

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 6, 2026

*Praise the
LORD!
Sing to the
LORD
a new song.*



Psalms 149.1

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

September 6, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 18

(*) 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/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 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

"This Is My Father's World"

CALL TO WORSHIP - PSALM 149

Rev. Jay Ayers

L: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

P: Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

L: Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

P: For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory.

L: Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.

P: Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands,

L: To execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,

P: To bind their kings with fetters and their nobles with chains of iron,

ALL: To execute on them the judgment decreed. This is glory for all his faithful ones. Praise the LORD!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rev. Jay Ayers

Almighty God,
whose ways are far beyond our understanding,
help us to trust your judgments
so that we may do your will
by loving you and one another.
In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

*** OPENING HYMN #145**

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Jay Ayers

Amid the countless things
that human beings cannot fully comprehend about God,
there stands this:
God so loves us
as to bathe us with grace
and feed us with mercy
and forgive us our sins.
Confident in the love of God,
let us pray together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Lord God,

**while we were still slaves to sin,
you died for our salvation.**

**Yet we still worship the false gods of the world,
forgetting that you are Lord.**

**Loving worldly wealth,
we have not loved you with our whole heart
nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Trusting worldly strength,
we have not trusted your word
nor followed the Word-made-flesh.**

**Forgiving by worldly norms,
we have not shown mercy to others
as you have shown mercy to us.**

Forgive us yet again, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (*Responsive*)

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel: *Rom. 8:34*

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ. And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us;

Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In 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

Michelle Boer, Liturgist

Holy Spirit,

**as your word is read and preached,
pass among your gathered people,**

opening minds to increase understanding,
opening hearts to bind us together in your love.
In Jesus' name we ask it. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Psalm 149:1-4; I Corinthians 10:16

SERMON

Rev. Jay Ayers

“Sacramento”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

HYMN #513

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

***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.]

**God of grace and steadfast love,
we thank you for your commandments,
which order our life together.**

**We thank you for calling us
to live honorably with one another**

Rom. 13:13

**and pray for your grace
as we try to do all that you require of us.**

**Increase in us, we pray,
the capacity to love you and our neighbors without reserve
and to love even those who harm us.**

Not halfheartedly, but with our whole hearts,
we bring before you
the cares, the concerns, and the joys that occupy us.

We remember before you
those who are at odds with one another in families,
in neighborhoods or offices,
and even in the church.

We pray for nations
in the midst of internal or external struggles and conflict.
Teach us, O God, to seek nonviolent ways toward resolution.
Help us to speak the truth and to listen with understanding when
perspectives are far apart.
We pray for love to bring peace into every troubled heart and
place.

We remember before you those who have physical needs today.
People who are hungry and thirsty;
people who are exhausted by the demands of work or caregiving;
people who are sick, or undergoing surgery;
and people who live with chronic pain.
Bring relief and rest, we pray.

We remember those weighed down with needs of heart and soul.
A worry that keeps us awake at night,
grief that accompanies us everywhere we go,
depression that clouds us,
or an addiction that grips us.
Lift all of these heavy burdens
with the light and peace of your presence, we pray.
Sustain us over the long journey toward health
and give us trust in you, ourselves, and those who love us.

We remember before you not only our cares,
but also our joys—
a birthday celebrated, an anniversary enjoyed;
new beginnings—

a baby born, a new school year begun,
a new job, a new relationship.
We thank you, O God, for the gift of laughter,
for enduring friendships,
and for cherished memories.
We give thanks that with you
there is always a new beginning,
a way where this is no way,
hope beyond hope,
and life beyond death.

Through Jesus Christ, our risen 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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*Let us be glad in our Maker and rejoice in our King. Ps. 149:2–3
Let us praise God's name with dancing and music;
let us bring to God our tithes and offerings. (We invite you, at this
time, to write a check and mail it to the church, if you are able.)*

Offertory

"I Surrender All"

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

Ever-present God,

Matt. 18:20

just as Jesus promised to be among us

when two or three gather in his name,

be among us now

that these offerings may become instruments of

your love and justice.

In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

They will come from east and west and from north and south,

and sit at table in the kingdom of God. *Luke 13:29*

According to Luke: when our risen Lord was at the table with his disciples, as Jesus took the bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him.

This is the *Lord's* Table. Our Savior invites those who trust Him to share the feast which he has prepared.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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 sings; #138)

**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 those captivated by sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed.

Jesus 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Words of Institution

Bread and Cup are passed to the congregation.

(Hymn sung during the distribution of the bread and cup. It is the custom of our faith community to not partake of the elements until all are able to partake together, as led by the pastor.)

HYMN #505

"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Take, eat. This is my body, broken 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.]

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

By Your power You raised Jesus from death to life. Through Christ's victory over the grave we are set free from the bonds of

sin and the fear of death to share the glorious freedom of the children of God. In Christ's rising to life, he promises eternal life to all who believe in Him. We praise You that as we break bread in faith, we shall know the risen Christ among us.

L: Lord, You have given Yourself to us;

P: **Now we give ourselves for others.**

L: Your love has made us a new people;

P: **As a people of love we will serve You with joy.**

L: Your glory has filled our hearts.

P: **Help us to glorify You in all things. Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN #335**

"Though I May Speak"

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Jay Ayers

The night is gone, the day is near.

Rom. 13:12–14

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness
and put on the armor of light;

let us live honorably as in the day;

let us put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

May the Creator who made the light,
the Christ who is the light,
and the Spirit who ignites the light within
abide with you and all creation now and always.

POSTLUDE

Christy Connell

"Praise to the Lord, The Almighty"

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, and Presbyterian Outlook"*

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Question for Reflection

How do you reconcile a God who would “strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals” (Exod. 12:12) with a God who would die for the sins of the entire world?

Household Prayer: Morning

O God of this and every morning,
as I begin this day, call my name;
as I step into this day, guide my feet;
as I live this day, care for those I love;
as I learn this day, teach me your ways.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of stars and planets,
the setting sun ends this day for us
as it rises on a new day for others.
For us and for them, be light in every darkness.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.