

9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, July 19, 2026

Order of Worship

THE GATHERING:

Countdown

Opening Song – ***“Trading My Sorrows”***

Welcome

Kyle Ripley

Invitation to Worship

Kathryn Wonacott

Leader: Whatever burdens we carry, whatever struggles we face, we come today as beloved children of God. Let us worship the One who meets us in our suffering, holds us in hope, and reminds us that we belong to God forever.

All: Come, let us worship the living God! Amen.

Opening Prayer

Kyle Ripley

Praise Song – ***“King Of Kings”***

Children’s Message

Paul Wonacott

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

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:

Scripture Reading – Romans 8:12-30

Message – “Labor Pains: Trusting God in the Midst of Life's Struggles” Rev. Jim Porter

RESPONSE & SENDING:

Time for Reflection and Song of Response – ***“Here I Am To Worship”***

Commissioning Paul Wonacott to the Ministry of Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Pastor: Today, we give thanks to God and celebrate a new season in the life and ministry of our congregation as we commission Paul Wonacott, who has begun serving among us as our new Director of Youth and Family Ministries.

Clerk of Session: Will Paul Wonacott please come forward to receive commissioning to the ministry of Director of Youth and Family Ministries?

Clerk: The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life in Christ that we enter through our baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

(to Paul) In response to the call of God upon your life, do you accept Christ’s call to serve as Director of Youth and Family Ministries for this church and the community we serve?

Pastor: Hear these words of Scripture from Ephesians 4:

Lead a life worthy of your calling to which you have been called, to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

(To Paul:)

Paul, you have been called to walk alongside the children, youth, and families of this congregation; to help them know that they are beloved children of God; to encourage them as they grow in faith; and to help equip them to follow Jesus Christ with courage, compassion, and hope.

With this in mind, as you begin this ministry, I ask you to reaffirm your faith in God and our Lord Jesus Christ:

Do you follow Christ as your Lord and Savior? (I do.)

Will you be Christ's faith disciple, obeying His word and showing His love? (I will.)

Do you promise to serve faithfully in this ministry; to seek Christ in all people; to nurture the faith of our children and youth; and to lead with humility, wisdom, joy, and love? (I do.)

Will you strive to serve the people of this church and community with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit? (I will.)

(For the congregation)

Pastor: Will the congregation please stand?

People of God, do you promise to welcome and encourage Paul in this ministry, to pray for him, to work alongside him, and to also do your part in support our children, youth, and families as together we seek to follow Christ Jesus our Lord?

Congregation: We do, with God's help.

Prayer of Commissioning

Clerk: Let us pray.

Gracious and loving God,
you call each of us your beloved children
and give each of us gifts for the building up of the body of Christ.

We give you thanks for Paul and for calling him to serve among us. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon him. Give him wisdom in times of uncertainty, patience in times of challenge, joy in times of celebration, and love in every encounter.

Bless the children, youth, and families entrusted to his care. May they know through his ministry—and through the life of this congregation—that they are known, loved, and forever held as your beloved children.

Bless Paul, bless his ministry, and bless us all as together we seek to nurture faith, share Christ's love, and serve your world.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Pastor: Paul, whatever joys or challenges lie ahead, remember this promise: You are a beloved child of God, you do not serve alone, and the Spirit of God goes with you.

In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of this congregation, we commission you to the ministry to which God has called you.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

Minute for Mission

Don Reynolds

Closing Song – “*You Know 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.**

Charge to the Congregation

Leader: Go into the world remembering who you are and to whom you belong.

You are children of God. You are held by grace. And whatever struggles you face, the Spirit goes with you—helping you in your weakness, sustaining you in hope, and reminding you that you belong to God now and forever.

So go in faith. Go in hope. Go in love, seeking always to love and serve others in Jesus' name.

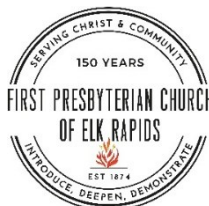
All: Amen!

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Shelia Conrad & Bonnie Johnson, our snack volunteer: Shelia Conrad, and our coffee volunteer: Bonnie Johnson.

Chancel flowers are placed by Jan Shurte in memory of Don Shurte.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, July 19, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “*Wade in the Water*” arr. by Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jim Porter

Minute for Mission

Don Reynolds

Invitation and Centering Words

Leader: Whatever burdens we carry, whatever struggles we face, we come today as beloved children of God. Let us worship the One who meets us in our suffering, holds us in hope, and reminds us that we belong to God forever.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Sandi Gray

Leader: All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

People: We have received the Spirit of adoption, and so we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

Leader: When we suffer, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

People: When we do not know how to pray, the Spirit intercedes for us.

Leader: In hope we have been saved, and in hope we wait with patience.

People: We belong to God. We are children of God.

All: Come, let us worship God today with hope and joy!

Opening Prayer

Sandi Gray

All: Loving God, you have called us your children and welcomed us into your family of grace. Meet us today in our joy and in our sorrow, in our strength and in our weakness. By your Spirit, open our hearts to your presence and fill us with the hope that comes from knowing that we will always belong to you, both now and forevermore. Amen.

Opening Hymn 835 – *"Just a Closer Walk With Thee"*

Prayer of Confession

Sandi Gray

All: Merciful God, you call us your beloved children, yet we often live as though we are alone. When life is difficult and the future uncertain, we give in to fear and lose hope. We forget that your Spirit is still at work within us and among us, and we sometimes turn away from those who are hurting. Forgive us, O God. Remind us that we belong to you. Teach us to trust your presence in life's struggles, to wait with patience when answers do not come easily, and to show compassion to all who suffer. By your grace, restore us. By your Spirit, strengthen us. And by your love, lead us into the freedom and hope of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Sandi Gray

Leader: Hear the good news: We have not received a spirit of fear, but the Spirit of adoption. We are children of God and heirs with Christ. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and held forever in God's grace.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Sandi Gray

Leader: Because we belong to Christ, we belong to one another. As children of God, let us share the peace that Christ alone can give. The peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

(Let us share the peace of Christ with one another. And don't forget to sign the Friendship Pads!)

Anthem – *"I Must Tell Jesus"* arr. by Hughes

Scripture Reading – Romans 8:12-30

Sermon “Labor Pains: Trusting God in the Midst of Life's Struggles” Rev. Jim Porter

Anthem – “*His Love Never Fails*” by Courtney

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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 have given us the greatest gift of all: the assurance that we are your beloved children. Receive these gifts and use them to bring hope to the suffering, strength to the weary, welcome to the lonely, and the good news of your love to all. May our lives, as well as our offerings, bear witness to your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn 837 – ***"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"***

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So go in faith. Go in hope. Go in love, seeking always to love and serve others in Jesus' name.

All: Amen!

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

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you Willie Dahl for playing trumpet this morning!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteer: Bonnie Johnson.

Chancel flowers are placed by Jan Shurte in memory of Don Shurte.

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.

Commissioning of Paul Wonacott – Today

Today we're excited to commission Paul Wonacott as our new Director of Youth & Family Ministries during both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services. This special time of prayer and blessing marks the beginning of Paul's ministry with our church family. We encourage everyone to welcome and support him in this important role.

ONE 10:30AM Outdoor Service – Sunday, July 26

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for an Outdoor Worship Service on Sunday, July 26 at 10:30 a.m. Bring your own chairs and we'll spread out under the tent next to the parking lot. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Future Planning Committee Town Hall Meetings – July 26 & July 28

The Future Planning Committee will host two Town Hall-style informational meetings to share the results of the congregational survey and the Future Planning and Visioning Retreat held at the end of June:

Sunday, July 26, at 9:15 a.m.

Prior to our outdoor worship service at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday, July 28, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

For those unable to attend in person.

These meetings will provide an opportunity to learn more about the planning process, hear what we have discovered, ask questions, and consider how you can help move this work forward. We hope everyone can attend!

What would you do if an armed subject entered the church? Find out on Tuesday, July 21, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Presented by our Safety/Security Team, Antrim County Sheriff Kevin Hoch, and Undersheriff George Lasater, this session will provide information to help you respond in an emergency. A light dinner will be provided, and child care is available. Please sign up at the Activity Center so we can plan accordingly. Don't miss this possible lifesaving session.

Listening for God – New Contemplative Prayer Gathering

All are invited to join *Listening for God*, our contemplative prayer gathering, as we seek a deeper awareness of God's presence through silence, prayer, and reflection. **The next gathering will be Tuesday, July 28 at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary.** We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Come experience a peaceful time of resting in God's presence and listening for God's guidance.

Carpet Cleaning Notice: The carpets in the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary will be professionally cleaned on Wednesday, July 29 and Thursday, July 30. Please help us by avoiding walking on the carpeted areas while the cleaning and drying process is underway. If you have any questions, please contact Peg Burns at 616-901-0960.

Harbor Voices Concerts – Thursday, August 6 & Friday, August 7 at 7:00PM

We are hosting the Harbor Voices special concert of Patriotic Music at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 6 and Friday, August 7, as part of the Harbor Days celebrations. Come celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country!

Is God Calling You to Serve?

God is doing exciting things at First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids, and we believe God has wonderful things in store for our congregation in the years ahead. As we continue to seek God's vision for our future, we are looking for faithful followers of Jesus Christ who feel called to serve in leadership. Could God be nudging your heart to serve?

Each year, members of our congregation are called to serve as church officers in one of three important ministries:

Elders provide spiritual leadership and help guide the mission and ministry of our church through Session and its ministry teams.

Deacons lead ministries of compassion, care, and service, offering Christ's love to our congregation and community through visitation, Communion, funeral hospitality, and other acts of care.

Trustees provide faithful stewardship of the church's property, finances, and legal responsibilities, helping ensure that our congregation has the resources needed for ministry.

This year we are still seeking **2 Deacons** for the Class of 2029 and **1 Deacon** for the Class of 2028

Please take time to pray and ask whether God may be calling you to serve in one of these leadership roles. If you sense God leading you—or if you would simply like to learn more—we encourage you to speak with a member of the Nominating Team. (Church officers must be members of First Presbyterian Church.)

Nominating Team: Judy Husby (Co-Chair), Betty Tezak (Co-Chair), Joanne Teague, Lynda Nichols, Tom Klingler, and Chad Vergote.

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 –Thank you for supporting the Elk Rapids Community Cupboard! The 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.

This Week's Activities

Sun. 7/19

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 7/20

Tues. 7/21

3:00 p Harbor Voices Prac. – Sanc.
6:00 p Active Shooter Training – FH

Wed. 7/22

6:30 p Praise Team Prac.
7:00 p Session Meeting

Thurs. 7/23

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE

Fri. 7/24

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH



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 Thanks for your willingness to help out!