* Mark Hayes



Venmo

PRAYERS: All those adversely affected by war and all acts of violence, all victims of hate crimes, Amanda Ark's parents, Miranda Douglas, Kat Nic, Scarlet Gensler-Nic, Lyn Long, Marcy St. John, Linda Myers, Ken Oman, Scott Muellich (relatives of Scotty Huntington), Anna Beeker's parents, Jenny Breyer (niece of Mary Clarke), Mahmoud & family, the LGBTQIA+ Community, all victims of abuse, racial inequalities, those picking up and trying to recover from surgery and loss.

This is a MORE LIGHT Presbyterian Church!

A "More Light" Presbyterian church welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons to full participation in the life, ministry, and witness of the congregation. We work to expand the inclusiveness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

There are no closed doors here.
Christ Welcomes All Here!



First Presbyterian Church www.firstpresbyterianbg.org
More Light Presbyterians www.mlp.org www.mlp.org

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Araya Musselman, Nursery Worker	

CGPI? Last year the Synod of the Covenant was awarded a sizable Lilly Foundation Grant for the purposes of creating the Cultivating the Gift of Preaching Initiative (CGPI) program that trains laity in the craft of preaching. The goal of this program is to help resource small churches who struggle to find even pulpit supply each week. Pastor Jeff was selected as a Preaching Mentor alongside three other colleagues from throughout the Synod. Each Mentor was given a "cohort" of 4-6 participants, largely based around geography (though there is a non-geographical African American/African Diaspora cohort as well). This weekend Pastor Jeff's cohort gathered here in Bowling Green for a weekend retreat that included opportunities to preach for one another, lessons, meals, laughter, and fun. These CGPI participants are serving as liturgists during today's service and will be available for you to greet and encourage during Fellowship Hour after worship and the congregational meeting. Please welcome Peg Buda, Nikki Morey, Rex Plouck, and Mike Shull.

First Presbyterian Church

A More Light Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
126 S. Church St., Bowling Green, OH 43402



"Baptism: Answering Your Hearts' Questions"

January 12, 2025

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Take Me to the Water

- 1. Take me to the water. Take me to the water. Take me to water to be baptized.
- 2. I love Jesus. I love Jesus, I love Jesus, yes, I do.
- 3. He's My Savior. He's my Savior. He's my Savior, yes, he is.
- 4. Glory hallelujah. Glory hallelujah. Glory hallelujah to be baptized.

Now There Is No Male or Female

- 1. Now there is no make or female; now there is no free or slave; now there is no Jew or Gentile in the earth Christ died to save. Christ has set us free for freedom: we no more sing slavery's creed; old submission cannot claim us; Christ has set us free indeed.
- 2. Crucified with Christ the Savior, baptized in his holy death, and as Christ was raised to glory we have new life on this earth. Power of water and God's naming, turning us from dark to light, joins us to those who, before us, ran the race and fought the fight.
- 3. Death has no dominion o'er him, so for us death holds no power; life's own waters now have marked us, born to God this very hour. From this moment and forever dead to sin, alive in Christ, born of water and the Spirit, now in Christ we find our life.



I-75 Youth Group - The **I-75 youth group** will be meeting **Feb. 22 at Christ Church** in Toledo. This youth group meeting will start at 10am and we will be building beds for kids that need them. The youth will do all the building with a group called "Build a Bed ". Besides the meeting the I-75 Youth Group will also welcome donations of twin sheet sets or twin quilts (new or handmade) but not necessary to the project. If interested in coming please let Amanda know by Feb. 17th.

Week of Jan. 12 thru Jan. 19

- SUNDAY** 10:00 a.m. **Worship Service**
- 11:00 a.m. **Congregational Mtg. following the service**
- 11:15 a.m. **Refreshments & Fellowship in FH**
- 4:00 p.m. **Girl Scouts (Green Lounge)**
- 7:00 p.m. **Meditation/Recovery Group (Green Lounge)**
- MONDAY** **OFFICE IS CLOSED**
- TUESDAY** 1:00 p.m. **Book Group (Green Lounge)**
- 7:00 p.m. **Finance mtg. (Gathering Place)**
- 8:00 p.m. **A.A. (FH)**
- WEDNESDAY** 9:00 a.m. **Sorting Clothes in the Deacons' Shop**
- THURSDAY** 9:30 a.m. **Deacons' Shop is open to the public**
- Staff meeting in Pastor Jeff's office**
- 5:00 p.m. **Worship mtg. in Pastor Jeff's office**
- 7:00 p.m. **Meditation Group (FH)**
- FRIDAY** **Office is Closed – MLK, Jr. holiday**
- 2024 Annual Reports due to Tammy**
- SATURDAY** 9:00 a.m. **Officers Retreat (FH)**
- SUNDAY** 10:00 a.m. **Worship Service w/ordination/installation officers**

Congregational Meeting - Please plan to stay after worship **today** for a brief congregational meeting where we'll elect new Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Nominating Committee members.



Centennial Card Shower

Bette Nelson, mother to our very own Donna Nelson-Beene, is turning 100 years old (!!!) on Wednesday, January 22. Though she lives in Wisconsin, she watches our services every single week and, undoubtedly, prays for us even more often. To celebrate her, we're holding a card shower. The only request is to make sure you identify yourself clearly (i.e., "I'm a friend of Donna's from church") so she has context for all these cards. Cards can be sent to:

Bette Nelson
2271 Pine Road
Rudolph, WI 54475