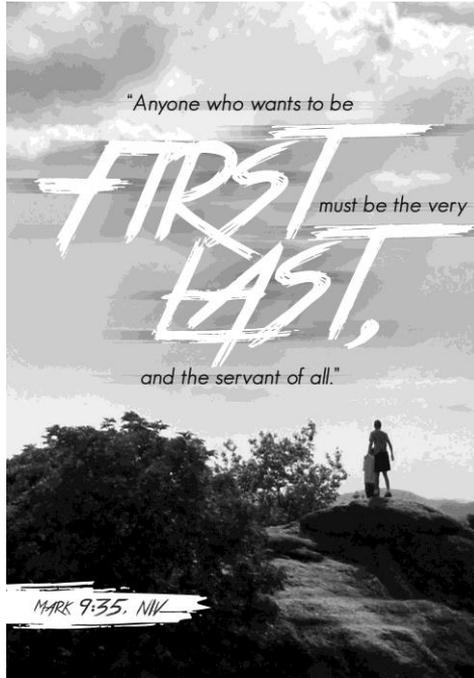


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 19, 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

September 19, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship

*Seventeenth 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 and remember that Jesus Christ IS the Light of the World!*

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND SALUTATION

*Rev. Ruth Lowry*

L: Happy are the people

*Ps. 1:1–2, 6*

**P: Who do not follow the advice of the wicked  
or take the path that they follow,  
or sit in the seat of people who make fun of others.**

L: Their delight is in the law of the Lord,

**P: And they meditate on God's law, day and night.**

L: The Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

**P: But the way of the wicked will perish.**

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

### OPENING HYMN #262 "*God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*"

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Pat Switzer, Liturgist*

### SONG OF PRAISE (*Psalm 1*)

*(Responsive)*

L: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

**P: But their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on God's  
law they meditate day and night.**

L: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield  
their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that  
they do, they prosper.

**P: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind  
drives away.**

L: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

**ALL: For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP**

*Christy Connell*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Pastor Ruth Lowry*

Recognizing that we are easily swayed by the wrong advice and that we have strayed from the ways of the Lord, let us confess our sins to God, with hope of finding love and mercy.

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

*James 3:18*

**God of wisdom, forgive our foolishness.**

**We desire what we do not need and corrupt our relationships with envy. You urge us to gentleness, but we stir up conflict.**

**Give us Your grace, that we may harvest righteousness and peace, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Teacher, we pray. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

*Proverbs 31:30*

Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but the people who fear the Lord are to be praised. Hear the good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and *we can live in peace!*

**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**

*Pat Switzer, Liturgist*

Your Word is our wisdom; it gives us insight, strength, and courage. Open our hearts and our minds on this day, that we might receive what You want to give. Speak, Lord! Your people listen! Amen.

**SCRIPTURE** Proverbs 31:10-31; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

HYMN #403

*“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”*

**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**

*We have been made capable of being good stewards of what God has given us. Let us, with gratitude in our hearts, give from what has been given to us, by grace.*

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

Offertory

*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**

*Psalms 1:3*

Our great Gardener, we are like trees planted by streams of water that yield their fruit in season and prosper in You.

We are grateful for all that You have provided, and we dedicate our first fruits to You and to the work of Your church, now and forever. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

*Pat Switzer, Liturgist*

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

God of understanding, through the Word read and proclaimed,  
and through Your Word incarnate, Jesus Christ,  
You give us the direction we need and show us that there is  
nowhere else to go but to You with our joys and our concerns.  
*Lord, in Your Mercy, **Hear Our Prayers***

We pray for our world that too often follows  
the advice of wickedness that leads to war, to violence,  
to conflict between ethnicities, to fear.  
*Lord, in Your Mercy, **Hear Our Prayers***

We pray for the women in this world  
who, as payment for their devotion and love  
as capable wives, daughters, sisters, girlfriends, mothers,  
receive rejection, abuse, heartbreak, and hate.  
*Lord, in Your Mercy, **Hear Our Prayers***

We pray for relationships that are broken  
by conflicts and dispute, by murder and deceit,  
and that cannot find a way back to restoration and healing.  
*Lord, in Your Mercy, **Hear Our Prayers***

We pray for our children  
who have been called the first  
in God's heart and kingdom  
but are not welcomed, loved, heard, or spoken to.  
*Lord, in Your Mercy, **Hear Our Prayers***

We believe in You, God of justice and mercy,  
and we ask, trusting in Your power,  
to heal the wounded hearts,  
to restore the brokenness of the world,  
and to lead us to everlasting peace.  
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**

*Mark 9:30–37; James 4:7–8a*

Go out into the world endeavoring to be the last of all and the servant of all.

