

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 9, 2021

AS THE
FATHER
HAS LOVED
ME, SO
HAVE I
LOVED
YOU. ABIDE
IN MY



JOHN 15:9,
ESV

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
May 9, 2021 *10:30 a.m. Worship*
Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

Nathan Longfield

L: Sing to our God a new song.

Ps. 98:1–8

P: God has done marvelous things!

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

P: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

L: Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

P: Let the world and its people sing together for joy!

OPENING HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Chambers, Liturgist

SONG OF PRAISE (Psalm 98)

(Responsive)

L: O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. God’s right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

P: The LORD has made known victory; the Lord has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

L: The Lord has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

P: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

L: Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

P: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

L: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

P: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

ALL: At the presence of the LORD, for God is coming to judge the earth. The Lord will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP

Christy Connell

“How Great Thou Art”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Nathan Longfield

We have been called to follow Christ

by obeying his one commandment:

that we love one another as he has loved us.

John 15:12

Let us confess how we have fallen short of that love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

John 15:11

Loving God, we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts. We sin in what we say—and in what we fail to say; in what we do—and in what we fail to do.

Forgive us, God, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness of

body, mind, and spirit that we may be filled with your joy.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

John 15:13

Christ loves us so much that he laid down his life for us and calls us his friends.

If we can forgive our friends, how much more does Christ forgive

us! This is the good news of the gospel:

in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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 *Sharon Chambers, Liturgist*
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, *Acts 10:45*
in the reading of your Word, that we would hear what you have to
say to us today.

May your Holy Spirit be poured out upon us;
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Acts 10: 44-48; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

SERMON “Love As” *Nathan Longfield*

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

HYMN *“Abide with Me”*

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

*Let us show our friendship with Christ and our love for our
neighbors by giving generously so that we may bear the lasting
fruit of Christ’s love.*

Offertory “Blessings”(dedicated to all women) *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, in Christ you have chosen us to be your friends *John 15:15*
and to know your will in the world.

Therefore we pray in Jesus' name that these *John 15:16*
tithes and offerings spread your love near and far. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Sharon Chambers, Liturgist

[A time of silence follows each petition.]

We sing for joy, O God,

for you are coming to judge the world
with righteousness and fairness

Ps. 98:9

between nations and between people.

God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the poor and the desperate
as well as for those who abuse and oppress them,
both here and abroad.

Comfort those who suffer and chasten those who cause their
suffering, that your justice may be known in all the earth.

God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for families, communities, and nations
torn apart by violence.

Heal the broken places and imbue your earth with peace.

God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick and the dying,

for those who are friendless and lonely,

for those living with grief or depression.

Bring them your friendship and renew their joy.

God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves, your church,
that we may bear fruit of peace, hope, and love,
fruit that will last.

John 15:16

God of goodness and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Now in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ,
our friend,

John 15:15

and in the Holy Spirit poured out on us,

Acts 10:45

we sing a new song to praise you

for you are doing marvelous things!

Ps. 98:1

**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

Live in the joy of Christ's love

John 15:11

and in all the marvelous things that God is doing!

Ps. 98:1

CLOSING HYMN

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

BENEDICTION

May the righteous fairness of God, the loving friendship of Christ,
and the gift of the Holy Spirit go with you all.

POSTLUDE

Christy Connell

"How Great is Our God"

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")



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** continues to prayerfully discuss how best to faithfully care for *all* the people of our church during this pandemic. While we are looking at ways to safely worship together, we are well aware that many people are vulnerable in our congregation.

- We have looked at the potential of worshipping outdoors, but because of logistic concerns (adequate means for those who are hard of hearing to participate, seating, continuing online for those unable to join) we decided to not pursue that option.
- Therefore, we will continue to worship together, as we have been, via phone/online to protect each other and those we love. We continue to be in consultation with the Presbytery and continue to follow their guidelines. We in leadership are not yet convinced that it is safe to meet together. We are aware that some of what we miss so much—singing and eating together—are not safe. Also, while we are grateful that so many are vaccinated, we are a church that welcomes everyone (including those whom we have not yet met) and are aware that it is possible to transmit the virus asymptotically, even after vaccination.
- We continue to work with the Presbytery and the PCUSA who utilize the wisdom of those who are on the frontlines of this pandemic. The Presbytery has offered guidelines through September 30. We continue to look at infection rates, vaccination rates, and covid case rates.
- Our next Session meetings are: May 16 and June 27.
- In addition to the *Upper Room* we will also have ***Our Daily***

SESSION MEMBERS

Lisa Boer	269-685-2325
Michelle Boer	269-623-4431
Sharon Chambers	269-343-4489
Kate Johnson	269-692-6771
Barry Martin	269-760-8321
Jay Miller	269-694-4259
Pat Switzer, Clerk of Session	685-5750

DEACON

Pat Harriger	269-685-5049
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Bread for you to read. It should be at the church within the next 2-3 weeks. If you would like a delivery, Kate Johnson is more than happy to drop them off! From Jay Miller: “Paula and I have been reading *Our Daily Bread* as an evening devotional for several months and we enjoy reading it very much and hope you will find it helpful and enlightening.”

- 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**

May 9, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Nathan Longfield preaching

May 16, Seventh Sunday of Easter

Session Meeting

Tuesday *Dawn will be in the office on Tuesday*

10am Book Club (meets via phone, 269-215-0384)

We are reading: Dusk, Night, Dawn by Anne Lamott

Day	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
<u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u> May 9, 2021	<u>*Acts 10:44-48</u>	<u>Psalm 98</u>	<u>1 John 5:1-6</u>	<u>John 15:9-17</u>
<u>Seventh Sunday of Easter</u> May 16, 2021	<u>*Acts 1:15-17, 21-26</u>	<u>Psalm 1</u>	<u>1 John 5:9-13</u>	<u>John 17:6-19</u>

COMMUNITY

- **To sign up for the Covid vaccine**, please contact Bronson, 269-775-8060. Please note that you may need to wait a while.
- **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.

- **The Book Club is connecting virtually.** Please call 269-215-0384 at 10 a.m. Tuesday morning to connect via phone. We are reading: *Dusk, Night, Dawn* by Anne Lamott.
- **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 May/June 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 OR we are happy to mail it to you!

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:** Mac & Cheese/Boxed Potatoes in May and Crackers & Muffin Mix in June. Food donations may be placed in the CN 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

MAY

15 Nicki Klein
 16 Art Teitgen
 20 Jill Spiegelberg
 20 Lisa and Karl Boer
 22 Pieter Boer
 23 Meghan Boer
 28 Cheryl and Larry Hiemstra

JUNE

4 MaryLyn Moon
 6 Tom and Marilyn Lamb
 10 Pastor Ruth Lowry
 13 Richard and DonnaJo Fisher
 20 Pieter Boer
 22 William and Patsy Switzer

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 otherwise requested.

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

MaryLyn Moon

Matt Shea

Janet Madden

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:

- We give God thanks for Sandy Hogg's great granddaughter, Ripley Everose, born to Stacy and Jack. Congratulations!
- 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 caregivers, particularly in this time.
- We pray for the health of Mary Hinds' niece Maddie.
- We pray for Connie Brenner's friend Maryjo Jackson's daughter Janine Covey who has leukemia and must spend a month at U of M hospital. Janine is in her forties, got married in the past few years, and has a baby who is under a year. Please pray for this family.
- We pray for Kate Johnson and for Bart, as Bart's body heals.
- We pray for Mark and Christy Connell's son-in-law Leighton who is dealing with severe effects of Covid. Pray for healing—and for his family. We pray for others in their family who have health concerns.
- We pray for Marilyn Moon's cousin Tom who was hospitalized with Covid.

- We pray for Christy Connell as she heals from surgery.
- We pray for Pete Boer's friend John, who was injured in a motorcycle accident.
- We pray for the Spiegelberg's nephew Brayden who has Covid-19, and family members who were exposed.
- We pray for continued healing for Jill Spiegelberg, who had shoulder surgery on March 12.
- We pray for Lisa Boer's childhood friend Todd who continues in rehabilitation with effects of Covid-19.
- We pray for Christy Connell's brother Brent as he faces prostate cancer and heals from surgery this past week.
- We pray for Sandy Hogg's daughter Kelly as she continues treatment for cardiac issues.
- We pray for Pastor Ruth's friend Steven who has throat cancer.
- We pray for Meghan Boer's best friend's mom Lisa, who is healing after surgery from colon cancer and for her husband Dale who was diagnosed with cancer.
- We pray for Jill and Kevin Spiegelberg's daughter, Jessica and Cory Lambright, as they go through the IVF procedure/ process.
- For Sylvia Jennings (Dawn Edward's aunt) who had a stroke and for Linwood Jennings (the father of Dawn Edwards)
- For those in places where peace is not known.

Questions for Reflection

In our Gospel lesson this week, Jesus speaks of his extreme love for us, calls us his friends, and says that he makes known to us everything that he hears from God. How does thinking of Christ as our friend and lover—or Lord and Master—affect our daily living?

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy One, I begin today breathing in your love for me, for others, and for the world.

Keep me mindful of all the marvelous things you are doing around and within me today.

Help me to feel my friendship with Jesus

and his confidence in me.

Maintain in my heart the image of myself as a tree,
bearing the fruit of Christ's love everywhere I go today. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God, you are both judge and friend.

Even as I review my day,

I give it over to you.

I let go of the good, the bad, and the in-between,
trusting in your care for me.

I am content this night to abide in your love.

I breathe in your joy and your peace.

Whatever I need, I ask of you in Jesus' name. Amen.

General Offering Deposit 05/1/21: \$880.00

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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