



## 9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, September 14, 2025

### Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Kyle Ripley

Minute for Mission

Christine Dewey

Invitation to Worship

Kady Peck

Leader: As branches draw life from the vine, so we draw life from Christ.  
Come with open hearts— to be fed, renewed, and rooted in love.

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

Worship Songs - ***“Marvelous Light”***  
***“Graves Into Gardens”***

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 – John 15:1-17

Rev. Bette Dickinson

Sermon

**“The Art of Vinemaking:**

Rev. Bette Dickinson

**Flourishing in the Care of the Loving Vinedresser”**

Responsive Song - ***“Jireh”***

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. 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.*

Closing Song – ***“He Is the Light”***

Benediction

Rev. 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: Jerry & Felicia Blight, and our snack volunteer: Elise Keaton.



## 10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, September 14, 2025

### Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“The Song of God”* by Hayes

Welcome

Cheryl Knight

Minute for Mission

Christine Dewey

Invitation and Centering Words

Cheryl Knight

As branches draw life from the vine, so we draw life from Christ. Come with open hearts—to be fed, renewed, and rooted in love.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Joanne Teague

Leader: Jesus says, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.”

**People: We come to be rooted in Christ, tended in love.**

Leader: “Abide in me as I abide in you.”

**People: We come to dwell in grace and grow in faith.**

Leader: As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.”

**People: We come to flourish in the care of the loving vinedresser.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who calls us friends and appoints us to bear lasting fruit.

**People: With joy, we worship God—our vine, our Source, our Life.**

Opening Prayer

Joanne Teague

**All: Loving God, You are the vinedresser who tends us with wisdom and care. In Christ, the true vine, we are rooted and nourished; through your Spirit, we are shaped to bear fruit that lasts. As we gather in worship, prune away all that keeps us from your love, and cultivate within us the joy of abiding in you. Teach us to flourish in faith, hope, and love, so that our lives may bring glory to you and blessing to the world. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.**

Opening Hymn 682 – *“It Is Good to Sing Your Praises”*

Prayer of Confession

Joanne Teague

**All: Gracious God, You have called us to abide in Christ, to be nourished by his love, and to bear fruit that will last. Yet we confess that too often we wander from the vine. We seek life in lesser things, and we resist your pruning, afraid to let go of what holds us back. Forgive us, O God. Cleanse us, nurture us, and draw us close again. By your Spirit, help us to flourish in your care, so that our lives may reflect your love and bring glory to your name. In Christ we pray, Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

Assurance of Pardon

Joanne Teague

Leader: Jesus says, “Abide in my love.” In Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Passing of the Peace

Joanne Teague

Leader: In Christ, the true vine, we are joined together in love. The peace of Christ be with you. Let us share that Peace with others. Please greet those around you with the words, "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 – *"How Can I Keep From Singing"* by Larson

## Scripture Reading – John 15:1-17

Rev. Bette Dickinson

## Sermon

"The Art of Vinemaking:  
Flourishing in the Care of the Loving Vinedresser"

Rev. Bette Dickinson

## Responsive Hymn 187 – *"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"*

## Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. 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

Joanne Teague

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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

Joanne Teague

**All: Generous God, you are the source of every good gift, the vine from whom our lives bear fruit. Receive these offerings, the work of our hands and the gifts of our hearts. Use them to nurture love, justice, and hope, so that all may flourish in your care. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

## Closing Hymn 546 – *"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"*

## Benediction

Rev. Bette Dickinson

## 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: Curt & Deb McGee, and our snack volunteer.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the Nelson family following the passing of Ramona (Mona) Nelson on September 4. While no public services are planned, we ask that you remember the family in your prayers.

**This morning, we welcome to the pulpit Rev. 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.

**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.

### **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 at the Activity Center.

Due to high interest, a second short pepper spray orientation will also be offered on Sunday, September 14 from 10:00-10:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up at the Activity Center.

### **Celebrating Our 90+ Church Family Members**

The Deacons would like to acknowledge all our 90 plus people in our church family. Jim Lagowski, Thelma Orzechowski, Bob and Maxine Cameron, Eunice Thompson, Jean Schurch, Adam Schuler, Joanne Hoezee, Don Mullen, Phyllis Staley, Kenneth Klynstra, Bill and Lou Letsche, Jane Lund and Phyllis May. We want to honor Barbara White and Dick Claar joining the group this year. We have bags in the narthex for Barb and Dick if you would like to give them a card. On September 21st we will have a bakery treat for Barb and Dick. Please wish all these special people a Happy Birthday!

### **"Sabbath" Class Beginning Monday, September 29 at 7PM**

Beginning Monday, Sept 29 at 7PM we will be reading the book "Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives." We will be taking a Sabbatical along with Pastor Jim and will explore how we can slow down and rest and renew ourselves. Depending on numbers we will either be in the adult education room in the basement or in Fellowship Hall. Books will be available in the Narthex along with a sign up. Please take a book and begin preparing for the first class with the introduction and the first three parts of the chapter on Rest. That's the intro and the first 34 pages of the book. We will collect your donation of \$10 starting on the 29th. Hope you will join us as we find rest and delight in our busy lives.

### **Outreach and Mission Volunteer Opportunity – Gleaning**

Did you know that 35% of households struggle with access to healthy food while 40% of good food goes to waste? One way to help is through gleaning—gathering leftover fruits and vegetables after harvest for local food pantries. Programs like **Food Rescue's Healthy Harvest** and **Do A Little Good** partner with area farmers to make this possible.

Opportunities often come with only 1–2 days' notice. If you'd like to receive updates, contact Janice London ([London.janice6@gmail.com](mailto:London.janice6@gmail.com) or 330-936-5942) or sign up in the narthex. This is not a commitment, just a way to stay informed.

**New Directory Available!** Our new directory is now available online and a print version will be available by October 1. The directory is meant for our family of faith; it is not publicly available (like Facebook or other social media).

You can access the directory via the web or via your mobile device:

1. A free mobile app is available in the Apple® App Store and the Google Play™ Store. Search for "Instant Church Directory" to download. Important: Your email address must be listed in the directory before you can log in. This is for your phone, kindle or iPad.
2. To access the directory on your computer, go to <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> and enter your email address as listed in the directory. Click on "Send Secure Sign-In Link." Then check your email and click on the "Log in to Instant Church Directory" button found in your email.

If you have difficulty logging in, please contact Peg Burns at [kpcbarns@gmail.com](mailto:kpcbarns@gmail.com) for assistance. You must have a valid email address on file with the church office to be able to log in to the new directory.

We will have Tech Help Sundays on September 21 and September 28 between services to help you download the app to your phone, iPad, Kindle, or other mobile devices.

The directory is designed so that you can add (and change!) your picture or your family's picture at any time. There are 2 ways to do that:

1. Upload your own favorite photo using the mobile app or website. Under the menu setting, you will find an option to "Edit My Family". This is where you can upload a photo, correct directory information, add additional information and make phone numbers or email addresses private.
2. Send a favorite family photo via e-mail or text to Peg Burns at [kpcburns@gmail.com](mailto:kpcburns@gmail.com) or (616) 901-0960. It doesn't have to be a formal picture – just one that you love of your family or yourself!

**Would you like a printed directory? Sign up at the Activity Center. To ensure copies are ready by October 1, please submit your photo (if you'd like one included) by September 20.**

If you have any questions, please contact Peg Burns at [kpcburns@gmail.com](mailto:kpcburns@gmail.com) or (616) 901-0960.

**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, Rev. 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 – Stephen

Ministry offers one-on-one support and grief resources, including pamphlets and a display in the narthex. Information on local counseling options is also available. To meet with a Stephen Minister, please contact the office or a Stephen Minister directly.

### 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.**

**Community Cupboard** – Village Market Community Cash starts September 1st and runs through May 31st. Save your receipts and drop them in the church donation box (lower left corner of the mail boxes in the Narthex) or mail them to PO Box 572, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Those receipts help us purchase up to 3 months of food for our families. Thank you!

**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).




### 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 Kijrsten 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 Kijrsten 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)

Community Cupboard is open every other Tuesday and Friday with a self-serve system for those in need. Visit [elkrapidscommunitycupboard.com](http://elkrapidscommunitycupboard.com) or call Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239 for details.

**Discover Your Gifts!** Take our quick Volunteer Accelerator Survey to find where you can best serve. Scan the QR code or use the link: [volunteeraccelerator.ministryarchitects.com/ERFPC/survey.html](http://volunteeraccelerator.ministryarchitects.com/ERFPC/survey.html) Thanks for your willingness to help out!



### **This Week's Activities**

#### **Sun. 9/14**

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

#### **Mon. 9/15**

#### **Tues. 9/16**

7:00 p Personnel – Conf.

#### **Wed. 9/17**

6:30 p Praise Team Practice

#### **Thurs. 9/18**

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE  
9:00 a Session Reports Due  
7:00 p Trustees – FH

#### **Fri. 9/19**

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH