

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 22, 2026

40 days
OF LENT

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

February 22, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship

First Sunday in Lent

() Stand as you are able*

Please phone 269-215-0384 to join together!

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

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME AND CONNECTING CHURCH & HOME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michelle Boer, Liturgist

ACKNOWLEDGING THE TRIUNE GOD

Come to us today, O God.

Come to us with light.

(the candle is lit)

Speak to us today, O God.

Speak to us Your truth.

(the Bible is opened)

Dwell with us to us today, O God.

Dwell with us in love.

(the Cross is draped)

Renew us today, O God.

Renew us by Your Holy Spirit.

(the Font is filled)

WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP

Christy Connell

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

CALL TO WORSHIP AND SALUTATION

Nathan Martens

People of God, on this wilderness journey,
what will you eat?

Matt. 4:1-11

The word of the Lord is our daily bread.

People of God, in this time of temptation, how will you live?
Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.

People of God, at this kingdom crossroad,
whom will you serve?
We worship the Lord our God alone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

***OPENING HYMN #466** *“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Nathan Martens

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven,
who no longer suffer in silence,
but name their sin and seek God’s grace.
Let us confess our sin.

Ps. 32:1–5

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Nathan Martens

(In Unison)

**Lord God,
You know the ways of good and evil.
You know the things that tempt us
and the things that give us life.
You know our nakedness,
and You know our sin.**

Gen. 2:15–17; 3:1–7

**We confess that we have disobeyed Your word,
denying Your providence and care
and relying on our own cleverness.**

**Have mercy on us, we pray:
cover us with Your grace,
feed us with the bread of life,
and re-create us in Your image;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Nathan Martens

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven!

Ps. 32:1, 11

Be glad in the Lord and shout for joy:

In Jesus Christ we 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

Michelle Boer, Liturgist

O Lord, may the words of Your mouth

Matt. 4:1, 4

be our daily bread,

and may the leading of Your Spirit become our way;

in Jesus' name.

Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

THE PSALTER -- PSALM 32

L: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

P: Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

L: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

P: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

L: Then I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the guilt of my sin.

P: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to You; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

L: You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**P: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I
will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

**ALL: Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout
for joy, all you upright in heart.**

A LESSON FOR LENT: PENITENCE

HYMN OF REFLECTION #184

“How Blest Are Those”

(Please Remain Seated)

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Romans 5:12-19;

Matthew 4:1-11

A LESSON FOR LENT: TEMPTATION

Nathan Martens

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***HYMN #81**

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days ”

***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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Michelle Boer, Liturgist

(A time of silence follows each petition.)

With all the faithful, let us pray to the Lord,
who is our hiding place in times of trouble,
who surrounds us with glad cries of deliverance.

Ps. 32:6–7

We pray for all who are hungry—
whether hungry for power and glory
or hungry for a simple meal.

Matt. 4:2–4

Show the mighty
that You alone can satisfy their deepest need, and feed the poor
from the abundance of Your good creation.

We pray for the church in times of trial—
whether tested by tempestuous change
or tempted by safety of the status quo.

Matt. 4:5–7

Give us peace
when anger and fear threaten to divide us,
and challenge us
when we are too comfortable in this world.

We pray for leaders in high places—
whether determined to help those who suffer
or distant from the cries of the oppressed.

Matt. 4:8–10

Open their eyes
to see Your saving power at work,
and open their ears
to hear Your prophets' calls for justice.

Lord God, instruct us in the way we should go
and let Your steadfast love surround us always.

Ps. 32:8, 10

We ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,
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.**

POSTLUDE

Christy Connell

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

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” and from the PCUSA “Book of Common Worship.”

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Question for Reflection

How might you grow in faith and draw near to Jesus through the forty days of Lent? Let Jesus’ three responses to the devil be your guide: (1) study Scripture (live by the Word of God; Matt. 4:4); (2) seek reconciliation with God and others (do not put God to the test; Matt. 4:7); and (3) be active and intentional about participating in the worship of your congregation (worship the Lord your God; Matt. 4:10).

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy God, as this day surrounds me *Gen. 2:15–17*
like a garden with a thousand trees, give me enough knowledge to obey Your commandments, and to choose the fruit that gives life: the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Where can I hide from You, O God? *Gen. 3:1–7 (8–21)*
You have found me here, stained with the fruit of desire,
shivering in the evening breeze.
This is all I ask: wrap me in Your mercy,
and let me rest in Your presence;
for the sake of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

