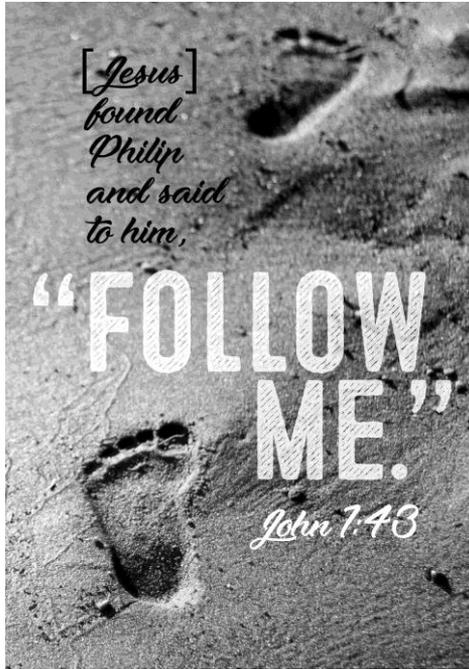


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 17, 2021



## *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

January 17, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship

## Second Sunday after Epiphany

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 one who calls you together this day yearns for each of you and for all people to hear and be blessed.

**P: Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.**

1 Sam. 3:9

L: Blessed is the One who comes bringing trustworthy words for the healing of the world.

**P: Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.**

#### OPENING HYMN

*“Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

#### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Michelle Boer, Liturgist*

#### SONG OF PRAISE (from Psalm 139:1-18)

*(Responsive)*

Liturgist: O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

**People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**

L: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

**P: Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.**

L: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

**P: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

L: Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

**P: If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

L: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

**P: If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

L: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**P: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**

L: My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

**P: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.**

L: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

**ALL: I try to count them -- they are more than the sand; I come to the end -- I am still with you.**

**WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP**

*Christy Connell*

*"Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Pastor Ruth Lowry*

*Assured that the One who calls us to hear and obey already knows the confessions of our hearts and is ready to forgive, let us confess our sin before God and before one another.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)**

**Holy God, you see into each of us and know us fully as creatures in need of your constant care.**

**We confess that, too often, we have neither heard your word nor followed your will.**

**If we speak the truth to ourselves, we acknowledge that too often we have failed our nation, neighbors, families, friends,**

**and ourselves.**

**Loving God, give us ears to hear your wisdom.**

**Lead us to honesty and faith so that we may begin again with renewed strength; in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

### **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

God knows the hearts of those who seek forgiveness,  
and by grace we have been saved.

In Jesus' name we are forgiven.

Our sins are no more. We have been made clean.

God strengthens you with freedom  
through the Holy Spirit, in Christ Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **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**

*Michelle Boer, Liturgist*

By your Holy Spirit, O God, open our ears, our eyes,  
our hearts, and our minds to the Holy Word  
so that it comes to rule within us for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE**

1 Samuel 3:1-20; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

**SERMON**

*"Can Anything Good Come from . . .?"*

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

**HYMN**

*"Open My Eyes, That I May See"*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*(Apostles' Creed)*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the 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 arose 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; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

*Jesus promised that you and I will come to see  
heaven opened and angels dancing in splendor.                      John 1:51  
Our offerings are a thanksgiving for these gifts.  
Open now your hearts and share your possessions  
so that the church's work is made strong  
for the sake of this needy world.*

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

Offertory "This is My Father's World"                      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**

Bless in every way, O Lord, the gifts of the people here given.  
Enrich the ministries of your people  
and make us grateful to be able to let go of the things  
we do not, finally, own. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**                      *Michelle Boer, Liturgist*  
*[A time of silence follows each petition.]*

Let us pray for all the earth, the church, and all those in need,  
saying,  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the world:  
for leaders of nations,

that wisdom and integrity will prevail for the good of all people,  
especially the poor;  
for regions torn by conflict, that peace may reign  
and living become an enterprise of construction rather than  
destruction;  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all people of faith:  
for the unity of the body of Christ,  
that divisions might not turn people away from the church;  
for Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, and Jews,  
that wherever prayers are raised up, the one God of all will hear;  
for all people who nurture life in the name of a greater good;  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our own nation:  
for peace-filled transitions, for outgoing and incoming officials,  
for the President and Congress, the Supreme Court and all judges,  
for state governments, city councils, school boards,  
and all who have power to make policy,  
that all consideration be given  
to what is most healthy for people and creatures;  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those in need:  
for all who are hungry in our nation and world,  
for those who have no home and no employment,  
for those who are either unjustly or justly imprisoned,  
for parents and children who live in fear for any reason,  
and for all who are in mourning;  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all other concerns of this assembly now spoken aloud or  
silently, . . .

