

## 9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, January 26, 2025

### Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Minute for Mission – Safety & Security

Don Reynolds

Invitation to Worship

Kady Peck

Leader: Christ is the good Shepherd, who knows us and calls us by name. Our Shepherd gives us eternal life; no one can snatch us from his hand.

**All: Come, let us worship the living God, our Shepherd and our Lord!**

Worship Songs - **“Goodness Of God”**  
**“Good Good Father”**

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 – Isaiah 53:1-9  
John 10:1-11

Sermon

“The Gift of Myrrh and  
the Call to Be a Good Church”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - **“Abide In Me”**

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.
- 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.*

## Offering Prayer

**All: God of our ancestors, Caretaker of our future, thank You for your faithful love. May the gifts we bring before You this day honor the many ways You bless this church. And may our offering reflect our commitment to lead lives of love, as we continue Jesus' mission to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

## Closing Song – *“Rest On Us”*

## Charge and Blessing

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

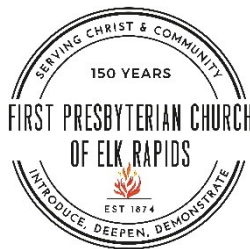
**People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;  
deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;  
and demonstrate Christ's way of love in service to the world.**

*For anyone desiring special prayers today, Judy Husby 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: Chad, Shanna, Ben & Nora Vergote, and our snack volunteer.



**10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, January 26, 2025**

## Order of Worship

### Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“We Will Glorify”* arr. by Parks

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Minute for Mission – Safety & Security

Don Reynolds

### Invitation and Centering Words

Christ is the good Shepherd, who knows us and calls us by name. Our Shepherd gives us eternal life; no one can snatch us from his hand.

### Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

### Call to Worship

LeRue Werner

Leader: Christ is our shepherd.

**People: We are Christ's sheep.**

Leader: The shepherd is calling us to join God's flock.

**People: We will follow our shepherd.**

Leader: Rejoice, little one, for no one can snatch us from the shepherd's hand.

**People: In God's flock, we rest secure.**

**All: Come! Let us worship the living God, our Shepherd and our Lord!**

## Opening Prayer

LeRue Werner

**All: God of Grace and Wisdom, we have come to sit at Jesus' feet and to learn what He would teach us. With the heavens above and the earth below, we rejoice in the good news He brings: help to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. Reveal the mystery of your Word to us today, that we may hear His voice anew, and follow where He leads. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## Opening Hymn 749 – *“Come! Live in the Light!”*

### Prayer of Confession

LeRue Werner

**All: Almighty, eternal God, before whom nations rise and fall, we have forgotten that You desire a world at peace, living in justice and harmony with others. We have wandered from the paths of peace and listened to the stories of fear and distrust. We have taken refuge behind walls of our own making and false promises that weapons will protect us. We have failed to hear your voice speaking to us, and have forgotten your powerful, persistent ways of loving, caring, forgiving, and setting us free.**

**Have mercy upon us, and let your forgiveness and peace renew us like water in a desert, as we retreat to a quiet place to be renewed by Jesus. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

### Assurance of Pardon

LeRue Werner

Leader: Trust the words of our Shepherd: “My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.” Rest secure that our Shepherd loves us, and leads us into abundant life both in this world and the next.

### Passing the Peace

LeRue Werner

Leader: We rest secure in God's flock. In gratitude and thanks, let us share signs of peace from our shepherd, who watches over us.

[Please greet those around you saying: “Peace be with you.” Responding, “And also with you.” Also, please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad at the end of the pew and pass it along to those sitting beside you.]

## Anthem – *“On Eagle's Wings”* arr. by Wagner

### Scripture Readings – Isaiah 53:1-9

John 10:1-11

### Sermon

“The Gift of Myrrh and  
the Call to Be a Good Church”

Rev. Jim Porter

## Responsive Hymn 720 – *“Jesus Calls Us”*

### 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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## Offering Prayer

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## Closing Hymn 684 – *“Faith Begins by Letting 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.**

## 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 usher: Don Reynolds, and our snack volunteer: Phyllis Staley.

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](http://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](mailto: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.

## **New Book Study Begins January 27 –**

## **“Caring Assertiveness: Relating Directly, Honestly, and with Respect”**

**Please note the new study dates.** Join us on Monday afternoons, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the adult education room January 27 - February 17 as we discuss practical tools to communicate and relate with greater confidence and care. Sign up at the Activity Center today!

## **Free Community Dinner – Monday, January 27 from 5:00-6:30PM**

You're invited to join us for our Free Community Dinner on Monday, January 27 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Chef Jeremy will be preparing a delicious dinner. Invite your friends and family and don't miss this excellent meal!

## **Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 9**

Session Calls an All Congregation Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 9 in person and via Zoom immediately following worship at approximately 11:45 a.m. to (1) approve the minutes of the 2024 Congregational meetings as printed, or with additions and/or corrections, and receive the 2024 Ministry Teams' and Committees' Annual Reports, (2) approve the pastor's terms of call for 2025, (3) receive the Session-approved 2025 operating budget, and (4) conduct any other business that needs to come before the congregation.

Non-members are welcome to attend. Members are asked to attend. Please remember that our bylaws require that 10 percent (31 people) of our active membership be present for a quorum.

**Financial Update** – To the many members who completed a 2025 Pledge Card, Thank you! We have had a tremendous response. Yet we still have 16 members who pledged last year who have not submitted commitments to our Church for this year.

We are currently finalizing the budget for 2025 and would appreciate hearing from you. No matter how large or small, just knowing you are part of our family is a wonderful gesture of faith. If you have not had the opportunity to send in a pledge card for this year, we hope to hear from you soon.

-- Blessings, Mike Husby, Treasurer

## Volunteers Needed!

**Both ACTS & Community Cupboard have immediate needs for volunteers.**

**ACTS** – Acme Christian Thrift Store & Food Pantry, located in Acme, needs help in their thrift store, which is open Tuesday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with the greatest need from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. There's something for everyone to do! Examples of volunteer jobs include answering the phone, sorting and pricing donations, and working with customers in the thrift shop. Scheduling is very flexible – it can be an hour or two, a full day or occasionally as your schedule allows. To volunteer or ask questions, contact Carol Hockin at 231-267-3002 ext 5. Additional information is available at <https://www.acmechristian.org/volunteer.html>.

**Community Cupboard** – Located in church basement, Community Cupboard is open every other week on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. and Friday at 8:30 a.m. and needs drivers to help deliver groceries to those unable to drive. All deliveries are within the ER school district. To volunteer or for more information, contact Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239.

**Help Needed Setting Up Coffee Central for 9:00 AM Service** – If you are willing to help set up for Coffee Central for the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Service, please contact Lorraine Berak at 231-620-4869. Thank you!

**Take the Survey!** Not sure where your gifts and talents lay? Or where you might be best suited to serve? 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. 1/26

9:00 a Contemporary Service  
10:00 a Sunday School/Youth-LH  
10:30 a Traditional Service

#### Mon. 1/27

3:00 p Book Study – AEd  
5:00 p Community Dinner - FHall

#### Tues. 1/28

9:00 a Investments – FHall

#### Wed. 1/29

6:30 a Breakfast Club – LH  
9:00 a Bulletin Items Due  
2:00 p UpNorth Group – AEd  
3:00 p Service at Autumn House  
6:30 p Praise Team Practice

#### Thurs. 1/30

#### Fri. 1/31

10:30a Choir Rehearsal – FHall