

## 9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, August 24, 2025

### Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Tom Cook

Minute for Mission

Janice London

Invitation to Worship

Harrison Conrad

Leader: God's light is shining. Christ's love is flowing. The Spirit's presence is here,  
sustaining and strengthening us.

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

Worship Songs - ***"Come Now Is The Time To Worship"***  
***"Lead On Good Shepherd"***

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

Kyle Ripley

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

First Lesson – Isaiah 12:1-4

Gospel Lesson – Matthew 6:25-33

Sermon

**"Trusting God  
What To Do About Worry?"**

Rev. Dr. Tom Cook

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.*

Closing Song – ***"My Lighthouse"***

Charge and Blessing

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

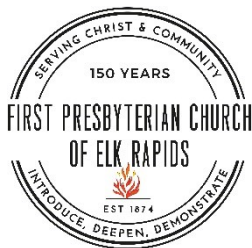
**People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;  
deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;  
and demonstrate Christ's way of love in service to the world.**

*For anyone desiring special prayers today, Jan Burns 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: Gary & Jan Burns, and our snack volunteer: Martha Cook.



## **10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, August 24, 2025**

### **Order of Worship**

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Classic Praise”* arr. by Harlan

Quartet: Ginny Dorner, Mike Hurtubise, Ann Murray, Jeff Whittaker

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Tom Cook

Minute for Mission

Janice London

Centering Prayer

Rev. Dr. Tom Cook

Father in heaven! When the thought of thee wakes in our hearts let it not awaken like a frightened bird that flies about in dismay, but like a child waking from its sleep with a heavenly smile.

(Soren Kierkegaard, 1813-55)

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship (Isaiah 12:5-6)

Joanne Teague

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

People: **Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

Leader: Let us worship the Lord God with confidence, joy and singing.

Opening Prayer

Joanne Teague

**All: As we worship you today, we call upon you Holy Spirit to lead us in word, song and prayer that we might grow in our discipleship to you. You have made us to be complete in you. How grateful we are that we can worship together as a community that supports one another. Allow your Holy Spirit to free us from today's worries so that we can experience these Kingdom moments. In Jesus' name we pray.**

Opening Hymn 611 – *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

## Prayer of Confession

Joanne Teague

**All: O Lord, how we worry about the darnedest things at odd times of the day. Sometimes the committees won't stop meeting in our heads at night as we watch the digital numbers turn over on our clocks. Sometimes we wonder how we will make ends meet. We are anxious about our children, their future and their safety. Retirement seems unimaginable as we face today's economic challenges. It seems like the news we watch and read isn't so much about what's happening as it is geared to make us afraid. While there aren't many of us who worry about food on our tables, clothes on our backs and a roof over our heads... our minds still focus on stuff that makes life so unsure. Worry gets in the way of our faith in you. When worry takes control, we've turned away from you. Forgive us. Help us to pause and consider the birds of the air and the lilies of the field then direct us to put our faith in you in a way that nullifies the power of worry in our lives.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

## Assurance of Pardon (based on John 3:16-18, *The Message*)

Joanne Teague

**Leader:** This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son.

**People:** **And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in Him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.**

**Leader:** God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was.

**People:** **He came to help, to put the world right again.**

**Leader:** Anyone who trusts in Him is acquitted... Friends, we are forgiven. Forgive one another.

**People:** **Amen!**

## Passing of the Peace

Joanne Teague

(Please greet those around you with the words, "Peace be with you." Responding, "And also with you." After the Passing of the Peace, please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad at the end of the pew, and pass it along to those who are seated beside you.)

## Anthem – *"This Is My Father's World"* by Dengler

Quartet: Ginny Dorner, Mike Hurtubise, Ann Murray, Jeff Whittaker

## First Lesson – Isaiah 12:1-4

## Gospel Lesson – Matthew 6:25-33

## Sermon

"Trusting God  
What To Do About Worry?"

Rev. Dr. Tom Cook

## Responsive Hymn 20 – *"All Things Bright and Beautiful"*

## 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.*

### 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:** Bread of heaven, thank you for nourishing us with your mercy and your grace. Thank you for blessing us to be your disciples—disciples who share freely with your world. May our gifts and offerings become food and blessings for your world. Amen.

### Closing Hymn 12 – ***“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”***

### 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, Joanne Teague 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: Don Reynolds & Ken Kohlman, and our snack volunteer: Martha Cook.

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](http://www.erfpc.org) (click “Giving”), or by contacting Treasurer Mike Husby at [finmanager@erfpc.org](mailto:finmanager@erfpc.org). Thank you!

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

### **Outdoor Worship Service – Sunday, August 31 at 10:30 AM**

We’re taking church outside! Come enjoy ONE Outdoor Worship Service on Sunday, August 31 at 10:30 a.m. We’ll gather under the tent next to the parking lot—just bring your own chairs and dress for the weather. It’s a great chance to worship together in a beautiful, relaxed setting.

### **Blessing of the Beginnings – Sunday, September 7 in 9:00 AM Service**

Plan to join us on Sunday, September 7 for a special Blessing of the Beginnings for the beginning of the school year for parents, students, grandparents, and friends during the 9:00 a.m. service.

### **Sunday School Kickoff – September 7, 10:00 AM at the Lighthouse**

Join us for the start of a new Sunday School year! We’ll begin with a family breakfast at 10:00 a.m. (right after the 9:00 a.m. service) at the Lighthouse. After breakfast, parents, grandparents, and anyone interested are invited to a meeting to hear about plans for the year ahead, while children and youth enjoy fun activities. For questions, contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813.

### **Outreach and Mission Ministry Team Volunteer Opportunities**

According to Food Rescue: “35% of households struggle with access to healthy food and 40% of good food goes to waste.” **Gleaning** - to gather leftover produce after a harvest that would otherwise go to waste, is one way to alleviate this issue.

There are currently opportunities to glean fruit and vegetables both locally and in the surrounding areas. **Food Rescue's Healthy Harvest** program works to reduce food waste and address food insecurity. **Do A Little Good** is in contact with many local farmers to obtain dates when gleaning is available. All of the produce gleaned is given to area food pantries. You and your family can help make a difference by participating in gleaning fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste.

Unfortunately, there is often only a 1-2 day notice of these opportunities. We are compiling a list of people who would be interested in participating in gleaning. Please provide an email address or phone number to Janice London (co-chair Outreach and Mission Ministry Team) at London.janice6@gmail.com or 330-936-5942 and she will notify you of available opportunities as soon as she is aware of them. There is also a sign-up sheet in the narthex. This is not a commitment to participate, just expressing a desire to know about the opportunities.

### **Antrim County Women's Conference – Saturday, September 13**

Ladies mark your calendars now for the women's conference on Saturday, Sept 13 from 9-2pm. It is being held at the Bellaire High School auditorium. The featured speaker is Robyn Dykstra, an inspirational author, public speaker and Bible teacher. There are two morning sessions and one afternoon session. Pre-registration cost is \$20 per person with an optional \$10 box lunch available. Sign up in the narthex so we can share rides to Bellaire. Sign up for the conference directly by scanning the QR code on the cards available in the narthex or by calling 231-350-1244.

**New Church Directory Picture Sundays** – On Sunday, August 17 and 24, we will be taking pictures for our new directory between services in the Fellowship Hall. This will be on a first come, first served basis and are meant to be quick, casual snapshots – not formal perfect photographs. Remember that this is only one of the ways that you can get you or your families' updated pictures in the directory – you can also upload your own snapshot directly or send one to kpcburns@gmail.com and Peg Burns will upload your picture for you. This will also be an opportunity to ask questions about the new directory app, sign up to get a printed copy when it is available (by September 30) and provide us with an email if you don't have one on file as this is the **ONLY WAY TO GET ACCESS** to the online directory. This directory is only for our church family and requires an email and password to access online.

Finally, no pushing or shoving to get your pictures taken – if we don't get everyone in on these two Sundays, we will add additional dates!

### **Help Fill Our Board of Deacons and Session Vacancies for the Next Term**

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids, plays a vital role in guiding our congregation's spiritual life, mission, and ministry. Elders on Session help make prayerful decisions about our worship, outreach, finances, and the future direction of our church family.

The Board of Deacons seeks to show God's love in action. They serve and lead our church's congregation in sharing, fellowship, hospitality, and pastoral care.

Beginning in January 2026, we have **one vacant elder position and one vacant Deacon position** that need to be filled. Serving on Session or the Board of Deacons is a meaningful way to deepen your faith, use your gifts, and help strengthen the life and witness of our church.

If you feel called, please get in touch with one of the members of the Nominations Team. We encourage you to prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve Christ and our congregation.

"Each one should use whatever gift they have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." — 1 Peter 4:10

Team Members:

Judy Husby	jhusby54@gmail.com
Betty Tezak	btezak55@gmail.com
Chris Schuler	chrisevergreen1@aol.com
Tom Klingler	klingler3@earthlink.net

Joanne Teague	lesjo.teague@gmail.com
Lynda Nichols	lyndanichols9788@gmail.com
Deb McGee	dmcgee24@gmail.com

## Welcome Rev. Dr. Tom Cook This August

We're delighted to welcome Rev. Dr. Tom Cook back to the pulpit for the remainder of August! Many will remember Pastor Tom from his time as interim pastor here from August 2015 to April 2018. Let's take this opportunity to reconnect and warmly welcome him once again.

**Pastor Jim's Sabbatical** - Pastor Jim began a 12-week sabbatical on 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](mailto:info@erfpc.org) or 231-264-8167 rather than contacting Pastor Jim directly.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 - LOSS SPECIFIC GROUPS

#### Living On - Young Adults

An open, ongoing support group for people in their 20s and 30s who are mourning any loss. Each group will consist of a time of education, sharing and support. This group is facilitated by Hospice of Michigan and Arbor Hospice Grief Counselors and is largely peer-supported.

1st Monday of the month  
6pm - 7:15pm  
RSVP with Ryan Miller  
616-356-5228 • [rynmiller@hom.org](mailto:rynmiller@hom.org)

#### Living On - Loss of Parents

An open, ongoing group that meets monthly to discuss grief and loss as it pertains to the death of a parent.

2nd Monday of the month  
6:30pm - 8pm  
RSVP with Melissa McCreedy  
734-794-5127  
[mmccreedy@arborhospice.org](mailto:mmccreedy@arborhospice.org)

#### Living On - Sudden/Traumatic Loss

An open, ongoing group for those that have suffered a sudden loss.

1st Tuesday of the month  
5:30pm - 6:45pm  
RSVP with KJirsten Boeve  
231-929-1557 • [kboeve@hom.org](mailto:kboeve@hom.org)

#### Living On - Loss of Spouse/Partner

Come and share, or simply listen, as we discuss the various intricacies and many facets of grief after the loss of a spouse or partner.

1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month • 6pm - 7:15pm  
RSVP with Stacy Malenfant  
989-358-4295  
[smalenfa@hom.org](mailto:smalenfa@hom.org)

2nd Thursday of the month • 6pm - 7:15pm  
Hospice of Michigan office  
5177 US-10 Ste. B, Ludington  
RSVP with Alexandra Irwin  
231-527-0913 • [airwin@hom.org](mailto:airwin@hom.org)

2nd & 4th Thursday of the month • 2pm - 3:30pm  
RSVP with KJirsten Boeve  
231-929-1557 • [kboeve@hom.org](mailto:kboeve@hom.org)

3rd Thursday of the month • 3pm  
Burkholder Family Funeral Home  
211 N. Pine St., McBain  
RSVP with Will Gasper  
231-444-3350 • [wgasper@hom.org](mailto:wgasper@hom.org)

#### Living On - Adult Child

An open, ongoing group that meets monthly to discuss grief and loss as it pertains to the death of an adult child.

2nd Thursday of the month • 10:30am - 11:30am  
RSVP with Will Gasper  
231-444-3350 • [wgasper@hom.org](mailto:wgasper@hom.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 on Sunday, September 14 from 10:00-10:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up will be available soon.

## Alzheimer's & Dementia Caregiver Support Group – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Please note that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 26.**

### This Week's Activities

#### Sun. 8/24

9:00 a Contemporary Service  
10:30 a Traditional Service

#### Mon. 8/25

#### Tues. 8/26

#### Wed. 8/27

6:30 p Praise Team Practice  
7:00 p Session Meeting

#### Thurs. 8/28

7:30 a Men's Bible Study - AE

#### Fri. 8/29

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal - FH

## VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad  
& Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory*  and download the FREE app to begin.

Enter your email listed in the directory, and click "Send Secure Sign-In Link." Check your email, and click the "Log in to Instant Church Directory" button.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact Peg Burns at [kpcburns@gmail.com](mailto:kpcburns@gmail.com).



**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.

**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!