



One 10:30 AM Service • Sunday, December 28, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Gonna Find That Baby”* by Drennan

Welcome

Wayne Potter

Minute for Mission

Marcia Sumerix

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship (Lamentations 3:22–23)

Marcy Potter

Leader: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

People: God’s mercies never come to an end.

Leader: They are new every morning;

People: Great is your faithfulness, O God!

Opening Prayer

Marcy Potter

All: Faithful God, as we stand at the close of one year and the threshold of another, we thank you for your constant presence. Receive our praise, hear our prayers, and renew our hope, that we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn 112 – *“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”*

Prayer of Confession

Marcy Potter

All: Merciful God, as this year comes to an end, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. We carry regrets for words left unspoken, for compassion withheld, for opportunities to serve that we ignored. Forgive us, O God. Free us from what weighs us down, and turn us toward the new life you offer in Christ. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Marcy Potter

Leader: Hear the good news: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away; the new has come. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *“Christmas Joy”* by Emerson

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

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

Scripture Reading – 1 Peter 2:1-11

Sermon

“Celebrating and Anticipating”

Wayne Potter

Responsive Hymn 135 – **“There’s a Star in the East”** (African Gospel)

Anthem – **“Christmas Glory Hallelujah”** arr. by Fettke & Grassi

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: We dedicate these gifts, Lord, for the work of the church, and we ask you to use all that we have and all that we are in your service. Amen.

Closing Hymn 136 – **“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”**

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”**

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our usher: Don Reynolds, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteer: Shelia Conrad.

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.

ONE Service at 10:30AM Today

Join us on the last Sunday of the year, Sunday, December 28 for ONE Service at 10:30 a.m. Wayne Potter, our Director of Youth & Family Life Ministries, will be sharing the message on his last Sunday with us, and Cheryl Knight, our Music Director, has planned a great selection of gospel music to celebrate the Birth of Christ. End your year by worshipping with us!

Taking Down Christmas Decorations – Sunday, January 4

Following the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, January 4, we will be taking down the Christmas decorations. Everyone is invited to help—many hands make light work!

Season 5 of The Chosen is on its way! We'll be starting that series on Monday evenings beginning January 5th at 6:00 p.m. for 8 weeks. Please sign up at the Activity Center.

Peace, Joy, and the Gift of Generosity

What word do you use most often during the Christmas season? Joy? Peace? What about "gift?" From the moment we carve the Thanksgiving turkey or even before, we run around frantically looking for the perfect gift for our loved ones. On Christmas Eve, children can hardly sleep, wondering what treasures wait beneath the tree.

The tie between giving and Christmas dates back to the nativity story. In 2 Corinthians 9:15, Paul calls Jesus God's "indescribable gift." God gave the greatest gift in history, inspiring us to reflect on His generosity not just during the holidays but year-round.

If you've already made your pledge, we're deeply grateful. Your generosity helps First Pres plan for the upcoming year and will touch countless lives through worship, mission and outreach, adult and youth programs, and so much more. If you haven't had a chance to make your pledge yet, we invite you to prayerfully consider doing so during this meaningful season. Every pledge, no matter the size, helps us step boldly into God's vision for the future.

Together, we can make a lasting impact near and far. Thank you for your faithfulness, your prayers, and your generosity. May this season fill your home and your heart with peace, joy, and the light of Christ.

A Special Message from Our Treasurer

We greatly appreciate all those who have pledged for 2026. We received a number of pledges recently, bringing us within 15 of last year's total. Thank you to all the members who have already filled out their 2026 pledge forms.

For those who have not yet had the opportunity, please remember that if circumstances do not allow you to make a pledge for 2026, **a simple note to that effect is extremely helpful**. It assists us in our planning and, more importantly, lets us know that you are still part of our church family.

We remain committed to following the path of Jesus in 2026, and **your support makes this work possible**. Thank you, Mike Husby, Treasurer

2025 Annual Reports Due Friday, January 9 —Ministry Teams and Group Chairpersons: It's time to begin preparing your Annual Report summarizing your 2025 activities. Please keep your report to one page, format it as a Word document, and email it to the church office (info@erfpc.org) by Friday, January 9, 2026. For questions, contact Ellen in the church office (231-264-8167).

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!

Thanks to feedback from a recent client survey, the Elk Rapids Community Cupboard is expanding its hours to ensure greater accessibility. It will now be open every other Saturday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., starting November 22. These new hours are in addition to existing hours every other week on Tuesdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Visit elkrapidscommunitycupboard.com or call Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239 for more information.

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. 12/28

10:30 a One Service

Mon. 12/29

Tues. 12/30

Wed. 12/31

Thurs. 1/1 – New Year's Day

Fri. 1/2

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH