



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, August 3, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Adaline Peck

Leader: Just as he did for his disciples long ago, Jesus sends us out with power and purpose—to proclaim the good news of God’s kingdom, to bring healing to those who are suffering, and to shine the light of God’s love in the midst of a hurting world.

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Worship Songs - **“My Jesus”**
“Give Me Faith”

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 – Luke 9:1-6

Sermon “Stepping Out in Faith, Living in God’s Power”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - **“More Like 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.*

Commissioning Liturgy for Sabbatical Renewal

Introduction

Sandi Gray, Clerk of Session

Beloved in Christ, today we celebrate the gift of sabbath rest and sabbatical renewal. Just as Jesus invited his disciples to “Come away... and rest awhile,” we honor the importance of stepping away from the rhythm of daily responsibilities in order to be restored by God’s presence.

Today we send our pastor, Rev. Jim Porter, into a season of sabbatical—a time to rest, reflect, and reconnect with God’s Spirit in creation, in pilgrimage, and in stillness.

And just as we send our pastor with blessing, we also recognize that the work of ministry continues among us all. We are the body of Christ, and each of us has gifts to offer in this time.

Commissioning of the Pastor

Shelia Conrad, Chair Personnel Ministry Team

Leader (to Pastor): Pastor Jim, in your ministry you have led us in worship, comforted us in sorrow, challenged us with the gospel, and walked beside us in faith. Now we send you with our blessing into a season of sabbatical— a time of rest for your body, renewal for your spirit, and reconnection with the deep well of God's love.

People: **We give thanks for your faithful leadership.**
We bless you with our love and prayers.
May God guide your steps, renew your soul,
and speak to you in the quiet and the beauty of creation.

Leader: May you return to us refreshed and inspired, so that together we may continue the work God calls us to do. Go with our blessing. Go with God's peace.

Commissioning of the Congregation

Sandi Gray

Leader: Friends, as Pastor Jim enters this sacred time of sabbatical, we, the people of God in this congregation, are also called to a season of faithfulness. Ministry does not stop—it continues among us and through us. We are the body of Christ, and together, we will support one another, offer our gifts, and trust that the Spirit will guide us in this time.

All: **We receive this calling with faith and commitment.**
We will pray for our pastor during this sabbatical,
and we will step forward in service and love.
With God's help, we will grow together in wisdom, grace, and strength.

Prayer of Commitment for both Pastor and Congregation

Shelia Conrad

Leader: Gracious and Loving God,
We thank you for the gift of sabbath and the rhythm of rest that you wove into creation itself. Today we give thanks for our pastor, Rev. Jim Porter, and for the faithful ministry he has offered among us. As he begins this sabbatical time, we pray your blessing of renewal upon him. May his days be filled with peace, wonder, and deep connection with you. May he find joy in stillness, strength in silence, and your presence in every step of the journey.

We also give thanks for this congregation—for the many hearts and hands who serve, who lead, and who care for one another. In this season of shared ministry, bless us with wisdom, unity, and courage. Remind us that your Spirit is always at work, equipping your people for every good purpose.

Guide us all—pastor and congregation alike—by your grace. Deepen our trust, refresh our spirits, and prepare us for the good work you will continue to do in and through us.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, who calls us, sustains us, and walks with us always.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Friends, in coming weeks, may we grow together in God's grace, deepen our trust in God and one another, and discover again the strength of Christ's Spirit at work among us.

People: **Let us be bold in love, faithful in service, and joyful in hope.**

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

Blessing and Sending

Sandi Gray

Leader: May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace—
in sabbatical rest and in shared ministry,
today and always. Amen.

Closing Song – “*Let's Trust In Jesus*”

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 usher: Deb Broderick, and our snack volunteer: Deb Broderick.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, August 3, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “*Order My Steps*” by Schrader

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Just as he did for his disciples long ago, Jesus sends us out with power and purpose—to proclaim the good news of God's kingdom, to bring healing to those who are suffering, and to shine the light of God's love in the midst of a hurting world.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Sandi Gray

Leader: Jesus called the twelve and gave them power and authority—

People: Power to heal and authority to proclaim the good news of God's kingdom.

Leader: He sent them out with nothing but faith—

People: No staff, no bag, no bread, no money—just trust in God.

Leader: We are sent out in the same way—called, equipped, and commissioned to serve.

People: Let us worship God, who sends us in love and sustains us by grace.

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Opening Prayer

Sandi Gray

All: Gracious God, You call us to follow Jesus, to step out in faith, and to trust in your power working through us. As we gather to worship today, open our hearts to your Word and awaken us to your Spirit. Strengthen us where we feel uncertain, heal us where we are broken, and send us out renewed, ready to share your love with all of the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn 54 – “*Make a Joyful Noise to God!*”

Prayer of Confession

Sandi Gray

All: Merciful God, You call us to go out into the world, relying not on our strength but on yours. Yet we confess how often we hesitate. We cling to what is comfortable and familiar, afraid to trust fully in your provision. We doubt the gifts you have given us and question whether we are enough. Forgive us, O God. Remind us that you go before us, that you walk beside us, and that your Spirit empowers us to serve and to love. Set us free to follow where Christ leads, with faith and courage. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Sandi Gray

Leader: Friends, hear the good news: God's grace is sufficient, God's mercy is abundant, and God's love never fails. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, freed, and empowered to live as disciples.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing the Peace

Sandi Gray

Leader: As Christ sends us out to proclaim peace and healing, let us first share that peace with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

[Take a moment to greet one another with signs of Christ's peace.]

Anthem – “He Never Failed Me Yet” by Ray

Scripture Reading – Luke 9:1-6

Sermon “Stepping Out in Faith, Living in God's Power”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 450 – “Be Thou My Vision”

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.

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Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Offering Prayer

All: Gracious God, All we have is a gift from you. You send us into the world to be your hands and feet—bringing good news, healing, and hope. As we offer these gifts, use them and use us to share your love, build your kingdom, and serve your world. In the name of Jesus, who sends and sustains us, we pray. Amen.

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Leader (to Pastor): Pastor Jim, in your ministry you have led us in worship, comforted us in sorrow, challenged us with the gospel, and walked beside us in faith. Now we send you with our blessing into a season of sabbatical— a time of rest for your body, renewal for your spirit, and reconnection with the deep well of God’s love.

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Guide us all—pastor and congregation alike—by your grace. Deepen our trust, refresh our spirits, and prepare us for the good work you will continue to do in and through us.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, who calls us, sustains us, and walks with us always.

All: Amen.

Leader: Friends, in coming weeks, may we grow together in God’s grace, deepen our trust in God and one another, and discover again the strength of Christ’s Spirit at work among us.

People: Let us be bold in love, faithful in service, and joyful in hope.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

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Sandi Gray

Leader: May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace—
in sabbatical rest and in shared ministry,
today and always. Amen.

Closing Hymn 69 – “*Here I Am, 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, Sandi Gray 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 & Nels Nichols, and our snack volunteer.

Thank you for your generous support! Your gifts help sustain the ministries and mission of our church. You can give by mail (404 Spruce St., Elk Rapids, MI 49629), online at www.erfpc.org (click “Giving”), or by contacting Treasurer Mike Husby at finmanager@erfpc.org. Thank you!

Nursery – Qualified caregivers welcome infants and children during the service.

Pastor Jim’s Sabbatical

Today we commission and bless Pastor Jim as he begins a 12-week sabbatical starting Monday, August 4. We’re grateful for his faithful ministry and pray this time offers rest, renewal, and deeper connection to God. While he is away, we’re pleased to welcome a lineup of gifted and familiar guest preachers, including Rev. Dr. Tom Cook, Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard, Author Bette Dickinson, Rev. Homer Nye, and Rev. Peter Moore. During this time, please direct all questions or concerns to the church office at info@erfpc.org or 231-264-8167 rather than contacting Pastor Jim directly.

New Church Directory – Do you enjoy taking pictures with a digital camera? Would you like to help us get the new directory up and running? We are planning to schedule a few "picture" Sundays at ERFPC in August and September (dates to be determined) to take quick, casual pictures of families/individuals that would like them for the new directory and are looking for 1-3 photographers to make it quick and efficient between services. You don't have to commit to all of the sessions - please contact Peg Burns at kpcbarns@gmail.com or (616) 901-0960.


Share Your Gifts in Worship! Do you enjoy singing, playing an instrument, or offering special music? Or are you more comfortable behind the scenes with tech and AV? We're looking for people to join our worship and tech teams! If you're interested or want to learn more, contact Kyle Ripley at 616-888-9788 or ksripley@gmail.com.


Our new van needs you! We are looking for members who are, well, driven to serve. Specifically, serving behind the wheel. Our Transportation Ministry is expanding and it is important to have a team of alternate drivers to be effective in serving the needs of the ERFPC youth and community. Sign up at the Activity Center. Questions? Contact: Deb McGee at 702-810-6995 or dmcgee24@gmail.com.


Resources for Grief Care – The Stephen Ministry has obtained the following information concerning grief counseling in Traverse City with several being related to specific loss. Your Stephen Ministry continues to be available for one on one support as well as contact via mailing of pamphlets throughout the year after a loss. There is a small display in the narthex with resources available. If you wish to have a Stephen Minister meet with you, please contact the office or a Stephen Minister.


LIVING ON - GENERAL LOSS GROUPS


The focus of Living On support groups is to express feelings and experiences related to the loss of a loved one in a supportive, caring, and non-judgmental environment. Grief and loss topics are addressed as they arise, depending on the interests of those attending the group.

1st Tuesday of the month 
6pm - 7pm
RSVP with Cindy Palmer
248-334-1323 • cpalmer@hom.org

2nd Tuesday of the month 
6pm - 7:15pm
Hospice of Michigan office
989 Spaulding Ave. SE, Ada
RSVP with Ryan Miller
616-356-5228 • rymiller@hom.org

1st Wednesday of the month 
5:30pm - 6:30pm
Hospice of Michigan office
199 Long Rapids Rd., Alpena
RSVP with Stacy Malenfant
989-358-4295 • smalenfa@hom.org

2nd Wednesday of the month 
11am - 12pm
Hospice of Michigan office
830 S. Otsego Ave. Gaylord
RSVP with Tavia Mulholland
989-705-2603 • tmulholland@hom.org

2nd Wednesday of the month 
1pm - 2:30pm
Hospice of Michigan office
932 N. Mitchell St., Cadillac
RSVP with Will Gasper
231-444-3350 • wgasper@hom.org

4th Tuesday of the month 
10:30am - 11:30am
RSVP with Meredith Hartmann
734-709-3088
mhartmann@arborhospice.org

Early News for Upcoming Safety & Security Events

A CPR and basic first aid class will be held Saturday, Sept. 27 at 8:00 a.m. All are welcome—certification is available for the first 9 to sign up; others may attend as observers. Learn to use an AED and respond to emergencies. Sign-up begins in early September in the Narthex.

Due to high interest, a second 15-minute pepper spray orientation will also be offered in mid-September. Sign-up will be available soon.

Alzheimer's & Dementia Caregiver Support Group – 3rd Friday of Each Month at 2PM

For those caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Share support, encouragement, and guidance in a welcoming environment. The group meets on the 3rd Friday of each month from 2:00-3:00 p.m. **Please contact facilitator Kathy Dork at 248-568-4651** if you'd like to attend or if you have questions. **The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 15.**

Community Cupboard – 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. 8/3
9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:30 a Traditional Service
Mon. 8/4
Tues. 8/5
6:30 p Deacons – FH
Wed. 8/6
6:30 p Praise Team Practice
Thurs. 8/7
7:30 a Men's Bible Study - AE
1:30 p Worship MT – FH
Fri. 8/8
10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH

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! Scan the QR code or use the link: <https://volunteeraccelerator.ministryarchitects.com/ERFPC/survey.html> Thanks for your willingness to help out!

