



## 9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, October 11, 2026

### Order of Worship

#### THE GATHERING:

Countdown

Welcome

Kyle Ripley

Invitation to Worship

Addie Seiple

Leader: God calls ordinary people and works through ordinary lives. As we come to worship, let us quiet our hearts, trust in God's grace, and open ourselves to the ways God may use us.

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

Praise Songs – ***“Open The Eyes Of My Heart”***  
***“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!)*

Children's Message

Laura Asiala

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

#### THE WORD:

Scripture Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Message – “But God”

Wayne Potter

#### 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

Kyle Ripley

- Sign Up Today for The Art of Vinemaking Retreat on October 24
- One 10:30AM Service & Fall Congregational Meeting on October 25

Closing Song – ***“Lord I Lift Your Name On High”***

## 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: I invite you to go forth remembering that God delights in using the ordinary to accomplish the extraordinary. May you see God's hand in the ordinary moments of life, and share Christ's love wherever you go.

**All: Amen.**

## Postlude

### Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Randy & Bonnie Johnson, our snack volunteer: Bonnie Johnson, and our coffee volunteer: Shelia Conrad.



## 10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, October 11, 2026

### Order of Worship

#### Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “Amen, Amen” by Schrader

#### Welcome and Announcements

Cheryl Knight

- Sign Up Today for The Art of Vinemaking Retreat on October 24
- One 10:30AM Service & Fall Congregational Meeting on October 25

#### Invitation and Centering Words

Cheryl Knight

Leader: God calls ordinary people and works through ordinary lives. As we come to worship, let us quiet our hearts, trust in God's grace, and open ourselves to the ways God may use us.

#### Ring of the Historic Church Bell

#### Call to Worship

Lynda Nichols

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who calls ordinary people into extraordinary service.

**People: We come to praise the One who gives strength to the weak and wisdom to the humble.**

Leader: In forests and fields, beside lakes and streams, God's creation declares His glory.

**People: We come to rejoice in the beauty of God's creation and the goodness of our Creator.**

Leader: God has chosen what the world overlooks to reveal His grace and power.

**All: Let us worship God with glad and grateful hearts.**

#### Opening Prayer

Lynda Nichols

**All: Gracious and loving God, we come before you today with grateful hearts, knowing that we do not have to be extraordinary to be loved by you. You meet us where we are. You see possibilities in us that we cannot always see in ourselves. Thank you for calling ordinary people to follow you. Help us to lay aside our need to prove ourselves and to trust fully in your grace. As we worship today, open our hearts to your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.**

Opening Hymn 726 – ***“Will You Come and Follow Me”*** (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

Prayer of Confession

Lynda Nichols

**All: Gracious God, we confess that we often place our confidence in human wisdom, strength, and success. We compare ourselves to others and doubt that you can use us for your purposes. We overlook opportunities to serve, ignore the needs of our neighbors, and forget that every person is precious in your sight. Open our eyes to see ourselves and others as you see us. Use us, ordinary though we may be, to share your love in the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

Assurance of Pardon

Lynda Nichols

**Leader:** Hear the good news: Our worth is not found in what we have accomplished, but in what God has done through Jesus Christ. In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed, and called beloved children of God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Passing of the Peace

Lynda Nichols

**Leader:** Since God has welcomed us in Christ, let us welcome one another with the peace of Christ.

**People: May the peace of Christ be with us and among us.**

**Leader:** Share that peace with one another. The peace of Christ 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 – ***“What the Lord Has Done in Me”*** arr. by Larson

Scripture Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Sermon

***“But God”***

Wayne Potter

Responsive Hymn 22 – ***“God of the Sparrow”***

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: Gracious God, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from you. Receive these offerings as an expression of our gratitude and our trust. Use these gifts to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, to care for those in need, and to bring your love to the world. Take our ordinary gifts of, time, abilities, resources, and our willingness, and use them for your extraordinary purposes. Amen.**

Closing Hymn 458 – ***“Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet”***

## Mission Statement

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## Charge and Benediction

**Leader:** I invite you to go forth remembering that God delights in using the ordinary to accomplish the extraordinary. May you see God's hand in the ordinary moments of life, and share Christ's love wherever you go.

**All:** **Amen.**

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

## Postlude

### Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Don Reynolds, Kevin & Kim Hoch, 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.

### Coat Donations Still Being Accepted Through October 11!

For October Loose Change we’re supporting the Antrim County Sheriff’s Office Coat Drive to help keep our neighbors warm this winter. Donations of new or gently used winter coats in clean, wearable condition are still being accepted at the church through Sunday, October 11. Thank you for helping us share God’s love!

**Let’s Celebrate Our Amazing Staff!** – October is Staff Appreciation Month, and it’s the perfect time to show our staff how much they mean to us! Beginning October 11, stop by the narthex to leave a card or note of thanks—or brighten someone’s day with a phone call, coffee, or lunch. Let’s fill October with gratitude for all they do!

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

Join us Sundays in October as The Art of Vinemaking continues, helping us grow deeper in our connection with God. Want to explore more? There’s still time to join a small group!

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, Register Today: The Art of Vinemaking Retreat – Saturday, October 24



Plan to attend 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. Sign up today either using the QR code here, online or at the Activity Center!

| Cost                                   | Cash or Check | Online (includes processing fee)         |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------|
| Retreat & Lunch                        | \$30.00       | \$31.50 (includes \$1.50 processing fee) |
| Retreat, Lunch & optional wine-tasting | \$50.00       | \$52.50 (includes \$2.50 processing fee) |

### Begin a New Adventure with Alpha – There’s still room for you – Sundays at 10:00AM

Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m. for the Alpha Film Series! Enjoy food, a short video, and open conversation as we explore questions about life and faith together. Everyone is welcome, and there’s still room—sign up today!

## 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.

## Candy Donations & Volunteers Needed for October 31 Halloween Event

We're collecting candy donations, and looking for volunteers to decorate a station inside the Lighthouse and pass out candy. Contact Paul Wonacott at 231-534-4961 if you'd like to participate or have questions.

## Pumpkin Carving & Dinner – Sunday, October 18 at 5:00PM in the Fellowship Hall

Bring your creativity and your appetite! Everyone is invited to carve pumpkins (generously provided by the Vergote family) and enjoy a delicious dinner—all provided for you. It's a wonderful evening of laughter, fellowship, and fall fun for all ages. For questions, contact Paul Wonacott at 231-534-4961.

## Halloween Event – Saturday, October 31 at 5:30PM at the Lighthouse

Join us for our annual Halloween celebration at the Lighthouse! We need candy donations and volunteers to decorate a station inside and hand out treats to our trick-or-treaters. Families are encouraged to come enjoy the festivities, too—bring your kids and grandkids for a safe, fun-filled evening. To volunteer or donate, contact Paul Wonacott at 231-534-4961.

## 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. **Please note that *Listening for God* will now meet only on the second Tuesday 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. 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** – 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](http://elkrapidscommunitycupboard.com) or call Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239.

### This Week's Activities

#### Sun. 10/11

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

#### Mon. 10/12

7:00 p Vinemaking Small Grp – AE

#### Tues. 10/13

9:00 a Women's Ash St. Small Grp - Cf  
10:00 a Bible Girls – AE  
12:00 p Contemplative Prayer – Sanc.  
6:30 p Deacons – FH

#### Wed. 10/14

8:15 a Finance Committee – Cf

#### Thurs. 10/15

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE  
6:30 p Praise Team Prac.  
6:30 p Vinemaking Wmn's SGrp –  
Up North Ctr  
7:00 p Trustees – FH

#### Fri. 10/16

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

#### Sat. 10/17

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](http://volunteeraccelerator.ministryarchitects.com/ERFPC/survey.html) Thanks for your willingness to help out!