



## 9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, August 23, 2026

### Order of Worship

#### THE GATHERING:

Countdown

Opening Song – ***“Hallelujah (Your Love Is Amazing)”***

Welcome

Kyle Ripley

Invitation to Worship

Ben Vergote

Leader: We come to worship God, who knows us and loves us just as we are. Let us open our hearts to God and learn how to share God’s true love with others.

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

Opening Prayer

Kyle Ripley

Praise Song – ***“My Lighthouse”***

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!)*

Children’s Message

Paul Wonacott

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

#### THE WORD:

Scripture Reading – Romans 12:9-21

Message – ***“Let Love Be Genuine!”***

Rev. Jim Porter

#### RESPONSE & SENDING:

Time for Reflection and Song of Response – ***“By Your Side”***

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

- Fireside Gathering
- Fall Kickoff Sunday – Backpacks, Bibles and New Beginnings

## Minute for Mission

Marcia Sumerix

## 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 and Benediction

Leader: Go now into a world that is hungry for what is real.

Let your love be genuine!

Hold fast to what is good.

Love one another deeply.

Rejoice in hope.

Persevere in prayer.

Practice hospitality.

Live peaceably with all.

And do not be overcome by evil,

but overcome evil with good,

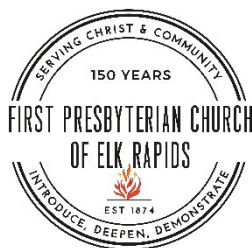
Knowing that redeeming love of God goes with you!

**All: Amen.**

## Postlude

## Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our usher: Jerry & Felicia Blight, our snack volunteer: Shelia Conrad, and our coffee volunteer: Shelia Conrad.



**10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, August 23, 2026**

## Order of Worship

## Countdown to Worship

## Prelude – “*Classic Praise*” by Harlan

## Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jim Porter

- Fireside Gathering
- Fall Kickoff Sunday – Backpacks, Bibles and New Beginnings

## Minute for Mission

Marcia Sumerix

## Invitation and Centering Words

Leader: In our Scripture reading today, Paul calls us to “Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, and hold fast to what is good.” In a world filled with competing voices, carefully crafted images, and things that are not always what they seem, we come seeking what is real. As we come to worship today, let us open our hearts to God whose love is genuine, whose word is trustworthy, and whose grace gives us life.

## Ring of the Historic Church Bell

### Call to Worship

Ginny Dorner

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let your love be genuine.

**People: Let us hold fast to what is good.**

Leader: Love one another with mutual affection.

**People: Let us rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer.**

Leader: Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

**People: Let us live in harmony with one another.**

Leader: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**All: Come, let us worship the living God with sincere hearts and genuine love today and always!**

### Opening Prayer

Ginny Dorner

**All: God of truth and love, you know us completely and love us still. As we come to worship today, quiet the distractions that compete for our attention. Open our hearts to your presence and our lives to your transforming Spirit. Teach us to love without pretending, to seek what is good, to care deeply for one another, and to discover our truest purpose in following Jesus Christ. Make our worship sincere and our faith genuine, that the lives we live may reflect the love we have received from you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## Opening Hymn 667 – *“When Morning Gilds the Skies”*

### Prayer of Confession

Ginny Dorner

**All: Merciful God, you call us to let our love be genuine, yet too often we settle for shallow appearances. We present carefully chosen versions of ourselves while hiding our struggles, fears, and failures. We speak of love, yet sometimes fail to practice patience, hospitality, generosity, and forgiveness.**

**Forgive us, O God, when our faith remains superficial and when our lives do not reflect the love we proclaim. Draw us once again to Jesus, who shows us what genuine love looks like. By your Spirit, make us honest in our faith, generous in our relationships, steadfast in hope, and courageous in doing what is good. Teach us to love as Christ has loved us, so that our lives may bear witness to what is true. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

### Assurance of Pardon

Ginny Dorner

Leader: Friends, the good news of the gospel is not based on appearances or pretense. God knows us fully and loves us completely. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new. We are set free to live with honesty, courage, and genuine love.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### Passing of the Peace

Ginny Dorner

Leader: As God has forgiven with a love that is genuine, so let us share that love and forgiveness with others. Please greet those around you with the words:  
Peace be with you!

**People: 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 – *“This World Is Not My Home”* by Jauldin

Scripture Reading – Romans 12:9-21

Sermon

*“Let Love Be Genuine!”*

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 695 – *“Change My Heart, O Lord”*

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

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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, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from you. Receive these gifts as you also receive our lives today. Use them to create genuine community, to welcome the stranger, to care for those in need, to bring hope to those who are discouraged, and to overcome evil with good. May our generosity be more than words; may it become a visible expression of the genuine love of Christ at work within us and through us. Amen.**

Closing Hymn 313 – *“Lord, Make Us More Holy”*

Mission Statement

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Charge and Benediction

**Leader:** Go now into a world that is hungry for what is real.

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Live peaceably with all.

And do not be overcome by evil,

but overcome evil with good,

Knowing that redeeming love of God goes with you!

**All: Amen.**

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

### Postlude

### Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Don Reynolds & Rick Welsh, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteer: Shelia Conrad.

**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 [Treasurer@erfpc.org](mailto:Treasurer@erfpc.org). Thank you!

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

### Fireside Gathering – Today at 6:00 PM

Join us for a fun evening around the fire on Sunday, August 23, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the fire pit outside the Lighthouse! We’ll enjoy hot dogs, s’mores, and worship music around the campfire. Everyone is invited! Come gather, connect, and enjoy a summer evening together.

### ONE 10:30AM Outdoor Service – Sunday, August 30

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for an Outdoor Worship Service on Sunday, August 30 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!

### Next Loose Change Sunday – September 6 with Donations for Safe Haven Program

Our next Loose Change Sunday is September 6, supporting the Safe Haven Program of Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan. Safe Haven provides a safe, welcoming place for children to visit a non-custodial parent or transition safely between parents during difficult family situations. Through trained staff and a supportive environment, the program helps replace fear with hope and provides stability for children. Thank you for helping support this vital ministry of hope and protection.

The Outreach Ministry Team: Janice London, Lynne Elmore, Betty Tezak, Ken Kohlman, Barb Cole, and Judy Husby

### 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 25 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.

### Sunday School & Youth Kickoff – September 13

Join us on Sunday, September 13, for our Sunday School & Youth Kickoff! After the 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service, children, youth, and parents are invited to gather at the Lighthouse for breakfast. Children and youth will enjoy a group activity while parents meet together to learn more about the upcoming ministry year. All children, youth, and parents are welcome!

### 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. Bags for Connie and Leonard are available on the Welcome Table, along with cards if you would like to write them a special birthday message. Please feel free to place your cards in the appropriate bags.

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](http://erfpc.org)) on the Women’s Retreat scrolling banner or use this link: <https://newhopecc.churchcenter.com/registrations/signups/3568994>. Call or text Marcia Sumerix at 989-964-1420 for more information.

## Save the Date: The Art of Vinemaking Retreat – Saturday, October 24

Save the date for The Art of Vinemaking Retreat, a half-day spiritual formation retreat led by Bette Dickinson. Come for a meaningful time of reflection, creativity, and spiritual renewal as we explore the art of growing and tending our faith. More details coming soon!

**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** – 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](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. 8/23

9:00 a Contemporary Service  
10:30 a Traditional Service  
6:00 p Fireside Gathering – LH

#### Mon. 8/24

#### Tues. 8/25

12:00 p Contemplative Prayer

#### Wed. 8/26

6:30 p Praise Team Prac.

#### Thurs. 8/27

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE

#### Fri. 8/28

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH