

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 16, 2022



Now there are  
varieties  
of gifts,  
but the same  
Spirit...

1 Corinthians 12:4

## *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

January 16, 2022

10:30 a.m. Worship

## *Second Sunday after the Epiphany*

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: How precious is the steadfast love of God.

*Ps. 36:7, 9*

**P: All people may take refuge in the shadow of God's embrace.**

L: Christ is the fountain of life.

**All: In Christ we behold the Light of God.**

#### OPENING HYMN

*"The Church's One Foundation"*

#### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Rev. Ruth Lowry, Liturgist*

#### SONG OF PRAISE (*Psalm 36:5-10*)

*(Responsive)*

L: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

**P: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, Your judgments are like the great deep; You save humans and animals alike, O LORD.**

L: How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**P: They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.**

L: For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

**ALL: O continue Your steadfast love to those who know You, and Your salvation to the upright of heart!**

**WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP**  
*"I Surrender All"*

*Christy Connell*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Rev. Ruth Lowry*

In the light of Christ, we see the darkness of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God's saving love, let us confess our sin.

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

**Almighty God,**

*1 Cor. 12:2*

**we confess that we have been led astray by the  
idols of our world.**

**We have depended on our possessions**

**and have not placed our trust in your grace.**

**We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer**

**and have failed to be faithful stewards of the earth's resources.**

**We have sought security in the might of the sword**

**rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Lead us to true repentance that we may serve you faithfully.**

**Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

*Rev. Ruth Lowry*

Hear the good news:

Christ unmask the idols of our world and frees us from all that would oppress us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**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**

*Rev. Ruth Lowry, Liturgist*

Gracious God,

*John 2:11*

by the power of the Holy Spirit, quicken our understanding

that we may receive the testimony of Scripture

and believe in the signs that reveal your presence.

We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE      Isaiah 62:1–5, 1 Corinthians 12:1–11, John 2:1–11

SERMON

“Gifts”

Nathan Longfield

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

HYMN #525

“Here I Am, Lord”

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin, My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

**Chorus:**

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night  
I will go, Lord. If You lead me;  
I will hold Your people in my heart*

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my words to them. Whom shall I send?

*(Chorus)*

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide, 'Til their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them, Whom shall I send?

*(Chorus)*

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**

*Nathan Longfield*

*God is a generous giver of gifts that flow like a river from the fountain of life. Bring offerings and tributes with thanks and praise; for the gifts we give are the gifts of God.*

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

Offertory

*Christy Connell*

*“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

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**

*Rev. Ruth Lowry*

At the wedding feast at Cana

*John 2:1–11; 1 Cor. 12:7*

you gladdened the guests with divine generosity,  
filled to the brim and flowing over.

We offer our gifts with grateful hearts.

Bless them and our lives to your service, that they may reveal your  
glory, nurture faith, and manifest the common good.

In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

*Rev. Ruth Lowry*

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

In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying,

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Loving God, in every gathering of Christian believers,  
you bring together a people of gifts, strengths, and needs  
to manifest the universal body of Christ.

We pray for your church throughout the world,  
that every local congregation may live as sisters and brothers

in harmony, showing forth the light of Christ to the world.  
*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

In every age you raise up servant leaders for your people.  
We pray for all who teach and lead  
and for all serve in the name of Christ.  
*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

For the sake of the common good of all people,  
you create human societies to be places of refuge and human  
flourishing.  
We pray for the leaders of the governments  
and especially for our leaders  
May they receive wisdom to exercise government  
with true justice grounded in mercy.  
*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Your Son, Jesus, performed the first of his signs of glory  
at a wedding in Cana.  
We pray for all who are joined as family:  
for all who make covenant to live together  
for mutual support and love;  
for parents and children, for the aged and the young.  
*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Lord, you are the giver of all good things:  
Receive our prayers that we offer for ourselves and for our world.  
In all things, grant us the courage  
to exercise your gifts for the good of our world,  
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**

*Nathan Longfield*

Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

*"Lord, Speak to Me"*

**BENEDICTION**

*Nathan Longfield*

May the Spirit's love,

*Ps. 36:8-9; 1 Cor. 12:1-12*

flowing like water across the face of the earth,

fill you with every gift for the good of the world.

And the blessing of God,

Eternal Source, Fountain of Life, and Giver of Gifts,

be with you always. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Christy Connell*

*"I Am Thine, O Lord"*

**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. Therefore, we continue to worship via DialPad only and not meet in person, as the infection rates rise after the holidays and with the new variants. We are grateful for technology and that we still remain connected! Not only with those who we have known for decades—but also with new friends!

As we seek to remain connected, we will be printing a new **Congregational Directory**. If you have changes/additions, please notify Dawn in the church office.

Please note that our **Congregational Meeting** will be on Sunday, February 27, immediately following our time of worship.

In this season, as we continue to look toward ways of doing ministry together, even though it may be different than years before, pre-pandemic. 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 in person/on the phone / online**  
*January 16, 2022, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany*  
*January 23, 2022, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany*
- Tuesday**      10am Book Club. We are reading, *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles.
- Wednesday**      *Dawn will be in the office at 8:00 am*

<b>SESSION MEMBERS</b>	
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
<b>DEACON</b>	
Pat Harriger	269-685-5049

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### **JANUARY**

8 Pieter and Michelle Boer  
12 Marilyn Koster  
16 Karel Boer  
24 Cheryl Hiemstra  
24 Mark & Christy Connell  
31 Paula Fenstermaker

### **FEBRUARY**

3 Christina Madden  
12 Tom Lamb  
14 Janet Madden  
17 Beulah Jacobs  
19 Richard Fisher  
21 Dawn Edwards  
25 DonnaJo Fisher

## 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.
- **The Book Club is connecting virtually.** We are reading *'The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles.
- Please call 269-215-0384 at 10 a.m. Tuesday morning to connect via phone.
- **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!

## 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:** Pasta & Pasta Sauce for January; Peanut Butter & Jelly for February; Fruit Juice & Cereal for March. 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.

## **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 healing for Marylyn Moon who fell and has a compression fracture in a vertebra.
- We pray for Christina Madden's son who is healing after an emergency appendectomy.
- We pray for Christy Connell, who has bronchitis. We pray for Mark Connell as he deals with pneumonia. We pray for their daughter Corey, who continues to heal. We pray for their son-in-law Leighton, as he waits for thyroid surgery. We pray for their family.

- We pray for Mike Harriger who fell and had surgery on his hip and for Pat Harriger as she cares for him.
- We pray for Marilyn Lamb's family and her sons as they mourn their father's death from Covid.
- We continue to pray for Mary Hinds' niece Maddie.
- 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 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.

### *Questions for Reflection*

The Holy Spirit enlivens each of us with unique gifts that nurture faith and serve the common good. To identify those gifts we can ask ourselves such questions as, When do I feel most alive? What do I love to do? What things, tasks, or actions fill me with a sense of purpose? What am I doing when time seems to stand still? These questions help us discern the Spirit's movement in our lives. Created in the image of God, each of us is uniquely gifted to reveal divine likeness. When our deep joy is united with meaning and purpose, vocation is birthed. How or where is God calling you?

### *Household Prayer: Morning*

Enlivening God, *Isa. 62:1, 4-5; Ps. 36:5, 7*  
 each morning I am awakened by Your goodness  
 nudging the earth to life.  
 I am filled with wonder.  
 Your steadfast love extends to the sky,  
 Your constancy reaches to the clouds.

How precious is Your steadfast love!  
It shines like the dawn,  
and dews the desolation of my soul.  
Manifest in me the gifts of Your Spirit  
that I may rejoice in You  
as I delight in serving Your world this day. Amen.

***Household Prayer: Evening***

As evening falls and darkness shutters the day,  
do not forsake us, O God.  
Crown the sky with jewels of light  
that your salvation may burnish the heavens  
and illumine the earth,  
and all find refuge in the shadow of your wings. Amen.

**General Offering Deposit Date of 1/12/2022:      \$ 1,025.00**

# **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

