

9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, September 13, 2026

Order of Worship

THE GATHERING:

Countdown

Opening Song – ***“Marvelous Light”***

Welcome

Kyle Ripley

Invitation to Worship

Autumn Snyder

Leader: We do not come to worship because we all think alike or agree on everything. We come because, despite all our differences, we belong to the Lord.

All: Come, let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer

Kyle Ripley

Praise Song – ***“Shout To The North”***

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!)

Blessing of the Backpacks

Paul Wonacott

(Children & youth are invited to come forward at this time of blessing.)

THE WORD:

Scripture Reading – Romans 14:1-13

Message – ***“We Belong to the Lord”***

Rev. Jim Porter

RESPONSE & SENDING:

Time for Reflection and Song of Response – ***“Gratitude”***

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

- Sunday School & Youth Kickoff Today
- 90th Birthday Celebration Today
- The Art of Vinemaking New Sermon Series begins September 20

Rev. Jim Porter
Paul Wonacott

Closing Song – *“Let’s Trust In Jesus”*

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

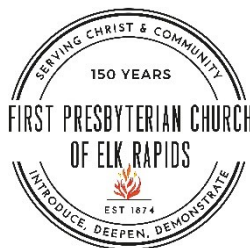
Leader: As you go into the world,
remember these words of Paul:
“Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.”
First and foremost, we belong to God.
So go with humility.
Be slow to criticize and quick to listen.
Refuse to tear down what God is building up.
Make room for differences.
Extend grace generously.
And above all, remember that the person with whom you disagree
is a beloved child of God just as surely as you are!

All: Amen.

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our usher: Nate & Kelly Peck and family, our snack volunteer: Bonnie Johnson, and our coffee volunteer: Bonnie Johnson.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, September 13, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Thou Art Holy”* by Courtney

Welcome and Announcements

- 90th Birthday Celebration Today
- The Art of Vinemaking New Sermon Series begins September 20

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Leader: We do not come to worship because we all think alike or agree on everything. We come because, despite all our differences, we belong to the Lord. Come, let us worship God together.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Doug White

Leader: Welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us.

People: For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

Leader: If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.

People: Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's and belong to God.

Leader: So let us not judge one another, but seek what makes for peace.

All: So let us not judge one another, but seek what makes for peace.

Opening Prayer

Doug White

All: Gracious God, you have called us together as your people, not because we are all the same, but because we all belong to you. In a world quick to criticize and slow to listen, teach us the way of humility and grace. Help us to listen before we speak, to seek understanding when we disagree, and to see one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. By your Spirit, unite us in worship and shape us into a community where grace is greater than judgment, love is stronger than disagreement, and Christ remains at the center of all we do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn 386 – *"Come Worship God"*

Prayer of Confession

Doug White

All: Merciful God, we confess that we are often quick to judge and slow to extend grace. We criticize those who see things differently than we do. We allow our opinions to become more important than our relationships. We speak when we should listen, assume when we should seek understanding, and sometimes insist on being right rather than seeking to love. Forgive us, Lord. Give us humble hearts that recognize our own need for grace. Teach us to welcome one another as you have welcomed us, to build one another up rather than tear one another down, and to remember that each of us belongs to you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Doug White

Leader: Hear the good news: We do not belong to our failures, our divisions, or our mistakes. We belong to the Lord. In Jesus Christ, we are welcomed, forgiven, and made new. So let us receive God's grace—and offer that same grace to one another. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Doug White

Leader: Because we belong to Christ, we also belong to one another. So whether we agree on everything or not, we can meet one another with grace, humility, and 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 – *"Sov'reign Lord, Creator, Righteous One"* arr. by McDonald

Scripture Reading – Romans 14:1-13

Responsive Hymn 401 – ***"Gather Us In"***

Celebrating our 90-Year-Olds

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 belongs to you. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and use them to build up your church, care for those in need, and share the love of Christ with our community and world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn 69 – ***"Here I Am, Lord"***

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: As you go into the world,
remember these words of Paul:
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And above all, remember that the person with whom you disagree
is a beloved child of God just as surely as you are!

All: Amen.

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

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

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

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.

Blessing of the Backpacks – Today During the 9AM Service

As our children and youth begin a new school year, we want to surround them with prayer, encouragement, and a reminder that God goes with them wherever they go. Kids are invited to bring their backpacks to our 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service for a special Blessing of the Backpacks. Each child will also receive a Scripture cross keychain to attach to their backpack and carry with them throughout the year.

Sunday School & Youth Kickoff – Today After the 9AM Service

After worship, children, youth, and parents are invited to head over to the Lighthouse for breakfast as we kick off another year of Sunday School and Youth Group! While the kids and youth enjoy an activity together, parents will have a chance to hear more about what's ahead for the year. Whether your family has been part of our church for years or you're just getting connected, you are welcome. We would love to have you join us. Please contact Paul Wonacott at pwonacott@erfpc.org for any questions.

Celebrating Our 90-Year-Olds! – Today Between Services

Join us today as we honor members of our church family who are celebrating their 90th birthday this year. The Deacons are hosting 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

Final Call for the Women's Retreat on September 19th "Joyful Abundance." Marcia Sumerix will be available between the services from 10-10:30 and after the 10:30 service to help you sign up for the Women's Conference and arrange for carpooling to Bellaire for the conference. Don't miss this conference featuring speaker/author Christine Hoy, author of *Keeping Company with Jesus and Peace Beyond Perfection*. The conference is from 9-2 and includes lunch for \$20. Come and join other women in our church community for a day of peace, fellowship and renewal.

Men's Bible Study – Thursdays at 7:30AM Beginning September 17

The Men's Bible Study will begin meeting again on Thursday, September 17, at 7:30 a.m. This fall, the group will explore "A Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel, examining the evidence for Jesus and the foundations of the Christian faith. All men are welcome! Come for meaningful conversation, fellowship, and an opportunity to grow together in faith.

Fireside Worship – Sunday, September 27 at 5:00PM

Join us for a relaxed evening of dinner, fellowship, and worship around the fire pit at the Lighthouse on Sunday, September 27, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. We'll share a meal, gather around the fire, enjoy worship and music, and spend time together in faith and fellowship. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend and come enjoy an evening of good food, worship, and community around the fire.

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!

Listening for God – 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 22 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.

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 – It's Community Cash time again! Save those Village Market receipts dated Sep 7, 2026 through May 31, 2027 and turn them into the Community Cupboard Food Pantry. Please put them in the basket in the lower left corner of the mail slots in the Narthex, mail them to Box 572, Elk Rapids, MI 49629 or give them to Pam Coleman. Thank you for supporting this important mission!

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. 9/13

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a SS & Youth Kickoff
90th Birthday Reception
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 9/14

9:00 a PEO – FH

Tues. 9/15

10:00 a Bible Girls – AE

Wed. 9/16

6:30 p Praise Team Prac.

Thurs. 9/17

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE
8:00 a Session Reports Due

Fri. 9/18

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH
2:00 p Alz. Support Group

Sat. 9/19

9:00 a Women's Retreat - Bellaire