



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, April 14, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Scripture Reading – Psalm 34:4-8

Marie Zandler

“I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him, and be radiant, so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord and was saved from every trouble. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.”

Worship Songs - **“10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)”**
“Yes I Will”

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Luke 24:36-48

Sermon

“Living in the Power of the Resurrection Today”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – **“Send Me”**

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.

Closing Song – **“Living Hope”**

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, Mel Matchett 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.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, April 14, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”* by Fishel

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Trust in God. Trust the miracles you have known. Trust the miracle what you can be through Christ, our risen Lord.

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 4)

LeRue Werner

Leader: The Lord hears us when we call:

People: Come, let us put our trust in God.

Leader: The Lord fills our hearts with gladness:

People: Come, let us sing God’s praises with shouts of joy!

Leader: The Lord grants peace to our weary souls:

People: Come, let us rest by the quiet waters of God’s grace.

All: Let us worship together the living God!

Opening Prayer

LeRue Werner

All: God of miracles and truth, bless us this day, as we gather for worship, with the power of your Holy Spirit. Reveal your presence in our midst and open our hearts and minds to receive the gift of your miraculous love. Strengthen our faith as we come before You to worship, that we may go forth as witnesses to the truth of your resurrection power at work in our lives today. Amen.

Opening Hymn 236 – *“The Strife is O’er”*

Call to Confession

LeRue Werner

Leader: To repent is to turn away from sin and turn toward Christ Jesus. Scripture promises that when we confess, God hears our cries and wipes away our sin (Acts 3:19). Trusting in God’s promises of new life, let us confess our sins and the sin of this world.

Prayer of Confession

LeRue Werner

All: Risen Christ, we are often troubled by our doubts. But you are not troubled by them. You do not require perfect understanding. Instead, you reveal yourself to us again and again that we might come to know you. Forgive us when our doubts keep us stuck, when fear prevents us from loving all creation as you call us to do. Help us to accept the peace you so graciously offer to us. Have mercy on us when we hoard or hide it, when we fail to offer it to others. Renew us and make us whole that in this world of strife we may be bearers of your peace. In resurrection hope we pray, Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

LeRue Werner

Leader: "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are" (1 John 3:1). Children of God, we are claimed by God, forgiven of our sins, and set free for love.

People: **Alleluia! Amen.**

Anthem – "*Lamb of God*" by Courtney

Scripture Reading – Luke 24:36-48

Sermon "Living in the Power of the Resurrection Today" Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 817 – "***We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight***"

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.
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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.**

Call for the Offering

Leader: In response to God's abundant grace at work in our lives, let us present with gratitude our gifts of time, talent and treasure, for the building up of God's kingdom.

Offering Prayer

All: Living Lord, we give you thanks for the bounty of your grace: you create us in your image, shower us with your love, forgive us when we turn away from you, and give us a future with hope. Bless these gifts we offer you today, and make us good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. May our gifts bring joy and peace in our church and in our community. In Christ's holy name we pray, Amen.

Closing Hymn 365 – "***God Reigns! Let Earth Rejoice!***"

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, Jan Shurte 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.



Did You Know...

In the 1870's, before the church was built, churches of three denominations used the original County Court Room on Ottawa Street as a place of worship. The Methodist alternated with the Presbyterian for preaching services, but had what was called a "union" Sunday school.

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

Do you believe in the Power of God?

Our new sermon series starts today:

"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!

Easter Flowers – If you reserved flowers in honor or memory of a loved one for Easter and haven't yet picked them up, please do so today. Any plants left are free for the taking.

Family Trivia Night & Dinner – Tonight, 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!

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.

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. 4/14

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a Sunday School & Youth – LH
10:30 a Traditional Service
5:00 p Family Trivia Night – FHall

Mon. 4/15

5:30 p Youth MT – LH
6:30 p Children's Ed MT – LH

Tues. 4/16

Wed. 4/17

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

Thurs. 4/18

9:00 a Session Reports Due

Fri. 4/19

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FHall



Welcome Project Update

April 2024

Construction Continues!

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 continues with the demolition of the existing lift and the removal of the front doors and windows. Please continue to follow the access directions provided below.

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 is through the choir robe room.
- Access for mobility challenged individuals is on 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 are reserved for those with mobility issues. If necessary, parking assistance may be provided to those who request it.
- Access for all other church members is through the door from the WEST parking lot up the stairs into the Fellowship Hall.
- 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