



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, February 22, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Alice Cannon

Leader: Wake up! Turn around! The Kingdom of God is near to you TODAY! Believe the Good News of the Gospel, and let God's Kingdom work begin in you!

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Worship Song - ***"Open The Eyes Of My Heart"***
"One Thing Remains"

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 – Mark 1:14-15

Matthew 13:31-35

Sermon

"Closing the Gap"

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - ***"Available"***

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 Life is in You, Lord"***

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 as people of the kingdom—trusting that God’s reign is already among you, even when it seems small or hidden.

Turn around.

Repent, believe the good news, and participate in the transforming work of the God whose kingdom is already here and not yet complete.

All: Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Phil Ruedi & Griff Ruedi, our snack volunteer: Shelia Conrad, and our coffee volunteer: Shelia Conrad.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, February 22, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“The Light of the World”* by Besig

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Wake up! Turn around! The Kingdom of God is near to you TODAY! Believe the Good News of the Gospel, and let God’s Kingdom work begin in you!

Ring of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Betty Tezak

Leader: Jesus proclaimed, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near.”

**People: Today, as we begin our Lenten journey together,
We turn our hearts toward God’s reign of grace and truth.**

Leader: The kingdom is like a mustard seed—small, yet full of life.

**People: In the midst of a dark and hurting world,
God plants hope in the smallest places.**

Leader: The kingdom is like yeast—hidden, yet transforming.

People: God is at work within and among us and through us today.

Leader: The time is now. The kingdom is near.

**All: Come, let us worship the Lord whose reign has already begun
and is still unfolding all around us.**

Opening Prayer

Betty Tezak

All: Gracious and sovereign God, in Jesus Christ, you have drawn near to us. You have sown the seeds of your kingdom in a broken and beautiful world. As we gather in worship today, awaken our hearts. Help us to see where your kingdom is already growing—in acts of mercy, in words of truth, in courage, forgiveness, and love. And where we grow impatient or discouraged, remind us that your Spirit is still at work, leavening the world with hope. Reign in us, O God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn 396 – *“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”*

Prayer of Confession

Betty Tezak

All: Faithful God, You announce that your kingdom has come near, yet we often live as if it were far away. You plant seeds of justice and peace, but we cling to fear and control. You work quietly to transform hearts, but we demand quick results and visible power. You call us to repent and believe the good news, yet we resist the change your grace requires. Forgive us for overlooking the small beginnings. Forgive us for losing hope when growth seems slow. Forgive us when we fail to trust that your kingdom is already at work among us. Turn our hearts again toward you. Make us ready participants in your reign of love. Through Jesus Christ, who brings your kingdom near. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Betty Tezak

Leader: Hear the good news: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” (Mark 1:15) In Jesus Christ, God’s reign of mercy has broken into our lives. Our sins are forgiven. We are made new. We are invited to live as citizens of God’s kingdom.

All: Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

Betty Tezak

Leader: Since God’s kingdom is a reign of reconciliation and peace, let us share signs of that peace with one another. 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 – *“Let Me Hide Myself in Thee”* by Courtney

Scripture Readings – Mark 1:14-15

Matthew 13:31-35

Sermon

“Closing the Gap:
Get Ready for the Already but Not Yet Kingdom of God!”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 835 – *“Just a Closer Walk With Thee”*

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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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 take what is small and make it grow. You take what is hidden and make it transformative. Receive these gifts—our tithes, our offerings, our lives. Plant them in the soil of your kingdom. Use them as seeds of hope and justice, as leaven for compassion and mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn 187 – “*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*”

Mission Statement

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All: Amen.

Benediction

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

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Susan Harvey & Kevin Hoch, our snack volunteer: Betty Tezak, 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.

Lenten Small Groups Begin This Week -- Sign up Today!

Lent began on February 18, Ash Wednesday and small groups are beginning. This year, we will be using Adam Hamilton’s book *The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World* to guide us in worship and Bible study. We are now forming groups for deeper study, conversation and connection that will meet

beginning the week of February 22 and ending the week of March 29.

Unable to come to all sessions due to your schedule? That’s okay! We would still like you to join us! For those that are able, we will collect a \$10 donation to offset the cost of the book.



