

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, November 19, 2023
9 AM Contemporary Service**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Wayne Potter

Worship Songs

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon “Living Like The Master”

Wayne Potter

Responsive Song

Reception of New Members

Tara DenHerder

Andrew & Kristen Zendler

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Moment for Stewardship

Cohen Reinhardt

Giving Back to God

- Our Offering- Your gifts honor God and help provide financial support of the ministries and mission of this church.
- Our Service- Get connected! Fill out a Connection Card to get more involved in the life and ministries of the church.
- Our Prayers- How can we help you in prayer today? Fill out a prayer card and let us know.
Please place your financial gift, Connection Card, or Prayer Card in the Offering Box in the narthex.

Closing Song

Everyone is invited to come forward as we sing the last hymn and place their pledge card for 2024 in the basket on the communion table an act of worship.

Charge and Blessing

Leader: In the coming week what does God call us to do?

**People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;
deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;
and demonstrate Christ’s way of love in service to the world.**

For anyone desiring special prayers today, Jan Burns will be at the front of the sanctuary to pray for you. Please come forward after the service.

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Curt & Deb McGee, and our snack volunteer: Christine Dewey.

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, November 19, 2023
10:30 AM Traditional Service

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Crown Him King of Kings”* arr. by Parks

Welcome

Wayne Potter

Invitation and Centering Words

God’s judgment comes in unexpected times and ways. Christ’s mercy shows up through surprising people. When you are fed up and cry out for grace, keep awake, lest you fail to recognize it when it comes.

Ring of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Betty Tezak

Leader: The time for harvest is close at hand. What have you done with the gifts God has given you?

People: We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.

Leader: Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.

People: We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.

Leader: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

People: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Betty Tezak

All: Awesome God, you created the world and all that is in it. You blessed each element of creation with your love. You called us from slavery and sin into witness and service of others. Be with us this day as we gather to worship. Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from you. Open our hearts and spirits and let your healing and empowering love flow in. Prepare us to be witnesses to your power and love as we use the gifts with which you have blessed us in your service. For we offer this prayer in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Opening Hymn 367 – *“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”*

Prayer of Confession

Betty Tezak

All: Too often, we act like “pack rats,” O Lord. You continually pour gifts and blessings into our lives but we hide them away for fear that they might disappear or not be enough for us to share. We squander them wastefully on things that are not healthy or helpful to others. We confess that we have not always recognized the talents we have been given. We find it easier to belittle the gifts than to honor the giver. As Jesus reminded his listeners to honor the giver of the gifts by using them to create something better, for healing, for hope in the world; remind us that the message of Jesus is truly pertinent to us today. Forgive us when we have treated it as a nice story. Help us to take the gifts you have given us, to develop them, and use them in ways which will offer healing and hope. In Jesus’ blessed name, we pray. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Betty Tezak

You are loved by God and given so many gifts to be used to help others. Do not fear to use these gifts, for God is with you, continually blessing you and the gifts in your service. Amen.

Anthem – “*Thanks to God for My Redeemer*” by Shackley

Scripture Reading – Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon “Living Like The Master”

Wayne Potter

Responsive Hymn 647 – “***Give Thanks***”

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

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.

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Doxology – “***Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow***”

**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. Amen.**

Offering Prayer

All: Generous God, thank you for the gifts you bestow upon us daily. Make us aware of each blessing that comes our way — and create in us the constant desire to be blessings for others. Bless what we bring before you, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn 693 – “***Though I May Speak***”

Everyone is invited to come forward as we sing the last hymn and place their pledge card for 2024 in the basket on the communion table an act of worship.

Charge and Blessing

Leader: In the coming week what does God call us to do?

**People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;
deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;
and demonstrate Christ’s way of love in service to the world.**

Benediction

Benediction Response – “*Let There Be Peace On Earth*”

For anyone desiring special prayers today, Ginny Dorner will be at the front of the sanctuary to pray for you. Please come forward after the service.

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Curt & Deb McGee, and our snack volunteer.

Thank you for your generous giving during this challenging time! Your gifts support all of the work and ministries of the church, as we continue to do the work of Christ in the world today. You can mail your pledges to the church at: First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids, 404 Spruce Street, Elk Rapids, MI 49629, give through online giving at www.erfpc.org (click on the Giving tab at the top right), or set up a one time or recurring donation by contacting our Treasurer, Mike Husby, at finmanager@erfpc.org. Again, we thank everyone for their continued support of the ministries and mission of the church!

Nursery – Qualified caregivers welcome infants and children during the service.

Having trouble hearing the service? We have an induction hearing loop system for hearing aid users. Please switch your hearing aids to “T” or see the sound technician for help.

Clothing Drive for Frontline Mission in Alaska – October 22 to November 19

The Outreach Ministry Team has organized a clothing drive to aid Frontline Mission in Alaska. This is the mission our Youth Group worked with last spring. We are asking for gently used winter coats, hats, and gloves for both adults and children. We are also asking for men’s clothing of any type. If you would like to contribute monetarily, please make the checks payable to FPC with Frontline Mission on the memo line. There is a bin next to the Activity Center for donations. We will run this drive from Sunday, October 22 through Sunday, November 19.

Carpet Cleaning on Tuesday, November 21

Attention! The carpet in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, downstairs classrooms, Nursery, AND the downstairs hallways, including the hallway leading into the Community Cupboard will be cleaned on Tuesday, November 21. PLEASE remove all items in the hallways to expedite the cleaning. Any questions, please contact Pam Coleman at 837-445-8239.

Help Decorate Our Church for Christmas – Sunday, Nov. 26 & Monday, Nov. 27

Please join a fun crew to help decorate our church for the Christmas season. Two opportunities to help:

1. Sunday, November 26 after the Contemporary service (10:15am). We will quietly move bins and other decor out of the basement storage area and stage it in the library for Monday.
2. Monday, November 27 from 9am-3pm. Please feel free to drop in at any time during those hours and we'll gladly put you to work. Lunch provided at noon.

Contact Anne Conrad at 231-492-5129 with questions.

Ride to Church on Sundays – Can you lend a helping hand and give someone a ride to church on Sunday? We have several people who need a ride to church on Sundays. If you are willing to help out, please contact the church office at info@erfpc.org or 231-264-8167 for more details.

“An Unlikely Advent” Series Starts Monday, November 27

Beginning Monday night Nov 27- Dec 18 we will be having our special Advent series. Each night we begin with a soup and bread supper at 5:30 followed by a video and group discussion. Join us for a discussion of some of the “fringe” participants in the Advent story. We can all name the principle players in the Nativity scene but what do Elizabeth and Zachariah teach us about hope and God’s plans for us? No one likes a villain like King Herod but what does he teach us about God’s grace? The Magi brought gifts but what else do they teach us about the life of Jesus? Finally, the shepherds were common people and yet the Holy Spirit visited them and they joined Jesus at the manger. Please sign up at the Activity Center and have a meal and discussion about the many things we learn while waiting for the birth of Jesus. We also have a sign-up sheet for those wishing to bring soup, bread, or dessert.

Advent Candle Lighting/Devotional: Each Sunday morning in Advent a family/group/ or individuals light the Advent candles on the Advent Wreath in the Sanctuary and read a short devotion (provided by Pastor Jim). Would you consider being part of this for one of our Worship Services? Children are most welcome to be participate. Sign-up sheets can be found at the Activity Center.

December Family Event & Dinner – Sunday, December 3 at 5:00 PM at the Lighthouse

Our whole church family is invited to join us on Sunday, December 3 at 5:00 p.m. at the Lighthouse for a special event. We will be creating Christmas crafts, followed by a delicious dinner (all provided for you to enjoy). For questions, contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813. Signing up at the Activity Center is encouraged but not required. Don't miss this fun event for everyone!

The Welcome Project Update

The Welcome Project has been moving forward behind the scenes with the Elevator Building Committee working with the architect in sourcing a different type of elevator that does not require modification to the existing roof structure of the church. This elevator, called a LuLa, is a commercial elevator and is rated for a lower number of trips per day (not like a busy office building). Because of this change, the project is being rebid with the new bids being due on December 5. Three bidders are expected to respond. Once the bids are received, they will be evaluated by the Elevator Building Committee and the architect and then a recommendation will be made to the Trustees and Session. In the meantime, for those of you who have made a cash donation toward this project, your money has been invested and is earning interest which will be included toward the project.



Our 150th Anniversary Logo

We're excited to share the logo we'll be using next year as we celebrate our 150th Anniversary.

Capturing our Stories to Mark 150th Anniversary

In 2024, First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids will celebrate our sesquicentennial anniversary (that's 150 years!). The Anniversary Task Force, headed by Laura Asiala and Jim Lagowski, is seeking youth and young adults who would be interested in interviewing senior members of our church family to capture stories, memories, and oral histories in celebration of that milestone. Training and workshops will be provided.

Contact Laura Wonacott Asiala at (989) 430-4644 or LEAsiala@gmail.com if that sounds interesting and you'd like to learn more.

Discovery Survey



Learn where your talents and interests match the needs of Ministry Teams by taking our Discovery Survey! The survey is designed to find where you might enjoy lending a hand, as well as to help our teams discover who they might be able to call on when support is needed.

The survey only takes a few minutes and is fun to do! Just scan the QR code or use this link:

<https://volunteeraccelerator.ministryarchitects.com/ERFPC/survey.html>

Community Cupboard – Community Cash is back! Save your Village Market receipts **dated between September 1, 2023 and May 30, 2024** and turn them in one of three ways: In the lower left corner mail slot near the church office, in the box labeled "Community Cash" in the left corner of the brown box outside the Community Cupboard or mail them to Elk Rapids Community Cupboard, PO Box 572, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Thank you for your continuous support.

The Community Cupboard is open every other Tuesday and Friday with a "shop for yourself system" for those in need. Call Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239 for more information or to set up an appointment. Plus, the Community Cupboard is accepting donations in a drop box outside the cupboard entrance on Chippewa Street or by mail to ERCC, Box 572, Elk Rapids MI 49629.

This Week's Activities

Sun. 11/19

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a Sunday School/Youth-LH
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 11/20

Tues. 11/21

9:00 a Bulletin Items Due
3:00 p Adult Ed

Wed. 11/22

3:00 p UpNorth Group – FHall
6:30 p Praise Team Practice

Thurs. 11/23 - Happy Thanksgiving!

Fri. 11/24

Day After Thanksgiving – Office Closed

“Working Together — Celebrating God’s Good Gifts”

We are currently involved in our annual stewardship emphasis, “Working Together — Celebrating God’s Good Gifts.”

This Sunday is our Harvest Celebration/Consecration Sunday – your chance to make a formal commitment to God of your support for the work of First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids for 2024.

As you consider the time, talents and treasure God has given to you, please remember that we are “working Together — Celebrating God’s good gifts.” In the words of an old hymn by William Walsham How:

“We give thee but thine own,
Whate’er the gift may be,
For all we have is thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from thee.”

The initial budget for 2024 requires an increase in pledges over 2023 levels to meet the worship, discipleship, and mission & outreach goals of the Session and congregation as well as maintain our support staff and building. Our demographics have seen membership changes with some losses due to transfers and deaths as well as new members being added – each of these changes presents challenges and opportunities to meeting our giving goals. We ask you to prayerfully consider: How is the Lord speaking to you to “help fill the gap” in 2024?

Thank you for your faithfulness to the Lord and to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your consistency in giving of your time, talents and treasure to the work of the Lord here. And thank you for what you are going to do in the future in celebration of God’s good gifts!

Stewardship packets were mailed on Monday, October 30th. If you did not receive yours, please pick one up in the Welcome Center and bring your completed pledge card to our Harvest Celebration Sunday on November 19th. We hope to see you there!

Indeed, we are God’s servants, working together!

Your Church Stewardship Team: Peg Burns, Bill Dorner (Co-Chairs), and Jim Lagowski and Shelia Conrad (Elder Representatives) and Mike Husby (Treasurer); and Rev. Jim Porter, Pastor