



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, August 9, 2026

Order of Worship

THE GATHERING:

Countdown

Opening Song – ***“Holy Forever”***

Welcome

Kyle Ripley

Invitation to Worship

Stella Barraw

Leader: As we gather in your presence, quiet our minds, open our hearts, and awaken our spirits to your voice. Remove whatever distracts us from seeing you more clearly and hearing your Word more deeply. Shape us through our worship today, that our thoughts and our lives may be transformed by your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Opening Prayer

Kyle Ripley

Praise Song – ***“Revelation Song”***

Children’s Message

Laura Asiala

(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 – Isaiah 43:1
Luke 15:11-24

Message – “Belonging to God, Belonging to our Church Home”

Paul Wonacott

RESPONSE & SENDING:

Time for Reflection and Song of Response – ***“Stand In Your 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.

Announcements

Paul Wonacott

Closing Song – *“Leaning On The Everlasting Arms”*

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 and Benediction

Leader: Go into the world remembering who you are: beloved children of God.

When you wander, God will seek you.

When you feel unworthy, God will embrace you.

When others need welcome, open your arms as God has opened them to you.

For we belong to God—no matter what.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

be with you and remain with you,

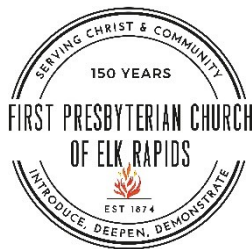
now and always.

All: Amen!

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our usher: Deb Broderick & Mel Matchett, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteer.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, August 9, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Sheep May Safely Graze”* by J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Paul Wonacott

Invitation and Centering Words

Paul Wonacott

Leader: As we gather in your presence, quiet our minds, open our hearts, and awaken our spirits to your voice. Remove whatever distracts us from seeing you more clearly and hearing your Word more deeply. Shape us through our worship today, that our thoughts and our lives may be transformed by your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ring of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Doug White

Leader: The One who created us calls each of us by name.

People: We are God's, and we belong to Him.

Leader: In Christ, we are gathered into one family of faith.

People: Here we belong to one another in love.

Leader: The One who holds our lives in His hands is with us always.

People: We worship with confidence and gratitude, because we belong to God and to this church family.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord!

Opening Prayer

Doug White

All: Open our hearts to your presence in this time of worship. Deepen our confidence that we are yours. As we experience the joy of belonging to you, make us people who help others find a place of welcome, belonging, and love within this family of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Opening Hymn 300 – *“We Are One in the Spirit”*

Prayer of Confession

Doug White

All: Merciful God, we confess that we often live as though we do not belong to you. We become consumed by our worries, distracted by our ambitions, forgetting that our lives are held securely in your hands. Too often, we wander from you, seeking satisfaction and identity in places that cannot truly satisfy. We lose sight of the Father's love and forget the home that has always been ours. Forgive us, O God. Thank you that when we turn back to you, we find your open arms. Renew our hearts and our minds with the assurance that we are yours; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Doug White

Leader: Hear the good news! When we forget whose we are, God never forgets us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and renewed. Receive this gift with joy, and live each day in the freedom of God's unfailing love.

All: Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Doug White

Leader: Having been welcomed by God's grace, let us welcome one another with that same generous love. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also 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.)

Anthem – *“Saints Bound for Heaven”* by Larson

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 43:1

Luke 15:11-24

Sermon

“Belonging to God, Belonging to our Church Home”

Paul Wonacott

Responsive Hymn 354 – ***“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”***

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Paul Wonacott

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Giving Back to God

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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

Paul Wonacott

All: Generous God, everything we have comes from your loving hand. Receive these gifts and use them to seek those who feel lost, welcome those who feel forgotten, and assure all people that they have a place in your family. May our lives reflect the joyful and abundant grace we have received from you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Postlude – *“La Pas Espagnol”* by Gabriel Faure

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

Mission Statement

Paul Wonacott

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and demonstrate Christ’s way of love in service to the world.**

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For we belong to God—no matter what.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

be with you and remain with you,

now and always.

All: Amen!

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

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you Ann Murray and Terri Lynn Palmer for playing piano duets for us.

Thank you. Special thanks to our usher: Karen Kies & Dave Nussdorfer, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteer.

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 Treasurer@erfpc.org. Thank you!

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

Parents' Dinner & Ministry Meetings

Parents are invited to join us for dinner and a conversation about the upcoming ministry year at the Lighthouse with our Director of Youth & Family Ministries, Paul Wonacott.

Monday, August 10, at 6:00 p.m. – For parents of Sunday School children (Preschool–5th Grade)

Wednesday, August 12, at 6:00 p.m. – For parents of Youth (6th Grade–High School Seniors)

Come learn about plans for the year ahead, ask questions, and connect with other families. **Please RSVP to Paul Wonacott at pwonacott@erfpc.org if you plan to attend so he can plan for dinner.**

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, August 11 at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary.** We normally 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.

Celebrating Our 90-Year-Olds! – Sunday, September 13

Join us on Sunday, September 13, as we honor members of our church family who are celebrating their 90th birthday this year. The Deacons will host a cake reception between the worship services as we give thanks for their lives, faith, and the many ways they have blessed our congregation. This year, we are especially celebrating our newest 90-year-olds, Connie Claar and Leonard Orzechowski. We hope you'll stop by to congratulate them and enjoy a time of fellowship together!

Joyful Abundance! Women's Conference on Saturday, September 19

Save the date September 19 for Joyful Abundance! Psalm 16:11 "In Your presence is fullness of joy." The Antrim County Christian Community of Churches is having a Women's Conference featuring author/writer Christine Hoy. It is on Saturday, Sept 19 from 9-2 at the Bellaire High School Performing Arts Center. We will be carpooling to Bellaire. Cost is \$20 pp. including lunch. Register at our website (erfpc.org) on the Women's Retreat scrolling banner or use this link: <https://newhopecc.churchcenter.com/registrations/signups/3568994>. Contact Marcia Sumerix for more information.

Is God Calling You to Serve?

From our Church Nominations Team: We have good news! All positions for Session and the Trustees are now filled. Thanks be to God!

We are now looking for just two more people to serve as **Deacons** for the church. Our Deacons are a great group of people who lead ministries of care, compassion, and service to both our church and community, providing help with communion preparation, funeral hospitality, coffee on Sunday mornings, and occasional visitation to homebound members of the church.

Could God be nudging your heart to serve in this important ministry?

If so, please contact a member our 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.



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!

This Week's Activities

Sun. 8/9

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

Mon. 8/10

9:00 a PEO – FH
6:00 p Sunday School Parents
Dinner & Meeting – LH

Tues. 8/11

12:00 p Contempl. Prayer – Sanc.

Wed. 8/12

9:00 a Finance Comm. – Cf
6:00 p Youth Parents Dinner &
Meeting – LH
6:30 p Praise Team Prac.
7:00 p Personnel – Cf

Thurs. 8/13

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE
7:00 p Trustees – FH

Fri. 8/14

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – Sanc.
Keaton Rehearsal Dinner

Sat. 8/15

Keaton Wedding