

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids**  
**Sunday, January 9, 2022**  
**9 AM Contemporary Service**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Worship Songs – ***“God So Loved”***  
***“You Say”***

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Luke 3:15-22

Sermon                      ***“YOU Are a Beloved Child of God”***

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – ***“Give Us Clean Hands”***

Ordination & Installation of Church Officers

Elders

Laura Cameron (Class of 2024)  
Jim Lagowski (Class of 2024)  
Cal Osterhaven (Class of 2024)  
Betty Tezak (Class of 2024)  
Shelia Conrad (Class of 2023)

Deacons

Ginny Dorner (Class of 2024)  
Jana Gillstrom (Class of 2024)  
Magen Misico (Class of 2024)  
Jennifer Snyder (Class of 2024)  
Diane Thompson (Class of 2024)  
Jane Lund (Class of 2023)  
Mary Anne Frey (Class of 2022)

Trustees

Randy Asmus (Class of 2024)  
Craig Cameron (Class of 2024)  
Bill Dorner (Class of 2024)  
Ron Dunbar (Class of 2024)

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 – ***“How Great Is Our God”***

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: Anne, Harrison, & Polly Conrad; and our snack volunteer.

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids**  
**Sunday, January 9, 2022**  
**11 AM Traditional Service**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “*Seek Ye First*” arr. by Wagner

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Today is Baptism of the Lord Sunday, the day we remember Jesus’ own baptism. The Spirit dances in the water of baptism, waiting to join us in the fire of God’s love. Come to the waters. Come to the Spirit. Come to the journey of a lifetime—a journey through death to life everlasting.

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Doug White

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord. Sing of God’s glory and strength.

**People: God calls us over the waters, and strengthens us for the journey.**

Leader: Sing praises to Christ. Sing of Christ’s healing and love.

**People: The waters of our baptism cleanse us, renewing our spirits and nursing our wounds.**

Leader: Sing praises to the Spirit. Sing of the Spirit’s comfort and hope.

**All: The flames of the Spirit are like a refiner’s fire, purifying the soul to the glory of God.**

Opening Prayer

Doug White

**All: Gracious God, Source of all love and mercy, as we enter a new year in the life of this church, may our love for you be made known in our love for one another. Help us leave old grievances and former argument behind, as we open our hearts to the possibilities that lie before us. Guide our footsteps into the glory of your ways, that we may live as you created us to be— beloved children, crowned with glory and honor. May our worship reflect the greatness of our calling, and the honor of our heritage. Amen.**

Opening Hymn 265 – “*Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun*” (vs. 1, 3, 5)

Prayer of Confession

Doug White

**All: Divine Spirit, descend upon us this day, as you descended upon Jesus on the day of his baptism. In the midst of our brokenness, we long to touch the healing of your Spirit, as you touch us with your love. In the presence of evil all around us, we yearn to be protected by the holy fire of your sustaining Spirit. As we remember, with gratitude, our baptism this day, remind us that we are a people of the water— a people made one and whole, through the Spirit made known in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

Assurance of Pardon

Doug White

Do not worry, sisters and brothers, for God has redeemed you and called you by name. Do not worry, children of the promise, for God is with us even now, gathering the lost into the light of everlasting love and faithfulness.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Doug White

The one who baptized us with fire and the Holy Spirit is here to wash away our guilt and pain. Turn to one another and offer signs of the peace that only Christ can give.

Anthem – *“What the Lord Has Done in Me”* arr. by Larson

Scripture Reading – Luke 3:15-22

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “YOU Are a Beloved Child of God”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 691 – *“Lord, When I Came into This Life”*

Ordination & Installation of Church Officers

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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 720 – *“Jesus Calls Us”*

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, 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.

**Thank You Church Family!** Thanks to all my church family for the food, flowers, cards, phone calls, and your prayers. It has meant a lot to me and I really appreciate all you've done. Love to All,  
Dorothy Dowd

**Thank You for Your Service!** As we install our church officers today, we would like to thank our outgoing Elders, Deacons and Trustees. They are: Elders, Connie Clark, Leah Keaton, and Barb Cole; Deacons, Connie Claar, Marcia Sumerix, Eunice Thompson, and Gail Halliday; and Trustees, Dick Claar, Chris Shively, Betty Tezak, and Laura Cameron. We appreciate your faithful service over the years!

**A Gift for you!** If you haven't already received your copy of "Know Your Bible," please take one from the Activity Center table. You will find this booklet to be an easy-to-understand guide to the 66 books in the Bible. For each book, you will find data on the author, time frame, a ten-word synopsis, a 50-100 word summary, thoughts on what makes this book unique or unusual, and a listing of key verses. This useful resource is a gift for all visitors, regular attendees and members of FPC and is made available by the Adult Education Ministry Team.

### **'Undecorate' & Store Christmas Decorations – Monday, January 10 at 10:00AM**

Please join on Monday, Jan. 10 to 'undecorate' & put Christmas decorations back into storage. We'll meet at 10am and hopefully be done by lunch. Contact Anne Conrad with questions: 231-492-5129.

### **Worried Your World Is Spinning Out of Control?**

#### **Sign up now for our next small group class**

"You Were Made for This Moment: Courage for Today and Hope for Tomorrow" is the theme of Pastor Jim's next sermon series. One of his resources will be the book of the same title, written by Max Lucado, a New York Times Bestselling Christian author.

Lucado leads us in studying Queen Esther of the Bible. Although she faced what seemed to be an impossible situation, she had the courage to speak up and God used her to help save a nation. God will have His victory and will right the wrongs of this world. As Lucado says, "The question is not, *Will God prevail?* The question is, *Will you be part of the team?*"

Options include:

1. **Form your own group**, such as family members, friends or neighborhood. Choose your place, date and time to get together to discuss the sermon, book, and/or the available dvd.
2. **Continue to meet with your current small group**, using the sermon and/or book as a springboard for discussion.

For either of the above options, contact Nancy Muhlig to let her know which resources you'll need. (264-9434, [nmuhlig@charter.net](mailto:nmuhlig@charter.net))

#### **3. Join one of these groups:**

- a. **Tuesday mornings**, beginning January 25 and continuing for five weeks, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., The Lighthouse, in person and via Zoom. Contact Robin Osterhaven, 517-388-0007, [rosterhaven1977@gmail.com](mailto:rosterhaven1977@gmail.com) or Marcia Sumerix, 989-964-1420, [sumerixmj60@gmail.com](mailto:sumerixmj60@gmail.com)
- b. **Thursday mornings**, beginning January 27, 10:30 - 11:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Contact Nancy Muhlig, 264-9434, [nmuhlig@charter.net](mailto:nmuhlig@charter.net)

### **Service for Christian Unity – Wednesday, January 19 at 7:00 PM**

Everyone is invited to a Service for Christian Unity on Wednesday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church. Don't miss this special service!

### **Are you struggling with addiction & recovery this holiday season?**

Dr. Ken Kleyn is offering a small group for those struggling with alcohol addiction and recovery who would like some support, especially during this holiday season. If you are interested, please contact Ken at 231-649-0559. All contacts are highly confidential.

**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.

### **Kingdom Kids & Youth Group – Between Services at 10:20AM at the Lighthouse**

We're looking forward to a year of fun and excitement as we start 2022 with our Kingdom Kids! Our first Bible Memory Challenge will be the Lord's Prayer, taught, as always, with music and motions to enhance learning and retention. Our prayer is that our memory verses will be planted deeply in the hearts of our children, to remind them of God's love and presence throughout their lifetimes.

We're also delighted that six more of our kids have hopped on the "Books of History" train! These books were introduced with a fun skit performed by our teens, with motions added to the music so the skit hints make learning all 12 "Books of History" a breeze. WELL DONE, KIDS and TEENS!

If you have children through the 5th grade or youth, make plans now to bring them to Sunday School and Youth Group each Sunday between services at the Lighthouse. Children and youth can begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. with Sunday School beginning at 10:20 a.m. The church library is also available for parents to grab a cup of coffee and relax during the Sunday School hour. Please contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 with questions.

### **Outdoor Family Activity on Saturday, February 5 *Instead of Family Camp***

Everyone is invited to attend an Outdoor Family Activity on Saturday, February 5. We'll be holding this event instead of going to Family Camp at Pleasant Valley Bible Camp that weekend. Watch for details about the Outdoor Family Activity and contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 if you have questions.

**Community Cash is back!** Save your Village Market receipts dated between September 1, 2021 and May 30, 2022 and turn them in one of three ways: In the box labeled "Community Cash" in the left corner of the brown box outside the cupboard entrance (on Chippewa Street), place them in the Community Cupboard mail slot (lower left corner near the elevator) or mail them to Elk Rapids Community Cupboard, PO Box 572, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Thank you for your continuous support.

### **Volunteers for Coffee Hour Snacks Needed**

There is a sign up in the narthex for volunteers to bring in baked goods or snacks for our coffee hours each Sunday. If you would like to bake or bring in a snack, please mark it down on the sign up list. Please have your snack here by 8:30 a.m. for the Contemporary Service and 10:00 a.m. for the Traditional Service. Thank you for volunteering!

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

### **A Message from Pastor Jim**

As you may know, Munson Healthcare has reported that COVID cases are on the rise in our local area and has raised their COVID response to level Red, the highest possible level of response. (You may click here for the full article from Munson: <https://www.munsonhealthcare.org/services/community-health/covid19/pandemic-status>.)

According to this article, Munson Healthcare is recommending that you:

- Get your COVID-19 vaccination at your earliest opportunity
- Wear a mask in public indoor and crowded outdoor spaces
- Practice proper hand hygiene
- Avoid large gatherings when possible
- Continue your regular screening and preventive care schedule

With this in mind and with the input of the COVID Task Force, we are highly recommending once again that everyone, regardless of their vaccination status, wear a mask when attending church. This is for the sake of your own health, as well as the sake of others, especially for the elderly and those who are most vulnerable to the COVID virus. And as always, if you are not feeling well or may have been exposed to the virus, please stay at home and not gather with others in public.

Worship services will continue to be offered online for those who are uncomfortable or unable to come church. You can access all services on Facebook or by going to our church website: [www.erfpc.org](http://www.erfpc.org).

Your understanding and cooperation at this time are greatly appreciated.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Jim

## **Covid Guidelines**

**We're pleased to announce the following guidelines:**

- Allow the choir/praise band to return to full numbers.
- Continue to use the prepackaged cups/wafers for Communion through October.
- Continue to leave bulletins on the lectern through October.
- Allow coffee/snacks to be served in doors beginning in July.
- Allow food to be served in the Fellowship Hall for events/meetings beginning June 26.
- Reopen the Lighthouse for use by the church and community.
- Continue to keep the offertory boxes in the narthex through October.
- Continue to highly recommend masks for those adults who are not vaccinated and for children over the age of 2.

Philippians 2:2-4 says: *"Be of the same mind, having the same love, being of full accord and one mind... In humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."*

We are grateful to be a part of such a loving and caring congregation! Thank you for your cooperation as we journey through this together! Keep the faith!

In Christ's Love, The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids