

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids**  
**Sunday, August 7, 2022**  
**9 AM Contemporary Service**  
Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Worship Songs – ***“A Thousand Hallelujahs”***  
***“Make Room”***

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Colossians 1:1-20

Sermon

**“Called to Transformation:  
Living with Christ at the Center of our Lives”**

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – ***“No Longer Slaves”***

Celebration of Communion *(Pastor will invite congregation to partake of the elements)*

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 – ***“Who You Say I Am”***

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 usher: Lorraine Berak, and our snack volunteer.

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids**  
**Sunday, August 7, 2022**  
**10:30 AM Traditional Service**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“In Christ Alone”* by Courtney

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Moment of Celebration for All of our 90 Year Old’s

Invitation and Centering Words

“To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:27) Did you hear that? What are the riches of God glory? Christ living in you!

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Sandi Gray

Leader: Give thanks and praise to the Lord!

**People: For God has dealt mercifully with us!**

Leader: Even when we turned our backs on God,

**People: God forgave us and restored us to life.**

Leader: Rejoice in God's abundant love.

**People: We will continually praise God who heals and loves us. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Sandi Gray

**All: Bountiful God, who gives to us all that we need to sustain our lives: Open our hearts today to hear your words of compassionate justice, that we may focus on the ways in which you intend us to live and be of service to you by serving the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

Opening Hymn 81 – *“Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken”*

Prayer of Confession

Sandi Gray

**All: Loving God, You who hold us so gently, teach us the art of letting go of anything that keeps us from your embrace. Too often, we grab and clutch at things that do not last. We pursue success and recognition as if they will fulfill our deepest longings, and we do not take time to nurture loving relationships with others.**

**Loving God, lead us to a deeper sense of gratitude, a growing sense of trust in your ability to provide. Teach us what treasures will last until heaven. Show us the blessings of giving with joy, loving without conditions, and sharing from our abundance. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

Assurance of Pardon

Sandi Gray

There is nothing we can do that will make God love us any less. We can disappoint God. We can ignore God’s way. But God is always there on the way— guiding us, beckoning us, calling us to live in God’s unconditional, steadfast love. Open yourselves to this love, knowing that with God, all things will be made right.

Anthem – *“In the Sweet By and By”* arr. by Helvey

Scripture Reading – Colossians 1:1-20

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Called to Transformation:  
Living with Christ at the Center of our Lives”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 523 – ***“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”***

Celebration of Communion (*Pastor will invite congregation to partake of the elements*)

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 339 – ***“Lift Every Voice and Sing”***

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 ushers: Tom & Barb Cole, Jana Gillstrom, 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](http://www.erfpc.org) (click on the Giving tab at the top right), or set up a one time or recurring donation by contacting our Financial Manager, Kim McCann, at [finmanager@erfpc.org](mailto: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.

## **Birthday Celebration of Our 90 Year Olds – Today**

Join us for a 90th birthday celebration! We only have one member turning 90 this year - Adam Schuler. We will be having a special recognition and cake for him and our 90+ members today during coffee hour between services from 10-10:30 am. This will be followed by a special recognition by Pastor Jim at the 10:30 am service. We hope you will come and honor him and our 90+ members who have received a special invitation to celebrate their birthdays this year with Adam. You can also join in the celebration by either signing one of the cards beside Adam's gift bag in the narthex, or bringing your own card and placing in his bag. Our other 90+ honorees are: Dorothy Dowd, Joanne Hoezee, Betty Holzhauer, Kenneth Klynstra, Bill & Lou Letsche, Jane Lund, Don Mullen, Edson Murray, Mona Nelson, Paul Patchen, Joyce Smith, and Phyllis Staley. Don't miss this special celebration!

## **Contribution Statements Now Available**

Contribution statements through July are now available at the Welcome Center or in your church mailbox if you have one. Please take a moment to stop and pick yours up.

## **Our Men's Bible Study is Back!**

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 8:00 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. Join us for a thoughtful study, good conversation, and fellowship with other men as we journey through life together!

## **Music in the Park – Thursday, August 11 at 7 PM**

Take a break from the busyness of the summer and join us for Music in the Park on Thursday, August 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pavilion at Day Park in Elk Rapids. This will be a casual evening of worship music led by Rachel Stratton and Marty Sage - you can sing or you don't have to sing, you can bring your Bible or journal, or even your knitting. Don't miss this special evening of worship!

## **Youth Michigan Adventure Trip – Saturday, August 27 (Sign up by Sunday, August 7)**

If you have a youth that would like to go to Michigan Adventure, please contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 to sign up for the trip by Sunday, August 7.

**The First Presbyterian Church Nominating Committee has convened and is working to discern and nominate Elders, Deacons, Trustees for 2023**, as well as congregational members to serve at-large on the Nominating Committee and Personnel Ministry Team for 2023. The slate of nominations will be presented to the congregation at the congregational meeting Sunday, October 30, 2022.

If you would like to volunteer for nomination or know of someone that you think would be a good candidate for nomination, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members:

- Sandy Davids, ilovesadie1@icloud.com
- Laura Asiala, leasiala@gmail.com
- Robin Osterhaven, rosterhaven1977@gmail.com
- Ken Kohlman, kendkohlman@me.com
- Connie Claar, connieclaar@torchlake.com
- John Conrad
- David Fosdick, david@northwoodssoda.com

Only members of the congregation may be elected.

If you have been approached in the past and declined due to any reason, but now feel this is something to which you are being called, please let someone on the nominating committee know. Each year we begin the process anew.

### **Volunteers Needed for Children's Playground during 9:00 AM Service**

This summer we are offering Children's Playground in the library immediately following the Children's Sermon until after the actual sermon. This is designed for children when they get the wiggles and need to move around more than in a pew. If you are willing to help by reading a story to the children and monitoring this area a Sunday or two this summer, please sign up at the Activity Center. If you have any questions, contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813.

**Community Cupboard - Here to Help!** The Community Cupboard is open every other Tuesday and Friday with a delivery system for all families and individuals in need. Call Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239 for more information or to set up an appointment for food delivery. Plus, the Community Cupboard is accepting donations in a drop box outside the cupboard entrance on Chippewa Street.

### **Continuing COVID Response – First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids**

As you know with the emergence of a new variant, COVID numbers in our area are once again increasing. Fortunately, while this new variant is more contagious, the symptoms are generally milder, resulting in fewer hospitalizations and serious illness. With this in mind, we are continuing to follow our current COVID protocols and encourage caution for all who attend church in person. If a person is not feeling well, or has been exposed to the virus, we ask those individuals to worship from home. Persons who are elderly and/or otherwise immune compromised should use their own best judgment as to whether or not to come to in person worship. Masks are optional, but are encouraged for those who feel safer wearing them. We will continue to stream our worship services on Sunday mornings and post them online for viewing later in the week for anyone unable to attend church in person.