

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, October 2, 2022
9 AM Contemporary Service
Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Worship Songs – ***“Here I Am To Worship”***
“Lord I Need You”

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Sermon

“Disciples Share their Faith with Others”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – ***“Spirit of the Living God”***

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.

Moment for Stewardship

Pete Van Den Berge

Presentation of Offering and Connection Cards

Closing Song – ***“God So Loved”***

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.

Chancel flowers are placed by Adam & Chris Schuler in honor of their 21st wedding anniversary.

Chancel flowers are placed by Laura & David Atkinson in memory of our twin girls, Nora Jean and Kathryn Jean Atkinson, who lived a short time, went to be with the Lord on Saturday October 1, 1983...Love, Forever in Our Hearts, “Mom & Dad”

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, October 2, 2022
10:30 AM Traditional Service

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Look to the Day”* by Rutter

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Christians around the world gather this day to share holy communion as one body—a body united in the love and mercy of Christ. We gather with them, rejoicing in our unity in Christ.

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Sandi Gray

Leader: How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a land of suffering?

People: We shall sing of courage and the strength of the Lord.

Leader: How shall we sing the Lord’s song when we feel so lonely?

People: We shall sing of unity and faithfulness, of reconciliation and hope.

Leader: Come, let us sing the Lord’s song this day.

People: Let us praise God in all our ways forever. AMEN.

Opening Prayer

Sandi Gray

All: Lord, throughout the world today, Christians are sharing in the sacrament of Holy Communion. We come together with a bountiful table set in the midst of struggle and strife. Help us to receive the elements of bread and wine for the nourishment of our souls and for the strengthening of our witness to your love for us. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.

Opening Hymn 177 – *“I Will Come to You”*

Prayer of Confession

Sandi Gray

All: Merciful and forgiving God, we need a spirit of love and acceptance to flood into our lives this day. Even though we celebrate World Communion Sunday with the giving of the precious bread and of the beloved wine, still we harbor anger and vehemence against others. We act out of frustration rather than love. We hoard your gifts and only grudgingly share our bounty with others. We find ways to turn our backs on you, claiming that other things are more important than our faith. And then in the midst of struggle and strife, we come back to you, awash in tears and sorrow. We plead for your help and salvation. Remind us again, O Lord, that your love has always and will always be with us. You have called us to be witnesses to the good things that can happen when we follow your ways. You have asked us to reach out, across our borders, our oceans, our fears to others with the reconciling love of your Son Jesus Christ. Heal us from our selfishness and our apathy. Give us courage and strength for the ministries in which you have placed us. For we ask these things in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Sandi Gray

From the beginning of all creation, God’s word was love. That love has been lavished upon you, not because you did anything to earn it, but because it is God’s great gift to you. Live in that love and bring peace to others. AMEN.

Anthem – *“Bread of Heaven”* by Lopez

Scripture Reading – 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Disciples Share their Faith with Others”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 521 – *“In Remembrance of Me”*

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.

Moment for Stewardship

Pete Van Den Berge

Presentation of Offering and Connection Cards

Closing Hymn 757 – *“Today We All Are Called to be Disciples”*

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: Janeen & Drexel Noecker, and our snack volunteer.

Chancel flowers are placed by Adam & Chris Schuler in honor of their 21st wedding anniversary.

Chancel flowers are placed by Laura & David Atkinson in memory of our twin girls, Nora Jean and Kathryn Jean Atkinson, who lived a short time, went to be with the Lord on Saturday October 1, 1983...Love, Forever in Our Hearts, “Mom & Dad”

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 Financial Manager, Kim McCann, 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.

Gospel Concert – Today, October 2 at 4:00 PM

Performed by the Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir and the Elk Lake Community Choir. Gospel music representing the slaves' field songs and heartbreak - passing on valuable life lessons. Continuing into the 19th century and culminating with currently written gospel songs by today's gifted composers. Join us for a different kind of concert. There is no charge!! Steve Stargardt - piano, Willie Dahl - trumpet, LeRue Werner – Narrator, and Cheryl Knight - Music Director.

New Adult Ed Class—"The Chosen: Water for the Thirsty," Season One—Mondays at 6:00 PM There's still room for you!

Books and signup sheet are at the Activity Center (*A \$5 donation to help cover the cost of the study book will be appreciated but not required. You can donate at class.*)

What: Based on the popular, multi-season TV series, "The Chosen" focuses on the life of Jesus *as seen through the eyes of those who actually met Him!* Season One focuses on Simon, Matthew, Andrew, Nicodemus, and Mary Magdalene as they encounter Jesus. You will gain an appreciation of their unexpected changes of fortune in getting to know him.

When: Monday evenings, September 26 through November 14, 6-7:30 p.m., with food provided before class. Because the length of the videos varies, our dismissal time will also vary but 7:30 will be the latest.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Format: Build background, view video, read and discuss meaning of related Scripture readings (printed in the study guide) and how each reading applies to God/Life/you.

Facilitators: Pastor Jim Porter will start us off on September 26. Marcia Sumerix and Nancy Muhlig will lead some lessons, too.

(Note this video series is also streamed on Amazon Prime and available on [the chosen.tv/app](http://thechosen.tv/app))

October is Staff Appreciation Month

The Deacons will place flowers in the sanctuary on October 16 in honor of our great staff and have invited the staff to a luncheon with the Deacons later in the month. How can you participate? We will be placing bags in the narthex beginning October 2nd for your cards and messages. A phone call or an invite to a staff member to go out to lunch or dinner are also good ways to show your appreciation. Let's show our staff how much we appreciate their support and dedication to First Presbyterian church.

Next Wired Word Discussion – Wednesday, October 12 at 6:00 PM

The next Wired Word discussion will be Wednesday, October 12 at 6:00 p.m. at Shorts north of Elk Rapids. We will meet at the picnic tables in the open space. Those who may wish to order food/beverage prior to the meeting are welcome to do so. Please contact Klaus Lehrer for more information at klauslehrer@yahoo.com.

New Member Class - Wednesdays, October 12 & 19

Here's an opportunity to explore becoming a member of our family of faith. Mark your calendar and plan to attend our new member class on two Wednesday evenings, October 12 & 19 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is a two-part orientation with Pastor Jim to learn more about who we are. Please email (info@erfpc.org) or call (231-264-8167) the church office if you would like to attend.

A Trip to Scotland with Pastors Jim and Jaime – You're Invited!

In celebration of Jim's 30th year of ordained ministry (& Jaime's 29th) and in anticipation of our church's 150th Anniversary in 2024, Pastors Jim and Jaime invite you to join them on a trip to Scotland in October 2023!

From Jim and Jaime:

Join us as we explore the rich wonders of Scotland: the birthplace of our Presbyterian heritage and Celtic spirituality, a "thin place" for many who are searching for God, and a beautiful treasure of God's creation waiting to be explored. We are partnering with Rev. Jim Wallace of Scotus Tours to be our host and hope you will join us on this exciting adventure!

Early Bird deadline is October 23, 2022, so sign up as early as possible! Questions? Contact Pastor Jim at jporter@erfpc.org.

One Service at 10:30 AM & Congregational Meeting at 11:45 AM—Sunday, October 30

We'll have one worship service at 10:30 a.m. with a congregational meeting following at 11:45 a.m. in the sanctuary on Sunday, October 30. The purpose of the congregational meeting is to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and act on the recommendations for new officers, and review the preliminary budget for 2023. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Candy Donations & Volunteers Needed for October 31 Halloween Trunk-N-Treat

We're collecting candy donations, and looking for volunteers to decorate their vehicles or a station inside the Lighthouse and pass out candy. Please contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 if you'd like to participate or have any questions.

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.

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, connieclar@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.

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.

Plus, the Community Cupboard has a new website! Check it out at:

<https://elkrapidscommunitycupboard.squarespace.com/>

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.