



First Presbyterian Church
of Elk Rapids

404 Spruce Street, Elk Rapids, Michigan 49629
231-264-8167 • info@erfpc.org

Rev. Jim Porter, Senior Pastor
Rev. Sandra Murray, Parish Associate
Cheryl Knight, Director of Music Ministries
Melanie Stoll, Contemporary Worship Leader
Wayne Potter, Director of Youth and Family Life Ministries

December 29, 2019

MEDITATION TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS
AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

“Therefore I intend to keep on reminding you of these things, though you know them already and are established in the truth that has come to you. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to refresh your memory, since I know that my death will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

~ 2 Peter 1:12-15

Our Mission

Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;
Deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;
Demonstrate Christ’s way of love in service to the world.

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

One Worship Service – 10:00 AM

* Signifies the congregation may stand as able. | Please silence all electronic devices.

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church!

If you do not have a church home in the area, we invite you to make our church yours. Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbor so you can get acquainted.



We encourage you to take a moment to check in on Facebook.

PREPARING

THE PRELUDE – “*Christ Is Born in Bethlehem*” arr. by Johnson

WELCOME

*GREETING EACH OTHER IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

RINGING OF THE HISTORIC CHURCH BELL AND
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTROIT – “*O Come All Ye Faithful*” by Wade

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP Marcy Potter

Leader: In deep gratitude we come to worship God.

People: We recognize God as the source of all goodness.

Leader: All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

**People: love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness
are all of God.**

Leader: We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but
for who God is.

**People: We gather to show our gratitude in song and
prayer.**

All: Amen.

*OPENING HYMN 147 – *The First Nowell*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (followed by silent confessions) Marcy Potter

**All: We bow our heads in holy reverence. Oh God, we long to
be free of burdens that hold us captive. We long to be bearers
of good news to the oppressed. We long to return to your favor.
Forgive us our transgressions; loosen the chains of doubt that
bind us. Hear our prayers.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – *Kyrie*

**Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Marcy Potter

Leader: You are forgiven! God loves you. God blesses you with new beginnings and new life. Put aside your old ways and become new! God gives a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning. Sing, dance, rejoice! Never forget the gift of God's redeeming grace.

All: Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen. Amen.**

ANTHEM – “*An Old-Fashioned Christmas*”

by Strommen

SPECIAL MUSIC – “*The Christmas Song*”

by Torne

PROCLAIMING

SCRIPTURE READING – Joshua 4:1-7 (pg. 196 OT)

Marcy Potter

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Celebrating and Anticipating”

Wayne Potter

RESPONDING

*RESPONSIVE HYMN 145 – *What Child Is This*

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.

OFFERTORY – “*Still, Still, Still*”

arr. by Eilers

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: We dedicate these gifts, Lord, for the work of the church, and we ask you to use all that we have and all that we are in your service. Amen.

*CONCLUDING HYMN 151 – *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

*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”*

THE POSTLUDE – *“Come and Worship”* arr. by Larson

WORSHIP CONCLUDES—SERVICE BEGINS!

Thank you Sandi Gray and Karyl Mangus for playing recorder today.

WORSHIP NOTES

Welcome friends. If you are a guest, please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad at the end of each pew, and include a phone number or email address so we can acknowledge your visit today. We hope your worship experience is meaningful and uplifting. Meet new friends at “Fellowship Hour” in the narthex before and after worship. Also, be sure to pick up a “Welcome” folder from our guest table also located in the narthex.

Child care. Qualified caregivers welcome infants and children through 5 years old.



We have an induction hearing loop system for hearing aid users. Please switch hearing aids to “T” or see the sound technician for help.

Large print bulletins and hymn sheets available from an usher.

Thank you. Special thanks to our greeters: Lynne & Len Sheldon; usher: Don Reynolds; and fellowship hour: Fellowship Team.

Prayer requests: Don & Sandy Davids’ granddaughter Alexa, Karyl Mangus’ granddaughter Jessica, Donald Kinloch, Olivia Lein, Suzanna Lein, Mike Cameron, Caleigh Gordon (Former Eagle Village resident), Nash Nichols (Tom & Diane Thompson’s grandson), Denise Elmi’s son Josh, Len Sheldon, Roger Gehrt, Mary Sawyer’s friend Mac, Caroline Dixon, Edson Murray, Bruce Hulwick, Carolyn Cross (Sandy Davids’ mother), Lou Sanford, Tom Klingler, and Nilah Farmer.

Elk Rapids School Snow Days - If Elk Rapids Schools have a snow day, the office will not open until 12 noon or may not open at all (depending on the weather). If you have a meeting scheduled, we encourage you to call the church or the person heading up the meeting before you venture out.

This Week's Activities

Sun. 12/29 - One Service
10 a.m. One Worship Service

Mon. 12/30

Tues. 12/31

Wed. 1/1 - New Year's Day
Office Closed

Thurs. 1/2

Fri. 1/3

Sat. 1/4

Next Week's Activities

Sun. 1/5
9 a.m. Traditional Service
10 a.m. SS/Youth
11 a.m. Contemporary Service

Mon. 1/6
9 a.m. Hospitality Team
5:30 p.m. Personnel MT

Tues. 1/7
9 a.m. Women's Retreat Meeting
10 a.m. Bible Girls
6 p.m. Community Cupboard

Wed. 1/8
6:30 a.m. Breakfast Club @ LH
9 a.m. Bulletin Items Due
4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice

Thurs. 1/9
7 p.m. Trustees Meeting

Fri. 1/10
6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study at
Noel Peter's
8:30 a.m. Community Cupboard
9 a.m. Annual Reports Due

What's Happening

Please note that the church office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day. Regular office hours will resume on Thursday, January 2.

Special Gift - If you didn't get a "Famous Bible Verses" mug, you are welcome to take one from the Activity Center. The mugs are a gift from the Adult Ed Ministry Team and represent a reminder of the multitude of blessings God heaps upon us, with the greatest blessing of all being the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Give thanks!

New Sermon Series Begins in January

Make plans to join us in the new year as we begin our sermon series "The Gifts That Keep On Giving" - discovering and living into the gifts God offers. Don't miss it!

A New Men's Bible Study is Starting!

We will meet at Noel Peter's on Friday, January 10, at 6:30 a.m. and are looking at the book of James. It's all about putting our faith in action. Please contact Pastor Jim at 231-264-8167 or Mel Matchett at 231-264-6377 if you would like to attend.

Youth Brunch - Sunday, January 12

There will be a youth brunch in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 12 from 10:00—11:00 a.m. There will be no youth group or children's Sunday School classes to allow everyone to enjoy the brunch. The cost for your meal is a donation to the youth group.

Wired Word - Begins Again January 15

"Wired Word," our discussion of topics in the news, will resume Wednesday, January 15, at 6 p.m. at AmVets. We'll continue to meet on February 5 & 19, and March 4 & 18. Don't miss these thought-provoking discussions!

2019 Annual Reports Due Friday, January 10 - Now is the time to begin putting together your Annual Report, covering the activities of your group or ministry team for 2019. Please try to keep your report to one page, put it in a Word document, and email it to the office (info@erfpc.org) by 9 a.m. Friday, January 10, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Merillat (231-264-8167).

Florida Snowbirds Lunch - Saturday, February 8

If you are in Florida in February, plan to attend the "First Presbyterian South" lunch on February 8 at 12 noon at Captain's Table Restaurant, Fisherman's Village, Punta Gorda, FL. To reserve a spot, contact Connie Claar at 231-883-9408 or connieclaar@torchlake.com by January 31.

The IRA Charitable Rollover

The IRA charitable rollover provision allows giving individuals age 70 1/2 or older the ability to transfer up to \$100,000 a year, tax-free, from an IRA to one or more qualifying charities.

Qualified IRA account holders can donate directly from an IRA to First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids to help the mission of the church.

The Community Cupboard needs your receipts from Village Market for the Community Cash program. Thanks to those who are already participating. Let's all help our Community Cupboard by bringing in our receipts!

Opportunities to Get Involved

If you would like to use your time and talents to serve or be more involved on Sunday mornings or on one of our ministry teams (committees), please contact those listed below.

Sunday Mornings:

Breakfast Cook at the Lighthouse.....	Wayne Potter 517-416-2813
Greeter (<i>sign up at Activity Center</i>).....	Lynne Sheldon 586-484-1303
Traditional Worship Snacks (<i>sign up at Activity Center</i>).....	Sandy Davids 231-409-8859
Contemporary Worship Snacks (<i>sign up at Activity Center</i>)...	Anne Conrad 231-492-5129
Nursery.....	Wayne Potter 517-416-2813
Usher for traditional or contemporary service.....	Judy Matchett 231-264-6377
Sanctuary Choir.....	Cheryl Knight 231-409-3316
Contemporary Praise Team.....	Melanie Stoll 231-392-1862
Sound.....	Pete VanDenBerge 231-264-9551
Visual.....	Pete VanDenBerge 231-264-9551
Children's Ministries.....	Wayne Potter 517-416-2813
Communication Ministry Team.....	Jim Porter 248-505-9064
Fellowship Ministry Team.....	Joanne Teague 231-264-6162
Outreach Ministry Team.....	Peggy Bushnell 231-322-4926
Presbyterian Women.....	Cheryl Knight 231-409-3316
Volunteer for Free Community Dinners.....	Anne Conrad 231-492-5129
Worship Ministry Team.....	Judy Husby 231-264-9843
Youth Group.....	Wayne Potter 517-416-2813

*Thank you for
worshipping with us!*

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

9:00_{AM} **Traditional Worship***

10:00_{AM} **Children's Sunday School**
Ages birth through 5th grade

Youth Group
Ages 6th grade through 12th grade

Adult Discipleship Hour

11:00_{AM} **Contemporary Worship***

**Qualified caregivers welcome infants & children thru 5 years old at both services.*

Happy New Year!