



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF FARMINGTON

*Church of the Open Hands*

26165 Farmington Road,  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
(248) 474-6170  
[www.farmington-pres.org](http://www.farmington-pres.org)

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**October 1, 2023**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**  
**The Lord's Supper**

**Prayer of Preparation**

*Holy and gracious God, we gather as seekers, lovers, disciples, and friends. We gather to give you thanks for the blessings of our lives and to replenish and refuel for the road ahead. We gather to learn the wisdom of your way and feel the warmth of your love. Bless this gathering as we join together in wholehearted worship. Amen.*

**We Enter into God's Presence**

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

*His Eye Is On the Sparrow*

Charles H. Gabriel  
arr. Dounlas E. Wagner (Gospel)

Welcome / Greetings

Pastor Aue

*Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards*

Congregational Life

Pastor Aue

**\*Call to Worship**

Larry Gage

L: This week has been filled with joys and sorrows.

**P: We have come here this day with burdens on our hearts.**

L: God, who hears your cries, will offer you healing love.

**P: Thanks be to God for such generous compassion.**

L: Open your hearts to God's infinite mercy.

**P: We open our spirits to receive God's love for us. AMEN.**

**\*Opening Hymn #390**      *Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord! (Cameroon)* Ralph M. Johnson

**1 Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!**

**Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!**

**2 Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!**

**Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia!**

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession (in unison)

How quick we are to say yes to you, O Lord, and then we turn around and forget our bold words of commitment. We really want to serve, but we are very weak and are easily drawn away by cares and fears. We pledge ourselves to working for your kingdom but find ourselves pulled this way and that by other demands on our time and energy. Forgive us, O Lord, when we so quickly drop our commitments to serving you. Heal our spirits and give us the bold courage to truly be your disciples. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness

## **We Hear God's Word**

Scripture Reading

*Philippians 2: 1-13*

Larry Gage

### **Imitating Christ's Humility**

<sup>2</sup> So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Shining as Lights in the World**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Anthem

Amani Utupe  
Chancel Choir

Patsy Ford Simms  
Kenya, Africa

Sermon

**United We Stand**

Pastor Aue

## **We Respond to God's Word**

Offertory & Doxology

Pastor Aue

**Direct, control, suggest, this day,  
in all I design, do, or say,  
that all my powers, with all of their might,  
might serve you both day and night.**

## **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Song of Invitation 701

*Sanctuary*

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Aue

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks and praise to our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Great is the mystery of our faith.  
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

The Words of Institution

Sharing of the Gifts of Bread & Cup

Pastor Aue

*Today is World Communion Sunday, when we share the Lord's Supper with Christians all over the world. With consideration for public health concerns (especially the rise in COVID and RSV cases) we will be coming forward to receive communion. Please come forward to receive the bread and cup when you are ready, or raise your hand and you will be served where you are seated. Please be sure to deposit your trash in the trash can, not the recycling bin- Thank you!*

Communion: #532

*Sheaves of Wheat (Spanish)*

*Cesáreo Gabaráin*

**1 Sheaves of wheat turned by sunlight into gold,  
Grapes in clusters, like rubies on the vine,  
Feed our hearts as the precious blood and body of our Lord:  
Gifts of heaven from earthly bread and wine.**

**2 Here we gather to share a common meal.  
We are harvest by God the Sower sown,  
Brought together to share the joys and sorrows that we feel,  
All refined by life's common grinding stone.**

**3 As each grain blends to form a single loaf,**

Or as notes weave to shape a single song,  
Or as droplets unite within the ocean's depth and foam,  
To each other as Christians we belong.

4 At the table of God we join to eat,  
And as sisters and brothers break the bread.  
Fed by faith, hope, and love, we sing our joy to all we meet,  
As the body of Christ, our living head.

Communion Prayer

Pastor Aue

Prayers of the People

Larry Gage

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Larry Gage

Gracious God, move us to thanksgiving, not because of all that we have received, but because of your love of us. Move us to thanksgiving, not only for the bounty of the harvest, but for your ongoing presence in the world and your promise of abundant life for all. Move us to thanksgiving, not just today, but every day. Let our thanksgiving be expressed in our generosity. Let our thanksgiving be expressed in our service. Let our thanksgiving be expressed in our compassion. May our cups overflow with gratitude and compassion as we gather our prayers using the words that Jesus taught us so long ago....

