

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids  
Sunday, September 26, 2021  
9 AM Contemporary Service**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Worship Songs – *“Everlasting God”*  
*“God So Loved”*

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Readings – Philippians 2:1-13  
Luke 22:24-27

Sermon

“The Invitation to Follow”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – *“I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry”*

Baptism

Ben and Nora Vergote  
Children of Chad and Shannah

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 – *“The Blessing”*

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 volunteers: Deacons.

**Chancel flowers** are placed by the Deacons in honor of Rachel Stratton’s one-year anniversary with First Pres.

**Chancel flowers** are placed by the Dixon family in memory of Caroline Dixon.

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids**  
**Sunday, September 26, 2021**  
**11 AM Traditional Service**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Still, My Soul, Be Still”*

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

LeRue Werner

Leader: Welcome to you in the name of the Lord!

**People: Thank you. We are glad to be here to praise and worship God.**

Leader: Open your hearts today to hear God’s word for you.

**People: We open our spirits to receive God’s healing love.**

Leader: Remember that God has called you to service.

**People: Lord, help us to be ready to serve you in all that we do.**

**All: Come, let us worship together the living God!**

Opening Prayer

LeRue Werner

**All: Lord of joy and mercy, be with us this day as we seek your voice and your guidance.**

**Remove the obstacles that block our commitment to You and help us to truly be your disciples; for we ask this in Christ’s name. Amen.**

Opening Hymn – *“Because He Lives”* (Hymn not in hymnal)

Verse 1

**God sent His Son-- they called Him Jesus;  
He came to love, heal and forgive.  
He lived and died to buy my pardon;  
An empty grave is there to prove  
My Savior lives.**

Chorus

**Because He lives I can face tomorrow;  
Because He lives, all fear is gone.  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living  
Just because He lives.**

Verse 2

**How sweet to hold our newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy he gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance:  
This child can face uncertain days  
Because He lives.**

[Chorus]

Verse 3

**And then one day I'll cross the river;  
I'll fight life's final war with pain.  
And then, as death gives way to vict'ry,  
I'll see the lights of glory  
And I'll know He reigns.**

[Chorus]

CCLI Song # 16880 / CCLI#764321

Anthem – *“Here’s One”* by Hayes

Scripture Readings –Philippians 2:1-13

Luke 22:24-27

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“The Invitation to Follow”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 410 – ***“God Is Calling through the Whisper”*** (vs. 1 & 3)

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 269 – ***“Lead On, O King Eternal”***

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 Doug White for playing clarinet today.

Thank you. Special thanks to our usher: Jane Lund; and snack volunteers: Deacons.

**Chancel flowers** are placed by the Deacons in honor of Rachel Stratton’s one-year anniversary with First Pres.

**Chancel flowers** are placed by the Dixon family in memory of Caroline Dixon.

**We express our sympathy** to the family of Joann Mayer, who died on September 19.

**We express our sympathy** to the family of Caroline Dixon, who died on September 19.

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!

### **Celebration of Rachel Stratton’s One Year Anniversary with First Pres.–Today**

Please join us in celebrating Rachel Stratton's one-year anniversary of joining the music program. We will be having a cake today 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.

### **Sunday School & Youth Group – Between Services at 10AM at the Lighthouse**

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

## October is Staff Appreciation Month

The Deacons will place flowers in the sanctuary on Oct 3rd 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 3rd for your cards and messages. Baking or a phone call are also good ways to show your appreciation, or you can invite a staff member out to lunch or dinner. Let's show our staff how much we appreciate their support and dedication to First Presbyterian church.

**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.



## Fall Picnic & "Blessing of the Animals" – Sunday, October 17 from 4-6:30 PM

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a Fall Picnic and the rescheduled "Blessing of the Animals" on Sunday, October 17 from 4:00-6:30 p.m. at Cal & Robin Osterhaven's horse place at 12161 Campbell Road, Kewadin, MI 49648. Rachel Stratton will bring her guitar for a time of music, Pastor Jim will bless our furry four-legged friends, and we'll enjoy a picnic with a panoramic view. Please bring a dish to pass. Meat and drinks will be provided. Don't miss this fun family event! Hope to see everyone there!

**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).

## 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:pbj0607@me.com">pbj0607@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](http://christianbooks.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