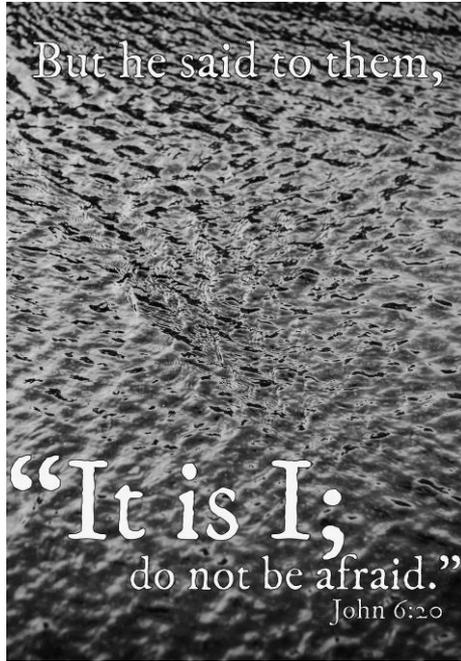


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 25, 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

July 25, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Please phone 269-215-0384 to join together!

<https://meetings.dialpad.com/room/plainwellpcusa>

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP AND SALUTATION

Rev. Ruth Lowry

L: God created all things visible and invisible; none other.

God provides food for your stomach and spirit; none other.

God is able to accomplish abundantly

Eph. 3:19

far more than all we can ask or imagine.

Let us worship the Trinity, and none other.

OPENING HYMN #142

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Chambers, Liturgist

SONG OF PRAISE (PSALM 14)

(Responsive)

L: Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.

P: The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.

L: They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one.

P: Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon the LORD?

L: There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous.

P: You would confound the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge.

**ALL: O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion!
When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will
rejoice; Israel will be glad.**

WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP *Christy Connell*
“Holy Spirit, Rain Down”

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Psalm 14*) *Pastor Ruth Lowry*
*Too often we say “There is no other God but God” with our lips,
but in our hearts we act as if there is no God. We worry about
things that only God can carry. We fear the future and regret
the past.*
*Even in the midst of the miracles of life, we often do not
acknowledge God’s presence.*
And yet the Spirit is with us as the source of life.
Therefore, let us confess our sins and receive Christ’s mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)
God of Wonder and Love and Forgiveness:
**we confess our sins and pray for your help
so that we can truly repent and turn from evil.**
**Deliver us from the temptation to hide from you, to lie to you,
or to excuse ourselves because of the harm we have done to
others.**
Forgive us for the ways we act like we are God.
**Restore your creation to full health and feed the multitudes
from the abundance of your merciful power.**
**Grow in us a deeper desire to love Christ with the fullness of
your love, and to glorify him, along with you and the Holy
Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS *from Ps. 103:11–12*
The river of God’s mercy runs deeper and wider than our sin.
God removes our sins as far as the heavens are above the earth.
Beloved in the risen Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

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*

O Holy Spirit, creative power of God, strengthen us to the depths
of our humanity.

Help us to overcome temptations to abuse our neighbors;
fill us with the love of Christ.

Feed us the bread of heaven so that we will share with the world
the saying that is true, I AM is with us.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE 2 Samuel 11:1-15, Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21

SERMON *“Do Not Be Afraid!”*

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

HYMN #370

“Just As I Am”

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

Isa. 55:10d

As God provides seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so has God provided enough for us to share as we give thanks and praise through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Let us present tithes and offerings. (We invite you, at this time, to write a check and place it in the offering plate after service or mail it to the church, if you are able.)

Offertory “*There Is A Green Hill Far Away*” 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 Sharon Chambers

O God, creator of rain and sun and soil, ruler of nations,
thank you for the abundance of the earth.

We know there is enough food to feed everyone alive today;
we are grateful that there are cures for the most common diseases;
we praise you for the witness of Jesus Christ,
who showed no lust for power or riches.

Fill the world with the Spirit of Christ
so that food, medicine, and peace flow as freely
as the river of life from the throne of the Lamb.

Rev. 22:1-2

Bless our offerings so that we can follow where Christ leads,
freeing the wealth of nations for the service of the kingdom. *Isa. 60*
We pray in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Sharon Chambers, Liturgist

[A time of silence follows each petition.]

O Lord, have mercy upon us;
O Christ, have mercy upon us;
O Spirit, have mercy upon us,
and grant us your peace.

We pray for those who have no peace:
for children, women, and men
whose homes have been destroyed by war;

whose minds have been damaged
by what they have seen or felt or done;
who are hungry or thirsty or ill
because they are refugees or poor
or underpaid or trapped in human trafficking.

