



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, October 4, 2026

Order of Worship

THE GATHERING:

Countdown

Welcome

Kyle Ripley

Invitation to Worship

Marie Zendler

Leader: There are seasons for growing and seasons for resting. Jesus invites us to come, lay down our burdens, and rest in him. Today, let us be still and trust the quiet work of God.

All: Come, Lord! Speak to our hearts today!

Praise Songs – ***“Rest On Us”***
“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 Readings – Isaiah 30:15-26

Matthew 11:28-30

Message – “Dormancy: God’s Rhythm of Rest and New Life”

Rev. Jim Porter

RESPONSE & SENDING:

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

Celebration of Communion

For Communion today everyone is invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive the gluten free bread and juice. After partaking of the elements, you may return to your seat by the side aisle.

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

- New Alpha Class starts today!
- Nursery Help Needed

Paul Wonacott

Closing Song – *“My Life Is In You, 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: Go now in the love and grace of Christ.

When life is fruitful, give thanks.

When life feels dormant, trust the deeper work of God,

And know that God is always with you!

All: Amen.

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Shelia Conrad & Lorraine Berak, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteer: Lorraine Berak.

Thank you to our communion servers: Hannah Barraw, Lorraine Berak, Shelia Conrad, and Mel Matchett.

Chancel flowers are placed by Adam and Chris Schuler in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, October 4, 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

- New Alpha Class starts today!
- Nursery Help Needed

Paul Wonacott

Invitation and Centering Words

Leader: There are seasons for growing and seasons for resting. Jesus invites us to come, lay down our burdens, and rest in him. Today, let us be still and trust the quiet work of God.

Ring of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Geney Heaton

Leader: The prophet Isaiah tells us:

In returning and rest, we find our salvation.

People: In quietness and trust, we find our strength.

Leader: Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.”

People: We come to Christ today, who gives rest to our souls.

Leader: Even when we cannot see growth, God is still at work.

People: Deepen our roots, O God, and renew our lives.

Leader: Come, let us rest in the presence and promises of God.

All: Come, let us worship God!

Opening Prayer

Geney Heaton

All: Gracious God, you are the Vinedresser, patiently tending the vineyard of our lives. You know our seasons of growth and fruitfulness, and you know our seasons of waiting, weariness, and rest. When life seems dormant, remind us that you are still at work beneath the surface. Draw us more deeply into your presence. Root us in your abiding love. As we worship, may we hear again the gracious invitation of Jesus: “Come to me, all who are weary, and I will give you rest.” We come, Lord Jesus. Give rest to our souls and renew us in your love. Amen.

Opening Hymn 331 – *“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”*

Prayer of Confession

Geney Heaton

All: Merciful God, You invite us to come and rest, yet we often believe that everything depends upon us. We fill our lives with hurry and endless activity. We measure ourselves only by what we accomplish. We become impatient in seasons of waiting and anxious when we cannot see immediate results.

Forgive us when we resist the slower work of your grace. Teach us to trust You in every season of life— in growth and harvest, in pruning and dormancy, in beginnings and endings, in activity and rest. Help us release the burdens we were never meant to carry and sink our roots more deeply into your grace. In the quiet of this moment, we bring before you the burdens we carry today...

[Silence]

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Geney Heaton

Leader: Hear the gracious invitation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus says: “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” Friends, we do not have to earn the grace of God. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Geney Heaton

Leader: Because Christ has welcomed us into his grace and given rest to our souls, we can offer that same grace to one another. 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 – *“Still, My Soul Be Still”* by McDonald

Scripture Readings –Isaiah 30:15-26

Matthew 11:28-30

Sermon

“Dormancy: God’s Rhythm of Rest and New Life”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 510 – *“We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name”*

Celebration of Communion

For Communion today everyone is invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive the gluten free bread and juice. After partaking of the elements, you may return to your seat by the side aisle.

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.

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: Faithful God, everything we have and everything we are comes from you. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust. Use them to bring hope to the weary, rest to those who are burdened, and new life to places that seem barren. And as we offer these gifts, help us also to offer ourselves—trusting that whether we are growing, waiting, working, or resting, our lives remain rooted in Christ, the true Vine. In his name we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn 611 – ***“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”***

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 in the love and grace of Christ.

When life is fruitful, give thanks.

When life feels dormant, trust the deeper work of God

And know that God is always with you!

All: Amen.

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

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Judy Brummeler & Norm Veliquette, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteer: Lorraine Berak.

Thank you to our communion servers: Betsy Argo, Peggy Bushnell, Don Reynolds, and Joanne Teague.

Chancel flowers are placed by Adam and Chris Schuler in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary.

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.



Today is Loose Change Sunday – Donations for Antrim County Coat Drive

This Loose Change Sunday, we’re supporting the Antrim County Sheriff’s Office Coat Drive to help keep our neighbors warm this winter. Please donate **new or gently used** winter coats in clean, wearable condition. Coats may be brought to church on Sunday, October 4 or Sunday, October 11 before either service. Thank you for helping us share God’s love by caring for our neighbors in need!

Begin a New Adventure with Alpha – Starts Today at 10:00AM

Join us for a new adventure as we explore the basics of the Christian faith through the Alpha Film Series. Whether you’re a longtime follower of Jesus, exploring faith, or simply have questions, everyone is welcome! Each week we’ll share food, watch a short video, and enjoy open conversation about life and faith—without judgment or pressure. The adventure begins Sunday, October 4 at 10:00 a.m. Sign up at the Activity Center or erfpc.org.

“The Art of Vinemaking” Worship Series– Two Small Groups!

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.” Want to go deeper? It’s not too late to join one of our small groups for conversation, connection, and growing together in faith.

Monday Group – 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Ed Room at the church

Women’s Thursday Group – 6:30–8:00 p.m. at Up North Properties, Ste. 8, led by Shannon VanDenBerge

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!

One 10:30AM Worship Service & Fall Congregational Meeting – Sunday, October 25

Please join us on Sunday, October 25 for one worship service at 10:30 a.m. Following worship, we will hold our Fall Congregational Meeting. We encourage everyone to join us for this important time of worship and church business as we gather together as one church family.

Congregational Meeting—Sunday, October 25 following 10:30AM Service

Session calls a Fall All Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 25 in person and via Zoom following worship at approximately 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall to (1) elect new church officers (Elders, Deacons, and Trustees), (2) present a Preliminary Budget for 2027, and (3) conduct any other business that needs to come before the congregation. Non-members are welcome to attend. Members are asked to attend. Please remember that our bylaws require that 10 percent (31 people) of our active membership be present for a quorum.

Celebrate Wayne Potter’s Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) Graduation!

Everyone is invited to attend on Saturday, November 7 at 11:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Boyne City as we celebrate Wayne Potter’s CRE Graduation. A special “Thankful Meal” will follow the service. If you plan to attend the meal, please RSVP to 231-582-7983 with your name and number attending.

Listening for God – Contemplative Prayer Gathering

Join us for a peaceful time of contemplative prayer, silence, and reflection as we seek a deeper awareness of God’s presence. Our next gathering is Tuesday, October 13 at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. All are welcome!

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 your Village Market receipts dated Sept. 7, 2026–May 31, 2027 and donate them to the Community Cupboard Food Pantry. Place receipts in the basket by the Narthex mail slots, mail them to Box 572, Elk Rapids, MI 49629, or give them to Pam Coleman.

The Cupboard is open every other week: Saturday, 9:00–11:00 a.m. and Tuesday, 4:00–6:30 p.m. For more information, visit elkrapidscommunitycupboard.com or call Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239.

This Week’s Activities

Sun. 10/4

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a SS & Youth – LH
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 10/5

7:00 p Vinemaking Small Grp – AE

Tues. 10/6

9:00 a Women’s Ash St. Small Grp - Cf
10:00 a Bible Girls – AE

Wed. 10/7

3:00 p Service at Autumn House
6:00 p Future Planning/Session

Thurs. 10/8

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

Fri. 10/9

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH

Sat. 10/10

10:00 a Concert Prac. – FH



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!