Welcome the children, for in doing so, you welcome Jesus.  
Submit yourselves to God, resist all evil;  
Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

**CLOSING HYMN #438**

*"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"*

**BENEDICTION**

May God, who watches over all the righteous,  
give you the gifts needed to be a capable servant.  
May Jesus Christ, who welcomes everyone,  
give you the loving heart of a child  
so that you can welcome others unconditionally.  
May the Holy Spirit, who gives us the understanding  
we need to love God and to love others,  
give us unselfish and generous hearts,  
to heal relationships and to live in peace.

**POSTLUDE**

*Christy Connell*

**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")*



**World Communion Sunday** is Sunday, October 3. Pastor Ruth will be bringing the communion elements to those who cannot come to church. Please let the office or Pastor Ruth know if you would like a delivery. *Also* if you speak ANY other language or can read it, please let Pastor Ruth know. We would love to hear other languages when the Scriptures are read that day!

### **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!

### **Reopening the Church Building**

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. The phone number is: 269-215-0384
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. We will sing with masks on.
5. There will be no eating or drinking (we know that we all will miss this!)
6. As difficult as it is, we are asking that there be no hugging or shaking hands, as we (again) care for the most vulnerable.
7. 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.

8. After worship we ask that you gather outside to greet each other.

## Church Calendar

- Sunday**      **Worship @ 10:30 in person/on the phone / online**  
*Sept. 19, 2021 17th Sunday after Pentecost*  
*Sept. 26, 2021 18th Sunday after Pentecost*
- Tuesday**      *Dawn will be in the office*  
10am Book Club: *“The Chaperone” by Laura Moriarty*

## COMMUNITY

- **To sign up for the Covid vaccine**, please contact Bronson, 269-775-8060. Please note that you may need to wait a while.
- **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 Chaperone by Laura Moriarty*
- **If you are coming to the church** for any reason at this time, *we kindly request that you please wear a mask.*
- **The September/October issue of the Upper Room and Our Daily Bread 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:** 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

### **SEPTEMBER**

3 Judy Herrick  
16 Richard & Lois  
DeWolf  
21 Karli Boer  
22 Kate Johnson

### **OCTOBER**

3 Danielle Klein  
6 Bruce and Sandy Corwin  
8 Jay Miller  
8 Dan and Nicki Klein  
15 Kevin Spiegelberg

## 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:**

- Dick and Lois DeWolf want to thank the church for their prayers, cards, and encouragement through Dick's surgeries and convalescence.
- Christina Madden writes: "Thank you so very much for all of the cards, prayers, food and good wishes during my surgery and recuperation."
- We give thanks to God for another *great* grandbaby for Sandy Hogg! Her son Bob is the "proud Grandpa." Auston Taylor Hogg was born to Stefanie and Josh Hogg on September 8, 2021.
- We thank God that Art Teitgen's daughter, Julie, came through her procedure well.
- 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 Pat Switzer who has a spot on her lung and will be undergoing further testing and a biopsy.
- We pray for Lisa Boer who was diagnosed with Covid-19 (even though vaccinated and wearing a mask everywhere). This means her long awaited surgery is delayed. We pray for her in the waiting.
- We pray for Meghan Boer as she heals from a viral infection.
- We pray for Mark and Christy Connell's daughter Corey and her husband Andrew in the birth of their son Ripkin Taylor Thompson who was born at 1 a.m. on Sunday, September 12, a month early.
- We pray for Sandy Hogg's nephew John who is 56 years old and on hospice care.
- 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 those who mourn.
- 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 radiation treatment in September from prostate 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.

### *Question for Reflection*

What can you do to discern between good advice and advice that will lead you on the wrong path?

### *Household Prayer: Morning*

As we rise, we have so much to do!  
We work without realizing that all we do can be a song of love to You and to the ones with whom You have surrounded us.  
Lead me, O God, so that everything that I do in my life can be done in praise to You. Amen.

### *Household Prayer: Evening*

As this day ends, I hope I have done my work with a gentleness born out of Your wisdom.  
Thank You, triune God, for the rest that You will provide and for the strength for a new morning. Amen.

**General Offering Deposit Date of 9/7/2021:            \$1,928.00**

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**303 East Bridge Street  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
Church Office: 269-685-5990  
E-mail: [fpcplainwell@att.net](mailto:fpcplainwell@att.net)**

