



## 9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, April 26, 2026

### Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome Rev. Jim Porter

Minute for Mission Janice London

Future Planning Update Rachel Hunter

Invitation to Worship Ben Vergote

Leader: In a world filled with noise and competing voices, Christ calls us by name. Let us quiet our hearts and minds as we listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd, who continues to speak to us today.

**All: Come, let us worship the living God!**

Worship Song - ***“Lead On Good Shepherd”***  
***“King Of My Heart”***

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 10:1-10

Sermon Rev. Jim Porter  
“Knowing His Voice:  
Listening for God in the Chaos of the World”

Responsive Song - ***“King of Love”***

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 – ***“This Little Light Of Mine”***

## 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 who are known by the Good Shepherd.

Listen for Christ's voice amid the noise of the world—  
in moments of stillness, in acts of love, in words of truth.

Do not follow voices that lead to fear or division,  
but follow the One who leads to life.

Walk in trust, live with courage, and listen with open hearts.

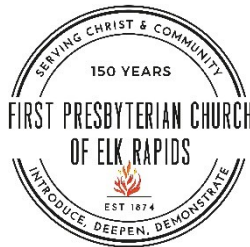
**All: Amen.**

## Benediction

## Postlude

## Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Kevin & Kathy Rogols, our snack volunteer: Phyllis Staley, and our coffee volunteer: Judy Husby.



**10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, April 26, 2026**

## Order of Worship

### Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“We Will Glorify”* by Paris

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Minute for Mission

Janice London

Future Planning Update

Pam Coleman

### Invitation and Centering Words

Leader: In a world filled with noise and competing voices, Christ calls us by name. Let us quiet our hearts and minds as we listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd, who continues to speak to us today.

### Ring of the Historic Church Bell

### Call to Worship

Betty Tezak

Leader: The Good Shepherd calls us by name.

**People: We come to listen for his voice.**

Leader: When the world is loud and confusing,

**People: Christ leads us beside still waters.**

Leader: When fear and chaos surround us,

**People: Christ opens the gate to the abundant life.**

Leader: Let us listen for His voice, One who knows us and leads us.

**All: Come, let us worship the living God!**

### Opening Prayer

Betty Tezak

**All: Good Shepherd, You call each of us by name and invite us into your care. In the midst of a noisy and restless world, we confess how easily we are distracted, how quickly we follow other voices. Quiet our hearts today. Still our anxious thoughts. Help us to recognize your voice—a voice of truth, grace, and life. Lead us into your presence, that we may be renewed, restored, and sent out to follow you more faithfully; through Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and our way to life abundant. Amen.**

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

### Prayer of Confession

Betty Tezak

**All: Gracious God, we confess that we do not always listen for your voice. We are distracted by the noise of the world, drawn to voices that promise quick answers or easy paths. Too often, we follow fear instead of trust, busyness instead of stillness, and our own desires instead of your will. You call us by name, yet we fail to recognize you. You lead us toward life, yet we wander toward what diminishes us. Forgive us, O God. Tune our hearts again to your voice. Teach us to listen, to trust, and to follow you. Restore us through your grace, and lead us into the fullness of life you intend.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

### Assurance of Pardon

Betty Tezak

Leader: Hear the good news: The Good Shepherd knows you, calls you by name, and does not abandon you.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and led into new life.**

Leader: We are no longer lost or alone—we belong to God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### Passing of the Peace

Betty Tezak

Leader: As those who are known and loved by the Good Shepherd, let us share signs of Christ’s peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you!

**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 – *“Saints Bound For Heaven”* arr. by King/Walker

### Scripture Reading – John 10:1-10

### Sermon

“Knowing His Voice:  
Listening for God in the Chaos of the World”

Rev. Jim Porter

### Responsive Hymn 518 – *“Your Only Son”*

### 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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## 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 are the Shepherd who provides all that we need. Out of the abundance of your grace, we offer these gifts back to you. Use them to bring hope where there is fear, peace where there is chaos, and guidance where many are searching for direction. May our giving reflect hearts that listen for your voice and lives that follow where you lead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Closing Hymn 801 – ***“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”***

## Mission Statement

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in moments of stillness, in acts of love, in words of truth.  
Do not follow voices that lead to fear or division,  
but follow the One who leads to life.  
Walk in trust, live with courage, and listen with open hearts.

**All: Amen.**

## Benediction

## 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, 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](http://www.erfpc.org) (click “Giving”), or by contacting Treasurer Mike Husby at [finmanager@erfpc.org](mailto:finmanager@erfpc.org). Thank you!

**Nursery** – Qualified caregivers welcome infants and children during the service.

**Thank You Youth Group!** A HUGE Thank You to the Youth Group for all the hard work in the Community Cupboard on April 19th. They put together 3 shelving units and removed two that were in dire need of replacement. Their enthusiasm and can-do attitude were very much appreciated.  
-- The Elk Rapids Community Cupboard Food Pantry.

**Thank You Community Dinner Volunteers!** Thank you to everyone who helped make our Free Community Dinner on April 21 such a wonderful success! With the help of many generous volunteers and our amazing guest chefs from Harrington's By the Bay, we were able to serve at least 175 dinners to friends, neighbors, and members of our community.