If you are interested in being part of a small group this lent,

please sign up in the church narthex, use this QR code to fill out an electronic form, or reach out to the church office at 231-264-8167. If you have any questions, please contact

Christine Kincaid Dewey at kincaiddewey@gmail.com and she will help you get started. Jesus’ words changed the world. They can change your life today too! **Sign up today!**

Group #	Day/Time	Location	Group Type	Leader
1	Sundays 10:00 AM	Church	Parents	Hannah Barrow & Jeremy Cannon
2	Mondays 6:30 PM	Church	All	Christine Kincaid Dewey
3	Mondays 7:00 PM	Zoom	All	Marcia Sumerix
4	Tuesdays 9:00 AM	Church	Women	Jan Burns
5	Tuesdays 10:00 AM	Church	Women	Shelia Conrad
6	Wednesdays 6:30 PM	Argo’s Home in Kewadin	All	Jim & Betsy Argo
7	Wednesdays 7:45 PM	Zoom	All	Pastor Jim & Kyle Ripley
8	Thursdays 7:30 AM	Church	Men	Klaus Lehrer & Ken Kohlman
9	Thursdays 6:30 PM	Up North Properties (ER)	Women in Midlife	Shannon VanDenBerge
10	Fridays 2:00 PM	Church	All	Pam Coleman

Youth Group Trampoline Party – Sunday, March 15

All youth are invited to join us for an afternoon of high-flying fun at the brand-new Altitude Trampoline Park on Sunday, March 15, from 2:00–4:00 PM! Come jump, laugh, and enjoy time together — and be sure to bring a friend! If you would like to attend, please contact Tara DenHerder to let her know you're coming. Online waivers must be completed in order to participate. We can't wait to see you there!

We're Hiring – Director of Creative AV Content for Worship & Social Media Marketing

We are looking for a creative, spiritually mature Christian to create engaging audio-visual content that supports and enhances worship services and expands the church's digital presence at First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids. The ideal candidate will have experience in live-streaming platforms, audio-visual production, video editing, graphic design and ability to work collaboratively with others. 8 hours per week. Salary based on experience. For a full job description and application, please contact the church office at 231-264-8167 or info@erfpc.org.

Season 5 of *The Chosen* on Mondays – Join us Monday evenings, January 5–February 23, at 6:00 p.m. as we continue Season 5 of *The Chosen*. Each week includes viewing, conversation, and fresh insight into the life and ministry of Jesus. Come every week or whenever you can—you're always welcome!

Free Community Dinners – Tuesday, March 10 from 5-6:30PM

Plan to join us for our next Free Community Dinner on Tuesday, March 10 from 5:00–6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a delicious meal and good fellowship! Also plan to join us for the rest of the spring dinners – April 21, and May 19. Come as you are and bring a friend!

Meet Your Safety/Security Team – Creating a safe and caring space for worship, fellowship, and ministry is an important part of our life together. We give thanks for the following members of our Safety & Security Team who serve in this vital role: **Committee Co-Chairs** – Don Reynolds (*30+ years law enforcement; Detective Lt. Major Crimes*) and Bill Dorner (*U.S. Military Attached Military Police*) **Team Members:** Kevin Hoch – Legal Tech Advisor (*Current Sheriff of Antrim County; 30 years in law enforcement*), Dick Gray (*Team Statistician*), Gary & Jan Burns (*Advanced Life Support experience*), Ellen Merillat (*Graphics/Composition*), Pete VanDenBerge (*Fire Safety Instructor; 35+ years of experience, former Elk Rapids Fire Chief*), Steve Louiselle (*25+ fire experience*), Eunice Thompson, Jim Lagowski, Sandi Gray, and Leah Keaton. If you'd like to join the team, please contact Don Reynolds or Bill Dorner.

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 runs September 1–May 31. Please save your receipts and drop them in the church donation box in the Narthex or mail them to PO Box 572, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Your receipts help provide up to three months of food for local families—thank you!

The Elk Rapids Community Cupboard is expanding hours starting November 22 and will be open every other Saturday from 9:00–11:00 a.m., in addition to regular hours on alternating Tuesdays (4:00–6:00 p.m.) and Fridays (8:30–9:30 a.m.). Visit elkrapidscommunitycupboard.com or call Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239 for more information.

This Week's Activities

Sun. 2/22

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

Mon. 2/23

4:30 p Endowment – Conf.
6:00 p The Chosen

Tues. 2/24

Wed. 2/25

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

Thurs. 2/26

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE

Fri. 2/27

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH



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!