

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 15, 2022



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

May 15, 2022

10:30 a.m. Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Please phone 269-215-0384 to join together!

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

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

In this Easter Season, as we celebrate Jesus Christ being the Light of the World, we invite you to light a candle in your home.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND SALUTATION

Pastor Ruth Lowry

L: Alleluia! Christ is alive; let all the people praise the LORD.

ALL: Let all creation sing with joy. Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN #115

"The Strife is O'er"

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kate Johnson, Liturgist

SONG OF PRAISE (from Psalm 148)

(Responsive)

L: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise the LORD in the heights!

P: Praise the LORD, all God's angels; praise God, all the host!

L: Praise the LORD, sun and moon; praise the Lord, all you shining stars!

P: Praise the LORD, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for the LORD commanded and they were created.

P: The LORD established them forever and ever; the LORD fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

L: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

P: Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling the LORD'S command!

L: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

P: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

L: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

P: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

ALL: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for God's name alone is exalted; the glory of the LORD is above earth and heaven. Praise the LORD!

WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP

Christy Connell

"Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Ruth Lowry

Trusting in the love of God to make all things new, let us confess our sin to God and our neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

God of mercy,

John: 13:34; Acts 11:9,

Your command to love one another

12, 17, 18

across all differences

opens us to new horizons, yet we often respond with fear and judgment that hinders Your goal for humanity.

Forgive our sins, we pray,

and give us a true repentance

that leads to life for all creation.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God's promises are trustworthy and true; our sins are forgiven!

Be at peace to serve the Lord, and may we always be known by our 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 of promise,

Acts 11:16; Rev. 21:5

Your word made flesh in Jesus Christ is trustworthy and true.

By the power of Your Holy Spirit, may it rise up in us this day like

a gift from the spring of the water of life

to refresh our thirsty souls. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:36–43, Revelation 7:9–17, John 10:22–30

SERMON

“If You Have Love for One Another”

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN

“They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love”

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

They will know we are Christians by our love

We will work with each other, we will work side by side

We will work with each other, we will work side by side

And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

They will know we are Christians by our love

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand

And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

They will know we are Christians by our love.

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

“I give you a new commandment, *John 13:34*
that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” Let us with gladness offer to God the gifts of our labor, life, and love. (*If you are able, please put a check in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary or mail it to the church.*)

Offertory “*Shout to the Lord*” *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!*

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and good to give You thanks, almighty God.

You sent Your servant John the Baptist to preach repentance and to prepare the way of our Lord Jesus Christ.

You set us in this world to love and serve You,

and to live in peace with all that You have made.

When we turned from You, You did not turn from us.

When we were captives in slavery, You delivered us to freedom,

and made covenant to be our sovereign God.

When we were stubborn and stiff-necked,

You spoke to us through prophets

who looked for that day when justice shall triumph

and peace shall reign over all the earth.

*Therefore, in all times and places Your people proclaim Your glory
in unending praise (congregation singing):*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name in earth, and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

You are holy, O God of majesty,

and blessed is Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

*You sent him into this world to satisfy the longings of Your people
for a Savior, to bring freedom to the captives of sin,
and to establish justice for the oppressed.*

He came among us as one of us,

taking the lot of the poor, sharing human suffering.

We rejoice that in his death and rising again,

You set before us the sure promise of new life,

the certain hope of a heavenly home

where we will sit at table with Christ our host.

We give You thanks that the Lord Jesus,

on the night before He died, took bread,

and after giving thanks to You,

he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat.

This is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

[People will eat the bread.]

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,

shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,

do this in remembrance of me.

[People will drink the cup.]

Remembering Your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,

*we take from Your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our
very selves to You to be a living and holy sacrifice,
dedicated to Your service.*

*Strengthen us, O God, in the power of Your Spirit
to bring good news to the poor
and lift blind eyes to sight,
to loose the chains that bind
and claim Your blessing for all people.*

*Keep us faithful in Your service
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we shall feast with all Your saints
in the joy of Your eternal realm.*

*Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are Yours, almighty God,
now and forever. Amen.*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Kate Johnson, Liturgist

[A time of silence follows each petition.]

In this season of Easter rejoicing,
let us offer our prayers and thanksgivings
for the church and the world saying,
O God of love,

Raise us to new life in Christ.

For the well-being of Your creation,
that we may promote its ability
to offer praise to You
through spacious skies,
bountiful seas,
verdant lands,
and precious creatures great and small.

O God of love,

Raise us to new life in Christ.

For the life of the church,
that our generous witness may broaden Your table

as all find a place to live and grow in love.

O God of love,

Raise us to new life in Christ.

For the welfare of Your world,
that all leaders and people young and old
will strive to live together in harmony
while serving the common good.

O God of love,

Raise us to new life in Christ.

For all who suffer any violence, pain, or grief,
that they will know
the comfort of Your presence
as You wipe every tear from their eyes.

O God of love,

Raise us to new life in Christ.

For the love made known to us in Jesus Christ
through this community,
for this and all other blessings
we give You thanks and praise.

O God of love,

Raise us to new life in Christ.

For all who have died,
that You will bring them to the fullness of Your joy,
where mourning and pain will be no more.

O God of love,

Raise us to new life in Christ.

For so many blessings,
and for answered prayers,
we give You thanks through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

Jesus has loved us so that we may love others.
Go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.

John 13:34

CLOSING HYMN #108

“Christ is Alive!”

- 1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
- 2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching ev’ry place and time.
- 3 In ev’ry insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.
- 4 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and ev’ry age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

BENEDICTION

May God who has made you a new creation
give you the grace to grow in faith, hope, love, and justice.

POSTLUDE

Christy Connell

“All Hail the Power Of Jesus' Name”

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. 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.

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 checks to the church address. Thank you!

Church Calendar

Sunday **Worship @ 10:30 in person/on the phone / online**
May 15 Fifth Sunday of Easter

- *Holy Communion*

May 22 Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 29 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Tuesday 10am Book Club. We are reading, “*The Personal Librarian*” by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

Wednesday *Dawn will be in the office at 8:00 am*

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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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MAY

15 Nicki Klein
16 Art Teitgen
20 Jill Spiegelberg
20 Lisa & Karl Boer
22 Pieter Boer
23 Meghan Boer
28 Cheryl & Larry Hiemstra

JUNE

4 MaryLyn Moon
6 Tom and Marilyn Lamb
10 Pastor Ruth Lowry
13 Richard and DonnaJo Fisher
16 Terry Brenner
20 Pieter Boer
22 William and Patsy Switzer

COMMUNITY

- **We thank** Kate Johnson, this week's Liturgist.
- **There is a sign-up sheet** in the Fellowship area for fellowship hour treats.
- **We thank Sharon Chambers** for providing treats for today and Judy Wood for providing treats for next Sunday, May 22.
- **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 Personal Librarian*" by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Please call 269-215-0384 at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday morning to connect via phone.
- **River Cities Concert Band has two concerts coming up:** *Flyin' High...Let's Soar* this afternoon, May 15, at 3 p.m. at the Otsego High School Auditorium and *A 40th Season Collage* on June 1 at 7 pm at the Band Shell in Plainwell (bring a lawn chair).
- **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!

- **Summerfest Son-Life Camp & Retreat Center** (189 126th Ave; Wayland) will be holding their annual Summerfest Family Fun Day & Auction on Saturday, June 18, 2022 starting at 3:30pm. *FREE EVENT!* Play at the waterfront. Let the kids enjoy archery, tomahawks, crafts, inflatables, and games – all led by our amazing Summer Staff. Dinner will be served from 4:30-6pm (donations accepted) and our fundraising auction will start at 6pm. All proceeds will go toward the ministry of SON-Life Camp & Retreat Center. We are also looking for a health officer and kitchen assistant for our summer camp program. Must be 18 yrs. or older to apply for the Health Officer position; 15yrs. or older for the Kitchen Assistant position. Please check our web site, www.SON-LifeCamp.org for job descriptions. Apply online or email: Ben@son-lifecamp.org for more information.

Partners in Mission

- **Christian Neighbors requests that our church donate:** Peanut Butter & Jelly for May and Fruit Juice & Cereal for June. 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.
- **Good Hands Plainwell is requesting:** Fruit cups, oatmeal packets (brown sugar or plain), peanut butter (regular or crunchy), peanut butter snack crackers, macaroni & cheese.

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 are grateful that Christina Madden's knee surgery is over and healing is continuing.
- We give thanks to God for Pastor Ruth's graduation with her Doctorate of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary last weekend.
- 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 and 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 Lisa Boer, who is healing after surgery on May 9.
- We pray for Bob Dines' granddaughter Danielle who is 36 years old and has acute myeloid leukemia as she faces challenges with treatment.
- We pray for Lisa Boer's cousin Denise, who is struggling with the aftereffects of Covid and continues with significant health concerns, and for her mom/Lisa's Aunt Carol.
- We grieve with Bob and Marilyn Koster in the death of their

niece Debbie and pray for their sister-in-law Lottie who lived with their niece.

- We pray for Connie Brenner's niece Jill, who is 39 years old and was diagnosed with bilateral breast cancer. We pray for her, her husband, and their 4 year old son.
- We pray for Marylyn Moon as she moved to be closer to her son and his family in Pittsburgh.
- We pray for Mike Harriger who fell and had surgery on his hip and for Pat Harriger as she cares for him. He is in hospice care at home.
- We continue to pray for Christy Connell, Mark Connell, and their family as they continue to heal. We pray for their infant grandson Ripkin, as he faces health challenges. We pray for their son-in-law Leighton, as he waits for thyroid surgery. We pray for their daughter Ashlee, as she recovers from Covid.
- We continue to pray for Mary Hinds' niece Maddie.
- 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 Edwards' aunt) who had a stroke, Leroy Jennings (Dawn's uncle) who was diagnosed with cancer and is in hospice, and for Linwood Jennings (the father of Dawn Edwards).
- For those in places where peace is not known.

Questions for Reflection

In Acts 11:1–18, Peter, led by the Spirit, discloses God’s new directions to heal creation, and the church reconfigures its social boundaries. The Gentiles, who were excluded from the church in Jerusalem because their eating habits were judged to be vile and unclean, are now included by the reconciling work of the Spirit. Where is God’s Spirit opening us to new directions in mission this day?

Household Prayer: Morning

Delivering God,
each day we awaken to Your goodness
and our hearts cry out in praise
as You set us to tasks
for the life of the world.
Do not let us hinder Your love,
but strengthen our will,
as we offer thanks in every simple gesture of this day.
Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Faithful God,
the nightly dance of earth, moon, and stars
speaks of Your gift:
love given,
love received.
We give thanks this night
for the love You have shown to us this day.
Let us rest in Your peace and awaken in joy.
Amen.

General Offering Deposit Date of 5/8/2022:

\$975.00

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

