



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, September 27, 2026

Order of Worship

THE GATHERING:

Countdown

Welcome

Kyle Ripley

Invitation to Worship

Peter Snyder

Leader: Like trees planted by streams of water, God has place here in this time and place.

All: We are here to worship You, O Lord. Speak to our hearts today!

Praise Songs – ***“Come Now Is The Time To Worship”***
“Lead On Good Shepherd”

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 Readings – Psalm 1

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

Message – “Terroir: the Gift of Time and Place”

Rev. Jim Porter

RESPONSE & SENDING:

Time for Reflection and Song of Response – ***“Abide In Me”***

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 Worship – Tonight at 5PM
- New Alpha Class starts next Sunday, October 4th!

Shannon VanDenBerge

Minute for Mission

Judy Husby

Closing Song – ***“This Is The Day”***

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: Be certain of this:

God has called you and brought you here to this particular time and this place.
May the seeds of God's love grow in your heart and in your soul,
So that you may produce a harvest of righteousness in everything you do!

All: Amen.

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Gary & Jan Burns, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteer: Judy Matchett.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, September 27, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“There is None Like You, I Worship You, Almighty God”* by Schrader

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jim Porter

- Fireside Worship – Tonight at 5:00PM
- New Alpha Class starts next Sunday, October 4th!

Shannon VanDenBerge

Minute for Mission

Janice London

Invitation and Centering Words

Leader: Like a vine rooted in the earth, we are shaped by the places we have been planted, the seasons we have lived, and the grace of God that has sustained us. So come, be still. Become aware of this time and this place, recognizing that it is God who brought you here and promises to sustain you in your life journey.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Keith Burns

Leader: The heavens tell of the glory of God;

People: The skies proclaim the work of God's hands.

Leader: Day speaks to day, and night declares God's faithfulness.

People: All creation bears witness to the goodness of God.

Leader: Jesus says, “I am the vine; you are the branches.”

People: We come to abide in Christ and to be rooted in his love.

Leader: In every season and every place, God is forming us.

People: Let us open our hearts to the work of the Vinedresser.

All: Come, let us worship God!

Opening Prayer

Keith Burns

All: Creator God, you have planted us in your good creation and placed us within particular times, places, and communities. The heavens declare your glory, the earth reveals your handiwork, and every season speaks of your faithfulness. As a vine draws life from the soil in which it is planted, teach us to receive the gifts of the places where you have planted us. Keep us deeply rooted in Christ, the true Vine, so that we may continue to abide in Him, and He in us. In this time and in this place, make us attentive to your presence and receptive to your grace. Through Jesus Christ, the true Vine, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn 54 – ***“Make a Joyful Noise to God!”***

Prayer of Confession

Keith Burns

All: Gracious God, you invite us to abide in your love, yet too often we resist the life you have given us. We hurry through our days without noticing your loving presence. We often long for different circumstances, different seasons, or easier soil, and fail to recognize how you are forming us through the life we have been given.

Forgive us when we become disconnected from Christ, the true Vine. Forgive us when we neglect the beauty of your creation, the wisdom of your Word, and the people and places through which you reveal your grace. Root us again in your love. Teach us to abide in Christ, to trust your patient cultivation, and to bear fruit wherever you have planted us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Keith Burns

Leader: Hear the good news: Jesus says, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.” With patience and grace, God continues to tend us, prune us, nourish us, and draw us back to the true Vine. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and rooted again in grace.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Keith Burns

Leader: Christ has planted us not only in particular places, but among particular people. Together, we are branches of the one Vine, called to share Christ’s love with one another. The peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Let us share Christ’s peace 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 – ***“Psalm of Quietness”*** arr. by Schrader

Scripture Readings – Psalm 1

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

Sermon

“Terroir: the Gift of Time and Place”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 712 – ***“As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought”***

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.
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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 comes from you: the earth beneath our feet, the places we call home, the people who share our lives, and the time entrusted to our care. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude. Use them, and use us, to cultivate your love in this community and throughout your world, for both your glory and the good of our neighbors. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn 772 – ***“Live into Hope”***

Mission Statement

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Charge and Benediction

Leader: Be certain of this:

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May the seeds of God’s love grow in your heart and in your soul,
So that you may produce a harvest of righteousness in everything you do!

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: Judy Matchett.

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.

Fireside Worship – Tonight 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.

CPR Training – Saturday, October 3 | Only 3 Spots Open!

CPR, use of A.E.D., and first aid training for Safety/Security team members is Saturday, October 3 at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We have three open slots and if you would like learn these valuable life saving tips, contact Don Reynolds at 231-676-1499 to be added to the list.

Next Loose Change Sunday – October 4 Donations for Antrim County Coat Drive

Our church is proud to support the Antrim County Sheriff's Office as they collect coats to help keep individuals and families in our community warm during the upcoming cold weather. This community-wide effort provides winter clothing to those who need it most, and every donation can make a real difference.

We invite our congregation to join this important outreach by donating new or gently used winter coats in clean, wearable condition. Your generosity will help ensure that children, adults, and seniors throughout Antrim County have the warm clothing they need this winter.

This is a wonderful opportunity to put our faith into action by caring for our neighbors. Together, we can share God's love in a practical way and remind others that our community cares.

Please bring your donations to the church either on Sunday, October 4 or on Sunday, October 11 before either service. Thank you for helping us support the Antrim County Sheriff's Office and for making a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

“The Art of Vinemaking” Worship Series– We’ve Just Added a New Small Group!

Join us for worship each Sunday in October as “The Art of Vinemaking” series continues! It’s all about how to connect more deeply to God and flourish in God’s Spirit in the midst of a culture that always demands “more.”

We’ve just added a second group for women on Thursday nights! Shannon VanDenBerge will be leading a group for women starting this Thursday from 6:30-8:00 p.m. that meets at Up North Properties building in Ste. 8. All women are welcome to attend!

Also, it’s not too late to join our Monday night small group! This week (on Monday, September 28 at 7:00 PM), we will be meeting at the Bos Wine Garden on Ames Street in ER. Join us as we hear from expert VineDresser Dave Bos talk about the importance of “Terroir” (time and place) in order to flourish where we are planted, and share a glass of wine together!

Come, grow with us!

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

Save the date for a half-day spiritual formation retreat led by Bette Dickinson and Dave Bos on Old Mission Peninsula on Saturday, October 24, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Join us as we travel to a local vineyard for a guided time of spiritual reflection and renewal, as we seek to learn and experience God in the beauty and wonder of God’s good creation. Afterward, we will gather for lunch and discussion at a beautiful home in Neah-Wan-Ta on the Peninsula. More details coming soon! Don’t miss this truly special event!

Begin a New Adventure with Alpha – Sunday Mornings at 10AM starting October 4

Join us for a new adventure as we explore the basics of the Christian faith together through the Alpha Film Series. Whether you’re a longtime follower of Jesus, exploring faith, or simply have questions, everyone is welcome. Each Sunday morning, we’ll share food, watch a short video, and enjoy open and honest conversation about some of life’s biggest questions like, “Who Is Jesus?,” “How Can I Make The Most of The Rest of My Life?,” “Does God Heal Today?” Alpha is a place to explore, ask questions, and discover together—without judgment or pressure. The adventure begins Sunday, October 4 at 10:00 a.m. Sign up at the Activity Center or erfpc.org.

Cookies & Coffee with LeRue Werner – Friday, October 2 from 11AM – 1PM

Former member LeRue Werner will be visiting the area, and we’d love to give everyone a chance to stop by and say hello! Join us for an informal get-together on Friday, October 2, from 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy cookies, coffee, conversation, and a chance to catch up with LeRue. Everyone is welcome!

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

The Men’s Bible Study meets Thursday mornings at 7:30 a.m. This fall, the group is studying “A Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. All men are welcome for fellowship, discussion, and growing together in faith!

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, October 13 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. 9/27

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a SS & Youth – LH
10:30 a Traditional Service
5:00 p Fireside Worship – LH

Mon. 9/28

7:00 p Vinemaking Small Grp – AE

Tues. 9/29

10:00 a Bible Girls – AE

Wed. 9/30

Thurs. 10/1

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE
1:30 p Worship MT
6:30 p Praise Team Prac.
6:30 p Vinemaking Women's
Small Grp – Up North Ctr

Fri. 10/2

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – Sanc.
11:00 a Fellowship with LeRue
Werner – FH

Sat. 10/3

8:00 a CPR Training – FH
10:00 a Concert Prac. – Sanc.