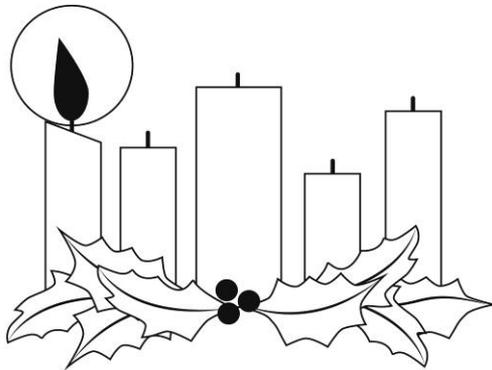


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 28, 2021



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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

November 28, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship

1st Sunday of Advent

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: There will be signs in the heavens
and distress among the nations.

Luke 21:25–36

P: When Christ returns in power and glory people will faint with fear.

L: But when you see these things, lift up your heads:

P: Our redemption is drawing near!

L: Heaven and earth may pass away,

ALL: But the Word of God will stand unshaken.

OPENING HYMN #9

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Connie Brenner, Liturgist

SONG OF PRAISE (*Psalm 25:1-10*)

(Responsive)

L: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

P: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

L: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

P: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

L: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

P: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

L: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

P: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, God instructs sinners in the way.

L: The Lord leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble the ways of God.

ALL: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep God's covenant and God's decrees.

WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP *Christy Connell*
"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

CALL TO CONFESSION *Pastor Ruth Lowry*
Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be weighed down *Luke 21:25–36*
by the sins and worries of this life, but watch and pray for the
grace of God, who will save you in your time of trial.
With confidence in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) *from Ps. 25:4–6*
Lord, have mercy on us.
We are not ready for your coming. *(silent prayer)*
We live in sin,
as though there were no justice. *(silent prayer)*
We live in fear,
as though there were no grace. *(silent prayer)*
Forgive us, Lord.
Show us your mercy and steadfast love.
Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths,
for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS *from 1 Thess. 3:9–13*
May the Lord guide your way, strengthen you in all holiness,
and make you abound in love for one another and for all.
Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ you 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

Connie Brenner, Liturgist

God our salvation,

Ps. 25:1–10

there is wisdom, peace, and joy for those who keep your Word.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead us in your truth and teach us to do your will; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Jer. 33:14-16; 1 Thess. 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

SERMON

“A Thrill of Hope, the Weary World Rejoices”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

HYMN #2

“Come, Thou Long Expected 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

Trusting in the sure promises of Christ, and grateful for the Spirit’s sustaining power, let us bring our tithes and offerings to God. (We invite you, at this time, to write a check and mail it to the church, if you are able.)

Offertory *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*

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

Liturgist

God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Connie Brenner, Liturgist

[A time of silence follows each petition.]

Let us pray to the Lord, saying, in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

Merciful God,

you call us to goodness and lead us on right paths.

You encourage us with signs of your coming

and urge us to keep watch,

that we might greet you with heads raised high

when you come to restore all of creation.

Watching and waiting, we pray for this world that needs
your saving power.

For nations at war,

in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

[silent prayer]

For all who suffer from violence, in the streets or in their homes,

in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

[silent prayer]

For all who live in worry or fear,

in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

[silent prayer]

For those who have forgotten the ways of righteousness,

in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

[silent prayer]

For those who have never heard of your rescuing love,

in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

[silent prayer]

For all those who have lost hope, or never had it at all,

in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

[silent prayer]

We pray, too, for your church in the world,
that we may increase in ardor for you and your children,
and work in confidence for your coming reign.
Now by the power of your Holy Spirit, make us ever more faithful,
that we may greet you in confidence and joy on that great day;
through 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

Go in peace, live in love, and seek to be holy in all that you do.

CLOSING HYMN #361 *“How Firm a Foundation (verses 1-5)”*

BENEDICTION

May the God of mercy keep you,
the Holy Spirit cheer you,
and Christ in glory greet you,
now and at the day of His coming.

POSTLUDE

“Emmanuel”

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 |

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:

- We continue to use DialPad so that those who are not able to join in person can join via their phones. The phone number is: 269-215-0384
- Masks are *mandatory* for everyone when we meet.
- We will sing with masks on.
- As difficult as it is, we are asking that there be no hugging or shaking hands, as we (again) care for the most vulnerable.
- 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.

Church Calendar

- Sunday** **Worship @ 10:30 in person/on the phone / online**
 November 28, 2021, *1st Sunday of Advent*
 December 5, 2021, *2nd Sunday of Advent*
 ▪ *Holy Communion*
- Tuesday** 10am Book Club: *Night Music* by Jojo Moyes
- Wednesday** *Dawn will be in the office at 8 am*
- Thursday** 6 pm Prayer & Praise via Phone/Dialpad

Prayer and Praise on Thursdays @ 6 pm

On Thursdays we 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!

COMMUNITY

- **Per capita for 2022 is \$36.73 per member.** Please mark your check as to what it is for when paying your per capita.
- **In past years our church has participated in the Plainwell Christmas Project.** The Christmas Project is a project to help families who are facing difficult times at this time of the year. Items needed are: non-perishable pantry items, cleaning supplies, hygiene products and Christmas gifts for children 17 and under. We will have a box in the fellowship hall in which to place donations on Sunday or when Dawn is in the office. If you have trouble getting your donation to church please call Sharon 269-598-5000 or Pat 269-330-5718 and we will pick the donations up at your home. All of the donations need to be in by December 10. Remembering that we are the hands and feet of Christ, we are hoping for a good response to this need.
- **The Book Club is connecting virtually.** Please call 269-215-0384 at 10 a.m. Tuesday morning to connect via phone. We are reading: *Night Music by Jojo Moyes.*
- **If you are coming to the church** for any reason at this time, *we kindly request that you please wear a mask.*
- **To sign up for the Covid vaccine, please contact Bronson, 269-775-8060.** Please note that you may need to wait a while.
- **The most recent 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!
- **River Cities Concert Band...**Our Christmas Concert, ‘Home for the Holidays’ will be held on December 12, 2021 at 3pm at Plainwell High School Auditorium. Admission by donation.

Partners in Mission

- **November is National Hospice Month...**Wings of Hope Hospice is grateful to share our Wings Home is one of the only free end-of-life residences that remained open in West Michigan during the COVID pandemic. At the Wings Home, our caregivers welcome, provide direct care, give medications, wash laundry, and make meals for our patients. They encourage loved ones. Call Mary Soule, Volunteer Coordinator, (269) 686-8659 for more information, and to consider joining our essential caregiving team. You'll know you're making a difference. www.wingsofhopehospice.com
- **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:** 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

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

DECEMBER

3 Robert & Marilyn Koster
5 Mary Hinds
7 Joanne Davies

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 birthdays and celebrations!
- 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 those who mourn.
- We pray for Bob Dines' granddaughter Danielle who is 36 years old and has acute myeloid leukemia.
- We grieve with Kevin and Jill Spiegelberg's daughter Ronna as she mourns a miscarriage.
- 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 deals with 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.

SPECIAL THANKS to Elders Sharon Chambers, Barry Martin, and Pat Switzer for decorating the church for Advent!



Question for Reflection

Even in the midst of trouble and turmoil, God allows us glimpses of the kingdom to come. What signs of promise do you see that bolster your hope in a new heaven and a new earth?

Household Prayer: Morning

Thank you for this new day to sing your praise
and watch for signs of your kingdom.

By your Spirit, let me abound in love for you and your children,
that in living and loving I may point to your coming reign.

In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you for the signs of your coming reign,
and for the power of your saving love.

Bless all those whom I met today,
and strengthen their hope in your power and grace.

Now as I close my eyes,

I relinquish all anxieties and fears,

trusting in your providence and mercy. Amen.

General Offering Deposit Date of 11/21/2021: \$1,300.00

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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