



First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids

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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

October 13, 2019

MEDITATION TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

*For the healing love you have
offered to us; for the patience you
have with us; for your presence
that will never fail, we give you
thanks, O Lord. Bring our hearts
and spirits to you that we may
grow in our faith and service to
you by serving others. We ask this
in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

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

Traditional Worship – 9:00 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 – “*Paranesque*”

by E. Thiman

WELCOME

*GREETING EACH OTHER IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

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

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Doug White

Leader: In the midst of a hectic week, we have come to
worship God.

**People: Our lives are pulled in so many directions, and
so we come to seek God’s guidance.**

Leader: Open your hearts to the warmth of God’s
redeeming love.

People: God has poured such wonder into our lives!

Leader: Come, let us worship God with hearts and souls
and voices!

**All: Let our praise ring to the rafters and ascend to
the heavens! Amen!**

*OPENING HYMN 829 – *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (followed by silent confessions)

Doug White

All: Patient Lord, you know how easy it is for us to whine and complain bitterly about all those things in our lives that are difficult. We focus on them as though they were the only things that ever happened to us, forgetting the many blessings that you have given to us and the opportunities you give us to serve you. When we feel alienated—you call us beloved. When we feel lost—you seek us. When we feel broken and battered—your love is a healing balm. Forgive us when we forget those things. Help us to always look to you for our healing and to return thanks to you by praise and serving others in your name. For we offer this prayer of confession of our failures and gratitude for your blessings. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – *Kyrie*

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

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Doug White

Leader: Turn again to the Lord, for we are beloved children of God and have been given many blessings. Rejoice in God's love for you.

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.

MESSAGE TO THE CHILDREN

Wayne Potter

Director of Youth & Family Life Ministries

ANTHEM – *"I Believe"*

by Fortune

Soloist: Jeff Whittaker

PROCLAIMING

SCRIPTURE READING – Jeremiah 29:1-14 (pg. 731 OT)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

**"Bloom Where You Are Planted:
Disciples make the best of 'Babylon'"**

Rev. Jim Porter

RESPONDING

*RESPONSIVE HYMN 840 – *When Peace like a River*

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 – *“Victory in Jesus”*

arr. by Selah

*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: In a world of goodness and struggle, we are grateful for your blessings, O God. May these gifts presented here be sent into our community and into the world around us, so that others may claim the hope of your presence. Amen.

*CONCLUDING HYMN 729 – *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

*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 – *“Postlude in F”*

by E. Thiman

WORSHIP CONCLUDES—SERVICE BEGINS!

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 4 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 greeter: Don Reynolds; ushers: Sandy & Don Davids, Diane & Tom Thompson; 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, Ron Dunbar, Len Sheldon, Terry Hogarth, Roger Gehrt, Mary Sawyer’s friend Mac, Keith Hubbell (Gary’s brother), Caroline Dixon, Edson Murray, Bruce Hulwick, and First Presbyterian Church of Kingsford.

We express our sympathy to Joann Mayer and her family for the death of Jack Mayer on Sunday, October 6.



Dear First Presbyterian Church,
Tom and I can hardly put into words, how extremely thankful we are, for the very generous money gift you gave to Cody, Angie, Nash and Gwen.

We were just blown away, surprised, humbled, and shed some tears by the loving and caring church we are so proud to be members of.

This year has been so hard on all of us. The prayers, cards, and kind words spoken have given us some comfort.

We also know this gift will be so helpful towards the many expenses, not to mention all of the days of work they have had to miss.

We will be forever thankful for your love and kindness. God be with all of you. ~ Love, Tom & Diane Thompson

This Week's Activities

Sun. 10/13

- 9 a.m. Traditional Service
- 10 a.m. SS/Youth & Adult Class
- 10 a.m. Parent Meeting
- 11 a.m. Contemporary Service

Mon. 10/14

- 11 a.m. Community Meal Planning Meeting

Tues. 10/15

- 9 a.m. Men's Group
- 9 a.m. PEO in Fellowship Hall
- 10 a.m. Bible Girls

Wed. 10/16

- 6:30 a.m. Breakfast Club @ LH
- 9 a.m. Bulletin Items Due
- 4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 6 p.m. Wired Word @ Hacienda
- 6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice

Thurs. 10/17

- 9 a.m. Session Reports Due
- 10 a.m. Scrap & Yap @ LH
- 7 p.m. Trustees Budget Meeting

Fri. 10/18

- 8:30 a.m. Community Cupboard
- 9 a.m. Session Packets Distributed
- 6 p.m. Family Dinner
- 7 p.m. Family Worship Night Service

Next Week's Activities

Sun. 10/20

- 9 a.m. Traditional Service
- 10 a.m. SS/Youth
- 11 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 4 p.m. Roger Veliquette Ordination

Mon. 10/21

Tues. 10/22

- 9 a.m. Men's Group
- 9 a.m. Garden Club Leadership & Member Meetings
- 10 a.m. Bible Girls

Wed. 10/23

- 6:30 a.m. Breakfast Club @ LH
- 9 a.m. Bulletin Items Due
- 6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice
- 7 p.m. Session Meeting

Thurs. 10/24

- 1 p.m. Make Your Own Greeting Cards @ LH

Fri. 10/25

What's Happening

Congregational Meeting—Sunday, October 27 between Services

There will be a congregational meeting immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 27 to elect the Nominating Committee. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Roger Veliquette Ordination Service - Sunday, October 20 at 4 PM

We invite everyone to attend the Ordination Service for Roger Veliquette on Sunday, October 20 at 4 p.m. Alton B. Pollard, III, Louisville Seminary President, will be preaching at this special service. All are welcome to stay for a reception directly following the service.

October is Pastor & Staff Appreciation Month

It's time to shower some of the same love and care and nurturing on these very giving people who spend endless hours making this church run smoothly.

Our pastor and staff include: Pastor Jim, Pastor Sandy, Wayne Potter, Cheryl Knight, Melanie Stoll, Mike Husby, Liz Atkinson, Ellen Merillat, Corey Pritchard, Amber Hoeksema, Veronica Halstead, and Samantha Elder.

We hope that you will find a way during the month to show your appreciation too. Here are a few ideas to think about: 1) Drop a card in the bags in the narthex, 2) Take someone to lunch, 3) Invite one or all to dinner in your home, 4) Bake and take a treat, 5) Small gifts, 6) Just give them a hug and thanks! Call chair, Joanne Teague, with questions at 231-264-6162.

Community Dinner Planning Meeting - Monday, October 14

Our first planning meeting will be held in the conference room on Monday, October 14 at 11 a.m. If you would like to help plan, please attend our meeting. We will discuss our schedule, menus and themes. Since we operate on donations, please feel free to donate to our fund at any time. Please contact Anne Conrad with any questions. 231-492-5129 or annewiltse@yahoo.com

“Wired Word” - Wednesday, Oct. 16

“Wired Word,” our popular discussion of topics in current events is returning, Wednesday evening, 6-7:30 p.m., October 16 at the Hacienda. Don't miss this thought-provoking discussion!

Scrap & Yap - Thursday, October 17 at the Lighthouse

Plan to join us on Thursday, October 17 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. for Scrap & Yap at the Lighthouse. Come when you can, leave when you must, and bring your own supplies for this fun free event. Call Jana Gillstrom at 231-632-5832 to pre-register or for more information.

Family Worship Night - Friday, October 18

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us on Friday, October 18 for dinner from 6-7 p.m. and worship at 7 p.m. This service is family centered and interactive worship for all ages. You won't want to miss this evening of contemporary worship.

“Seamless” - September 8-October 13, 10:15-11AM

“Seamless” covers key people, places and promises of the Bible, tying them together into one beautiful, seamless thread. Class runs through October 13, 10:15-11 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Make Your Own Greeting Cards - Thursday, October 24

Join LeRue Werner on Thursday, October 24 from 1-3 p.m. at the Lighthouse to make your own greeting cards. For \$5 you'll make 5 “fall-themed” cards. Call 231-392-1862 for more information.

New Member Class - Mondays, October 28 & November 4

Here's an opportunity to explore becoming a member of our family of faith. We have tentatively planned a new member class on two Monday evenings, October 28 & November 4 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. if we have enough interest. This is a two-part orientation with Pastor Jim to learn more about who we are. Please register at the Activity Center in the narthex if you would like to attend.

Special Mission Speaker at Northern Lakes Community Church

Northern Lakes Community Church in Traverse City invites you to join them for a special presentation from Rev. Dr. Sule-saa from Ghana on Thursday, October 17 at 7 p.m. at Northern Lakes, 5444 Herkner Rd., Traverse City (across from TC West High School). Coffee and cookies will be served.

Guitar Sunday - October 27

Sunday, October 27 is Guitar Sunday in the 11 a.m. service. Bring your guitar and join us at Wednesday, October 23, 6:30 p.m. rehearsal. All levels are welcome. See or call Mel Stoll (231-392-1862) for details.

Candy Donations for Halloween Event

We are looking for candy donations for our upcoming Halloween event at the Lighthouse on October 31. We have placed a box in the narthex for your donations. Thank you for supporting this community event!

Christmas Tea - Thursday, December 5

Christmas Tea is on for Thursday, December 5. Hoping to hear from some of you ladies who would like to help plan this fun event. Call Cheryl Knight at 231-409-3316! (I am gone October 7-26, so please don't give up contacting me!)

Service Opportunity - Nursery Volunteers Needed

Do you love to work with little ones? We are looking for volunteers to help in the nursery occasionally on Sunday mornings or at special events. Sign up at the Activity Center or contact Amber Hoeksema at 231-313-0342.


SINGERS! Christmas cantata rehearsals will begin Sunday, October 6 at our church at 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Calling all singers to join us to praise the Lord and sing a joyful noise this holiday season. Concert date, Saturday, December 21 at 4:00 p.m. Call Cheryl Knight with questions at 231-409-3316.

Contemporary Worship Service – 11:00 AM

Please silence all electronic devices.

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church!

If you do not have a church home in the Elk Rapids area, we invite you to make our church yours. We are an open congregation and we welcome you. Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbor so you have an opportunity to get acquainted.

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

Fellowship & Refreshments in Narthex

ADORE

GREETING

WORSHIP SONGS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Wayne Potter

LEARN

SCRIPTURE READING – Jeremiah 29:1-14

MESSAGE: "Bloom Where You Are Planted:
Disciples make the best of 'Babylon'" Rev. Jim Porter

NEXT STEPS

REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

OUR RESPONSE: GIVING, CHILDREN'S & PRAYER STATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING

CLOSING SONG

VISION

BENEDICTION

WORSHIP CONCLUDES—SERVICE BEGINS!

Thank you. Special thanks to our volunteers from last week - Lorraine Berak & Sophie McDonald ushered.

Nursery is in the lower level. Infants and children through 4 years old can be dropped off and picked up by parents or a responsible adult.

Worship through your gifts: You may offer a gift during the 'Next Steps' portion of the service. A box is located in the front of the church for your offering.