

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, September 18, 2022
9 AM Contemporary Service**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Trailer for “The Chosen” – Sign up for a small group today!

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

Worship Songs – *“You Say”*

“A Thousand Hallelujahs”

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Ephesians 4:1-16

Sermon

“Disciples Seek Unity in the Body of Christ:
It’s What Disciples Do!”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – *“Give Us Clean Hands”*

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 – *“Come Thou Fount (I Will Sing)”*

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: Jeremy & Amy Cannon & family, and our snack volunteer.

Chancel flowers are placed by Tom Klingler in memory of Diane Klingler.

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, September 18, 2022
10:30 AM Traditional Service

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “As Long As I Live” by Choplin

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Trailer for “The Chosen” – Sign up for a small group today!

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

Invitation and Centering Words

The Watchwords of Christian Unity:

“In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Freedom; In All Things, Love.”

(Rupert Meldenius, ca. 1627)

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Betty Tezak

Leader: O God, we come this day into your courts with praise and thanksgiving!

People: We come in celebration and song.

Leader: We come in gratitude for your grace and love.

People: We come as those who have received blessing upon blessing.

Leader: Help us to hear the cry of the poor in the land, and look for ways to offer others relief.

People: For God calls us to bring others blessing upon blessing, in Jesus' name.

Leader: O God, we come into your courts with praise and thanksgiving!

All: Come, let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

Betty Tezak

All: Gracious God, your people are suffering. Where there is woundedness, help us bring healing. Where there is discouragement, help us bring support and comfort. Where there is dismay and mourning, help us bring the power of new life and new opportunities. Heal us, O God, for you are our help and our hope, the One we turn to in times of trouble. In the name of our Great Physician, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn 1 – **“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”**

Prayer of Confession (Psalm 79, Jeremiah 8, 1 Timothy 2, Luke 16)

Betty Tezak

All: Holy God, We confess that sometimes we find your word hard to understand. The quick fixes of this world are so much more pleasant, leaving us free to go back to our usual routines. But your word is powerful. And if we listen with our hearts, it will remake and renew our lives. Your word reorients us to you and to you alone. Turn us toward your love for justice and true worship. Forgive our sins, for which you weep. Forgive our hesitation. Grant us courage to choose you as our physician, and to serve you and you alone. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Betty Tezak

The God of our salvation, the God who weeps for us and for our world, desires everyone to be saved and through Christ Jesus gave himself as a ransom for all. Through the love and grace of God, we are forgiven.

Anthem – *“Meditations of My Heart”* by Hagenberg

Scripture Reading – Ephesians 4:1-16

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Disciples Seek Unity in the Body of Christ:
It’s What Disciples Do!”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 695 – *“Change My Heart, O God”*

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

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 usher: Jane Lund, and our snack volunteer.

Chancel flowers are placed by Tom Klingler in memory of Diane Klingler.

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.

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!

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.

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](http://thechosen.tv/app))

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.

THESE DAYS devotional booklets for October through December 2022 have arrived and are on the Welcome table in the narthex. Stop and pick up your copy today!

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, connieclaar@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.