



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, March 16, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Minute for Mission – Parenting the Love and Logic Way

Lynn Bryant

Invitation to Worship

Kady Peck

Leader: Stand firm in the Lord, for God's love is a mighty fortress of strength and grace.

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Worship Songs - ***“Open The Eyes Of My Heart”***
“Trust In God”

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 – Mark 11:15-19

Sermon “Jesus’ Love for the Church and Justice”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - ***“See A Victory”***

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

All: Mighty God, bless these gifts, that they might bring strength to our faith, love to your world, and comfort to the forsaken. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Closing Song – ***“Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)”***

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.**

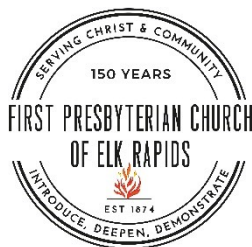
*For anyone desiring special prayers today, Nancy Muhlig will be at the front of the sanctuary to pray for you.
Please come forward after the service.*

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Chad, Shanna, Ben & Nora Vergote, and our snack volunteer: Shelia Conrad.

Chancel flowers are placed by Dave Nussdorfer in memory of his wife, Marilyn.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, March 16, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“The Wonder of It All”* by Parks

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Stand firm in the Lord, for God's love is a mighty fortress of strength and grace.

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Ginny Dorner

Leader: Open your hearts to God's love today.

People: In the midst of winter darkness, we seek the brightness of God's love.

Leader: Don't be afraid. God is with you.

People: The light of Christ shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it.

Leader: The Lord is your light and your salvation.

People: Even though the things around us may be challenging, God's love is constant.

All: Come, let us worship the living God! Thanks be to God.

Opening Prayer

Ginny Dorner

All: Lord, we come to you this morning with so many concerns and issues that demand our attention. Our lives are burdened; our spirits are tired. Guide our lives and our steps as we walk this Lenten journey, inward and outward. Help us to discern what you would have us do, and heal us in body and in soul, so that others may be healed as well. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn 280 – *“Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us”*

Prayer of Confession

Ginny Dorner

All: There is a certain winter in our spirits today, O Lord. We feel that the journey on which we have embarked will demand too much of us. There are so many other things in our lives which claim our spirits, our energy, our hopes and fears. It is easy to be like Jerusalem, turning our backs on those whom you send. The world shouts its solutions to us and then deserts us when we are in need. Forgive us for the many times in which we have strayed from your pathway of life; when we have chosen not to hear the cries of those in need; when we have belittled the gifts and skills you have given us in order to avoid serving others. Heal us, O Lord. Place us back on your path to Jerusalem, and to truly live. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Ginny Dorner

Leader: When God called your name, God called you to a journey of faith. Do not be afraid to look inside to see those things which are holding you back from being who God created you to be. Place your trust in God who is always with you, loving you into wholeness. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Ginny Dorner

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 – "In Christ Alone" arr. by Courtney

Scripture Reading – Mark 11:15-19

Sermon

"Jesus' Love for the Church and Justice"

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 218 – "Ah, Holy Jesus" (vs. 1, 3, 5)

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

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

Offering Prayer

All: Mighty God, bless these gifts, that they might bring strength to our faith, love to your world, and comfort to the forsaken. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn 623 – "I've Got Peace Like a River"

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, Ginny Dorner 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: Kevin & Kim Hoch, Don Reynolds, and our snack volunteer: Christine Dewey.

Chancel flowers are placed by Dave Nussdorfer in memory of his wife, Marilyn.

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 (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.

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.

Lenten Small Groups have Started, but there’s still room for you!

Please join us for an exciting sermon series and Lenten study called **"Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week,"** based on the study by New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine. Levine, who is Jewish, brings an in-depth, yet totally readable approach, to Jesus' last week on earth and the implications for our life and faith today.

We have a number of small groups meeting and there’s still room for you. There are days/times available to fit many schedules:

- **Sundays after the Contemporary Service** – couples with children in Sunday School. Meets in the Adult Ed Room. Leader – Hannah Barrow.
- **Mondays on Zoom from 7-8:15 PM** – mixed group. Call Marcia Sumerix at 989-964-1420 for information and Zoom details.
- **Tuesdays at 9:00 AM** – women’s group. Meets at various homes. Leader – Judy Matchett
- **Tuesdays at 10:00 AM** – women’s group. Meets in the Adult Ed Room, but is also partially Zoom. Call Marcia Sumerix at 989-964-1420 or contact Shelia Conrad.
- **Tuesdays at 7:00 PM** – couples group. Meets at Betsy and Jimmy Argo’s house.
- **Thursdays at 7:30 AM** – men’s group. Meets in the Adult Ed Room. Leader – Pastor Jim.



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, go to the church website (erfpc.org), or contact the group leader directly. Books are a suggested \$10 donation.

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!

“Parenting the Love and Logic Way” – Class begins Monday, April 14

All families are invited to join us for a 6-session program, “Parenting the Love and Logic Way,” beginning on Monday, April 14. We’ll provide a light kid and adult-friendly meal at 5:30 p.m., with class running from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. The workbook is \$10, and child care will be provided. This parenting program is designed to give you practical skills that can be used immediately with kids of all ages. You’ll learn how to avoid un-winnable power struggles and arguments, stay calm when kids do incredibly upsetting things, set enforceable limits, and much more. To register, call the church office at 231-264-8167 by April 9. Class size is limited to 20 people, so reserve your spot today!

“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 or Debbie McGee at dmcgee24@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 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. 3/16

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a Sunday School/Youth-LH
10:00 a Parent's Sm. Grp. – AEd
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 3/17

Tues. 3/18

10:00 a Women's Sm Grp – AEd

Wed. 3/19

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. 3/20

7:30 a Men's Sm Grp – AEd
11:30 a Session Rpts Due

Fri. 3/21

No Choir