

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 12, 2026



YOUR WORD IS
A LAMP FOR
MY FEET,
A LIGHT ON
MY PATH.

PSALM 119:105, NIV

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

July 12, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship

7th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 10)

(*) 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

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

"Holy Spirit Rain Down"

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 119:105-112*)

Steve Zeoli

L: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

P: I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.

L: I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word.

P: Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances.

L: I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

P: The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

L: Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

ALL: I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Author of Life, Living Word, Holy Breath, *Ps. 119:105*
we have stumbled through the week
and groped our way back to this place.

Illumine the steps before us and write your word on our hearts,
for we carry the name of Jesus and would walk in the light of his love.

Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #442**

“The Church’s One Foundation”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Steve Zeoli

The Scriptures are shot through with stories
of people just like us:

Gen. 25:19–34

men who grieved, women who questioned,
siblings who did not get along,
parents who chose favorites.

God’s word of grace is meant for people just like us.

There is no need for pretense in this place.

Let us go to God in prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Patient and persistent God,
we come, polished and presentable,
to this comfortable room
as if we knew what to expect,
as if this were a safe and predictable place,
as if we could simply observe.**

Matt. 13:1–9, 18–23

**Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations.
In the mystery of your love, overshadow us.
Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts
until we bloom and spill with your passion
to serve in a world that is wasting.
Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Steve Zeoli

There is therefore now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Rom. 8:1

The Spirit of God dwells in you.

If you hear nothing else today, hear these words:
there is no condemnation.

In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Michelle Boer, Liturgist

God of life,

by the power of your Spirit come to us now.

Plow our hearts with your living Word

until we who are broken become fertile with your love,

for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting.

We pray in the name of Jesus, whose charge we bear. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 25:19-34; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

SERMON

Steve Zeoli

“Explicatio, Applicatio, and therefore Ouch”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

HYMN #339

“Be Thou My Vision ”

***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.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Michelle Boer, Liturgist

[A time of silence follows each petition.]

Holy God,
we were yours before we drew breath,
and still we will be yours when
the pulse of life ceases.
In every fragile, reckless moment,
we belong to you.

Gen. 25:22–28;

Matt. 13:3–9, 18–23

We thank you for the desire of our parents
who gave us life.

May the love we have received spill gratitude
from our hearts.

May the wounds we carry open our hearts
to the needs of others.

May we recognize in your mercy the faithfulness
that judges and redeems every human bond.

We lift to you now all that seems irreconcilable in our families . . .
in our schools and workplaces . . .
in our nation . . .
in your church . . .
in your world . . .

We pray for those we identify as leaders
in every sphere of life. . . .

We pray for our president and for all whose decisions
weigh heavily on others. . . .

Even so, Lord, give us the courage to name *ourselves*
as those whose responsibility is great.

Teach us to act, to tend the world you love:

to sow more than we reap,

to heal more than we wound,

to make room for others as you made room for us.

Redeeming God,

stake your claim upon us now,

until we hear your gospel echo in each stranger's story

and see your image reflected on every wounded face,

for we pray in the name of Jesus, who unsettles our lives for the
sake of your love, and 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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*We bring our gifts because tendrils of God's love have worked
their ways into the soil of our hearts.*

*Sisters and brothers, let us yield our lives to God's abundant
harvest.*

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

Offertory "Jesus Said Love Everyone " 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

Giver of life,

Matt. 13:1–9, 18–23

we do not want the cares of the world and the lure of wealth
to choke your word among us.

As the sower casts seeds abundantly, hopefully,
so we long to participate in your seeding of the world.

Receive these gifts as tokens of our lives.

Send your cultivating Spirit to work among us until we yield and
grow in grace, for we pray in the name of Jesus,
who came out of love for the world.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN #417**

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Sisters and brothers,

Matt. 13:1–9, 18–23

sow the gospel wherever you go—

not judging the soil on which you stand—

for God brings forth fruit from unexpected places.

May God, whose forgiveness is boundless,
the Christ, whose charge is freedom,
the Spirit, which grants us life and peace,
keep our minds and hearts in grateful communion
as we seek to serve.

POSTLUDE

“How Great Is Our God”

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

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Questions for Reflection

How is God's resurrecting Spirit at work in you and in your community? Where are you experiencing new life? Where are you struggling? How might God be bringing new life from that struggle?

Household Prayer: Morning

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Living Word, shine on this day.
Quicken my steps and open my ears
that I might approach each neighbor
with an expectant heart.
Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Beacon of truth,
I entrust to You now the day that has been:
the tasks accomplished and tasks overlooked;
the friends acknowledged and the friends ignored;
the silence kept and the silence squandered.

In Your mercy, mend these tattered offerings.
Grant me the gift of rest this night
and good companions on the morrow,
as You speak me further down the path toward home.
Amen.

