

9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, October 6, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Wayne Potter

Invitation to Worship

Charlie Denherder

Leader: On this World Communion Sunday, we are reminded once again that we are all a part of God's family. "See what love God the Father has for us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1)

All: Come, let us worship God!

Worship Songs - **"Stand In Your Love"**
"Here I Am"

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 Readings – Micah 7:18-20
Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon

"The Power of Forgiveness"

Rev. Dr. Tom Cook

Responsive Song - **"What A Beautiful Name"**

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.

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 – **"Graves Into Gardens"**

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.*

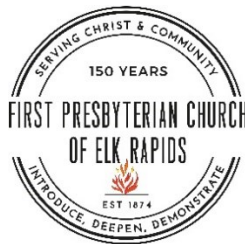
Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Lorraine Berak & Shelia Conrad, and our snack volunteer.

Thank you to our communion servers: Lorraine Berak, Shelia Conrad, Mel Matchett, and Lynne Sheldon.

Chancel flowers are placed by Adam and Chris Schuler in honor of their 23rd wedding anniversary.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, October 6, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“O Come and Sing Unto the Lord”*

Welcome

Kyle Ripley

Invitation and Centering Words

Leader: On this World Communion Sunday, we are reminded once again that we are all a part of God's family. “See what love God the Father has for us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1)

Ring of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Lynda Nichols

Leader: In the midst of struggle and strife, God is with us.

People: Praise be to God for God's steadfast presence.

Leader: Even though many things in life hurt and disappoint us, God is with us,

People: And so we come to seek God's mercy and grace to heal our wounded souls.

Leader: Come, bring your needs and wants to God, for God promises to hear our cries and restore our souls.

People: Praise be to God for God's gifts of mercy, peace, and hope.

All: Come, let us worship together the living God!

Opening Prayer

Lynda Nichols

All: Lord, we come to you today with so many things on our hearts. You call us to be in relationship of loving trust with You and You offer your healing grace to us for those portions of our lives that are broken and injured. Help us to be open to your mercy and healing love. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Opening Hymn 2 – ***“Come, Thou Almighty King”***

Call to Confession

Lynda Nichols

Leader: The proof of God’s amazing love is this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Because we have faith in Him, we dare to approach God with confidence.

Prayer of Confession

Lynda Nichols

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; both by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lynda Nichols

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! 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 – ***“Bread of the World”*** by McDonald

Scripture Readings – Micah 7:18-20

Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon

“The Power of Forgiveness”

Rev. Dr. Tom Cook

Responsive Hymn 509 – ***“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”***

The Sacrament of Communion

All who place trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to share the goodness set before us on this table and to participate fully in this celebration

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise

Minister: Hear us now as we declare the great mystery of faith:

People: Christ died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Communion of the People

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.

Concluding 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: Sovereign God, You hold the history of nations and the humble life of villages in your care. Preserve the people of every nation from tyranny and lead them to peace. Protect them and all of us in this time of upheaval and disaster, that all may enter your Kingdom that cannot be shaken. May these gifts given today be used to continue the work and ministry of Christ in the world today. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn 676 – ***"Day Is Done"***

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, Jeff Whittaker 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: Dave Nussdorfer, Wayne Shuler, & Jane Lund, and our snack volunteer.

Thank you to our communion servers: Peggy Bushnell, Ginny Dorner, Lynda Nichols, Adam Schuler, and Susan Wiltse (choir).

Chancel flowers are placed by Adam and Chris Schuler in honor of their 23rd wedding anniversary.

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 June 18, 1874 the First Presbyterian Society of Elk Rapids was formed with 19 members – 6 men and 13 women.

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

New Sermon Series Coming Soon – “The Campaign for Kindness”

“Just as water reflects the face, so one human heart reflects another.” – Proverbs 27:19

Our world seems to be consumed with division – often typified in the colors red and blue. Rather than stay in our monochromatic silos, the Golden Rule in scripture challenges us to engage in conversation and seek to create whatever common good we can with our relatives, friends, and neighbors who we might consider to be on the “other side” politically and ideologically. As we attempt to come together, the idea is not that we are obliterating either one or trying to change each other, but rather we discover the beauty that can be created when we work together to make the world a better place. The “purple space” is where we cultivate kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love for one another and for the good of all the world, no matter what.

