



## 9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, May 10, 2026

### Order of Worship

#### THE GATHERING:

Countdown

Opening Song – *“I’ll Fly Away”*

Welcome

Kyle Ripley

Invitation to Worship

Addie Seiple

Leader: Jesus says, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Abide in me as I abide in you.”

As we gather for worship today, may we open our hearts to the presence of Christ, the source of our life, hope, and love.

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

Opening Prayer

Kyle Ripley

Praise Song – *“Give Me Faith”*  
*“From The Inside Out”*

Children’s Message

Pastor Jim

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

- Video “True Love”

A Blessing for Moms and All the Women of the Church

Violet DenHerder

- Passing out flowers

Greet your neighbor!

*(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!)*

#### THE WORD & INTERVIEW:

Introduction – Author and Artist Rev. Bette Dickinson & Local Vinegrower Dave Bos

Scripture Reading – John 15:1-17

Message and Interview with Bette and Dave

#### RESPONSE & SENDING:

Time for Reflection and Song of Response – *“The Altar”*

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.*

## Announcements

Rev. Jim Porter

- Next Sunday, May 17, is Camp Sunday, with special guest speaker Wayne Potter!
- Last Community Dinner is May 19! Please join us!
- Vineyard Spiritual Retreat, Saturday, May 30

## Future Planning Update

Rachel Hunter

## Closing Song – *“Good In Every Way”*

## 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.**

## Benediction

Leader: Go now in the love and peace of Christ.

Abide in him, knowing that He abides in you.

May your life bear the fruit of compassion, joy, mercy, and peace.

And as branches connected to the True Vine,

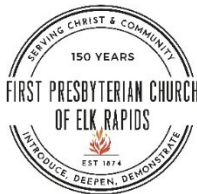
may we go into the world nourished by God’s grace and strengthened by the Spirit.

**All: Amen!**

## Postlude

## Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Lorraine Berak, Vergote Family, our snack volunteer: Kathy Rogols, and our coffee volunteer: Lorraine Berak.



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

## Order of Worship

### Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“The Gift of Love”* setting by Raney – Piano and Organ

Choral Prelude – *“Song of Love”* by Greer

### Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

### Future Planning Update

Keith Burns

### Invitation and Centering Words

Leader: Jesus says, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Abide in me as I abide in you.” As we gather for worship today, may we open our hearts to the presence of Christ, the source of our life, hope, and love.

## Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

### Call to Worship

Doug White

Leader: Jesus says, "I am the vine, and you are the branches."

**People: Rooted in Christ, we come to worship God.**

Leader: Jesus says, "Abide in me as I abide in you."

**People: We come seeking the life and love only Christ can give.**

Leader: Jesus said, "Apart from me, you can do nothing."

**People: Apart from Christ, we are dry and weary.**

Leader: In Christ, we are nourished, renewed, and made whole.

**People: Come, let us worship today the God who gives life to every branch and bears fruit through every generation.**

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

### Opening Prayer

Doug White

**All: Gracious God, you are the Vinegrower of our lives, nurturing us with patience, mercy, and love. Draw us close to Christ, the True Vine, that we may abide in him and He in us. Prune away whatever keeps us from loving you and loving one another fully, so that together we may be renewed by your love and grace.**

**On this Mother's Day, we thank you for the women who have shaped our lives and faith through compassion, strength, wisdom, and care. Bless them and all who gather today with your peace and presence, that our lives may bear the fruit of your Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Opening Hymn 14 – *"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

### Prayer of Confession

Doug White

**All: Faithful God, you invite us to abide in your love, yet too often we wander far from you. We struggle to bear fruit through our own strength and wisdom, and forget that apart from Christ we can do nothing. We confess that we have neglected prayer, withheld compassion, spoken harsh words, and failed to love one another as Christ has loved us. Forgive us, O God. Reconnect us to the life of Christ. Prune away our fear, our pride, and our selfishness, and renew us through your grace, so that our lives may bear the fruit of your Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

### Assurance of Pardon

Doug White

Leader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ, the True Vine, does not cast us aside. In mercy and love, Christ draws us near, restores us, and gives us new life. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### Passing of the Peace

Doug White

Leader: Since God has loved us so fully in Christ, let us share signs of Christ's peace 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.)

### Recognition and Blessing of Women

Leader: Today we give thanks for the women who enrich our lives, our families, our church, and our community. We honor mothers and grandmothers, stepmothers and foster mothers; and all women who nurture others through compassion and care, women who teach, lead, serve, and encourage, and women whose quiet faithfulness bears fruit every day.

We also remember with tenderness those for whom this day carries grief:

those who mourn mothers no longer with us, those estranged from family, those carrying sorrow, loss, or unmet hopes. May the love of Christ hold each one in grace.

## Celebrating our Moms and All the Women of the Church – “True Love” (Video)

### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing

Leader: Loving God, we thank you for the women whose love, courage, wisdom, and faith reflect your own care for the world. Bless the women of this congregation and community. Strengthen them when they are weary, encourage them when they are discouraged, and remind them that their lives bear fruit in ways seen and unseen. May they know how deeply they are loved by you and appreciated by this community of faith. Through Christ, the True Vine, we pray. Amen.

### Anthem – “This Is My Story and Song” arr. by Larson

### Scripture Reading – John 15:1–17

Special Message – “Abiding in the Vine”      An Interview with Author Bette Dickinson,  
And Vinegrower David Bos

### Responsive Hymn 710 – “We Are an Offering”

### Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Jim Porter

**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: Generous God, You have given us life in Christ, the True Vine. Bless these gifts we share today and use them to bear fruit in this church, this community, and throughout the world. May all that we offer become signs of your love and grace. Amen.**

### Closing Hymn 700 – “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

### 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.**

### Benediction

Leader: Go now in the love and peace of Christ.

Abide in him, knowing that He abides in you.

May your life bear the fruit of compassion, joy, mercy, and peace.

And as branches connected to the True Vine,

may we go into the world nourished by God’s grace and strengthened by the Spirit.

**All: Amen!**

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

Postlude – *“Lord of the Dance”* setting by Raney – Piano and Organ

**Worship Concludes – Service Begins!**

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Keith & Peg Burns, our snack volunteer: Marcia Sumerix, and our coffee volunteer: Lorraine Berak.

**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.

**Future Planning Update**

Today is the day! The church-wide survey called **Forward in Faith: Led by God, Shaped by You** has launched! 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.

**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, May 19 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!

Cost	Cash or Check	Online (includes processing fee)
Retreat & Lunch at TC Presbyterian	\$50.00	\$52.00 (includes \$2 processing fee)
Retreat, Lunch at TC Presbyterian & optional wine-tasting	\$65.00	\$68.00 (includes \$3 processing fee)

## 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 Ministry Match 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. 5/10 – Mother's Day**  
9:00 a Contemporary Service  
10:00 a SS & Youth – LH  
10:30 a Traditional Service

**Mon. 5/11**  
7:00 p Future Planning – Zoom

**Tues. 5/12**  
9:00 a Women's Sm. Grp. – AE  
10:00 a Women's Sm. Grp. – Cf

**Wed. 5/13**  
6:30 p Praise Team Prac.

**Thurs. 5/14**  
7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE  
3:00 p Gospel Cct Prac – FH

**Fri. 5/15**  
10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH  
2:00 p Alz Support Group