A special thank you to Karin, Dre, Amelia, June, Georgie, Stella, Gracie, Erin, Kristen, Shannon, Andy, Kelly, Jan, Val, Pam, Ken, Doug, Marty, Judy, Sheila, David, Jan, Christine, Mike, Josh, John, Zak, Sarah, Lorraine, Jim, Don, Kathy, Deb, Ellen, and many more who gave their time and energy to make the evening possible. Your kindness and servant hearts helped create a meaningful night for so many. We are grateful for each of you! And don't forget—our final spring Community Dinner will be Tuesday, May 19. We hope to see you there!

### **Future Planning Update**

On May 10, we'll be launching a church-wide survey called Forward in Faith: Led by God, Shaped by You. This survey is a part of the church-wide Future Planning process that our church has begun with the Center for Healthy Churches. Through this process, we hope to clarify our vision, focus our mission, and identify the life-giving needs of our church and community, with the goal of developing a 3-5 year ministry plan for our congregation as we seek to better serve our church, community, and the world at-large.

We're listening—because your voice matters as we plan the future of First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids. As we look ahead, we want to faithfully discern (seek understanding) where God is leading our church. Your input will help guide our priorities, strengthen our ministry, and ensure we continue serving our community with purpose and clarity.

This is an opportunity for every voice in our church to be heard. Your input will help guide our leadership as we plan for the future—how we grow, how we serve, and how we continue to be a meaningful presence in Elk Rapids and surrounding communities.

We invite all members and attendees to participate in our church-wide survey. It's simple, it's important, and it truly makes a difference. Our goal is 100% participation from our church family and all survey responses are strictly anonymous.

The survey will be online and paper copies will be available in the office or at Sunday Service.

The survey will close June 1, please have your responses submitted by that date.

If you have questions, please contact Rachel Hunter at [marketing@erfpc.org](mailto:marketing@erfpc.org) or call the office at 231-264-8167.

### **Youth Group Trampoline Party – Sunday, May 3 from 2-4 PM**

All youth are invited for an afternoon of high-flying fun at the brand-new Altitude Trampoline Park on **Sunday, May 3**, 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!

A graphic consisting of a dark grey, jagged-edged starburst shape with the words "NEW DATE" written in white, uppercase letters in the center.

### **New Member Class – Monday, May 4 at 5:30PM**

Are you thinking about joining the church and wondering what it means to be a member of ERFPC? Then, we invite you to join us on Monday, May 4 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. as we discuss what it means to join the church. Dinner will be served. Please sign up at the Activity Center, or email ([info@erfpc.org](mailto:info@erfpc.org)) or call (231 264 8167) the church office if you would like to attend and if you need child care.

### **Empty Bowls – Volunteers Needed & Tickets Available for May 3 Event**

Join the Northwest Food Coalition for Empty Bowls: Farm to Bowl – Local Roots, Shared Food on Sunday, May 3, from 11:00 AM–2:00 PM at Howe Arena in Traverse City. This meaningful, family-friendly event features delicious soups from local chefs, handcrafted bowls, and fun activities for all ages—all supporting food security in our community. Volunteers are still needed for a variety of roles. You can view job descriptions and sign up online. Tickets are also available online, at Oryana Community Co-op, or at the door. Come be part of this impactful community tradition—helping build a stronger, healthier Northern Michigan, one meal at a time.

### **Elk Rapids National Day of Prayer Gathering – Thursday, May 7 at 12:00PM**

Meet at the flag pole at the village offices for a short ecumenical 2026 National Day of Prayer Gathering. We'll come together as a community and pray for our nation and the world, as well as our local government leaders and public servants. Everyone is welcome!

### **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](mailto: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!

### **Final Spring Free Community Dinner – Tuesday, May 19 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!

### **Graduation Recognition – Sunday, June 7**

We will be recognizing those men and women in our church family who are graduating from high-school, college, university, or from a specialized school at the 9 or 10:30 a.m. service. Please call the church office at 231-264-8167 or email us at [info@erfpc.org](mailto:info@erfpc.org) to place the name of your graduate on our list. We are also requesting a small photo that we can include on a bulletin board to recognize our graduates.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Family Mission Trip to Presbytery Point – June 12-14**

We are planning a Family Mission Trip to Presbytery Point on June 12–14! All ages are welcome to attend, making this a wonderful opportunity for families to serve together. More details will be shared soon, but we'd love to begin getting a sense of interest. If your family is interested, please contact Shannah Vergote at 231-342-9098.

**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](mailto: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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](http://volunteeraccelerator.ministryarchitects.com/ERFPC/survey.html) Thanks for

your willingness to help out!

### **This Week's Activities**

**Sun. 4/26**

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

**Mon. 4/27**

9:00 p PEO – FH  
7:00 p Future Planning – Zoom

**Tues. 4/28**

9:00 a Women's Sm. Grp. – AE  
10:00 a Women's Sm. Grp. – Cf  
12:00 p Garden Club – FH

**Wed. 4/29**

6:30 p Praise Team Prac.

**Thurs. 4/30**

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE  
3:00 p Gospel Cct Prac – FH

**Fri. 5/1**

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH