

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids**  
**Sunday, September 11, 2022**  
**9 AM Contemporary Service**  
Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Worship Songs – ***“Christ Be Magnified”***  
***“Reckless Love”***

Blessing of the New Beginnings

Wayne Potter

**For our students: “Lord bless the students of our community, help us to demonstrate your love to them. Keep them safe and excited to learn. Growing both in knowledge and faith knowing they are loved.”**

**For our teachers, support staff and administrators: “Lord thank you for the gift of knowledge they give our children. Give our educators a spirit of grace and compassion; strength and endurance for the year ahead. Bless them as they perform the many tasks ahead this year.**

**For our parents: Lord, help parents as they begin this new school year. Allow them to feel your presence and blessing every day. Allow them to find peace in the assurance that they are not alone, You are with them.**

**AMEN.**

Scripture Reading – Luke 15:1-10

Sermon

**“The Heart of God for the Lost:  
Disciples Welcome All with Christ’s Love”**

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – ***“To The Ends Of The Earth”***

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.**

Pause to Remember the Victims of 9/11 and Prayers for Peace for our  
Community, Nation, and World

Presentation of Offering and Connection Cards

Closing Song – ***“Build Your Kingdom Here”***

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 volunteer: Shelia Conrad.

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids**  
**Sunday, September 11, 2022**  
**10:30 AM Traditional Service**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Step By Step”* with *“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”* chorale setting by Shackley

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Welcome home! Return to God, no matter how long you’ve been away. Come home to God, no matter how far you’ve wandered. But if you don’t return on your own, don’t be surprised if God comes and finds you anyway. That’s what we call grace!

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Doug White

Leader: Welcome in!

**People: Come on home.**

Leader: Come with your load of troubles,

**People: Carry in your bundle of doubts.**

Leader: Bring them home to God,

**People: To a place of healing,**

Leader: To a community of forgiveness,

**People: To this family.**

Leader: Bring them home to God:

**People: A God who cares,**

Leader: Who lightens our load,

**People: Who gives us rest.**

Leader: Who gives us hope for the future, courage for each day, and a song for this moment.

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

Opening Prayer

Doug White

**All: God of abundant grace, may your Holy Spirit be with us now as we worship you this day.**

**Open our eyes to truly see one another, that we might discover your presence in the smile of a neighbor. Open our ears to the needs of the world, that we might hear your wisdom in the words spoken around us. And open our hearts to your grace and love, that we might find guidance and strength for the journey, for ourselves and for one another. Amen.**

Opening Hymn 401 – *“Here in This Place”*

Prayer of Confession

Doug White

**All: Gracious and loving God, we find it difficult at times to place our trust in you. Too often we look at the world, and see only violence, pain, destruction, and signs of hopelessness and despair. Too often we rely on our own strength, our own plans, our own devices, rather than trusting in your hand to hold us, your love to sustain us, and your wisdom to see us through. Forgive us, Holy One. Help us turn to you when we are lost, that we might find our way home. Help us navigate the treacherous waters of this world, that we might experience your abundant grace, mercy, and love. Help us put our trust in you, that the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus may shine in our lives for all to see. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

Assurance of Pardon

Doug White

Jesus said, “there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.” My friends, experience God’s forgiveness and joy—gifts that lead to new life!

Anthem – “*Lord I Give Myself to You*” by Johnson

Scripture Reading – Luke 15:1-10

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“The Heart of God for the Lost:  
Disciples Welcome All with Christ’s Love”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 170 – “*You Walk along Our Shoreline*”

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.**

Pause to Remember the Victims of 9/11 and Prayers for Peace for our  
Community, Nation, and World

Presentation of Offering and Connection Cards

Closing Hymn 177 – “*You Are Mine*”

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: Don & Sandy Davids, and our snack volunteer: Susan Wiltse.

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.

## **Sunday School Begins Today – 10:00 AM at the Lighthouse**

Our first day of Sunday School kicks off with a family breakfast at 10:00 a.m. at the Lighthouse followed by a meeting outlining the coming year for parents, grandparents and anyone interested, along with activities for children and youth. Contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 with questions.

## **Deacons Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Deacons would like you to be aware of their Prayer Shawl Ministry so through the month of September there will be a prayer shawl display in the narthex. When someone in our church family has a need for comfort, warmth, and knowing we care, please let Ellen in the office (231-264-8167) or Mary Anne Frey (231 264 5567) know, and we will gladly choose a shawl to give out. Pastor Jim is going to bless the shawls at a service later in the month. Enjoy these beautiful prayer shawls knit or crocheted by our talented church members & friends.

## **Yarn Kits Available for Prayer Shawls**

As you may know, through September we are highlighting our Prayer Shawl Ministry. We are always in need of people willing to knit or crochet an adult shawl or a baby baptismal blanket, and we have yarn kits available in the church office. If you are able to help with this important ministry, please call Connie Clark or Mary Anne Frey.

## **All Ministry Team Budget & Vision Meeting – Saturday, September 24**

This meeting is the first step in our budgeting process for 2023, as well as a celebration of all the ministries of First Pres. All ministry team leaders and/or team members are invited to participate in this important meeting on Saturday, September 24 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Hope to see you there!

## **Coming in September – New Adult Ed Class**

### **Sign up now for “The Chosen: Water for the Thirsty,” Season One**

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 our first 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. Starting at 5:30 p.m. on September 26, we’ll serve **pizza**; class will begin at 6 p.m. 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](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08K9K9K9K))*

**We have a place for you! Bible Girls meet every Tuesday, 10:00-11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.** We are currently studying the book of John using the video teaching of Rev. Gary Hamrick as a teaching tool. Come laugh, study and pray with us.

**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!

**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](mailto:ilovesadie1@icloud.com)
- Laura Asiala, [leasiala@gmail.com](mailto:leasiala@gmail.com)
- Robin Osterhaven, [rosterhaven1977@gmail.com](mailto:rosterhaven1977@gmail.com)
- Ken Kohlman, [kendkohlman@me.com](mailto:kendkohlman@me.com)
- Connie Claar, [connieclar@torchlake.com](mailto:connieclar@torchlake.com)
- John Conrad
- David Fosdick, [david@northwoodssoda.com](mailto: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.

### **WinSome Women Fall Retreats – October 11 & 12, 12 & 13, 13 & 14**

Gain insights from God's Word and learn of His love at the fall WinSome Women retreats at the Great Lakes Center for the Arts in Bay Harbor, Michigan. Enjoy award-winning musicians Point Of Grace, along with speakers Pam Tebow and Shari Rigby. Mark your calendars for the fall retreats October 11 & 12, October 12 & 13, and October 13 & 14. Register at [wswretreats.org](http://wswretreats.org).

**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.

### **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.