

## 9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, March 9, 2025

### Order of Worship

#### Countdown to Worship

#### Welcome

Wayne Potter

- Coming Soon – “Entering the Passion of Jesus”

#### Minute for Mission – Vacation Bible School

Tara DenHerder

#### Invitation to Worship

Adaline Peck

Leader: The Bible tells us that “Perfect love casts out all fear.” (1 John 4:18) Holy God, Fill us with your Spirit this day, walk with us on our Lenten journey, so that we might follow Jesus with courage, with hope, and most of all, with love. Amen.

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

#### Worship Songs - **“All Who Are Thirsty”** **“Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)”**

#### 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 – John 12:23-24 (NIV)

Bette Dickinson

Psalm 126 (NIV)

#### Sermon

“Seeds of Hope”

Bette Dickinson

#### Responsive Song - **“Been So Good”**

#### Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Bette Dickinson

**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

Kyle Ripley

- 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

Kyle Ripley

**All: Glorious God, shine through this offering that we now return to you. May our gifts and our very lives bless your world and reveal your love for all to see. In gratitude, we pray. Amen.**

#### Closing Song – **“Stand In Your Love”**

Benediction

Bette Dickinson

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

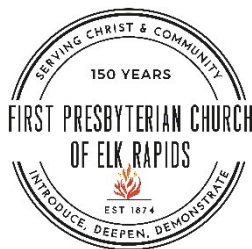
Postlude

### Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers, Mel & Judy Matchett, and our snack volunteer.

**This morning, we welcome to the pulpit Bette Dickinson.** Bette is an artist, author, spiritual leader, and gifted speaker who lives in Traverse City. As a gifted communicator, she leads people on a journey of divine encounters. She has a knack for creating and facilitating embodied and sacred spaces of connection and transformation.

**Special Lenten Gift: As you leave the service today, be sure to pick up a “Caring Cross”** made from olive wood from the Holy Land and prayer card to carry with you through your Lenten journey this year.



**10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, March 9, 2025**

### Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “Crown Him King of Kings” arr. by Parks

Welcome

Cheryl Knight

- Coming Soon – “Entering the Passion of Jesus”

Minute for Mission – Vacation Bible School

Tara DenHerder

Invitation and Centering Words

Cheryl Knight

The Bible tells us that “Perfect love casts out all fear.” (1 John 4:18) Holy God, Fill us with your Spirit this day, walk with us on our Lenten journey, so that we might follow Jesus with courage, with hope, and most of all, with love. Amen.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Doug White

Leader: This season of Lent rolls around once again.

**People: Deep calls to deep.**

Leader: In this sacred time, we invite you to settle down. Calm your hearts. Look within.

**People: Come. Be still. Listen deeply.**

Leader: Are you on the right path? Are you drawing closer to God?  
Are you becoming more loving?

**People: Now is the time to reflect and pray.**

Leader: Now is the season for sacrifice and service.

**People: Now is the time for silence and giving.**

Leader: Thank God that we journey not alone.

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

Opening Prayer

Doug White

**All: Now that we stand on the threshold of Lent, Loving God, prompt us to re-evaluate our spiritual lives. Help us this day to worship You sincerely and to follow you more deliberately, we seek to grow in grace and love. May we be bold in our faith and courageous in our service to those in need, so that your Name be honored here on earth as it is in heaven. Hear our prayers in our Savior's name. Amen.**

Opening Hymn 726 – ***“Will You Come and Follow Me”*** (vs. 1, 3, 5)

Prayer of Confession

Doug White

**All: God of day and God of night, all our time belongs to You. Yet how often we fail to notice your nearness, feel your presence, trust in your guidance. We desire only good times, happy moments, and too often miss your work in the shadows and struggles of life. We avoid conflict with others and fear looking deep within ourselves for what we might see. We fail to speak up for the poor, the hurting, the stranger and the outcast in our midst.**

**Loving God, hold us close during these Lenten days so we can look at ourselves, our relationships, our openness to You. In brightness or darkness, let us always know your healing, freeing, guiding presence. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

Assurance of Pardon

Doug White

Leader: During this season of Lent, we are reminded that Jesus gave the most extravagant gift of all--- the offering of himself for us and for the world.  
Through this selfless gift, we are set free, and our sins are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Passing the Peace

Doug White

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 – ***“Ancient Words”*** arr. by Courtney

Scripture Readings – John 12:23-24 (NIV)  
Psalm 126 (NIV)

Bette Dickinson

Sermon “Seeds of Hope”

Bette Dickinson

Responsive Hymn 839 – ***“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!”***

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Bette Dickinson

**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

Doug White

- 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

Doug White

**All: Glorious God, shine through this offering that we now return to you. May our gifts and our very lives bless your world and reveal your love for all to see. In gratitude, we pray. Amen.**

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

Benediction

Bette Dickinson

Benediction Response – **“Let There Be Peace On Earth”**

*For anyone desiring special prayers today, Ken Kohlman 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: Betty Tezak.

**This morning, we welcome to the pulpit Bette Dickinson.** Bette is an artist, author, spiritual leader, and gifted speaker who lives in Traverse City. As a gifted communicator, she leads people on a journey of divine encounters. She has a knack for creating and facilitating embodied and sacred spaces of connection and transformation.

**Special Lenten Gift: As you leave the service today, be sure to pick up a “Caring Cross”** made from olive wood from the Holy Land and prayer card to carry with you through your Lenten journey this year.

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.

### **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](http://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 to Move Furniture – Sunday, March 16 after 10:30 AM Service**

Looking for volunteers to help move all the furniture in the multi-purpose room and Narthex into the Fellowship Hall immediately after the 10:30 service on Sunday, March 16. The carpet installation will start immediately after that. Furniture sliders will be available.

## **One Worship Service – Sunday, March 30 at 10:30 AM**

Mark your calendar and plan to join us on Sunday, March 30 for One 10:30 a.m. Service in the sanctuary. Kyle Ripley, our contemporary worship director, will be leading worship. Don't miss this wonderful family service!

**“For I know the plans I have for you...” – The 2025 Stewardship Ministry Team, Co-chaired by Peg Burns and Debbie McGee (Trustees), is looking for one or two at large members of the congregation to join our team for this sabbatical year.** We are looking for creative individuals who are enthusiastic about why pledging and supporting First Presbyterian with time, talents and treasure is important. As a team, we do not solicit pledges or gifts on a person by person basis – you will not be asked to make “an ask.” In addition, the Stewardship Ministry Team is a support to Mike Husby, Treasurer, who holds all of the individual giving information confidentially. If you are willing to serve, please contact Peg Burns at [kpcburns@gmail.com](mailto:kpcburns@gmail.com) or Debbie McGee at [dmcmcgee24@gmail.com](mailto:dmcmcgee24@gmail.com)

## **Vacation Bible School 2025 Volunteers Needed – June 23-27**

We are providing a 5-day Vacation Bible School for all children in Elk Rapids and the surrounding area and we need your help! If you can volunteer in any way during the week of June 23-27 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. please contact Tara DenHerder at [denherdeta@tcaps.net](mailto:denherdeta@tcaps.net) or 231-590-5346. Save the dates and plan to bring your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors!

## **Did you know your Safety/Security Team has lifesaving medical equipment on hand?**

The main first aid station is located on the first floor by the ladies restroom and includes:

- A.E.D defibrillator (1 in the Lighthouse)
- Fully stocked first aid kit (2 in Lighthouse and 1 in every main church room and nursery)
- EpiPens (used for allergic reaction – 2 in Lighthouse )
- Tourniquets for severe wounds (2 in Lighthouse )
- Ambu bag used for respiration assist in CPR (infant ambu bag in nursery)
- Hot/cold packs (1 in Lighthouse)
- Narcan used in accidental overdose (1 in Lighthouse)
- CPR masks used in breathing assist during CPR
- Life Vac used in food choking victims (adult/infant units in main kitchen, Lighthouse, and nursery)
- Panic alarms in main office and nursery – if activated, alarms go directly to Safety team member's phone for quick response.
- Main first aid station for Lighthouse is located by the main entrances first floor.
- All Safety/Security members certified in CPR from infant to adults – nursery also certified, all properly instructed in the proper use of the A.E.D, and first aid. Again, including the nursery personnel.

Any questions or equipment demonstration of above items, please don't hesitate to contact any Safety/Security personnel. Don Reynolds-Chair, Bill Dorner Co-chair

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

You're invited to join us for our Free Community Dinner on Mondays, March 31 and April 28 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Chef Jeremy will be preparing a delicious dinner each month. Invite your friends and family and don't miss these excellent meals!

## **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 Needs Paper & Plastic Bags** – The Community Cupboard Food Pantry is in need of paper and plastic grocery bags. They can be dropped off in the donation box in the Fellowship Hall or the brown outdoor box outside the Cupboard entrance. Thank you!

**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 3 ways: In the lower left church mailbox slot near the 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 drop donations in the brown box too! 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. 3/9**

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

**Mon. 3/10**

9:00 a PEO – FHall  
7:00 p Personnel – Conf

**Tues. 3/11**

**Wed. 3/12**

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

**Thurs. 3/13**

1:30 p Worship MT – Conf  
7:00 p Trustees – FHall

**Fri. 3/14**

10:30a Choir Rehearsal – FHall