

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 22, 2020



I keep asking that the God of our  
Lord Jesus Christ...



may give you the Spirit of wisdom  
and revelation,  
so that you may know him better.



Ephesians 1:17

## *Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell!*

We are a diverse faith family who value traditional worship, including Biblical teaching, prayer, confession, music, and a fellowship of caring and sharing.

We believe in the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We practice the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion which define who we are and encourage and sustain us in our daily life.

By the Grace of God and to the Glory of God, as servants of God, we strive to demonstrate the Love of God through Jesus Christ and in the Peace of the Holy Spirit by offering a welcoming and nurturing community and by reaching out in compassion beyond our fellowship to people in need.

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 22, 2020

10:30 a.m. Worship

## *Christ the King/Reign of Christ*

Please phone 269-215-0384 to join together!

<https://www.uberconference.com/plainwellpcusa>

### WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

#### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

*We invite you to light a candle in your home and remember that Jesus Christ IS the Light of the World!*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP AND SALUTATION

*Rev. Ruth Lowry*

L: The Lord God is our shepherd. *Ezek. 34:15–16; Ps. 100:3;*

**P: We are the people of God's pasture,  
the sheep of God's hand.** *Matt. 25:31–46*

L: God will seek the lost, feed the hungry,  
and strengthen the weak.

**All: But the proud and power-hungry will be fed with justice.**

#### OPENING HYMN

*“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”*

#### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Kate Johnson, Liturgist*

#### SONG OF PRAISE *(from Psalm 100)*

*(Responsive)*

Liturgist: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

**People: Worship the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.**

L: Know that the LORD is God. It is God who made us, and we are God's; we are God's people, and the sheep of the Lord's pasture.

**P: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise. Give thanks to the Lord, bless God's name.**

**ALL: For the LORD is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.**

#### WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP

*Christy Connell*

*“Come, Ye Thankful People Come”*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Pastor Ruth Lowry*

*With sincere and repentant hearts,  
let us name our sins against Christ and one another.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

**Sovereign God, we confess  
that we are not ready for your holy realm.  
You guide us toward right paths,  
but we refuse to follow where you lead.  
You love and feed and care for us,  
but we fail to love and serve others.  
Forgive us, merciful God, so that we may return to your fold  
and rejoice in your presence;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
the Lamb upon the throne. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

However long we wander, *Ps. 100:5*  
however far we stray,  
God's steadfast love endures forever.  
Sisters and brothers, be assured: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**GLORIA PATRI # 579**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Holy God, open your Word. *Eph. 1:17-18*  
Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation,  
that our eyes may be enlightened  
and we may know the hope to which we have been called;  
through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE**      Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24; Eph. 1:15-23; Matt. 25:31-46

**SERMON**      *"In Preparation for the King"*

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN

*"The Church's One Foundation"*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*(Apostles' Creed)*

*Do you believe in God?*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

*Do you believe in Jesus Christ?*

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?*

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*Almighty God, by the love of Jesus Christ you draw people to faith,  
and welcome them into the church family.*

*May we show your joy by embracing new brothers and sisters,  
who with us believe and with us will work to serve you.*

*Keep us close together in your Spirit,  
breaking bread in faith and love,*

*one with Jesus Christ our Lord and Master. Amen.*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

In gratitude for the immeasurable gift of Jesus Christ,  
let us bring our tithes and offerings to God.

*(We invite you, at this time, to write a check and mail it to the church, if you are able.)*

Offertory “*O Worship The King*”

*Christy Connell*

The Doxology #592

***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!***

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION**

Holy God, use us, and these gifts,  
to feed the hungry, clothe the naked,  
and honor your presence in all people;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

*Kate Johnson, Liturgist*

*[A time of silence follows each petition.]*

Our Shepherd satisfies our needs;  
in faith, let us pray to the Lord, saying,  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, our God, we pray for the church. . . .

As you have made Christ the head of all,  
help us to live faithfully as his body,  
continuing his mission in the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for the earth. . . .

Let all the earth make a joyful noise to you,  
a song of praise to the rock of our salvation,  
for you are coming to reveal a new creation.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for all nations. . . .

Drive out those wolves in sheep's clothing  
who abuse the weak and scatter the flock.  
Come and save us; bring justice and peace.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for this community. . . .  
Help us to see Christ among our neighbors,  
serving those who are hungry and thirsty,  
naked and lonely, sick or in prison.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for loved ones. . . .  
Remember the people of your pasture:  
rescue the lost, bind up the broken,  
heal the sick, and feed those who hunger.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Shepherd, lead and guide us—  
in green pastures and by still waters,  
in right paths and through dark valleys,  
until we feast with you in glory  
and dwell in your house forever;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray:  
**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 debts, as  
we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**CHARGE**

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
serving faithfully until Christ comes  
to welcome his people home.*

**CLOSING HYMN**

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

**BENEDICTION**

May the grace of Christ surround you,  
the love of God astound you,  
and the Holy Spirit keep you,  
this day and forevermore.

**POSTLUDE**

*Christy Connell*

*“Crown Him With Many Crowns”*

**GREETINGS TO EACH OTHER**

*Enjoy a time of greeting each other before ending the phone call.*

*(Portions of Liturgy are from “Feasting on the Word”)*



**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!**

Kate Johnson has been a part of our church for more than a decade. Of her journey to this church, Kate writes:

“And Grace will lead you home.

Surely it was Grace leading me to the announcement that Catherine Martin was starting her ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell. And surely it was Grace that led me to the fellowship of a church who accepted me, loved me, and modeled forgiveness every step of the way. Thank you for your gift to me.

~ Kate Johnson

David and Donna Pinneo have lived in various parts of our nation as part of David’s work. They have been active in their church in their moves. As they looked for a place to retire, they found Plainwell. As they looked for a church, Jay Miller suggested to Dave to look to First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell. We are so grateful for this gift of Grace!

## From Your Session

In the Presbyterian Church, the Church is led by the Elders (“presbyterios” means “elder” in Greek). The Elders will continue to keep you informed here in the bulletin.

- **Your Session** has prayerfully discussed how best to faithfully care for *all* the people

of our church during this pandemic. We are well aware that many people are vulnerable in our congregation. We will be worshipping together, as we have been, via phone/online to protect each other and those we love.

- **The Presbytery’s Leadership Team** spent some time in discernment and discussion and decided the Church is called to protect those most vulnerable. Therefore, their recommendation is that congregations of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan not conduct in-person worship services within church buildings until *at least* December 31, 2020.
- We ask you to remember to support your church in ways that you are able during this unexpected season in our world. Please mail your checks to the church address. Thank you!

## Church Calendar

**Sunday**      **Worship @ 10:30 am on the phone/online**

November 22 (*Christ the King Sunday*)

*Welcome New Members!*

November 29 (*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent*)

**Tuesday**      *Dawn will be in the office.*

November 24, 10 am Book Club (*meets via phone, 269-215-0384*). Please see announcement.

**Wednesday** *In coming weeks we are inviting you to pray together on lawns, porches and outdoors, with masks. When the weather gets colder, we look forward to returning to mid-week Prayer.*

### **SESSION MEMBERS**

Lisa Boer.....	685-2325
Michelle Boer.....	623-4431
Sharon Chambers.....	343-4489
Barry Martin.....	623-2650
Jay Miller.....	694-4259
Pat Switzer, Clerk of Session..	685-5750

### **DEACON**

Pat Harriger.....	685-5049
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## Community

- **A note of thanks** for all of the cards, prayers and especially the delicious meals. Thank you and take care, Lisa Boer.
- **The Book Club will now be connecting virtually.** Please call 269-215-0384 at 10am. Tuesday morning to connect via phone.
- **Christian Neighbors will offer a virtual Facebook Community Thanksgiving Service.** You may enjoy the service live on Nov. 22, 6pm, with prayers of Thanksgiving and encouragement: <https://www.facebook.com/christianneighborsplainwell/events/>
- **The church sustained hail damage** recently and will be having some work done in the upcoming weeks.
- **If you are coming to the church** for any reason at this time, *we kindly request that you please wear a mask.*
- **Many thanks to Lois DeWolf** who has made some beautiful masks. We so appreciate your efforts to help keep us safe!
- **The Nov/Dec. issue of the Upper Room has arrived.** If you would like one, please call the office to let Dawn know your approximate arrival and she will bring it out to your vehicle.

## Partners in Mission

- **Good Hands Plainwell is requesting:** Fruit cups, oatmeal packets (brown sugar or plain), peanut butter (regular or crunchy), peanut butter snack crackers, macaroni & cheese.
- **Christian Neighbors requests that our church donate:** Hamburger & Tuna Helper in Nov. & Dec. Food donations may be placed in the Christian Neighbors donation box.
- **Christian Neighbors News:** We are ready to help if you are in need. For food, help with utilities, rent or prescriptions; please call Kim, 685-4166. Hours: Mon., 10am-12pm & 4-6pm; Tues., 10am-12pm; Thurs., 3-5pm; Closed Wed. & Fri.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### **NOVEMBER**

6	Robert Koster
9	Chelsea Martin
10	William Switzer
11	Eloise Doster
14	Sharon Chambers
22	Sam Hornak
27	Lehna Clothier

### **DECEMBER**

3	Robert & Marilyn Koster
5	Mary Hinds
7	Joanne Davies

## Prayer Concerns

If you would like to have someone added or removed from our Weekly Prayer Requests, please let Pastor Ruth know. Requests will remain on the special prayer needs section for 30 days at which time they will be removed unless we receive a request otherwise.

### **For those dealing with long-term health challenges...**

MaryLyn Moon

Matt Shea

### **For those in Active Duty in the US Military...**

Ben Huyck - U.S.A.F. (*DeWolf's grandson*)

Lace Johnson - US Navy (*Koster's granddaughter-in-law*)

Alex Zikafoose (*Bob Dines' grandson*)

### **For those who are rejoicing:**

- For husbands and wives who care for each other tenderly.
- For Bob Koster's 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday in November and Bob and Marilyn Koster's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in December!
- We thank God for the many new grandbabies and great-grandbabies.
- We thank God for creativity and ingenuity during the pandemic.
- We thank God for a church that offers tender care to each other and others during a pandemic.

### **For those who are requesting prayer and intercession:**

- We pray for those affected by the pandemic.
- We pray for those in Long Term Care facilities during the

pandemic.

- We pray for God's comfort over the Spiegelberg family as Kevin mourns the sudden death of his younger brother, Dwight.
- We continue to pray for continued healing for Christy Connell and Lisa Boer and Jay Miller. We pray for complete healing and look forward to restored health.
- We pray for Mary Hinds and her family during this time, particularly her son Timothy as he looks at the potential of heart surgery.
- We pray for Jill and Kevin Spiegelberg's daughter, Jessica and Cory Lambright, as they go through the IVF procedure/ process.
- We continue to pray for Christina Madden's sister Jenny's daughter Tonette.
- The family and friends of Dave Davies, Larry Hiemstra, Linwood Jennings (the father of Dawn Edwards), Lisa Boer, Pat Switzer, those in places where peace is not known.

### *Question for Reflection*

How would it change you to see the face of Christ in every stranger you meet?

### *Household Prayer: Morning*

God of all creation,  
I greet Your new day with thanksgiving and praise.  
Do not let me neglect the needs of those I meet today,  
and keep me faithful to your ways,  
for I want to live for you. Amen.

### *Household Prayer: Evening*

Thank you, Lord, for the gifts and challenges of this day.  
Where I failed to do your will, forgive me.  
Grant me peace throughout this night, as I prepare for the future  
you have planned for me.  
in Jesus' name. Amen.

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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