

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 19, 2026



*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 19, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship

***Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 11)***

***(\*) 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**

*Judy Wood, 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**

*Mark Doster*

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 100) (Responsive)**

*Nathan Martens*

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**P: Serve the Lord with gladness;**

**come into his presence with singing.**

L: Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

P: Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him; bless his name.

**ALL: For the Lord is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever  
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**\*OPENING HYMN #264**

***“When In Our Music God is Glorified”***

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Nathan Martens*

Sisters and brothers,  
all who are led by the Spirit of God  
are children of God.  
We did not receive a spirit of slavery  
to fall back into fear,  
but we have received a spirit of adoption.  
Let us then confess our sin  
with the freedom of children who know  
how deeply they are loved.

*Rom. 8:14–15*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God,  
your creatures cry—creation groans—  
but we turn away;  
we surround ourselves with noise.**

*Rom. 8:12–25*

**We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility:  
we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy.  
It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference.**

**Life-giving God,  
wash us clean.  
Restore our imaginations and our hearts.  
Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins  
until we love with abandon  
and our hands reach out in blessing,**

**for the creation waits with eager longing  
for the revealing of the children of God.  
Amen.**

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Sisters and brothers, hear the word of the Lord.  
In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,  
God says unequivocally, irrevocably:  
you are my own;  
you are forgiven;  
and I need you to be about my business in the world.

## **\*OUR GLORIOUS RESPONSE -- GLORIA PATRI**

**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**

*Judy Wood, Liturgist*

Holy One, you love with a father’s tenderness, a mother’s zeal.  
Move now in our hearts.  
Breathe through the words we hear, the songs we share,  
the burdens we carry,  
until we discover our purpose in  
your liberating love,  
for we long to join creation’s praise  
and to shine with the mercy of the Christ,  
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE** Gen. 28:10–19a; Romans 8:12–25; Matt. 13:24–30, 36–43

**HYMN OF PREPARATION #341** *“Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine”  
(Please Remain Seated)*

### **SERMON**

*Nathan Martens*

# WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\*HYMN

## *"All the Way My Savior Leads Me"*



1. All the way my Sa - vior leads me; What have I to ask be -  
2. All the way my Sa - vior leads me; Cheers each win - ding path I  
3. All the way my Sa - vior leads me; Oh, the full - ness of His



side? Can I doubt His ten - der mer - cy, Who thro'  
tread, Gives me grace for ev' - ry tri - al, Feeds me  
love! Per - fect rest to me is pro - mised In my



life has been my guide? Heav'n - ly peace, di - vin - est  
with the li - ving bread; Tho' my wea - ry steps may  
Fa - ther's house a - bove; When my spi - rit, clothed im -



com - fort Here by faith in Him to dwell! For I  
fal - ter, And my soul a - thirst may be, Gu - shing  
mor - tal, Wings its flight to realms of day, This my



know what - e'er be - fall me, Je - sus do - eth all things well; For I  
from the Rock be - fore me, Lo! a spring of joy I see; Gu - shing  
song thro' end - less a - ges: Je - sus led me all the way; This my



know what - e'er be - fall me, Je - sus do - eth all things well.  
from the Rock be - fore me, Lo! a spring of joy I see.  
song thro' end - less a - ges: Je - sus led me all the way.

**\*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**

*Judy Wood, Liturgist*

*(A time of silence follows each petition.)*

Gracious Creator, Sower of life,  
you know the complicated histories  
that have carried us to this moment.

*Gen. 28; Ps. 139;*

*Rom. 8:12–25;*

*Matt. 13:24–30, 36–43*

You know the names of all our generations,  
for you are there in each story of falling away  
and turning home,  
in our long years of wandering,  
and in the shining moments  
when we recognize your presence  
and find the grace to worship you.  
You are no stranger to the striving  
or the listlessness of humanity.

Incarnate One, all of creation is groaning,  
and so we dare to ask that you would come to us;  
be born again in this place.  
In the midst of our boredom, our self-congratulation,  
our closeted vision,  
startle us with the tearing, the cry, the first breath of life  
that will not be restrained.  
Strengthen in us the fruits of your Spirit, and teach us to pray:

We pray for all who flee from pasts by which  
they are haunted.

We lift up all who feel abandoned by a future for which they had hoped.

We plead for all who do not know that they are loved and chosen.

We intercede for our own divided souls.

Help us to trust that you are at work in every mingled heart,  
every conflicted community.

Nourish the life you plant within us,  
that we might keep seeding the world with your  
truth and your grace;

in the name of Jesus, who gave his life, 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

*Judy Wood, Liturgist*

*God blesses us that we might carry  
that blessing into the world.*

*Gen. 28:14*

*Let us give with grateful hearts.*

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

*Offertory*

*Mark Doster*

#### **\*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**

*Judy Wood, Liturgist*

God of mystery and grace, you have met us and blessed us with such abundant promise. In gratitude we offer what we carry in our hearts and our pockets. As we bring these worn and freighted offerings, we pray that you would use us, for we come in the name of Jesus and by the movement of your Spirit in this place. **Amen.**

#### **\*SENDING HYMN #485**

***“To God Be the Glory”***

## THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Nathan Martens

Sisters and brothers,  
however dark the night gets—  
whatever you have stolen or squandered—  
know that you are held by a love like this:  
the Creator who made you still claims you in covenant love.  
The Redeemer who died for your sake lives again by the word of God;  
the Sustainer of all creation yet breathes courage into your heart.

Sisters and brothers, the triune God still traffics in mercy.  
Serve, then, with boldness and joy.

## POSTLUDE

Mark Doster

## 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 has your understanding of the relationship between suffering and faith (or vulnerability and trust) changed over time? What experiences of God’s grace do you need to acknowledge and anoint?

## ***Household Prayer: Morning***

In whatever shelter I wake this morning  
I know this place is holy because you meet me here.  
As I wash my body and prepare for the day,  
I remember baptismal waters and the claim upon my life.  
Wherever darkness looms, Sovereign God,



traffic in mercy this day.  
Traffic in mercy this day.  
Amen.

***Household Prayer: Evening***

As darkness spreads over the land,  
I trust that you move in it.  
As I yield the night to sleep and dreams,  
I pray you would remake me  
into a servant bold,  
for the sake of Jesus.  
Amen.