



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, April 5, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Polly Conrad

Leader: Beloved in Christ, we gather on this holy morning between darkness and dawn, grief and joy, death and life, to proclaim even in the darkness of the world, there is the hope of God!
"Resurrection means the worst thing that can happen is never the last thing."
--Frederick Buechner

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Worship Song - **"Graves Into Gardens"**
"The Wonderful Cross"

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.)

Video – **"Christ is Risen"**

Scripture Readings – Matthew 28:1-10

Romans 5:1-11

Sermon

"Hope Has a Name"

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - **"Come To The Table"**

Sacrament of Communion

For Communion today everyone is invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive the gluten free bread and juice. After partaking of the elements, you may return to your seat by the side aisle.

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 – *“In Christ Alone”*

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 into the world as Easter people.

Do not be afraid.

For the tomb is empty,

Christ is risen,

and hope is alive.

When the world tells you that hope is lost,

remember:

Hope has a name—and that name is Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

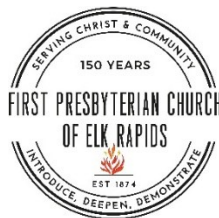
Benediction

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Mel & Judy Matchett & grandchildren, our snack volunteers: Laura Staich & Philip Ruedi, and our coffee volunteer.

Thank you to our communion servers: Anne Conrad, Judy Husby, Mel Matchett, and Don Reynolds.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, April 5, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Lift High the Cross”* arr. by Raney

Organ and Piano Duet

“Christ is Risen (He Is Risen Indeed)” arr. by Fettke

Choir

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Beloved in Christ, we gather on this holy morning between darkness and dawn, grief and joy, death and life, to proclaim even in the darkness of the world, there is the hope of God!

“Resurrection means the worst thing that can happen is never the last thing.” --Frederick Buechner

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Video – *“Christ is Risen”*

Call to Worship

Sandi Gray

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Leader: When fear grips our hearts,

People: Hope calls our name.

Leader: When the world feels uncertain and broken,

People: Hope stands alive before us.

Leader: When life feels overwhelming and we wonder which way to turn,

People: Hope invites us, saying "Follow me!"

Leader: For our Hope has a name—

People: It is Christ Jesus, our Lord, crucified and risen!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen, indeed!

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Opening Prayer

Sandi Gray

All: Risen Lord Jesus Christ, just as you met the women at the tomb with words of peace and life, meet us here this morning. Into our doubts, speak hope. Into our fear, speak courage. Into our weariness, breathe new life. Remind us again that our hope is not found in what we can control or achieve, but in what you have already done. By your resurrection, you have defeated the power of death, and claim us as your own.

Fill this place today with your Spirit, that we may worship you with joy, trust you with our lives, and follow you with renewed faith. In your holy and risen name we pray, Amen.

Opening Hymn 232 – *"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"*

Prayer of Confession

Sandi Gray

All: Gracious God, we confess that we often fall short of your promise of new life for us. We trust in what we can see and control rather than placing our hope and trust in you. We cling to fear instead of embracing faith. We live as though the stone has not been rolled away. Forgive us, O God. When despair feels greater than hope, when doubt feels stronger than trust, when death feels louder than life—remind us again of the empty tomb. Call us by name, as you did on that first Easter morning, and lead us into the joy of your resurrection life. Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Sandi Gray

Leader: Hear the good news: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. And in his resurrection, we are made new. Through him we have peace with God, and through him we stand in grace. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Passing of the Peace

Sandi Gray

Leader: The risen Christ greets us with peace.

People: Peace be with you.

Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

(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.)

Scripture Readings – Matthew 28:1-10

Romans 5:1-11

Sermon

"Hope Has a Name"

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 498 – ***“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”***

Sacrament of Communion

For Communion today everyone is invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive the gluten free bread and juice. After partaking of the elements, you may return to your seat by the side aisle.

Anthem – ***“There Is a Redeemer”*** arr. by McDonald

(Sung during communion)

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: Risen and generous God, you have given us more than we could ever deserve—peace with you, hope in suffering, and life that never ends. Receive these gifts we bring today, as signs of our gratitude and trust. Use them to proclaim good news to the world, to bring hope where there is despair, and to bear witness that Christ is alive. For we offer not only our gifts, but our very lives, in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.

Closing Hymn 238 – ***“Thine Is the Glory”***

Mission Statement

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Benediction

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

Postlude – *“To God Be the Glory”* Setting by Raney

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Don Reynolds & Rick Welsh, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteer.

Thank you to our communion servers: Betsy Argo, Laura Asiala, Sandi Gray, and Betty 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.

Youth Group Cleanup Day – Sunday, April 19 After Youth Group

Join us as we care for our church and celebrate Earth Day on Sunday, April 19. Help us clean up the campus, enjoy fresh air and time with friends, and make a difference in our community. Meet us after youth group at the Lighthouse. Please contact Tara DenHerder at taradenherder8@gmail.com or 231-590-5346 if you have any questions. See you there!

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!

Vacation Bible School 2026 Volunteers Needed – June 22-26

We are planning a 5-day Vacation Bible School for children in Elk Rapids and the surrounding communities, and we would love your support! If you are available to volunteer in any capacity during the week of June 22–26, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., please contact Tara DenHerder at taradenherder8@gmail.com or 231-590-5346. Save the dates and plan to invite your children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors to be part of this meaningful and fun week!

We’re Hiring – Director of Youth & Family Life Ministries

We are looking for a creative, energetic, spiritually mature Christian to lead our youth and family ministry efforts at First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids. The position serves as the main lead and volunteer coordinator for programs to both children (K to 5th grade) and youth/young adults (6th grade to high school). The ideal candidate will have at least an Associate Degree in a relevant field and experience in leading youth/children's programming. Effective verbal and writing skills are essential for success. This is a salaried position with irregular work hours reflecting programming and special events. Salary based upon work experience. For a full job description and application, please contact the church office at 231-264-8167 or email info@erfpc.org.

Coming Soon! The Art of Vinemaking Half Day Retreat – Saturday, May 30

Through guided time in Ten Hands Vineyard on Old Mission Peninsula, Bette Dickinson, artist and author of *The Art of Vinemaking*, and vinedresser Dave Bos, will lead a contemplative, embodied exploration of John 15 through the lens of real-life vine cultivation. Participants will engage in guided spiritual practices, reflection, and sensory connection to the land as we consider what it means to abide in Christ, the True Vine and surrender to the loving cultivation of the Vinedresser. Together, we’ll explore a flourishing approach to life with God. Watch for more information.

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 open twice every other week: Saturday from 9:00–11:00 a.m. and Tuesday from 4:00–6:30 p.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. 4/5 – Easter Sunday	
9:00 a	Contemporary Service
10:00 a	Kids Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 a	Traditional Service
Mon. 4/6	
7:00 p	Future Planning – Zoom
Tues. 4/7	
6:30 p	Deacons – FH
Wed. 4/8	
9:00 a	Finance Comm. - Cf
6:30 p	Praise Team Prac.
Thurs. 4/9	
7:30 a	Men’s Bible Study – AE
7:00 p	Trustees – FH
Fri. 4/10	
10:30 a	Choir Rehearsal – FH

Easter Plants—To Honor & Remember

Richard Gray	In remembrance of Charl Gray
Gary & Edna Hubbell	In loving memory of Tammy Hubbell Papp
Klaus Lehrer & Linda Frank	In remembrance of Frank & Elizabeth Lehrer, and Raymond & Adeline Frank
Nancy Muhlig	In remembrance of my husband, Rich Muhlig, and nephew, Scott Alexander
Don Reynolds	In remembrance of my wife, Pamela
Jan Shurte	In remembrance of Don Shurte, my husband, my friend
Sandy Sinclair	In remembrance of Bill Sinclair
Phyllis Staley	In remembrance and honor of Richard & Jeffrey Staley
Wonacott, Asiala & Elmore Families	In remembrance of Robert G. Wonacott, M.D.
Wonacott, Asiala & Elmore Families	In remembrance of Samuel & Grace Polony, Barbara & George Wonacott, and Virginia & Sam Pfeiffer