



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, July 7, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Alice Cannon

Leader: "Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love." (1 John 4:7-8)

All: Come, let us worship God!

Worship Songs - **"Build My Life"**
"Lord I Need You"

(As the children come forward, please take a moment to sign the Friendship pad located at the end of each pew and pass it along to the person(s) next to you. Thank you!)

Message to the Children

Rev. Jim Porter

Scripture Reading – Acts 1:1-11

Sermon "The Story of the Church Begins"

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – **"Gratitude"**

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.

Celebration of Communion

For Communion today everyone is invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive the gluten free bread and juice. After partaking of the elements, you may return to your seat by the side aisle.

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 – **"You Never Let Go"**

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.**

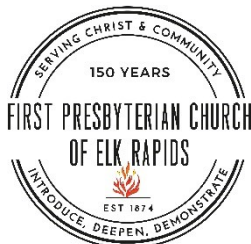
For anyone desiring special prayers today, Shelia Conrad will be at the front of the sanctuary to pray for you. Please come forward after the service.

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our usher: Deb Broderick, and our snack volunteer.

Thank you to our communion servers: Laura Asiala, Hannah Barraw, Mel Matchett, and Lynne Sheldon.



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

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“America the Beautiful”* arr. by Walters

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

1 John 4:7-8

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Karen Blanchard

Leader: God's greatness is wondrous to behold.

People: Everywhere we look, we can see the imprint of God.

Leader: From the loftiest mountains to the crashing waters of the sea,

People: God's greatness stands majestically.

Leader: And God's greatness can also be seen within the human heart.

People: Let us honor and praise God in our worship today and through acts of loving kindness and compassion. AMEN.

Opening Prayer

Karen Blanchard

All: Lord of mystery and community, you have called us here this day to remind us of the journey you set before us. Help us to pay attention to the speaking of your voice and the prompting of your Holy Spirit as You call us once again to a mission of love, care, and compassion. Remind us that success is not measured in numbers, but in your grace that is shared with others. Enable us to truly be your disciples at work in this world in Jesus' name. In his name, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn 331 – *“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”*

Prayer of Confession

Karen Blanchard

All: Loving God, with silent persistence and prophetic witness, You love every person and all of creation. You ache every time we destroy beauty, every time we harm one another, every time our greed squashes kindness. You see when we ignore those who are in need and turn a deaf ear to cries for help.

Merciful God, forgive us and let us take up the challenge to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly on earth with You. Forgive us and let your Spirit fill us with courage to continue to do your work in the world today. Remind us of the ways You have blessed us, so that we in turn may become a blessing to others. Never let us forget your all-embracing love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Karen Blanchard

Leader: Do not be afraid. Place your trust in God's call and guidance. Know that the Lord is with you always, even to the ends of the earth, and God promises to forgive all who turn to Him in love and faith. Amen.

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Karen Blanchard

Leader: On the road of faith, we rarely feel up to the journey. Look around at your fellow travelers, then share signs of Christ's peace, for this peace is grace and strength for the journey.

Leader: After greeting your neighbors, please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad located at the end of the pew and pass it along to the person(s) sitting next to you. Thank you!

Anthem – “Heal Our Land” by Schrader

Scripture Reading – Acts 1:1-11

Sermon

“The Story of the Church Begins”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 753 – “**Make Me a Channel of Your Peace**”

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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(The ushers will now come forward to receive this morning's offering. Please place your financial gift, Connection Card, and/or Prayer Card in the offering plate as it is passed along the pew.)

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: You give us everything we need, O God, to build your kingdom. With nothing but your presence and your promise to be with us, your presence in our lives blesses the world. Receive our love and commitment in this morning's gifts and offerings, that the world may know the healing love of your Son. Amen.

Closing Hymn 340 – *"This Is My 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.**

Benediction

Benediction Response – *"Let There Be Peace On Earth"*

For anyone desiring special prayers today, Sandi Gray 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: Ken Kohlman & Pam Coleman, and our snack volunteer.

Thank you to our communion servers: Sandy Davids, Ken Kohlman, Don Reynolds, and Adam Schuler.

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...

On August 14, 1945 while I was playing outdoors my mother told me that Japan had surrendered unconditionally and that people were ringing bells throughout the land. I then went to our church and began ringing our historical church bell. Soon after I could hear the bells from other churches and the school bell ringing. – Memories from Adam Schuler

150th Anniversary Picnic – Sunday, July 28, 2024

Following worship on Sunday, July 28 we will celebrate our 150th



anniversary--we want to include our entire family of faith and also people who are and have been important to our ministry over the generations.

Please RSVP to let us know you will be attending by scanning the QR code here, signing the RSVP list at the Activity Center, or contacting the church office (231-264-8167 or info@erfpc.org).

Help with Housing for Our 150th Anniversary Celebration

– We are looking for housing for Rev. Scott and Pam Fischer who will be here the evening of July 26 and 27 for the 150th celebration. Scott is a former pastor at our church and his wife is also a

Celebrating 150 Years of Serving Christ & Community!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, July 28

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
 - 10:00 AM Fun, Fellowship & Children's Activities Begin
 - Coffee & Snacks
 - Bounce House & Games
 - Photo Booth
 - 10:30 AM Traditional Worship
 - 11:30 AM BBQ Picnic Begins
 - 12:30 PM Short Program & Dedication of New Entrance
- Thursday, August 1 & Friday, August 2
- 7:00 PM Harbor Voices Concert

Presbyterian minister. Cheryl Knight will host the Fischers for dinner on Saturday, July 27, and has Rev. Hal and T.C. Schafer staying with her for the weekend. Please consider hosting this wonderful couple who are returning to celebrate a special event in our church. Contact Cheryl Knight for further details at 231-409-3316.

150th Anniversary Commemorative Coffee Mugs Now Available for Purchase

150th anniversary commemorative coffee mugs are now available for purchase or order. The mugs are on display in the narthex and are white with our beautiful 150th anniversary in 'Torch Lake' blue on the cup. They are \$10 per mug, with net proceeds from the sale going to support our efforts to alleviate food insecurity in the region.

Laura Asiala will have them available before and between services. Alternatively, you can order anytime by sending a note to LEASIALA@gmail.com or completing the form and placing it in the box in the narthex.

Wired Word Suspended for Summer – The adult education ministry team has decided to suspend the Wired Word meetings for the rest of the summer, but you will still be getting those thoughtful articles on current events to think about throughout the summer. We just will not be meeting to discuss them. Instead, we will be having some exciting "pop-up" sessions to discuss and put into practice some of the concepts that Pastor Jim will be presenting in his sermons from the book of ACTS. We will be letting you know about the topics, times and places of these events through the bulletins and eblasts.

Help Wanted!

Currently, we are looking to fill two staff positions! They are: permanent **Worship Leader for the Contemporary Service**; and **Assistant Care Giver for the Nursery** on Sunday mornings. If you know of anyone who has gifts and talents in these areas and who would like to become a part of a wonderful church staff, please let us know! You can contact the church office at 231-264-8167 or info@erfpc.org for job descriptions and more information regarding all of these positions. Thanks!

Volunteers Needed!

We are also looking for additional volunteers in the following areas:

- **Sunday School Teachers** for Summer and Fall; Contact Wayne Potter at wayneraypotter@gmail.com
- **AV Help** during worship at both services; Contact Josh McCann at mccann.joshuap@gmail.com
- **Praise Team and Choir members**; Contact Leah Keaton at leahkat2004@gmail.com
Or for the Choir, contact Cheryl Knight at c509knight@gmail.com
- **Nursery Help** (one or two Sundays each month)

If you have gifts and talents in any of these areas--- and a willingness to help--- please let us know! Just call or email the church office at 231-264-8167 or info@erfpc.org. Thanks!

Take the Survey! Not sure where your gifts and talents lay? Or where you might be best suited to serve? Then, take our Volunteer Accelerator Survey! It's fun, informative, and easy to do! Just scan the QR code to the left or click on the link:



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

Thanks for your willingness to help out!

Opportunities for Serving Our Community at Maple Bay Farm

As we look for ways to fight food insecurity in our area, the Outreach Team has several opportunities to serve our community at Maple Bay Farm. Here's how you can help:

- Daily watering is ongoing! Please turn off both main spigots after watering.
- This summer, Mondays and Thursdays starting at 9:00 AM.

We'll keep you updated as more opportunities become available. Hope to see you there!

The Nominating Committee is beginning work to discern nominations for 2025. If you would like to volunteer or know of someone that you think would be a good candidate, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members: Shelia Conrad, Judy Husby, Connie Claar, Gail Halliday, LeRue Werner, Jeremy Canon, and Garry Sumerix. Please note that only members may be elected. If you have been approached in the past and declined, but now feel called, please let someone on the nominating committee know.

Community Cupboard – 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. 7/7

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 7/8

11:30 a 150th Team – Conf

Tues. 7/9

6:30 p Deacons – FHall
7:00 p Endowment – Conf

Wed. 7/10

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

Thurs. 7/11

10:00 a Worship – Conf
7:00 p Trustees – FHall

Fri. 7/12

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FHall