



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, April 7, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Psalm 133 (The Message)

Harrison Conrad

“How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along! It’s like costly anointing oil flowing down head and beard, flowing down Aaron’s beard, flowing down the collar of his priestly robes. It’s like the dew on Mount Hermon flowing down the slopes of Zion. Yes, that’s where God commands the blessing, ordains eternal life.”

Worship Songs - **“Who You Say I Am”**
“Make Room”

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Acts 4:32-35

Sermon

“Choosing Unity”

Wayne Potter

Responsive Song – **“Ever Be”**

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

- Minute for Mission
- 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.

Judy Husby

Closing Song – **“God So Loved”**

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, Nancy Muhlig 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, and our snack volunteer.

Chancel flowers are placed by Don Reynolds in loving memory of his wife, Pam.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, April 7, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“This World Is Not My Home”* by Jauldin

Welcome

Wayne Potter

Minute for Mission

Judy Husby

Invitation and Centering Words

God, help us to still our hearts and minds in your presence, that we may draw near to you.

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Joanne Teague

Leader: God who is One, You call us to be one,

People: May we be one with all who are made in Your image.

Leader: God who is Three, You call us to be community,

People: May we find community with all who are called by Your name.

Leader: God who calls us all by Your name,

People: May find our place in Your eternal family.

Opening Prayer

Joanne Teague

All: Almighty God, through Jesus you say to us that whoever wishes to be first must become the least and the servant of all. We enter into your presence, knowing that your victory is won through the powerlessness of the cross. We come to pray that your church may be one. Teach us to accept humbly that this unity is a gift of your Spirit; through this gift, change and transform us and make us more like your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Opening Hymn 260 – *“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”* (vs. 1 & 2)

Prayer of Confession

Joanne Teague

All: O God, whose will it is that all your children should be one in Christ; we pray for the unity of your Church. Pardon all our pride and our lack of faith, of understanding and of charity, which are the causes of our divisions. Deliver us from narrow-mindedness, from our bitterness, from our prejudices. Save us from considering as normal that which is a scandal to the world and an offence to your love. Teach us to recognize the gifts of grace among all those who call upon you and confess the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Joanne Teague

Leader: Good friends; God is at work in you! God is alive in us! God lives but sin is dead. And our sins are forgiven, through Christ, our Savior.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

Anthem – *“Give Me Jesus”* arr. by Manor

Scripture Reading – Acts 4:32-35

Sermon

“Choosing Unity”

Wayne Potter

Responsive Hymn 250 – *“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”*

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.

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.
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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: God, we have been made in your image. So, in your generosity, make us generous. In your faithfulness, make us faithful. So that whatever gift we bring to you might be an offer of worship before you, as the gold, frankincense, and myrrh were before your son Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Closing Hymn 216 – *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*

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 usher: Jane Lund, and our snack volunteer: Betty Tezak.

Chancel flowers are placed by Don Reynolds in loving memory of his wife, Pam.

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.



Did You Know...

During some difficult times in 1952, serious consideration was given to joining our Elk Rapids Church with East Jordan, and having an evening meeting. This union was turned down as members felt that evening would interfere with the Sunday school.

From Celebrate the Journey by Stan Holzhauser. If you would like a copy of the book, please contact the church office.

Do you believe in the Power of God?

Join us for a new sermon series, starting Sunday, April 14, called:

“We Are Easter People:

Living in the Power of Christ’s Resurrection Today”

The joy and power of the Resurrection is not limited to just one day, but something we are called to live into every day! We invite you to join us every Sunday in April and May as we explore:

- The Power of Resurrection for our Lives Today
 - The Power of Discipleship
 - The Power of Partnership and Community
 - The Power of Worship
- And More!

Come, as we explore together Living in the Power of God!

What does Resurrection mean to you?

Sharing our Stories - We are looking for people who are willing to share part of their faith story, focusing on Resurrection. How have you experienced the power of Christ’s resurrection in your own life and how does that shape how you live today?

We would like to highlight different resurrection stories as a part of our Sunday morning worship during this new series. Questions and doubts are okay to share too! Contact Pastor Jim or the church office, and let us know if you have a story to share. We would love to hear what resurrection means to you!

Help Combat Food Insecurity in Our Area & the World

We will be taking a special offering on Sunday, April 21 to help with efforts to combat food insecurity in our area and the world. The local initiative, Empty Bowls, raises money to buy healthy food that is distributed to nearly 80 local food pantries, emergency meal sites, and food programs. The worldwide initiative, One Great Hour of Sharing, supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promotes development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assists in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. On Sunday, April 21, we will have bowls available after each service for donations. If you would like to donate to one of these efforts, please make your check payable to the First Presbyterian Church and put either Empty Bowls or One Great Hour of Sharing on the memo line. If you are unable to be here, you can mail your donation or put it in the offering box at your convenience.