*[A time of silence is kept.]*

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving,

we remember all those who have shaped us in your ways, O God.

Receive our prayers and grant whatever you see that your people need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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**

All things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial. *1 Cor. 6:12*  
Listen to the word of the Lord as you move through your days.  
Trust that the Holy Spirit will guide your choices.  
See in each person you meet one for whom Jesus gave his life.

**CLOSING HYMN**

*“Take My Life and Let It Be”*

**BENEDICTION**

The peace of Christ, crucified and risen for all, go with you this day and always.

**POSTLUDE**

*Christy Connell*

*“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”*

**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”)*

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**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

**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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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.

- 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 on the phone / online**

January 17(*Second Sunday after Epiphany*)

January 24 (*Third Sunday after Epiphany*)

### ***Looking Ahead***

February 7, Congregational Meeting (*immediately following the church service*). *Officers, please have reports for the Annual Meeting emailed to the church office by Tuesday, January 19.*

### **Tuesday**

*Dawn will be in the office on Tuesday*

January 19, 10 am Book Club (*meets via*

*phone, 269-215-0384*). *Please see announcement.*

## **Community**

- **Our Per Capita assessment that we remit to the Presbytery is \$35.23/member.** When submitting your Per Capita, please indicate that this is what it is for on your check. Thank you.
- **We will hold our Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, February 7, immediately following the church service. *Officers, please have reports for the Annual Meeting emailed to the church office by Tuesday, January 19.*
- **Robert and Marilyn Koster's new address is: 1213 Lincoln Rd., Allegan, MI 49010.**
- **Jill Spiegelberg's New Cell phone number: 269-286-3145**
- **The Book Club will now be connecting virtually.** Please call 269-215-0384 at 10am. Tuesday morning to connect via phone.
- **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 Jan./Feb. 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 December; Pasta & Pasta Sauce in January; Peanut Butter & Jelly in February; and Fruit Juice & Cereal in March. 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

#### **JANUARY**

8 Pieter and Michelle Boer  
 12 Marilyn Koster  
 16 Karel Boer  
 24 Cheryl Hiemstra  
 24 Mark & Christy Connell  
 31 Paula Fenstermaker

#### **FEBRUARY**

3 Christina Madden  
 12 Tom Lamb  
 14 Janet Madden  
 17 Beulah Jacobs  
 19 Richard Fisher  
 21 Dawn Edwards  
 25 Donnajo Fisher

### 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 all the ways that God provides.
- 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 Sandy Hogg's daughter Kelly as she faces a heart procedure on Tuesday, January 17.
- We pray for Jill Spiegelberg, as she faces concerns with her shoulder.
- We pray for JoAnne Davies, who suffered a small stroke on Tuesday, January 5.
- We pray for Paula Fenstermaker's son Eric and his wife, Beth, and their children Elijah 17, Ezekiel 15, Elliana 12 and Ezra, who will be three this month, who have contracted Covid.
- We pray for Christy Connell who continues to have multiple appointments with doctors as her body continues to heal.
- We pray for Sharon's sister-in-law Carol who has ALS
- 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 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 niece, Tonette Smith, who is going through chemo again.
- 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.

### *Questions for Reflection*

Where, in what place, and through what person or persons do you hear the call of the Lord? Consider it each day this week. Who has awakened in you a new prayer, a hope, an insight? Give thanks for those persons and moments as signs of God's love for you.

### *Household Prayer: Morning*

As I rise this day, O God,  
I give you thanks for breath and life,  
for the people I will see today,  
for family, neighbors, and friends,  
and for those whose ways are challenging to my serenity.  
Help me to give thanks especially  
for the people who pull me to new understandings  
and show me sides of life that I have not known  
or do not welcome.  
Urge me to follow you today; in Jesus' name. Amen.

### *Household Prayer: Evening*

As the evening comes and the time for rest draws near, O God,  
I give you thanks for another full and mystifying day.  
I have not done everything I had hoped to do.  
I have not forgiven myself or others as I ought.  
I ask now that you, who know me through and through,  
will lead me to let go of what I cannot change  
and seek anew tomorrow for a more enlightened path.  
I long for your guidance and your care.  
Guard my sleep, and let me rise renewed; in Jesus' name. Amen.

**General Offering Deposit Date, January 6, 2021: \$1,250.00**

# **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**303 East Bridge Street**

**Plainwell, MI 49080**

**Church Office: 269-685-5990**

**E-mail: [fpcplainwell@att.net](mailto:fpcplainwell@att.net)**

