



## 9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, February 23, 2025

### Order of Worship

#### Countdown to Worship

#### Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

- Coming Soon – “Entering the Passion of Jesus”

#### Invitation to Worship

Grace Ward

Leader: United in one Spirit, we are called to stand strongly. United in one hope, we are called to live faithfully. United in one God, we are called to love abundantly.

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

#### Worship Songs - “*Lord I Need You*”

**“10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)”**

#### 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 – Exodus 16:1-24

#### Sermon

“Practicing Sabbath: It’s a Matter of Trust!”

Rev. Jim Porter

#### Responsive Song - “*Abide In 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.*

#### Offering Prayer

Leader: God has generously blessed us and granted us the privilege of sharing our blessings with others. We thank God for this sacred trust.

**All: Loving God, as we remember your wonderful works, we are grateful for the many blessings that You bestow upon our lives, and are pleased to return these gifts to you. As**

we give these gifts today, bless them and send them forth, that others may come to know your abundant love and grace. In faithful trust, we pray. Amen.

### Closing Song – “*King Of Kings*”

### Charge and Blessing

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

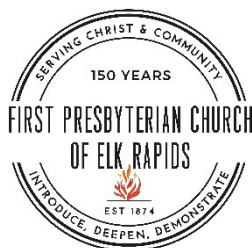
**People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;  
deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;  
and demonstrate Christ’s way of love in service to the world.**

*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, Chad & Shannah, Ben & Nora Vergote, and our snack volunteer.



**10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, February 23, 2025**

### Order of Worship

#### Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “*Joy in the Morning*” by Sleeth

#### Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

- Coming Soon – “Entering the Passion of Jesus”

#### Invitation and Centering Words

United in one Spirit, we are called to stand strongly. United in one hope, we are called to live faithfully. United in one God, we are called to love abundantly.

#### Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

#### Call to Worship

LeRue Werner

Leader: Stand firm, children of God!

**People: We have come to serve the Lord.**

Leader: Stand firm, children of God!

**People: We have come to grow in unity and love.**

Leader: Stand firm, children of God!

**People: We have come to live faithfully and fully in Christ.**

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

Opening Prayer

LeRue Werner

**All: Love through us, living God, in the power of your Holy Spirit. Love through us, Holy One, by the grace of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith this day, so that we may respond to the needs around us with trust and hope. In your mighty name, we pray. Amen.**

Opening Hymn 669 – *“Let’s Sing Unto the Lord”*

Prayer of Confession

LeRue Werner

**All: Forgive us, Mighty God, when we doubt your strength. Assure us, Faithful God, when we doubt your constant presence. Renew us, Loving God, when we neglect to love others as you have loved us. Empower us with your strength, and encourage us with your steadfast love. Unite us through the power of your Holy Spirit, that we might live with a faith that honors you, and abide with a hope that encourages others to know your love and grace. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

Assurance of Pardon

LeRue Werner

Leader: Christ’s grace makes us whole, and the Spirit’s presence makes us one.

**All: Thanks be to God for these wonderful gifts!**

Passing the Peace

LeRue Werner

Leader: United in the Holy Spirit, let us share signs of love and peace with one another.

[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 – *“Then Sings My Soul”* by McDonald

Scripture Reading – Exodus 16:1-24

Sermon

“Practicing Sabbath: It’s a Matter of Trust!”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn – *“As the Deer”*

Verse 1

**As the deer panteth for the water,  
So my soul longeth after Thee.  
You alone are my heart’s desire,  
And I long to worship Thee.**

Refrain

**You alone are my strength, my shield;  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart’s desire,  
And I long to worship Thee.**

Verse 2

**You’re my friend and You are my brother,  
Even though You are a King.  
I love You more than any other,  
So much more than anything.**

[Refrain]

Verse 3

**I want You more than gold or silver,  
Only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy giver,  
And the apple of my eye.**

[Refrain]

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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.
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*Please place your financial gift, Connection Card, or Prayer Card in the Offering Box in the narthex.*

## Offering Prayer

Leader: God has generously blessed us and granted us the privilege of sharing our blessings with others. We thank God for this sacred trust.

**All: Loving God, as we remember your wonderful works, we are grateful for the many blessings that You bestow upon our lives, and are pleased to return these gifts to you. As we give these gifts today, bless them and send them forth, that others may come to know your abundant love and grace. In faithful trust, we pray. Amen.**

## Closing Hymn 848 – “Trust in God”

## 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: Susan Harvey, and Dave Nussdorfer, 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.

## Family Bingo Night & Dinner – Sunday, February 23 at 5:00PM

You’re invited to a Family Bingo Night and dinner on Sunday, February 23 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Bingo is designed for all ages, and dinner is provided, so plan on attending this time of fun, food, and fellowship!

## Free Community Dinners – February 24, March 31 & April 28 from 5:00-6:30PM

You’re invited to join us for our Free Community Dinner on Mondays, February 24, March 31 and April 28 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For February, Chef Jeremy will be preparing a delicious dinner of vegetarian vegetable soup and turkey/provolone/pesto roll ups. Invite your friends and family and don’t miss these excellent meals!

## Lenten Small Groups Starting March 10 for 6 weeks until Easter on April 20

Lenten sermons this year will begin on Sunday, March 9 and include 6 lessons. Pastor Jim and the Adult Education ministry team have been working together to coordinate the opportunities for deepening our faith during Lent. Pastor Jim will be basing his sermons on the book Entering the Passion of Jesus-A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week by Amy Jill (AJ) Levine. Ms. Levine is a Bible scholar who has concentrated her studies on the New Testament. She brings a scholarly in depth and yet totally readable approach to Jesus' last week on earth. As a Jew she is able to intertwine the Jewish holidays and traditions that Jesus was honoring and helps us to understand more fully all the opposing powers that were at work.



If you are not currently in a small group and would like to join in the weekly discussions, please sign up in the narthex, scan the QR here, or go to the church website (erfpc.org). We will be assigning groups beginning March 3. Please indicate if you are interested in an AM, PM, evening group or joining online. Books are a suggested \$10 donation.

## 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. 2/23

9:00 a Contemporary Service  
10:00 a Sunday School/Youth-LH  
10:30 a Traditional Service  
5:00 p Family Bingo & Dinner - FHall

#### Mon. 2/24

5:00 p Community Dinner – FHall

#### Tues. 2/25

#### Wed. 2/26

6:30 a Breakfast Club – LH  
9:00 a Bulletin Items Due  
2:00 p UpNorth Group – AEd  
6:30 p Praise Team Practice  
7:00 p Session Meeting – FHall

#### Thurs. 2/27

#### Fri. 2/28

10:30a Choir Rehearsal – FHall