

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, January 15, 2023
9 AM Contemporary Service
Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Worship Songs – *“King of Kings”*
“Cornerstone”

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Matthew 3:3-17

Sermon

“The Blessing of Baptism:
God’s Gift of Identity and Purpose”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – *“Jesus Paid It All”*

* Everyone is invited to come forward during the hymn and dip their hand into the waters of baptism at the baptismal font remembering the promise and power of their own baptism.

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.

Presentation of Offering and Connection Cards

Closing Song – *“Hosanna”*

Charge and Blessing

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.**

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Gary & Jan Burns, and our snack volunteer: Peg Asmus.

Thank you for your generous giving during this challenging time! Your gifts support all of the work and ministries of the church, as we continue to do the work of Christ in the world today. You can mail your pledges to the church at: First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids, 404 Spruce Street, Elk Rapids, MI 49629, give through online giving at www.erfpc.org (click on the Giving tab at the top right), or set up a one time or recurring donation by contacting our Treasurer, Mike Husby, at finmanager@erfpc.org. Again, we thank everyone for their continued support of the ministries and mission of the church!

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, January 15, 2023
10:30 AM Traditional Service

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Sing a New Song to the Lord”* by Sleeth

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words (Matthew 3)

Come to the waters of baptism. Touch the Spirit’s power. Feel the Spirit’s loving embrace.
Come and be made new.

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Sandi Gray

Leader: The voice of God still calls us over the waters: *“Beloved, receive the Holy Spirit.”*

People: The Son of God beckons: “Beloved, be born of water and the Spirit.”

Leader: The Spirit of God proclaims: *“Beloved, be born anew this day.”*

All: The voice of God calls us through our baptism. Come! Let us worship the living God!

Opening Prayer

Sandi Gray

All: Spirit of love and righteousness, God of power and might, help us be a light to the nations and a reflection of your glorious salvation. Work in our lives and in our ministries today, that the world might know the power of your love and grace. As you blessed Jesus at his baptism, descend upon us this day, that we may be a people of hope and new possibilities. Wash us clean and renew our spirits, through Jesus Christ, our lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn 308 – *“O God in Whom All Life Begins”*

Prayer of Confession

Sandi Gray

All: Gentle Spirit, Holy God, reclaim us this day through the waters of our baptism. As we long to be so much more than we have become, transform us through the gift of your love, and remake us through the power of your Spirit. In our yearning to taste the fullness of life, restore us through the wonder of your grace. In our desire to live as your beloved children, make us instruments of your kingdom building, that we may be a light to the nations, and a source of hope to those who sit in darkness. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Sandi Gray

God is faithful and ever-present. The God who knew us before our birth loves us still and strengthens us, that we will one day be blameless. Through the gift of Jesus Christ, God offers forgiveness, grace, and mercy. Enter into the light!

Anthem – *“The Perfect Wisdom of Our God”* arr. by McDonald

Scripture Reading – Matthew 3:3-17

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Blessing of Baptism:
God’s Gift of Identity and Purpose”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 488 – ***“I Was There to Hear your Boring Cry”***

* Everyone is invited to come forward during the hymn and dip their hand into the waters of baptism at the baptismal font remembering the promise and power of their own baptism.

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.

Presentation of Offering and Connection Cards

Closing Hymn 753 – ***“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”***

Charge and Blessing

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.**

Benediction

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

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our usher: Janeen & Drexel Noecker, and our snack volunteer.

Thank you for your generous giving during this challenging time! Your gifts support all of the work and ministries of the church, as we continue to do the work of Christ in the world today. You can mail your pledges to the church at: First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids, 404 Spruce Street, Elk Rapids, MI 49629, give through online giving at www.erfpc.org (click on the Giving tab at the top right), or set up a one time or recurring donation by contacting our Treasurer, Mike Husby, at finmanager@erfpc.org. Again, we thank everyone for their continued support of the ministries and mission of the church!

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

Having trouble hearing the service? We have an induction hearing loop system for hearing aid users. Please switch your hearing aids to “T” or see the sound technician for help.

Thank You All Who Helped with Christmas Decorations

We want to say a big thank you to all our volunteers who helped put up and take down decorations for the church this Advent season. The group of volunteers who showed up included: David Atkinson, Sara, Fisher, and Noah Bogard, Shelia Conrad, Judy Matchett, The Peters Family, Jan and Don Shurte, Phyllis Staley, Garry Sumerix, Chad Vergote, and Gloria Wheeler, with Anne Conrad organizing the group. We’d also like to thank Jennifer Snyder and the Deacons for picking up and caring for the beautiful poinsettia plants. We really appreciate all who had a part in making the church look festive for this special time.

Wired Word – Wednesday, January 18 at 6:00 PM at Amvets

Have you ever wondered how the Bible could help us with many of the troubling things that are going on in the world today? Wired Word is a Bible based look at how we can discuss and see world events from a different view point. The first meeting of 2023 will be at the Amvets on Jan 18th at 6PM. Contact Klaus Lehrer at klauslehrer@yahoo.com to get on the Wired Word email list so you can join this informative group. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

“The Chosen” Season 2 – 8 Mondays from 6-7:30PM Beginning January 2

All sessions are from 6-7:30 p.m. If you cannot make it to all the sessions, please join us at any time you can during the 8 sessions. You can download on your phone or tablet the whole season for free at thechosen.tv. Please sign up at the activity center in the Narthex and take your book for Season 2. We will be taking \$5 donations for the books on January 2nd.

We’re Hiring – Contemporary Worship Director

We are looking for a musically-gifted, spiritually mature Christian to lead our Contemporary Worship Services at First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids. The ideal candidate will have experience in planning and leading worship at a similar sized church (about 300 members) and experience in recruiting and developing worship teams. 20 hours per week. Salary based on experience. For a full job description and application, please contact the church office at 231-264-8167 or info@erfpc.org.

Year-end contribution statements are now available on the welcome table in the narthex or in your church mailbox. Please take a moment to stop and pick yours up.

Your 2023 Giving Envelopes are now available in your church mailbox or at the Activity Center. Please pick yours up today. Please note that if you have monthly envelopes they will be in an envelope this year instead of a box.

A Trip to Scotland with Pastors Jim and Jaime – Only 4 Spots Left!

If you would like to travel Scotland with Pastors Jim and Jaime, there are only 4 spots left! The remaining spots will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. If you are thinking about going, please contact Pastor Jim as soon as possible at jporter@erfpc.org!

Men’s Bible Study – 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 AM

All the men of the church are invited to join Pastor Jim for a bi-weekly Bible study that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month at 7:30 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. Please note the new earlier time. Join us for a thoughtful study, good conversation, and fellowship with other men as we journey through life together!

Sunday School & Youth Group – 10:00AM at the Lighthouse

If you have children through the 5th grade or youth, make plans now to bring them to Sunday School and Youth Group each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at the Lighthouse. Please contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 with questions.

One 10:30AM Service on Sunday, January 29 followed by Brunch & “Town Hall”

On Sunday, January 29 there will be one worship service at 10:30 a.m. followed by a brunch served by the youth at 11:30 a.m., with the “Town Hall” following the brunch at 12:15 p.m. See more information about the “Town Hall” in the next announcement. We hope everyone can attend!

Concerns Regarding the 2022 General Assembly

Some members of the church have expressed concern over some of the actions that were taken at 2022 General Assembly of the P.C.(U.S.A.) that was held this past June. In order to address these concerns and answer questions regarding the General Assembly, Session has scheduled a “Town Hall” meeting on Sunday, January 29. There will be one worship service at 10:30 a.m. followed by a brunch served by the youth at 11:30 a.m., with the “Town Hall” following the brunch at 12:15 p.m. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear any concerns and answer questions from the congregation, so

that all may come to a greater understanding of the actions of the General Assembly. All friends and members of the church are invited to attend.

For a summary of the 2022 General Assembly, you may go to the P.C.(U.S.A.)'s website: www.pcusa.org (search for "2022 General Assembly"). Or, you can read a report that was provided by church member Bill Clark by contacting Bill at elderbcjr@yahoo.com.

In the meantime, if anyone has any questions or concerns regarding the General Assembly that they would like addressed before the meeting on January 29, please contact Pastor Jim at jporter@erfpc.org or by calling the church office at 231-264-8167. Thank you!

Questions, concerns, or suggestions for the Safety & Security Team? Please contact the church office at info@erfpc.org or 231-264-8167.

It's Community Cash time again! Please keep all your Village Market receipts dated **Sept 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023** and turn them into the Elk Rapids Community Cupboard. They can be placed in the ERCC box in the Narthex, the brown donation box outside the cupboard, or mailed to ERCC Box 572, Elk Rapids, MI. Thank you so much.