

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 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

October 17, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship

Twenty First 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: Praise the Lord, for God is great indeed!

Ps. 104:1-9

Let us sing praises for God's glorious works.

P: We give glory, honor, and thanksgiving to the Lord, who makes and sustains all things.

OPENING HYMN #446 *“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”*

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kate Johnson, Liturgist

SONG OF PRAISE (*Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c*)

(Responsive)

L: Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, You are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty,

P: Wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

L: You set the beams of Your chambers on the waters, You make the clouds Your chariot, You ride on the wings of the wind,

P: You make the winds Your messengers, fire and flame Your ministers.

L: You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.

P: You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

L: At Your rebuke they flee; at the sound of Your thunder they take to flight.

P: They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys to the place that You appointed for them.

L: You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

P: O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures.

ALL: Praise the LORD!

WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP *Christy Connell*
“Just As I Am, Without One Plea”

CALL TO CONFESSION *Pastor Ruth Lowry*
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor, trusting in the mercy of our Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)
Merciful and gentle God, *Mark 10:35–37;*
we have wanted reward without sacrifice. *Heb. 5:2*
We have been unwilling to serve and
have not humbled ourselves in obedience.
Forgive our hubris and pride, gracious God.
Correct our ignorant ways
and help us to know Your glory through servanthood.
Guide us to be true followers of Your way,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS
People of God, your sins are forgiven, *Heb. 5:2*
for the Lord who made all things knows our weaknesses.
Therefore, turn away from sin and obey the ways of the Lord.
Be reconciled to the community in service and love.

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

Kate Johnson, Liturgist

O God,

Job 38:1

Your Word gives us counsel for our understanding. Enable us to receive it today, in the name of Your son, our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Job 38:1-7, (34-41), Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45

SERMON

"Without Knowledge"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN #339

"Be Thou My Vision"

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;

I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.

Born of thy love, thy child may I be,

thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Be thou my buckler, my sword for the fight.

Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,

thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r.

Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;

thou mine inheritance, now and always.

Thou and thou only, first in my heart,

Ruler of heaven, my treasure thou art.

True Light of heaven, when vict'ry is won

may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

Heart of my heart, whatever befall,

still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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

*God is ever faithful and has blessed us with so much.
With grateful hearts, let us offer back to God what we have,
with love and thanksgiving.*

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

Offertory “The Stand” 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

Gracious God, we offer You these gifts. Multiply them so that they might help build Your kingdom on earth and be of service to the body of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Kate Johnson, Liturgist

[A time of silence follows each petition.]

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, You are our high priest *Heb. 5:7*
who offered Yourself for us
with Your prayers and tears, Your very body.
Help us to pray and offer supplication for ourselves
and our community.

We pray for the local, national, and global church—
that it might exhibit the way of service in faith and love.

We pray for the international community—
that it might learn the way of peace.

We pray for anyone who suffers—
help us be the healing they need.

We pray for the earth—

help us to be proper stewards of Your creation.

We remember those who have come to their eternal rest,
and we wrap our loving arms of comfort around those who
grieve.

We lift up, in silence, any prayers we hold in the corners of our
hearts—

for You know and understand all things.

We ask all these things in the name of our Creator,
our servant-priest 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

The Son of Man came to serve, not to be served. *Mark 10:45*
Let us follow Christ's example,
and give our all to God and one another.

CLOSING HYMN #379 *"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"*

BENEDICTION

May the knowledge and love of the one *Job 38*
who knit the earth together rest with you and give you strength to
help others, for the glory of God.

POSTLUDE *"Rejoice, the Lord Is King"* *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")*



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
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Worshipping in the 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.

Prayer and Praise on Thursdays @ 6 pm

Beginning this Thursday we will gather for Prayer and Praise at 6 pm, just like we did at the beginning of the pandemic. We gather for less than 30 minutes so that people can have dinner. This is a time to connect, to pray, sometimes for song, sometimes to read Scripture. We look forward to joining together via Dialpad! Connect just like you do on Sunday mornings. You will receive a call at 6 pm and answer the phone if you would like to join!

Church Calendar

Sunday	Worship @ 10:30 in person/on the phone / online <i>October 17, 2021, 21st Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>October 24, 2021, 22nd Sunday after Pentecost</i>
Tuesday	<i>Dawn will be in the office</i> 10am Book Club: <i>Prayers For Sale by Sandra Dallas</i>
Thursday	6 pm Prayer and Praise

COMMUNITY

- **To sign up for the Covid vaccine**, please contact Bronson, 269-775-8060. Please note that you may need to wait a while.
- **We are no longer in need of plastic bags.** Lois DeWolf thanks you for all of your help.
- **The Book Club is connecting virtually.** Please call 269-215-0384 at 10 a.m. Tuesday morning to connect via phone. We are reading: *Prayers For Sale by Sandra Dallas*.
- **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 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:** Fruit Juice & Shelf Stable Milk for October; Canned Tuna & Canned Chicken for November; and Canned Pasta & Boxed Pasta for 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

OCTOBER

3 Danielle Klein
8 Jay Miller
8 Dan and Nicki Klein
15 Kevin Spiegelberg

NOVEMBER

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

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:

- 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 Kevin Spiegelberg as he mourns the death of his aunt, who is the last of his father's generation. She leaves a son and a daughter.
- We pray for Mary Hinds as she mourns the death of her sister-in-law.
- We pray for Pat Switzer who has a spot on her lung and continues under medical care.
- We pray for Lisa Boer who had surgery on Wednesday, October 13.
- We pray for Mark and Christy Connell who both have Covid.
- We grieve with Sandy Hogg, in the death of her nephew John from cancer; he was 56 years old.
- We grieve with Kevin and Jill Spiegelberg's daughter Ronna as she mourns a miscarriage.
- 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 grieve with Christina Madden in the death of her sister-in-law, Joyce Madden Lockwood.
- We pray for Lisa Boer's mom who had surgery and her sister-in-law Chris who had surgery.
- 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 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.

Questions for Reflection

What can you do to seek God's wisdom? How can you be a better servant?

Household Prayer: Morning

Gracious God, keep me humble throughout the day.
Help me to seek Your wisdom as I stand in service to others.
In Your name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God, thank you for keeping me today.
Thank You for the awesome works You have blessed my eyes to see. Continue to bless my community and me throughout the night.
In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

General Offering Deposit Date of 10/9/2021: \$1,975.00

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

