



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, January 11, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Grace Ward

Leader: Before we do anything else, before we can sing or pray or even speak, hear this good news: God calls us Beloved. Today in our worship, let us remember who we are and to Whom we belong.

All: Come. Let us worship the God who calls us beloved and forms us into a community of grace.

Worship Songs - ***“Come Now Is The Time To Worship”***
“Good Good Father”

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

Tara DenHerder

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

Scripture Reading – Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon **“The Power of Baptism and the Gift of Community”**

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - ***“All Who Are Thirsty”***

Sacrament of Baptism

Jackson Ryan Ebersole
Son of Zach and Kaylyn Ebersole

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”***

Mission Statement

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.**

Charge to the Congregation

Leader: Go now, remembering who you are:
beloved children of God,
claimed by grace,
and marked by love.
Claim the promise of your baptism!
It is all the power that you will ever need.

All: Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Shelia Conrad & Mark Weber, our snack volunteer: Judy Husby, and our coffee volunteer: Judy Husby.

Chancel flowers are placed by the Tezak Family in memory of Robin Tezak.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, January 11, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Sing a Jubilant Song”* by Stanton

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Before we do anything else, before we can sing or pray or even speak, hear this good news: God calls us Beloved. Today in our worship, let us remember who we are and to Whom we belong.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Doug White

Leader: When Jesus came up from the waters of baptism, the heavens opened, and God spoke.

People: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Leader: In Christ, those words are spoken over us as well.

People: We are God’s beloved children.

Leader: God gathers us, not as strangers, but as family.

People: We belong to God—and to one another.

Leader: Let us worship the God who names us, claims us, and sends us.

All: Come, let us worship God together!

Opening Prayer

Doug White

All: Gracious and loving God, at the waters of the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your beloved Son, marked by your Spirit and called to serve the world. As we worship today, help us remember our own baptism—your grace poured out upon us and the community into which we have been welcomed. Open our hearts to hear your voice again, calling us beloved, calling us together, and calling us to follow, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn 401 – *“Here in This Place”*

Prayer of Confession

Doug White

All: Merciful God, you claim us as your own, yet we often forget who we are. We seek our worth in achievement and approval, rather than resting in your love. We divide ourselves from one another, rather than living as the community you have formed. We resist your call to serve, preferring comfort to commitment. Forgive us, O God. Return us to the waters of grace. Remind us that we are your beloved children, and shape us again into a people who reflect your love in the world.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Doug White

Leader: Hear the good news: The God who spoke love over Jesus speaks that same love over us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. In Christ, we are claimed. In Christ, we are made new. Believe in this promise: You are God’s beloved!

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Doug White

Leader: Having been claimed by God’s grace and forgiven in Christ, we are made one family—beloved and bound together in peace. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: 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 – *“Footsteps”* by Courtney

Scripture Reading – Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon “The Power of Baptism and the Gift of Community”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 489 – *“Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed”*

Ordination & Installation of Church Officers

Elders

Lorraine Berak (Class of 2028)
Keith Burns (Class of 2028)
Chris Schuler (Class of 2028)

Deacons

Peggy Bushnell (Class of 2028)
Jeremy Cannon (Class of 2028)
Ken Kohlman (Class of 2028)
Kathy Rogols (Class of 2028)
Jan Shurte (Class of 2028)
Lonna Steinbeck (Class of 2026)

Trustees

Peg Burns (Class of 2028)
Jeff Seiple (Class of 2028)
Chad Vergote (Class of 2028)
Rick Welsh (Class of 2028)

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.
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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: Faithful God, you have given us more than we can measure—new life in Christ, a place in your family, and companions for the journey of faith. Use these gifts we give today, and use us, to bear witness to your love, to strengthen your church, and to serve your world, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Closing Hymn 69 – *“Here I Am, Lord”*

Mission Statement

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and marked by love.
Claim the promise of your baptism!
It is all the power that you will ever need.

All: Amen.

Benediction

Benediction Response – *“Let There Be Peace On Earth”*

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Norm & Marry Ann Frey, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteer: Judy Husby.

Chancel flowers are placed by the Tezak Family in memory of Robin Tezak.

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 for your help! Thank you to everyone who helped decorate and then take down the Christmas decorations in our church. Your time, energy, and care helped make our worship spaces beautiful throughout the Advent and Christmas season, and your willingness to serve behind the scenes is deeply appreciated. We are grateful for each of you and for the spirit of teamwork and generosity you share in caring for our church home.

New Sunday School & Youth Begin Today!

We are excited to welcome our new interim ministry leaders: Shannah Vergote, Interim Director of Children’s Ministry, and Erin Conrad and Tara DenHerder, Interim Directors of Youth Ministry! Sunday School for children and Youth Group for junior and senior high students begin today at 10:00 a.m. at the Lighthouse. This is a great opportunity for kids and teens to grow in faith, build friendships, and have fun together—so invite a friend and come be part of it. All children and youth are warmly encouraged to attend!

New Member Class on Tuesday, January 13 at 5:30PM – There's still time to sign up!

Would you like to join the church? Are you wondering what it means to be Presbyterian? Then, we invite you to join us on Tuesday, January 13, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. as we talk about what it means to join the church. Dinner will be served. Please email (info@erfpc.org) or call (231-264-8167) the church office if you would like to attend and if you need child care.

Season 5 of *The Chosen* – Mondays at 6PM

We're excited to gather again for Season 5 of *The Chosen*! Join us Monday evenings, January 5–February 23, at 6:00 p.m. for an inspiring time of watching, conversation, and connection. Each week offers meaningful discussion and fresh insights into the life and ministry of Jesus. Whether you can join us every week or just once in a while, you're always welcome. Don't miss this powerful shared experience—sign up today at the Activity Center!

2025 Annual Reports Due –Ministry Teams and Group Chairpersons: If you have not had a chance to turn in your Annual Report yet, please do so as soon as possible. Please keep your report to one page, format it as a Word document, and email it to the church office (info@erfpc.org). 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.

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.

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.

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. 1/11

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a SS & Youth – LH
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 1/12

6:00 p The Chosen

Tues. 1/13

5:30 p New Member Class – FH
6:30 p Deacons – AE

Wed. 1/14

6:30 p Praise Team Prac.
7:00 p Trustees – FH

Thurs. 1/15

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE

Fri. 1/16

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