

9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, November 9, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Special Recognition of Veterans

Don Reynolds

Invitation to Worship

Grace Ward

Leader: In the noise of the world and the busyness of our days, God invites us to listen—not just with our ears, but with our hearts. Come, quiet your mind and open your spirit to the still, small voice of God that leads us in love.

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Worship Songs - ***“Let It Rain”***
“Here I Am”

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.)

Sermon

**“Listening for God:
Seeking God’s Wisdom and Guidance for Life Today”**

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - ***“Been So Good”***

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.

Minute for Stewardship

Kevin Rogols

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.**

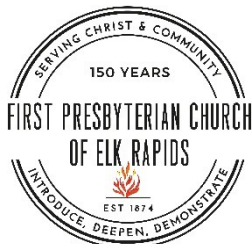
Benediction

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



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, November 9, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“How Great Thou Art Majesty”* arr. by Raney

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

A Moment for Our Veterans

Don Reynolds

Invitation and Centering Words

In the noise of the world and the busyness of our days, God invites us to listen—
not just with our ears, but with our hearts. Come, quiet your mind and open your spirit
to the still, small voice of God that leads us in love.

Ring of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Doug White

Leader: Come, all you who long for wisdom—
let us seek it not in the noise of the world, but in God’s quiet presence.

People: We come, listening for God’s voice amid the clamor of life today.

Leader: When we lack understanding, God is generous and gives freely.

People: We come in faith, trusting that God’s Spirit will guide us.

Leader: Let us worship the One who speaks in the wind and whisper,
in Scripture and silence, in prayer and in community.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, open our hearts this day to your wisdom and grace.

Opening Prayer

Doug White

All: Loving and guiding God, you call us to walk by faith and not by sight, to trust your wisdom even when the way ahead is unclear. In this time of worship, calm our anxious minds, quiet the many voices that compete for our attention, and open us to hear your word of life. Speak to us through the power of your Spirit—in Scripture read, in silence shared, and in the community gathered here. Grant us hearts that listen and faith that follows. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn 65 – *“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*

Prayer of Confession

Doug White

All: Gracious God, you promise to give wisdom to all who ask, yet we confess that we often rely on our own understanding. We rush to make decisions without prayer, we listen more to the world than to your Word, and we doubt your presence when answers do not come quickly. Forgive us, Lord. Teach us again to wait, to trust, to listen. Help us to walk in faith, believing that your Spirit is always at work—guiding, shaping, and renewing our lives today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Doug White

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the good news: God is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven—freed to listen, to follow, and to live anew.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Doug White

Leader: Since we have been reconciled to God through Christ, let us share the peace that flows from God's love. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

*(Invite the congregation to share signs of Christ's peace with one another.)
(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 – “Now I’m Found” by Osiek

Scripture Reading – James 1:1–8

Sermon

**“Listening for God:
Seeking God’s Wisdom and Guidance for Life Today”**

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 452 – “***Open the Eyes of My Heart***”

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.

Minute for Stewardship

Kevin Rogols

Giving Back to God

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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: Generous and loving God, you give wisdom freely and pour out your blessings in abundance. As we offer our gifts, we pray that they would be used with discernment and care—to build your kingdom, to bring hope where there is need, and to share the good news of your guiding love. Bless these gifts and our lives, that together we may listen for your voice and follow your way. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn 369 – *“Blessing and Honor”*

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, Ken Kohlman 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 & Nels Nichols, and our snack volunteer: Becky Kleyn.

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.

Thank You to Our Church Family

We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of cards, gifts, and delicious food during the month of October. Your kindness and generosity have truly blessed us. We feel so thankful to be part of such a loving and caring church family—thank you for sharing Christ’s love with us!

Your Pastor and Church Staff,

Rev. Jim Porter, Wayne Potter, Cheryl Knight, Kyle Ripley, Ellen Merillat, Kathleen Peterson, Yvonne Nault, Josh McCann, Madison Heidt, and Corey Pritchard

Observing All Saints’ Sunday – November 16

On Sunday, November 16, we will honor All Saints’ Day, a time to remember and give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us—both from our church family and from our own families. During worship, everyone will be invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one, as we celebrate the hope and promise we share in Christ.

“My Sabbatical Journey”+ – Monday, Nov. 17 at 5:30 PM

“My Sabbatical Journey”+ will be the topic that Pastor Jim will be sharing with us on Monday, Nov 17 at 5:30 p.m. There will be a soup, salad, bread and dessert dinner with Pastor Jim’s presentation following the meal. You do not have to read Sabbath Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives (our current book discussion) to participate. Please sign up in the narthex so we know how many people will be coming to Fellowship Hall.

Stewardship Campaign—Grace, Gratitude and Generosity

Please join with your First Presbyterian Church family in our annual stewardship campaign centering on Grace, Gratitude and Generosity. Stewardship packets were mailed or sent electronically - if you did not receive one, pick one up at the Activity Center or contact the office at info@erfpc.org.

Remember to bring a God sighting of his Grace represented by a picture or phrase for the bulletin board this week and a new pair of socks to donate to Safe Harbor as a sign of our gratitude and generosity.

We will dedicate our pledges together on Sunday, November 23 but you can put them in the offering box or submit the electronic pledge form at any time.

Christmas Pageant – One 10:30AM Service on December 21

The Christmas Pageant is coming soon—mark your calendars for Sunday, December 21! Practices have already begun during youth group gatherings. Please note that there will be non-speaking roles available for walk-in participants on the day of the pageant. If you have any questions, please contact Tara DenHerder at 231-590-5346.

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 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!



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

This Week's Activities

Sun. 11/9

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

Mon. 11/10

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

Tues. 11/11

Wed. 11/12

6:30 p Praise Team Practice

Thurs. 11/13

7:00 p Trustees – FH

Fri. 11/14

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH

Sat. 11/15

10:00 a Concert Prac.