



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, October 12, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Kyle Ripley

Invitation to Worship

Marie Zendler

Leader: Faith endures. Hope carries us forward. Love never ends. Come, people of God—let us walk the paths that lead us closer to Christ.

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Worship Songs - ***“All Who Are Thirsty”***
“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.)

Scripture Readings – 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

Rev. Peter Moore

Sermon

“Two Avenues Toward Hope”

Rev. Peter Moore

Responsive Song - ***“Bloodline”***

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 God Is Powerful”***

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

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: Shelia Conrad & Lorraine Berak, and our snack volunteer: Bonnie Johnson.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the Letsche family following the passing of Lou Letsche on October 3. While no public services are planned at this time, we ask that you remember the family in your prayers.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, October 12, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Every Knee Shall Bow”* by Berry

Welcome

Cheryl Knight

Invitation and Centering Words

Cheryl Knight

Faith endures. Hope carries us forward. Love never ends. Come, people of God—let us walk the paths that lead us closer to Christ.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Marcia Sumerix

Leader: There is something more,

All: or something missing,

Leader: that sends us searching in the dark,

All: looking for answers,

Leader: risking a question.

All: We are drawn here

Leader: because God touched us,

All: gave us hope,

Leader: whispered our name.

All: Here in this place

Leader: we journey towards grace

All: and know the “something more” is revealed in the love of Jesus’ face.

Opening Prayer

Marcia Sumerix

All: The world praises you, O God. The sun, the stars, the mountains and the seas all praise you. Now let us, who were made to worship and adore you, join that chorus of praise. For we have come to worship you! Amen.

Opening Hymn 634 – *“To God Be the Glory”*

Prayer of Confession

Marcia Sumerix

All: Whose words echo in our ears? Are they the words of our consumer culture with catchy jingles and clever rhymes? Are they the words of the past, remembering every putdown, every angry word? Are they the words of our inner doubts where we hear that we will never amount to anything? Holy One, open our ears to your words. Let us find comfort for our need, hope for our future, challenge for our journey. Let us hear blessing and love enough to drown out the cheap temptations and face all our fears. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Marcia Sumerix

Leader: Hear the good news: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies are new every morning. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, and set free to live in faith, hope, and love.

All: Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

Marcia Sumerix

Leader: Since we are held together in Christ's unending love, let us share that love with one another. 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 – "Grace Alone" arr. by Hoelscher

Scripture Readings – 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

Rev. Peter Moore

Sermon

"Two Avenues Toward Hope"

Rev. Peter Moore

Responsive Hymn 250 – "In the Bulb There Is A Flower"

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: Generous God, you pour out the gifts of faith, hope, and love. Take now the offerings we bring, and use them to build up your church, to strengthen hope where it falters, and to show your love to the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn 749 – "Come, Live In the Light"

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, Marcia Sumerix 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: Susan Harvey & Don Reynolds, and our snack volunteer: Susan Harvey.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the Letsche family following the passing of Lou Letsche on October 3. While no public services are planned at this time, we ask that you remember the family in your prayers.

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!

Thank You, Narthex Renewal Team! We are deeply grateful for the work of our Narthex Renewal Team and the creative partnership of Zoetic Group, including Nancy Gribi and Melissa West. Their vision and dedication have brought new life to our entryway, making it both welcoming and inspiring. As part of this renewal, Melissa photographed the exterior of our church, and the digital art company used those images to create the two beautiful new pieces now hanging in the narthex. Thank you to the team for sharing their time, talent, and creativity to bless our church family and all who enter our doors!

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

Welcome Rev. Peter Moore for October

This month we welcome Rev. Peter Moore as our guest preacher. Rev. Moore is a graduate of Yale Divinity School and recently retired after more than 40 years of ministry, including 30 years as pastor of Greenfield Presbyterian Church in Berkley, MI. We are excited to have him leading us in worship this October.

October is Staff Appreciation Month – October is a time to say "thank you" to our amazing staff who do so much to support the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Starting October 5, you'll find bags in the narthex where you can drop off cards or notes of appreciation. You might also make a quick phone call or invite a staff member out for lunch or coffee—simple gestures that mean a lot. Together, let's show our staff how much we value their kindness, hard work, and care for our church family.

Candy Donations & Volunteers Needed for October 31 Halloween Event

We're collecting candy donations, and looking for volunteers to decorate a station inside the Lighthouse and pass out candy. Contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 if you'd like to participate or have questions.

Pumpkin Carving & Dinner – Sunday, October 26 at 5:00PM in the Fellowship Hall

Bring your creativity and your appetite! Everyone is invited to carve pumpkins (generously provided by the Vergote family) and enjoy a delicious dinner—all provided for you. It's a wonderful evening of laughter, fellowship, and fall fun for all ages. For questions, contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813.

Halloween Event – Friday, October 31 at 5:30PM at the Lighthouse

Join us for our annual Halloween celebration at the Lighthouse! We need candy donations and volunteers to decorate a station inside and hand out treats to our trick-or-treaters. Families are encouraged to come enjoy the festivities, too—bring your kids and grandkids for a safe, fun-filled evening. To volunteer or donate, contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813.

Congregational Meeting—Sunday, November 2 following 10:30AM Service

Session calls a Fall All Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 2 in person and via Zoom following worship at approximately 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall to (1) elect new church officers (Elders, Deacons, and Trustees), (2) present a Preliminary Budget for 2026, and (3) conduct any other business that needs to come before the congregation. Non-members are welcome to attend. Members are asked to attend. Please remember that our bylaws require that 10 percent (31 people) of our active membership be present for a quorum.

From the Stewardship Team – In anticipation of our annual stewardship campaign that occurs during the month of November, we are providing you the ability to "opt-in" to receive the stewardship information and pledge form electronically to help us save on printing and postage costs. This is also a good option if you are an early snow bird departure or enjoy First Presbyterian from a remote location! The electronic pledge form will go directly (and confidentially) to the Treasurer, Mike Husby, when completed. If you're willing to do this, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or send an email to info@erfpc.org to be included in the electronic mailing list that will be sent on or about October 28th. If you want to receive your information the old fashioned way, there is nothing that you need to do!

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) or 330-936-5942) or sign up in the narthex. This is not a commitment, just a way to stay informed.

Printed Online Church Directory Now Available! The "first edition" of the online church directory is now available for distribution for those of you who do not want to use the instant, mobile version. There are two options:

1. To save on printing costs: send an email to either kpcbarns@gmail.com or info@erfpc.org and we will email you a downloadable pdf version complete with pictures that you can save to your computer.
2. Pick up a printed copy in the church office during regular office hours or on Sunday in the narthex. If you are unable to make it to the church, please contact the office to arrange delivery.

Please remember that these two options will remain static until we do an update. The mobile version, however, is always updated - with new members, new pictures and updated directory information. If you need assistance with getting connected to the mobile directory, please contact Peg Burns at kpcbarns@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 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.

Resources for Grief Care – Stephen Ministry offers one-on-one support and grief resources, including pamphlets and a display in the narthex. Information on

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

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
mmcreeedy@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 Kirsten Boeve
231-929-1557 • 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
smalenfai@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

2nd & 4th Thursday of the month • 2pm - 3:30pm

RSVP with Kirsten Boeve
231-929-1557 • kboeve@hom.org

3rd Thursday of the month • 3pm

Burkholder Family Funeral Home
211 N. Pine St., McLean
RSVP with Will Gasper
231-444-3350 • 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

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 – 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.

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!

Community Cupboard is open every other Tuesday and Friday with a self-serve system for those in need. Visit 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 Thanks for your willingness to help out!



This Week's Activities

Sun. 10/12

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a Sunday School/Youth - LH
10:30 a Traditional Service
1:30 p Concert Practice

Mon. 10/13

9:00 a PEO – FH
7:00 p Sabbath Class – FH
7:00 p Personnel – Conf

Tues. 10/14

Wed. 10/15

6:30 p Praise Team Practice

Thurs. 10/16

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE

Fri. 10/17

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH
2:00 p Alz. Support Group