

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, November 26, 2023
9 AM Contemporary Service
Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Malachi Shanks

Worship Songs

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon “Where Have You Seen Jesus Lately?”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song

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.

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.

Minute for Mission

Marcia Sumerix

Closing Song

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: Jeremy & Amy Cannon & family, and our snack volunteer: Anne Conrad.

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, November 26, 2023
10:30 AM Traditional Service

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“He Is Exalted”* arr. by Larson

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Minute for Mission

Marcia Sumerix

Invitation and Centering Words

Wisdom and truth touch our hearts and open our minds when we open ourselves to Christ.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

LeRue Werner

Leader: Make a joyful noise, a noise of service and love.

People: Praise God with lives of compassion.

Leader: Sing with acts of kindness.

People: Glorify God with acts of mercy.

Leader: Praise God with works of justice.

All: Praise God with overflowing love.

Opening Prayer

LeRue Werner

All: God of grace and God of glory, reveal yourself through our lives and our love. Shine your wisdom and truth into our hearts this day. Help us know the hope to which we are called, that we may be the servants you craft us to be. In your glory and grace, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn 643 – *“Now Thank We All Our God”*

Prayer of Confession

LeRue Werner

All: Glorious God, forgive us when we fail to serve others and help those who are in greatest need. May we see your glory reflected in the “least of these,” and be reminded to shine your light for all to see. Speak to us through cries for help of others, that we may hear and respond with compassion. Reveal yourself in the lost and the lonely, that we may be fully present to their needs. For we yearn to notice you in our everyday living. We long to set aside our fear and love courageously. We hope with every fiber of our being to act as servants of your peace. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

LeRue Werner

There is overwhelming greatness in God’s power and grace. God’s steadfast love lasts forever, offering grace upon grace and mercy upon mercy.

Anthem – *“What the Lord Has Done for Me”* arr. by Larson

Scripture Reading – Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon

“Where Have You Seen Jesus Lately?”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 630 – *“Fairest Lord Jesus”*

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: Lord God, thank you for the blessings you have given us year after year. Help us to wisely use the time you have given us. Lead us, while we remain here on earth, to serve you through all the people around us who are in need. Amen.

Closing Hymn 652 – *“A Grateful Heart”*

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, LeRue Werner 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 usher: Don Reynolds, and our snack volunteer: Betty Tezak.

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.

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.

“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!

Christmas Concert – Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 PM

Everyone is invited to a Christmas Concert in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 p.m. The Community Choir will be sharing music and lessons for the Advent season. Don’t miss this special event!

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.

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. 11/26

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a Sunday School/Youth-LH
10:15 a Help Decorate
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 11/27

9:00 a Decorate for Advent
5:30 p Soup Dinner - FHall
6:00 p An Unlikely Advent Prog. - FHall

Tues. 11/28

Wed. 11/29

6:30 a Breakfast Club – LH
9:00 a Bulletin Items Due
3:00 p UpNorth Group – FHall
6:30 p Praise Team Practice

Thurs. 11/30

Fri. 12/1

10:30 a Choir – FHall