Family Trivia Night & Dinner – Sunday, April 14 at 5:00PM

You’re invited to a Family Trivia Night and dinner on Sunday, April 14 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The trivia is designed for all ages, and dinner is provided, so plan on attending this time of fun, food, and fellowship!

Free Community Dinner – Monday, April 22 from 5:00-6:30PM

You're invited to join us for our Free Community Dinner on Monday, April 22 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Invite your friends and family and don't miss this excellent meal!

Capturing our Stories to Mark 150th Anniversary

We are celebrating our sesquicentennial anniversary this year (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 you'd like to learn more.

Vacation Bible School 2024 – June 24-28

Plan to bring your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors to Vacation Bible School from Monday, June 24 through Friday, June 28.

Discovery Survey – Learn where your talents and interests match the needs of our Ministry Teams by



taking the Discovery Survey! The short survey is designed to find where you might enjoy lending a hand, as well as pointing our teams to who they can contact when support is needed.

Use this link: <https://volunteeraccelerator.ministryarchitects.com/ERFPC/survey.html> or scan the QR code.

Community Cupboard – Community Cash is back! Save 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 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. Check out the website: <https://www.elkrapidscommunitycupboard.com>. 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. 4/7

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a Sunday School & Youth – LH
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 4/8

9:00 a PEO – FHall

Tues. 4/9

6:30 p Deacons – FHall

Wed. 4/10

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. 4/11

7:00 p Trustees – FHall

Fri. 4/12

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FHall



Welcome Project Update

April 2024

Construction Has Begun!

As we celebrate our past during this 150th year, we continue to build toward the future by starting construction on the Welcome Project! Here's the latest:

- Construction has begun and a temporary wall has been put in place and the main entrance has been closed. Beginning immediately, follow the access directions provided below.
- This week, the focus will be on demolition of the existing lift and other infrastructure to prepare the space for infrastructure work necessary for the installation of the new elevator.
- The new elevator is being constructed.

Changes to Access to First Presbyterian during Construction:

- The main entrance is closed and walled off inside to limit the noise and disruption to the main Church facility. Access to the administrative offices will be through the choir robe room.
- Access for mobility challenged individuals will be from the NORTH SIDE (Chippewa Street) of the building through the door into the library. The ramp accommodates walkers, wheelchairs, electric scooters, strollers, etc. There are 10 parking spaces available there that will be reserved for those with mobility issues. If necessary, parking assistance may be provided to those who request it.
- Access for all other church members will be through the door from the WEST parking lot up the stairs into the Fellowship Hall.
- The Worship Team in conjunction with the Board of Trustees will have individuals and signage to “welcome us” all to this new arrangement. If you would like to help welcome visitors, VOLUNTEER AS AN USHER – it’s an easy way to get involved and we need more help while this project disrupts our normal entryway.
- Members or guests visiting the church during the week will need to call the office number to be let into one of the locked doors. We appreciate your patience and understanding of these changes to protect staff and provide limited access to the building during work hours.

Financial Update:

- Thank You for Your Support--As construction begins, we marvel at the support and enthusiasm our congregation has shown for this important project. As of February 18, 2024, we have already received \$375,701 in paid pledges toward the project, and have \$184,167 in pledges yet to come. We are so grateful for those pledges and for the faithful payments to fulfill them. The faster we receive the contributions, the less we will need to borrow (and pay interest on) to pay our builders as construction begins until pledge payments are received.
- Closing The Gap – Despite the amazing support, we still have a gap between the total project cost and pledges and cash received to date – Help us close the gap! *The table below reflects only new pledges or new cash gifts; not cash paid against existing pledges.*

Beginning Gap	\$115,000
Matching Gift	\$15,000
New or Increased Pledges since 1/1/24	\$0
New Cash Gifts since 1/1/24 (not including payments for pledges)	\$0
Remaining Gap	\$100,000

If you have not yet made a pledge or would like to make a new or increase your gift to the Welcome Project, now is a great time to get involved! A generous family in the church has offered a Matching Gift of up to \$15,000 to help close the gap shown above. That means, any new gift or pledge made before June 30, 2024 will be matched up to \$15,000 (for a total of \$30,000!). Scan the QR code below to make a gift now!



After you enter an amount, choose either Recurring Gift or One-time Gift. Then choose General Budget or Welcoming Campaign from the drop-down menu.

The Welcome Project quite literally builds on the foundation that we have set for 150 years, moving us to the next level to serve Christ and Community for years to come as we continue to fulfill our mission of Introducing Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him; Deepening the faith and commitment of those who already know Him; and Demonstrating Christ’s way of love in service to the world.

Please continue to pray that all will go well as we move into this exciting new phase of the Welcome Project, and as always, we thank everyone in the church for your continued support of the work and ministry of ERFP.

With Love and Gratitude,

Your Welcome Project Team

Randy Asmus, Andy Bogard, Peg Burns , Craig Cameron, Pam Coleman, Ron Dunbar, Mike Husby, Tom Klingler, Dave Nussdorfer, Jim Porter and John Werner