



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, March 23, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Marie Zender

Leader: New every morning is God's mercy. God saves us from our sins and blesses us with steadfast love and mercy. When we turn our lives back to God, we find new life!

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Worship Songs - ***"The Heart Of Worship"***
"Yes I Will"

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

LeRue Werner

(Children are invited to come forward at this time for the children's message.)

Scripture Reading – Mark 12:41-44

Sermon

"Jesus, a Widow, and a Lesson in Generosity"

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - ***"Thank You Jesus"***

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: Loving God, you have set the table before us and given us every good thing. In gratitude for your kindness and mercy, receive our gifts and our offerings. Accept our hearts into your keeping, that our lives may bear good fruit and that we may enter into your glory. Amen.

Closing Song – ***"One Thing Remains"***

Charge and Blessing

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

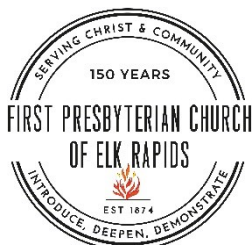
People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him; deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him; and demonstrate Christ's way of love in service to the world.

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, and our snack volunteer.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, March 23, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

New every morning is God's mercy. God saves us from our sins and blesses us with steadfast love and mercy. When we turn our lives back to God, we find new life!

Ring of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

LeRue Werner

Leader: Seek the Lord while God is to be found.

People: We call upon God while God is near!

Leader: Repent of unrighteous ways.

People: It is never too late to turn to God!

Leader: Get rid of evil thoughts and wrong desires.

People: Let us turn to God, that God may have mercy on us!

Leader: For God will pardon our sins and cleanse us of our transgressions.

People: We will praise God for the new life we have found!

Leader: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia!

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Opening Prayer

LeRue Werner

All: Gracious and eternal God, You call us into a new way of being, and give us so many second chances in life. May your love wash over us this day, as we turn back to You and away from our sinful ways. Mold us as your faithful people in new and powerful ways, that we may be true disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn 630 – *“Fairest Lord Jesus”*

Prayer of Confession

LeRue Werner

All: A broken and contrite heart is the acceptable sacrifice to you, O God. And so we come before you today, as sinners in need of your mercy. 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. Grant us your forgiveness, O God. Help us turn from our old ways. Lead us into newness of life, that our actions may be found pleasing in your sight. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

LeRue Werner

Leader: God is our help in times of trial and when we lose our way. When we place our trust in Christ, God helps us stand and restores our honor. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing the Peace

LeRue Werner

Leader: The Lord offers us everything we need through His unending grace and mercy. In celebration of this great gift, let us share our joy by passing the peace of Christ 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 – *“Wayfaring Stranger”*

Scripture Reading – Mark 12:41-44

Sermon “Jesus, a Widow, and a Lesson in Generosity”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 629 – *“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”* (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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Offering Prayer

All: Loving God, you have set the table before us and given us every good thing. In gratitude for your kindness and mercy, receive our gifts and our offerings. Accept our hearts into your keeping, that our lives may bear good fruit and that we may enter into your glory. Amen.

Closing Hymn 707 – *“Take Thou our Minds, Dear Lord”*

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: Kevin & Kim Hoch, and our snack volunteer: Phyllis Staley.

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.

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!

Family Worship Service – Sunday, April 6 at 5:00 PM at the Lighthouse

Greetings Friends and Family! We are excited to invite you and your family to our upcoming Family Worship Night, taking place on April 6th at 5:00 PM at the Lighthouse. Come and enjoy a delicious FREE dinner followed by an hour of uplifting and encouraging worship music in the upper room of the Lighthouse. Children are welcome! This is a wonderful opportunity to unite with our community and celebrate our faith together.

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!

“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!**

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

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. 3/23

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a Parent's Sm. Grp. – AEd
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 3/24

Tues. 3/25

10:00 a Women's Sm Grp – AEd

Wed. 3/26

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

Thurs. 3/27

7:30 a Men's Sm Grp – AEd

Fri. 3/28

10:30 a Choir