



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, March 15, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Kyle Ripley

Invitation to Worship

Ben Vergote

Leader: In the Gospel of John, Jesus often says things like, *"I am the Bread of Life," "I am the Light of the World,"* and *"I am the Good Shepherd."* These words remind us that Jesus is God's promised Savior, the one who shows us who God is and how much God loves us.

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Worship Song - ***"Good In Every Way"***
"Graves Into Gardens"

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

Shannah Vergote

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

Scripture Reading – John 1:1-5

Shannon VanDenBerge

Sermon

"Who do YOU say I AM?"

Shannon VanDenBerge

Responsive Song - ***"King Of Kings"***

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Shannon VanDenBerge

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

Shannon VanDenBerge

- 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 – ***"I'm So Blessed"***

Mission Statement

Shannon VanDenBerge

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

Shannon VanDenBerge

Leader: Go into the world trusting in Christ:
the bread that sustains you,
the light that guides you,
the shepherd who leads you,
and the vine in whom your life bears fruit.
Walk in his way. Live in his truth. Share his life.

All: Amen.

Benediction

Shannon VanDenBerge

Leader: May the blessing of the great *I AM* go with you—
the Father who created you,
the Son who redeems you,
and the Holy Spirit who sustains you.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

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



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, March 15, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Our Help, Our Hope, Our Home”* by Cooper

Welcome

Cheryl Knight

Invitation and Centering Words

Cheryl Knight

In the Gospel of John, Jesus often says things like, *“I am the Bread of Life,” “I am the Light of the World,”* and *“I am the Good Shepherd.”* These words remind us that Jesus is God’s promised Savior, the one who shows us who God is and how much God loves us.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Ginny Dorner

Leader: Come, people of God. Jesus says, *“I am the bread of life.”*

People: In Christ, our deepest hunger is satisfied.

Leader: Jesus says, *“I am the light of the world.”*

People: In Christ, the darkness cannot overcome us.

Leader: Jesus says, *“I am the good shepherd.”*

People: In Christ, we are known, loved, and led.

Leader: Jesus says, *“I am the resurrection and the life.”*

People: In Christ, death does not have the final word.

Leader: Jesus says, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”*

People: In Christ, we find the path that leads to God.

Leader: Let us worship the One who is the great *I AM*,

People: God with us, now and always.

Opening Prayer

Ginny Dorner

All: Faithful and living God, You revealed your holy name long ago, and in Jesus Christ you have made your presence known among us. He is the bread that nourishes our souls, the light that guides our steps, the shepherd who calls us by name, the vine in whom we bear fruit, and the life that conquers death. Open our hearts to receive him anew this day. Feed us with your grace, guide us with your truth, and draw us closer to you in worship, through Jesus Christ, who is the great I AM. Amen.

Opening Hymn 749 – ***“Come! Live in the Light!”***

Prayer of Confession

Ginny Dorner

All: Gracious God, you call us to trust in Christ, yet we often look elsewhere for life. When we hunger, we chase what cannot satisfy. When we walk in darkness, we resist your light. When we hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, we wander down paths of our own choosing. Forgive us, Lord. Restore us through the grace of Jesus Christ—the true vine in whom we live, the way who leads us home, and the life that renews our hearts. In mercy, gather us again into your care. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Ginny Dorner

Leader: Hear the good news: Jesus says, *“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live.”* In Jesus Christ, God’s mercy is greater than our sin, God’s light shines in our darkness, and God’s life renews us again and again. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

Ginny Dorner

Leader: The risen Christ says, *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”* May the peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(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 – ***“This is My Word”*** by Choplin

Scripture Reading – John 1:1-5

Shannon VanDenBerge

Sermon

“Who do YOU say I AM?”

Shannon VanDenBerge

Responsive Hymn 372 – ***“O for a World”***

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Shannon VanDenBerge

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

Shannon VanDenBerge

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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

Shannon VanDenBerge

All: Generous God, every good gift comes from you. You have given us the bread of life in Christ and called us to abide in him like branches in the vine. Receive these gifts we bring today. Use them to share Christ’s light in the world, to feed those who hunger, to guide those who seek the way, and to proclaim the life we have in him. In the name of Jesus Christ, the great I AM, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn 370 – ***“This Is My Father’s World”***

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All: Amen.

Benediction

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Leader: May the blessing of the great I AM go with you—
the Father who created you,
the Son who redeems you,
and the Holy Spirit who sustains you.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

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: Susan Wiltse, and our coffee volunteer: Judy Husby.

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.

Church Family Bingo – Today at 5:00 PM

Join us for a fun evening of laughter, food, and friendly competition at our Church Family Bingo Night on Sunday, March 15 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall! The church will provide dinner, dessert, and bingo prizes. This is a wonderful opportunity to relax, connect, and enjoy time together as a church family. Everyone is welcome to come and participate—kids, youth, adults, and seniors alike. Come hungry, come ready to play, and come ready for a great night together!

Youth Group Trampoline Party – Rescheduled to Sunday, March 22 from 2-4 PM

All youth are invited to join us for an afternoon of high-flying fun at the brand-new Altitude Trampoline Park on **Sunday, March 22**, 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!

NEW DATE

Easter Plants - Reservations Due March 29

Easter plants are available for \$10 per plant to remember or honor a special loved one, and decorate our sanctuary for Easter. To reserve your plants, fill out the form next to the Easter Plant Order Box located at the Activity Center and return it with your donation to the box by Sunday, March 29. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church (Easter Memorial). Flowers can be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.

Free Community Dinners – Tuesday, April 21 from 5-6:30PM

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

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.

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.



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!

This Week's Activities

Sun. 3/15

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a SS & Youth – LH
Parents Lent Group
10:30 a Traditional Service
5:00 p Family Dinner & Bingo - FH

Mon. 3/16

7:00 p Lent Group – Zoom
7:00 p Future Planning – Zoom

Tues. 3/17

9:00 a Women's Lent Group – AE
10:00 a Women's Lent Group – Cf

Wed. 3/18

6:30 p Lent Group at Argo's
6:30 p Praise Team Prac.
7:45 p Lent Group – Zoom

Thurs. 3/19

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE
9:00 a Session Reports Due
6:30 p Women's Lent Group – UpN

Fri. 3/20

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