



10:30 AM One Outdoor Service • Sunday, August 30, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “*Song of Love*” arr. by Greer

Welcome and Announcements

Kyle Ripley

- Fall Kickoff Sunday, September 13 – Backpacks, Bibles and New Beginnings
- The Art of Vinemaking New Sermon Series begins September 20

Minute for Mission

Janice London

Invitation and Centering Words

Arden Ruedi

Leader: As we gather in this sacred space, let us quiet our minds and open our hearts to the presence of the Holy Spirit. Leave behind the distractions of the week and breathe in God's peace. We come exactly as we are—drawn by grace, sustained by love, and ready to hear God's word for us today. Let us be fully present to the Divine and to one another.

Call to Worship

Sandi Gray

Leader: Come, let us remember the God who hears the cries of those who are weary and burdened.

People: We come to worship the God who leads us from slavery into freedom.

Leader: God calls us to stop, to rest, and to remember that we are more than what we produce.

People: We come seeking the freedom that only God can give.

Leader: Let us lay down our burdens and receive the gift of Sabbath rest.

All: We worship the God who sets us free. Let us worship together!

Opening Prayer

Sandi Gray

All: Holy God, you are the God who brought your people out of Egypt and led them into freedom. You remind us that we are not slaves to our work, our worries, or the demands of the world. You call us to stop, to breathe, to rest, and to remember that our lives belong to you. Quiet our busy hearts this day. Help us release the burdens we carry and receive the gift of Sabbath. Teach us that rest is not weakness, but a holy reminder that you are God and we are your beloved children. Free us from whatever keeps us from experiencing your peace. Help us trust you enough to rest. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn 375 – “*Shall We Gather at the River*”

Verse 1

**Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?**

Refrain

**Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.**

Verse 2

**On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day.**
[Refrain]

Verse 3

**Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown.**
[Refrain]

Verse 4

**Soon we'll reach the shining river;
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace.**
[Refrain]

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Greet your neighbor!

(Before you sit down, please turn and greet your neighbor. Also, please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad. Thanks!)

Children's Message

Paul Wonacott

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

Scripture Reading – Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Shannon VanDenBerge

Sermon

“Sabbath Rest:

Shannon VanDenBerge

Experiencing God's Liberation from Egypt's Enslavement”

Responsive Song – **“Shout to the North”**

Men of faith rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak
In your brokenness complete

Shout to the North and the South
Sing to the East and the West
Jesus is savior to all
Lord of heaven and earth

Rise up women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing power
Of our awesome King of love

We've been through fire we've been
through rain
We've been refined by the power of his name
We've fallen deeper in love with you
You've burned the truth on our lips

Rise up church with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high
By His grace again we'll fly

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Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Shannon VanDenBerge

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

Shannon VanDenBerge

- 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.

Closing Song – **“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”**

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.
What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!
Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

You know I'm leanin', leanin'.
You know I'm leanin', leanin'.
You know I'm leanin' on the Everlasting.
You know I'm leanin', leanin'.
You know I'm leanin', leanin'.
You know I'm leanin' on the Everlasting.

Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.

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Mission Statement

Shannon VanDenBerge

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

Shannon VanDenBerge

Leader: Go now in the freedom of God's love.

Rest when you are weary.

Trust when you are afraid.

Release what you cannot control.

Remember that you belong to God.

And may the God who brought his people out of slavery, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit go with you this day and always.

All: Amen.

Benediction Response – *"Let There Be Peace On Earth"*

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God as our Father
Children all are we
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me

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Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Don & Louise Pond, our snack volunteer, 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 (click "Giving"), or by contacting Treasurer Mike Husby at Treasurer@erfpc.org. Thank you!

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

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, September 8 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) 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.

The Art of Vinemaking – New Sermon Series & Small Groups

A new sermon series begins September 20 through Oct 18 based on the book The Art of Vinemaking by Bette Dickinson. Books are available on Amazon for \$18.99 or on Kindle through Amazon for \$7.99. We also will have copies available in the narthex for \$20. In addition to the sermons on Sundays we will be having a small group discussion on Monday evenings at 7 pm for those that want to explore the deeper meaning of John 15 "I am the vine, you are the branches, if you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." Monday evenings will be a video and discussion format. Please sign up in the narthex beginning September 6.

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 – 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. 8/30
10:30 a One Outdoor Service
Mon. 8/31
Tues. 9/1
6:30 p Deacons – FH
Wed. 9/2
6:30 p Praise Team Prac.
Thurs. 9/3
1:30 p Worship – FH
Fri. 9/4
10:30 a Choir Rehearsal –

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