



## 9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, May 3, 2026

### Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Minute for Mission

Tara DenHerder

Future Planning Update

Rachel Hunter

Invitation to Worship

Marie Zandler

Leader: Trusting God sounds so simple, but trust is a journey. Join the journey toward trust, for Christ will show us the way.

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

Worship Song - ***“Lion of Judah”***  
***“Beautiful One”***

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 14:1-21

Sermon

“There’s No Place Like Home!”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - ***“Draw Me Close”***

Celebration 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 – ***“Big House”***

## 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 in faith, trusting Christ, our firm foundation and our true home.  
Be brave in love, steadfast in hope, and generous in mercy.  
Carry God's peace into the world, knowing you never walk alone.

**All: Amen.**

## Benediction

## Postlude

### Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Jerry & Felicia Blight, our snack volunteer: Judy Husby, and our coffee volunteer: Judy Husby.

Thank you to our communion servers: Judy Husby, Magen Misico, Kathy Rogols and Don Reynolds.



**10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, May 3, 2026**

## Order of Worship

### Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Sing a New Song”* by Sleeth

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Minute for Mission – VBS

Future Planning Update

Keith Burns

### Invitation and Centering Words

Leader: Trusting God sounds so simple, but trust is a journey. Join the journey toward trust, for Christ will show us the way.

### Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

### Call to Worship

Joanne Teague

Leader: Come to Christ, the cornerstone of faith.

**People: Christ has called us here.**

Leader: Trust in God, our firm foundation when the road gets challenging.

**People: God is with us here.**

Leader: Rest in the Spirit, who gives us peace beyond our understanding.

**People: May the Spirit guide our way.**

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

Opening Prayer

Joanne Teague

**All: Faithful God, you are our refuge and our strength, a mighty fortress in a world of chaos and turmoil. Protect us, but also encourage us to be brave. Strengthen us to face this world and to help make it a better place. Inspire our worship, that in this time we may deepen our faith and place our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

Opening Hymn 301 – *“Let Us Build a House”*

Prayer of Confession

Joanne Teague

**All: Mighty God, we want to be brave, but it's tempting to be small and afraid. Lift us up when we fall down. Protect us from our own doubts and fears. Shine your face upon us with mercy and grace, that we might find the courage and strength to be steadfast and faithful, loving and righteous. Be our strong foundation, so that we may grow up as your household, your family, and your people of justice, love, and mercy. In hope and gratitude, we pray. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

Assurance of Pardon

Joanne Teague

Leader: God's faithful love is true, and God's strength is enough. Rest in God's love and trust in God's strength, for these gifts are all we need.

Passing of the Peace

Joanne Teague

Leader: Having received mercy and love from God, let's share mercy and love with one another— both now, as we share Christ's peace, and throughout the week ahead.

(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 – *“Come Away”* by Medema

Scripture Reading – John 14:1-21

Sermon

“There's No Place Like Home!”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 306 – *“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”* (vs. 1, 3, 5)

Celebration 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.*

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: God of steadfast faithfulness and love, bless these gifts, that they may bring your message of faith and love to the world. Bless us also, that we may be steadfast and true in our giving and in our**

**living. Build our church, build us, and build your world into a household of love and justice—the household you’ve envisioned since the beginning of time. In faith and trust, we pray. Amen.**

Closing Hymn 318 – *“In Christ There is No East or West”*

### 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 in faith, trusting Christ, our firm foundation and our true home.  
Be brave in love, steadfast in hope, and generous in mercy.  
Carry God’s peace into the world, knowing you never walk alone.

**All: Amen.**

### Benediction

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


### Postlude

## **Worship Concludes – Service Begins!**

Thank you. Special thanks to our usher: Rick Welsh, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteer: Judy Husby. Thank you to our communion servers: Betsy Argo, Keith Burns, Joanne Teague, and Don Reynolds.

**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.

 **Today is Loose Change Sunday** – All donations collected in the red bucket in the narthex will be given to the Elk Rapids Schools to help meet the needs of the 50 - 60 children who are currently experiencing homelessness or housing instability, as defined by the Federal McKinney-Vento Program.

**Youth Group Trampoline Party – Today from 2-4 PM** All youth are invited for an afternoon of high-flying fun at the brand-new Altitude Trampoline Park today from 2:00–4:00 PM. If you would like to attend, please contact Tara DenHerder. Online waivers must be completed in order to participate. We can’t wait to see you there!

**Empty Bowls – Today from 11AM-2PM** Join the Northwest Food Coalition for Empty Bowls today from 11:00 AM–2:00 PM at Howe Arena in Traverse City. This family-friendly event features delicious soups from local chefs, and handcrafted bowls—all supporting food security in our community. Tickets are available online, at Oryana Community Co-op, or at the door. Come be part of this community tradition!

### **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.

### **Future Planning Update**

Next Sunday, 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.

### **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 Vacation Bible School for children in Elk Rapids and the surrounding communities, and we need 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, and neighbors to be part of this 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!

### **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. Space is limited. Sign up available soon!

### **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).

### **Church Family Mission Trip to Presbytery Point – June 11-14**

We are planning a Church Family Mission Trip to Presbytery Point on June 11–14 (Thursday night - Sunday morning)! Join us for a weekend of service and fellowship in the beautiful U.P. as we help Presbytery Point Camp prepare for their summer season. Projects will be available for all ages, skill levels and abilities. All individuals and groups alike are encouraged to join us for this meaningful weekend. If interested, please contact Shannah Vergote at 231-342-9098.

**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. 5/3**

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

#### **Mon. 5/4**

5:30 p New Member Class – FH

#### **Tues. 5/5**

9:00 a Women's Sm. Grp. – AE  
10:00 a Women's Sm. Grp. – Cf  
6:30 p Deacons – FH

#### **Wed. 5/6**

3:00 p Service at Autumn House  
6:30 p Praise Team Prac.  
7:00 p Personnel – Cf

#### **Thurs. 5/7**

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE  
12:00 p Prayer at Village Office  
Flagpole  
1:30 p Worship MT  
3:00 p Gospel Cct Prac – FH

#### **Fri. 5/1**

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH