



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, January 18, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Marie Zender

Leader: In Epiphany, a season of searching, God is revealed not only in answers, but in questions that draw us closer. Today, Jesus asks us, "What are you looking for?" May we bring our curiosity, our hope, and our open hearts to worship today.

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Worship Songs - **"In The Secret"**
"More Like Jesus"

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 Reading – John 1:29-42

Sermon "A Holy Longing: The Gift of Compassionate Curiosity" Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - **"Breathe"**

Commissioning Interim Directors of Youth Ministry – Erin Conrad and Tara DenHerder

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 – **"Every Move I Make"**

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 as people who continue to seek and follow what is true. Listen for Christ's question, "What are you looking for?" And hear his invitation: "Come and see."

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

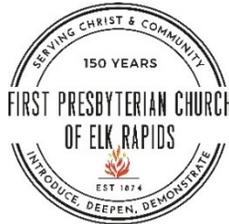
All: Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Gary & Jan Burns, our snack volunteer: Bonnie Johnson, and our coffee volunteer: Bonnie Johnson.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, January 18, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *"Make Us One With You"* by McDonald

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

In Epiphany, a season of searching, God is revealed not only in answers, but in questions that draw us closer. Today, Jesus asks us, "What are you looking for?" May we bring our curiosity, our hope, and our open hearts to worship today.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Ginny Dorner

Leader: John said, "Behold, here is the Lamb of God!"

People: We come today to look for Jesus.

Leader: Jesus asked the disciples, "What are you looking for?"

People: We are seeking truth, meaning, and life.

Leader: Jesus said, "Come and see."

All: Come, let us worship the living God.

Opening Prayer

Ginny Dorner

All: God of revelation and deep mystery, you do not provide us with easy answers, rather you invite us into loving relationship. You meet us not only in what we believe, but in what we are still discovering. In this time of worship, open our hearts to wonder, our minds to new understanding, and our spirits to your living Word. As we listen, sing, pray, and reflect, draw us deeper into the life you offer in Jesus Christ, the One who calls us to come and see. We pray in his name. Amen.

Opening Hymn 720 – *"Jesus Calls Us"*

Prayer of Confession

Ginny Dorner

All: God of grace, you call us to follow, yet we often resist the journey. You invite us to seek, but we prefer certainty to curiosity. You ask us what we are looking for, but we are afraid to answer honestly. Forgive us when we close ourselves off from new insights, deeper faith, and the transforming work of your Spirit. Forgive us when we mistake comfort for faithfulness and easy answers for trust. Renew in us a holy curiosity—a willingness to follow where you lead, to listen before we speak, and to remain open to your surprising grace. We offer now this prayer in silence, trusting in your mercy...

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Ginny Dorner

Leader: Hear the good news: God does not reject our questions or turn away our searching hearts. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and continually invited into deeper life with God. Friends, believe the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Ginny Dorner

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

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 – “If You Search With All Your Heart” by Courtney

Scripture Reading – John 1:29-42

Sermon “A Holy Longing: The Gift of Compassionate Curiosity” Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 175 – “Seek Ye First”

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.

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- Our Offering- Your gifts honor God and help provide financial support of the ministries and mission of this church.
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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 God, as we offer both our gifts and lives to you today, we give thanks for the gift of curiosity—the desire to grow, to learn, and to follow Jesus more fully. Use these offerings to support your work in the world, that others may be invited to come and see the love of Christ made real through compassion, justice, and hope. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn 688 – ***“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”*** (vs. 1, 3, 5)

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May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

All: Amen.

Benediction

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

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Janice London & Rick Welsh, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteer: Bonnie Johnson.

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.

Youth Snow Tubing at Mt. Holiday – Today at 4PM

All youth are invited to an afternoon of snow tubing at Mt. Holiday this Sunday, January 18 at 4:00 p.m. It’s sure to be a fun time together on the slopes! To reserve your spot, text 231-590-5346. Online waivers are required for all participants. Please use this link to complete the waiver: https://waiver.smartwaiver.com/w/5bfeef3e1df91/web/?auto_tag=fh_id_329428151&fh-u=7a15fa24-5ef2-4f22-97bf-e834ba609282. Need a ride? We’ll meet at the Lighthouse at 3:00 p.m. with interested families and travel together. Don’t miss it!

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!

ONE Service at 10:30AM on Sunday, February 8

Join us on Sunday, February 8 for ONE Service at 10:30 a.m. Following the service we will be holding our Annual Congregational Meeting. Make plans to join us this special Sunday!

Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 8

Session Calls an All Congregation Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 8 in person and via Zoom immediately following worship at approximately 11:45 a.m. to (1) approve the minutes of the 2025 Congregational meetings as printed, or with additions and/or corrections, and receive the 2025 Ministry Teams’ and Committees’ Annual Reports, (2) approve the pastor’s terms of call for 2026, (3) receive the Session-approved 2026 operating budget, and (4) 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.

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. 1/18

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a SS & Youth – LH
10:30 a Traditional Service
4:00 p Youth Snow Tubing at Mt. Holiday

Mon. 1/19

6:00 p The Chosen

Tues. 1/20

Wed. 1/21

3:00 p Service at Autumn House
6:30 p Praise Team Prac.

Thurs. 1/22

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

Fri. 1/23

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH