



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, September 22, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Grace Ward

Leader: As we come to worship today, breathe in God's love.
Breathe out God's mercy and peace for all the world.

All: Come, let us worship God!

Worship Songs - **"Come As You Are"**
"Holy Spirit"

Greeting One Another in Christian Love

(Before you sit down, please turn and greet your neighbor. Also, please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad located at the end of each pew and pass it along to the person next to you. Thanks!)

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

(Children are invited to come forward at this time for the children's message.)

Scripture Reading – James 3:13-4:8a

Sermon

"The Good Life"

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - **"Defender"**

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 – **"Praise"**

Charge and Blessing

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

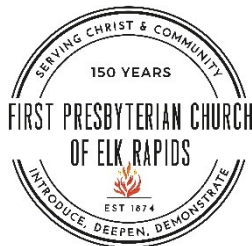
**People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;
deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;
and demonstrate Christ's way of love in service to the world.**

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: Mel & Judy Matchett, and our snack volunteer.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, September 22, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Praise Ye the Lord”*

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Recognition and Celebration of our 90 Year Olds

Invitation and Centering Words

Leader: Breathe in and invite the Spirit of Wisdom to fill your soul. Breathe out, recalling the Spirit of Love that connects you with all God’s children.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

LeRue Werner

Leader: Blessed are those who follow paths of righteousness,

People: For we take delight in the wisdom of God.

Leader: Blessed are those who reach out to serve those in need,

People: For we find delight in the love of God.

Leader: Blessed are those who set aside envy and jealousy,

People: For we draw delight in the selflessness of God.

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Opening Prayer

LeRue Werner

All: Holy God, as we embrace the dawn of this week and seek the reemergence of hope in our lives, we sing your praise. As we face the journey before us, grant us your wisdom and your strength. Erase envy from our minds and the biases from our hearts, as we enter this space to worship You. Fill our lives with the refreshing brooks of your peace this day and always. Amen.

Opening Hymn 630 – *“Fairest Lord Jesus”*

Prayer of Confession

LeRue Werner

All: Gracious and loving God, discord rages in the airwaves around us, leading us to challenge your holy wisdom and question your loving presence with us. Confusion swirls within our daily lives, contributing to the discord in our world. Too often, our selfish desires consume our attention, blocking your voice and the needs of others from our view. May your peace still the whirlwind within our minds and help us hear your holy wisdom as we walk our journey of faith. And may loving kindness spring forth from our tongues, each and every day. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

LeRue Werner

Leader: Friends, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are forgiven; therefore, in a spirit of humility, we recognize the ways we are called to grow in love for both God and neighbor. Knowing that we are forgiven, let us greet one another now as God's children with the peace of Christ.

(Please greet those around you with the words, "Peace be with you." Responding, "And also with you." After the Passing of the Peace, please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad at the end of the pew, and pass it along to those who are seated beside you.)

Anthem – *"His Eye is on the Sparrow"* arr. by Schrader

Scripture Reading – James 3:13-4:8a

Sermon

"The Good Life"

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 462 – *"I Love to Tell the Story"* (vs. 1 & 3)

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. *(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: Loving God, with the work of our hands, we create pathways of care. With open hearts, we welcome your abundant wisdom which invites us to share. May these our gifts given today transform our communities into places of humility and generosity. Amen.

Closing Hymn 772 – *"Live into 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.**

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 ushers: Don Reynolds, Penny Novarro, Dave Nussdorfer, and Becky Kleyn, and our snack volunteer: Becky Kleyn.

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...

There used to be a balcony overhead where the choir sits now. It was used for a Sunday School classroom and also for overflow worship attendees.

Facts about the area and First Presbyterian Church from Adam Schuler.

Birthday Celebration of Our 90 Year Olds – Today

Join us for a 90th birthday celebration! We have three members turning 90 this year – Jim Lagowski, Thelma Orzechowski, and Eunice Thompson. We will be having a special recognition and cupcakes today during coffee hour between services from 10-10:30 am. This will be followed by a special recognition at the 10:30 am service. You can also join in the celebration by signing one of the cards beside the gift bags in the narthex or bringing your own card. Our other 90+ honorees are: Joanne Hoezee, Betty Holzhauser, Kenneth Klynstra, Bill & Lou Letsche, Jane Lund, Mona Nelson, Adam Schuler, Don Shurte, Bill Sinclair, and Phyllis Staley. Don't miss this special celebration!

Sunday, September 29 – ONE 10:30 AM Service followed by Youth Brunch

Mark your calendar now for ONE 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, September 29. There will be a youth brunch in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service. Don't miss this special Sunday!

Women's Retreat 2025 – We are beginning to plan for our Women's Retreat in 2025. If you are interested in helping to plan this retreat contact Judy Brummeler at 231-838-4941.

THE CHOSEN is back with Season 4! We started on Sept 9 and are running for 8 weeks on Monday nights from 6-7:30 p.m. Please sign up in the narthex if you would like to join us. The Study Guides are available in the narthex as well. A donation of \$10 per book is suggested. Even if you have not been involved in the previous seasons you can join in this season. Everyone knows enough about the life of Jesus to pick up the series anywhere.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library – In a recent sermon, Pastor Jim mentioned Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. In this program children, birth to fifth birthday, receive a book in the mail every month at

no expense to the parent/guardian. Antrim, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties are open to receive registrations. <https://dpiil-gtregion.org> (For more information, contact Nancy Muhlig, 231-264-9434.)

YOUR Stephen Ministry – Over the past few years, YOUR Stephen Ministry has sent out over 50 booklets to those in our congregation and friends who have experienced a death in their family. This series of four booklets is sent out during the year after the death of the loved one with information on how to have a Stephen Minister walk with them through their grief. Thank you all, for your support of this caring ministry that brings Christ's healing love to hurting people.

A Note from the Trustees – Did you know that our annual budget includes a payment per member which supports the Presbyterian Church locally in the Presbytery of Mackinac, regionally with the Synod of the Covenant, and nationally with the Presbyterian Church USA? A \$40.00 per member contribution—also known as ‘per capita’--supports the important work of the Presbyterian Church beyond our congregation. We ask that all members of the congregation contribute annually this per capita offering in addition to your annual pledge to offset the cost of our congregation's participation in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Per capita envelopes are available in the narthex, and you may also select a “per capita” option in online giving.

THESE DAYS devotional booklets for October through December 2024 have arrived and are on the Welcome table in the narthex. Stop and pick up your copy today!


Help Wanted! Currently, we are looking to fill two staff positions – **AV Coordinator** and **Financial Manager**. 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 call the church office at 231-264-8167 for job descriptions and more information regarding these positions, or email Ellen at info@erfpc.org. Thanks!

Volunteers Needed!

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

- **AV Help** during worship at both services; Contact Josh McCann at mccann.joshuap@gmail.com
- **Praise Team and Choir members;** Contact Kyle Ripley at ksripley@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!

Community Cupboard – Community Cash is back! Save your Village Market receipts dated between Sept 1, 2024 and May 30, 2025 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. You can mail or drop donations in the brown box too! Due to your generosity the Elk Rapids Community Cupboard came in 2nd place this year receiving over \$3000.00 from the Village Market. 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.

This Week's Activities

Sun. 9/22

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a S.S. & Youth - LH
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 9/23

6:00 p The Chosen – AEd

Tues. 9/24

Wed. 9/25

9:00 a Bulletin Items Due
9:00 a Finance – Conf
2:00 p UpNorth Group – FHall
6:30 p Praise Team Practice

Thurs. 9/26

9:00 a Session Reports Due

Fri. 9/27

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FHall