We pray for those whom you have called to be peacemakers:
leaders of governments and businesses
and nongovernmental organizations;
leaders of the church and scholars
and scientists and educators;
community organizers and citizens
and everyone of sound mind and body
who can bear the burdens of the weak.

Give us strength and courage and faith
to trust Jesus Christ and to be Christlike
for the good of the creation you are redeeming
and to the glory of the One who redeems all,
who, with you and the Holy Spirit, we worship
now and forever.

We pray these things in the name of our Lord 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

Share the bread of life with all whom you meet;
let the Spirit of life strengthen your whole being;
and be open to the transforming of your soul
by the fullness of God.

CLOSING HYMN #366

"Jesus, Thou Boundless Love to Me"

BENEDICTION

God feed you with open hands, protect you with mighty arms,
heal you with gentle fingers.

The scent of bread, fish, and grace linger in the clothing of your
heart and renew your faith when strong sea winds blow.

POSTLUDE

Christy Connell

“How Great Thou Art with God of Wonders”

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”)



On Sunday, August 1 we will celebrate Holy Communion. We have cups that are self-contained and have the juice in the cup and a wafer separately wrapped on the top. If you will be home for worship and would like to receive communion, please come and get the elements on Tuesday morning, July 27, from the church office. Please phone before coming. If you need them delivered, please let the church office know that, as well, and we will bring them to your home.

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 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!

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

Reopening the Church Building

We are back in the church building as of Sunday, July 18. Because we also seek to care for the most vulnerable, and in consultation with the Presbytery, these are the guidelines for gathering together again:

1. We will also use DialPad (the new name for UberConference) so that those who are not able to join in person can join via their phones.
2. Masks are *mandatory* for everyone when we meet.
3. We are asking that when you come to the church building that you go straight to your seat in the sanctuary and enjoy music and pray.
4. Seats will be spaced out for family groups with at least ten feet of distance.
5. We will sing with masks on.
6. There will be no eating or drinking (we know that we all will miss this!)
7. As difficult as it is, we are asking that there be no hugging or shaking hands, as we (again) care for the most vulnerable.

8. Regarding the use of restrooms, we are asking people to please be courteous in caring for others in this time of uncertainty. We will supply wipes so that when someone uses the room, they can wipe things down before and/or after.
9. After worship you may gather outside to greet each other.

As we move to our in-person Worship service, if you anticipate remaining at home to continue to worship via phone/video, please be sure to let the church office know by email (fpcplainwell@att.net) or phone (269-685-5990) so that we continue to send you a mailed bulletin. Thank you so much!

Church Calendar

Sunday **Worship @ 10:30 on the phone / online**
July 25, 2021, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 1, 2021, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
 * *Holy Communion*

Tuesday *Dawn will be in the office on Tuesday*
 10am Book Club: *"The Persian Pickle Club" by Sandra Dallas.*

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: *"The Meryl Streep Movie Club" by Mia March.*
- **If you are coming to the church** for any reason at this time, *we kindly request that you please wear a mask.*
- **The July/August 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:** Deodorant, toilet paper in July; Canned Soup/Canned Pasta in August; Cake Mix & Frosting in September. 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

JULY

5 Pat Harriger
13 Michelle Boer
13 Pat Switzer
15 Tynan Boer

AUGUST

21 Lisa Boer
22 Jay Miller & Paula Fenstermaker
27 Marilyn Lamb

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 thanks to God for Paula Fenstermaker's daughter's wedding.
- For all the ways that God provides.
- We thank God for creativity and ingenuity and 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 those affected by alcohol and drug addiction.
- We pray for the person who broke into our church building.
- We pray for healing for Dick DeWolf who had emergency surgery on his leg. We pray for Lois as she cares for him.
- We pray for Christina Madden, who will have surgery on her knee on August 3.
- We pray for Judy Woods as she deals with health challenges.
- We pray for Bart, and for Kate Johnson as she cares for him.
- We pray for Sandy Hogg's granddaughter Macy who was bucked off a horse and now has a broken arm, as she cares for her baby.
- We pray for Lisa Boer's Aunt Carol who has begun chemo (after the return of cancer).
- We pray for the health of Mary Hinds' niece Maddie.
- We pray for Christy Connell's brother Brent as he faces prostate cancer and heals from surgery this past week.
- 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.

General Offering Deposit Date of 7/13/2021: \$1,290.00

General Offering Deposit Date of 7/18/2021: \$1,060.00

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

303 East Bridge Street

Plainwell, MI 49080

Church Office: 269-685-5990

E-mail: fpcplainwell@att.net

