

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids**  
**Sunday, September 19, 2021**  
**9 AM Contemporary Service**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Minute for Mission

Connie Clark

Worship Songs – ***“Blessed Be Your Name”***  
***“Yes I Will”***

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – John 5:1-18

Sermon

*“The Kindness of an Invitation”*  
(Do You Want to Be Made Well?)

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – *“Come to the Table”*

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.**

Offering

Closing Song – ***“Marvelous Light”***

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: Mel Matchett; and our snack volunteer.

**Chancel flowers** are placed by Don and Jan Shurte in honor of their 44<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids**  
**Sunday, September 19, 2021**  
**11 AM Traditional Service**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *Hymn Medley*

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Minute for Mission

Connie Clark

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Doug White

Leader: Healing God, we come together today in our brokenness,  
to call to you in your mercy, to make us whole again.

**People: Compassionate God, listen to our prayers, we pray.**

Leader: Restoring God, we gather to worship you,  
in whom we seek to be renewed and restored again.

**People: Caring God, our Quiet-Center, listen to our prayers this day.**

Leader: Foundational God, we come to praise and thank you!  
In the depths of your Holy Being we find peace and rest.

**People: Loving God, who is both our Beginning and our End,  
help us this day--- and always--- to place our trust and hope in You. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Doug White

**All: Holy God, Creator of Life,  
You call us out of our dark places,  
And offer us the grace of new life.**

**When we see nothing but hopelessness,  
you surprise us with the breath of your Holy Spirit.**

**Call us out of the complacency our routines,  
and set us free from our self-imposed limitations.**

**Instead, fill us with your Spirit of life, compassion, and peace,  
In the name of Jesus, your Anointed One, we pray. Amen.**

Opening Hymn 475 – *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*

Anthem – *“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*

Scripture Reading – John 5:1-18

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“The Kindness of an Invitation”  
(Do You Want to Be Made Well?)

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 503 – *“Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation”*

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.**

Offering

Closing Hymn 634 – *“To God Be the Glory”*

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 and Adrian; and snack volunteer: Betty Tezak.

**Chancel flowers** are placed by Don and Jan Shurte in honor of their 44<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

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 269-806-4073. Again, we thank everyone for their continued support of the ministries and mission of the church!

### **Parents’ Meeting – Sunday, September 19 Between Services**

There will be a meeting for all parents of school aged children and youth on Sunday, September 19 in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. between services. We’ll be sharing plans for the coming school year. Contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 with questions.

### **Sunday School & Youth Group – Between Services at 10AM 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 between services at 10:00 a.m. at the Lighthouse. Please contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 with questions.

### **Celebration of Rachel Stratton’s One Year Anniversary with First Pres.–Sunday, Sept. 26**

Please join us in celebrating Rachel Stratton's one-year anniversary of joining the music program. We will be having a cake on Sunday September 26th during coffee hour between the two services. Be sure to stop and congratulate Rachel, have some cake and sign the poster of good wishes that will be in the narthex.

**Currently needed:** a lady to help LaCorda Smith on Sunday mornings. Responsibilities include: arrive at 9:00 a.m., help her get dressed and ready for church, prepare a light breakfast, transport to church and back home (11:00 service). This is a paid position of \$75 each Sunday. Please call Julie at 264-499-4061 or Ron at 231-631-2353.

### Stephen Ministry Training Coming this Fall

Mark your calendar and plan to attend our Stephen Ministry training on Monday evenings, September 27 through November 22 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. and Saturday mornings October 30 and November 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Contact Sandra Gray (419-934-0790), Connie Clark (248-672-4234), or Klaus Lehrer (klauslehrer@yahoo.com) for more information.

### New Member Class - Mondays, October 11 & 18

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 Monday evenings, October 11 & 18 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. 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.

### The Walk – New Small Group Study

**Need a walk? A spiritual walk?** If you do, then our next Adult Education study is meant for you! In his dvd and book The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life Adam Hamilton focuses on the idea of walking with Jesus. It is a simple way of thinking about our Christian life. We are followers of Jesus. We are seeking to learn from him, emulate him, do what he wants us to do, go where he wants us to go, and walk on the journey of life with him. Each of the five spiritual practices we will study is rooted in Jesus's own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament.

#### Options for joining a small group:

1. Form your own group and choose where and when you want to meet. The facilitator will be given a copy of the dvd and book as well the leader's guide. Participants may choose to download, order, or purchase the books from the Adult Ed team. Contact Nancy Muhlig, nmuhlig@charter.net, 231-632-3712 for assistance.
2. Join an existing group, all of which at this time are planning to meet weekly for six weeks in person. Donations of \$10 to help cover the cost of the book will be appreciated but not required.

	<b>Monday Mornings</b>	<b>Monday Evenings</b>	<b>Tuesday Mornings</b>	<b>Sunday Mornings</b>
Time	10-11:30 AM	7-8:30 PM	10-11:30 AM	9:30-10:50 AM
Dates	Oct. 4 – Nov. 8	Oct. 11 – Nov. 22	Sept. 14 – Oct. 19	Oct. 10 – Nov. 21
Location	Fellowship Hall/Narthex Conference Room	Fellowship Hall	Lower Level of Lighthouse	Narthex Conference Room
Contact to Register	Pam Coleman 847-445-8239 <a href="mailto:pbi0607@me.com">pbi0607@me.com</a>	Nancy Muhlig 231-632-3712 <a href="mailto:nmuhlig@charter.net">nmuhlig@charter.net</a>	Robin Osterhaven 517-388-0007 <a href="mailto:rosterhaven1977@gmail.com">rosterhaven1977@gmail.com</a> OR Marcia Sumerix 989-964-1420 <a href="mailto:sumerixmj60@gmail.com">sumerixmj60@gmail.com</a>	Nancy Muhlig 231-632-3712 <a href="mailto:nmuhlig@charter.net">nmuhlig@charter.net</a>

#### Option for individual study:

When the above classes have finished, the materials will be available for others to use. Materials can also be ordered online at christianbooks.com.

**Join the Contemporary Worship Team!** Do you sing or play an instrument? Do you have a heart for the Lord? Do you want to be more involved in the contemporary service? If you answered yes to all of these questions, then consider joining the contemporary worship team! We are especially needing pianists and guitarists but everyone who is interested in joining should reach out. If you are interested in joining the worship team, please contact Rachel Stratton at [rachstratton1@gmail.com](mailto:rachstratton1@gmail.com).

### **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!

### **Volunteers Needed for our Sunday Morning AV Team!**

We are looking for volunteers to join our Sunday morning AV Team. Training is provided. If you are interested, please contact Shawn Pollack at [av.team@erfpc.org](mailto:av.team@erfpc.org) or feel free to talk to him after the service.

### **Buttars Flower Fund**

The Deacons use the Buttars Flower Fund to supplement the cost of the flowers we use to keep our facility looking beautiful during the different seasons (especially flowers at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas). If you would like to make a donation to help with the cost of flowers, please write Buttars Flower Fund on the memo line of your check.

### **New Covid Guidelines**

**We're pleased to announce the following new 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 August.
- 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