Plan to join us as we explore how we can show kindness to all in our new series “The Campaign for Kindness.”

Dedication of Our New Entrance – Wednesday, October 16 at 5:30PM

Everyone is invited to join us at the front doors for the dedication of our beautiful new front entrance. We’ll have a simple service outside at 5:30 p.m. and then enjoy a time of refreshments with apple cider and donuts. Don’t miss this special gathering of praise and celebration!

All Ministry Team Budget Meeting – Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30PM

This meeting is the first step in our budgeting process for 2025, as well as a celebration of all the ministries of First Pres. All ministry team leaders and/or team members are invited to participate in this important meeting on Wednesday, October 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

October is Staff Appreciation Month – The Deacons are celebrating staff appreciation month by inviting the staff to a luncheon with the Deacons later in the month. How can you participate? We will be placing bags in the narthex beginning October 4 for your cards and messages. A phone call or an invite to a staff member to go out to lunch or dinner are also good ways to show your appreciation. Let's show our staff how much we appreciate their support and dedication to First Presbyterian Church.

Candy Donations & Volunteers Needed for October 31 Halloween Event

We’re collecting candy donations, and looking for volunteers to decorate a station inside the Lighthouse and pass out candy. Contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 if you’d like to participate or have questions.

Hurricane Helene Disaster Response

We’ve all seen the utter devastation inflicted by Hurricane Helene in North Carolina, Georgia, and other parts of the southeastern U.S. Our hearts and prayers go out to all the people who have been affected by this terrible storm and the destruction left in its wake. We pray especially for those who have lost homes and loved ones in this disaster.

If you would like to give to help with disaster response and provide much needed supplies to those in need, you can go to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website at:

<https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/hurricane-helene/> for the latest information on the Presbyterian Church’s response and ways to give.

Finally, the most important thing we can do at times like these is pray. We encourage all people to pray for everyone who has been affected by this devastating storm:

God of grace and compassion,

In these overwhelming moments of loss and devastation, we come to you with weary hearts that are both heavy and hopeful. We hold in our prayers and hearts all those impacted by the hurricanes, conflicts, and other disasters, and we implore for your mercy, peace, and healing to embrace our siblings all over the world. By your grace, bring comfort to those who are grieving, give strength to the exhausted, and provide shelter for those who have lost everything.

May your Spirit move in this, your creation, bringing peace amid the turmoil, and breathing hope into the places that feel broken. May your Spirit continue to be the quiet but constant reassurance that you are with your children and creation, even in the darkest moments, guiding us toward healing and restoration.

As we continue to see the news, we lift up the brave souls who are working tirelessly to rescue and assist. Give strength and wisdom for the tasks ahead. And stir our hearts, dear God, to step in with compassion, helping our neighbors, near and far, with kindness, love, and compassion.

In all of these disasters, we place our trust in your everlasting promises of your presence and care. Restore what has been shattered and lead us toward a path of renovation, peace, healing, and the renewing power of your always present Spirit.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

-Rev. Edwin González-Castillo, PDA Director

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.

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 – As we have noted in previous updates, there are many opportunities to give at First Pres! Sometimes, this causes confusion among our members about why we are able to do projects like the library (set to begin in October 2024) or reseal parking lots and yet are behind in general operating giving. Some members who have made and fulfilled an annual general operating pledge are blessed and able to do more for their church family. Working with staff, Session and Trustees, a significant need might be identified and then the donor gift is designated to be used solely for that purpose. We are grateful for these gifts as we are for each gift that supports our general operating needs. However, we should always think of those gifts as 'something extra' and not in lieu of supporting the ongoing ministry.

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!

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!

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. 10/6

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

Mon. 10/7

6:00 p The Chosen – AEd

Tues. 10/8

7:00 p Endowment – Conf

Wed. 10/9

6:30 a Breakfast Club – LH
9:00 a Bulletin Items Due
2:00 p UpNorth Group – FHall
6:30 p Praise Team Practice

Thurs. 10/10

1:00 p Worship – Conf
7:00 p Trustees - FHall

Fri. 10/11

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FHall