**"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."**

## **We Follow God's Word into the World**

Hymn of Sending #747

*The Lord Now Sends Us Forth (Cuban)*

José Aguiar

**1 Sheaves of wheat turned by sunlight into gold,  
Grapes in clusters, like rubies on the vine,  
Feed our hearts as the precious blood and body of our Lord:  
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Benediction

Pastor Aue

Postlude      *Ki Ri Su To No/ May the Peace of Christ Be with You* (Japanese Blessing)  
Chancel Choir

### **Worship Liturgist**

We welcome Larry Gage as today's liturgist. Tom Neal will serve as liturgist on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

### **Hospitality Time Schedule**

You are invited to bring ONE food item on ONE Sunday each month. Your Sunday depends on the first letter of your last name. It would be greatly appreciated if you are also able to help with set-up or clean-up. Please note healthy options are welcome as well, such as fruit, cheese & crackers, veggies etc. Here's the upcoming schedule:

- October 8: Last names beginning L-R
- October 15: Last names beginning S-Z
- October 22: Last names beginning A-D
- October 29: Last names beginning E-K

### **Who Will Be The 2023 PW Award Winner?**

Once a year, Presbyterian Women bestows an honorary life membership award on an individual from our congregation who has served faithfully and tirelessly in our church's work. The name of the recipient is a well-guarded secret. Following the announcement and introduction of the honoree next Sunday, October 8, a reception in honor of this well-deserving individual will be held in Knox Hall after worship.

### **Art & Craft Show-Volunteers Needed**

Bakers and volunteers are needed for our art and craft show Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 28 - 29<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds will go toward the Music Ministry. We have a lot of talented bakers in our church so now is your opportunity to share what you have created in our kitchens. Also welcomed are any dry mixes, jams, jellies or candies. A sign up sheet is posted on the kiosk for 2 hour lots to help during the show.. For mor information please ask MJ Floreno or Deborah Draper.

**A HUGE THANK YOU from FPP for participating in the MUM fundraiser**



Thank you for your participation in the first MUM fundraiser for the Preschool! Your generous support is SO appreciated.

### **Need To Make A Room Reservation Or Rental?**

Please be sure to contact Carly Vivio in the office, as your first point of contact to reserve a room or rental inquiry. Please call the office at (248)474-6170 or email Carly at: [info@farmington-pres.org](mailto:info@farmington-pres.org)

### **All Hail Ringers And Singers**

The official start of the fall season began, but there is always room for more! Bells will rehearse at 6:00 p.m. and the chancel choir will rehearse at 7:30 p.m. If you've been thinking of ringing or singing, please contact Shari at 586-215-2255 or [shari.fiore@farmington-pres.org](mailto:shari.fiore@farmington-pres.org). Returning choir members, please let me know if you can/cannot attend the rehearsal.

### **PW Circles Meet in October**

Presbyterian Women invites all women to visit one of our Circles for an October meeting. Our three Circles, ACTS, Deborah/Lydia, and Phoenix, are small groups which offer fellowship, friendship, support, prayer, and bible and book study. We would love to have you join us! No reservation or commitment required; just come when you can. ACTS will meet second Tuesday (Oct. 10) at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor with optional lunch at Leo's after. Deborah/Lydia meets second Thursday (Oct. 12) at 10:00 a.m. in room 207. Phoenix meets third Tuesday (Oct. 17) at 10:30 a.m. in the parlor and then goes to lunch at various restaurants. Contact Deborah Draper, Anne Sebesta, Sue Carlson, Marcia Van Hamme (ACTS), Anne Fuller (Deborah/Lydia), Nancy Cook (Phoenix), or just come to any Circle meeting. There is more info on the PW bulletin board in Knox Hall.

### **Mission Sneaker Collection Ending September 30 (\$1,000+ so far!)**

The Mission Committee is happy to report that we've already provided a check for \$1,000 to Farmington Public Schools to help students buy that extra pair of sneakers that need to be left at school for gym class. \$500 came from you (thank you!) and the Mission Committee matched your donation with an additional \$500. More money is still coming in. We'll collect funds until the end of September and we're ready to match you for another \$500!



### **Save The Date For PW Christmas Gathering**

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 6 at 10:00 a.m. for the PW Christmas Gathering and play, open to all. This is a change from our usual evening event. This year's daytime Gathering, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," will include a catered lunch in Knox Hall after the play and music in the sanctuary. Tickets will be \$10 for the program and lunch.

### **Support CARES**

A reminder that the October "suggested" donation for CARES is: Soup and/or crackers. Chilly days are coming and nothing warms up a person better than a bowl of soup. Mmm, mmm, goodness! Thank you for your September donations of lunchbox items.

### **COVID-19 or Flu Symptoms**

Please be mindful if you have symptoms, stay home and take care of yourself and others.

### **Adult Bible Discussion – The Wired Word**

Join our Bible discussion **Sundays at 9:00a.m. in the Library**. Advance copies are available Saturday before by email. **Sunday's Topic:** Americans Feel Exhausted When Thinking About Politics. To get on the email list contact Tom Neal at [ttneal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttneal@sbcglobal.net).

### **News from the Church Office**

**NEW FALL hours** are in effect-the office is open Monday through Thursday. Hours are as follows: **Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9am-4pm; Wednesday: 9am-2pm**. As a reminder please contact the church office via telephone at (248)474-6170 or email at [info@farmington-pres.org](mailto:info@farmington-pres.org). It will be a very good idea to call ahead if you need to come into the building.

## First Presbyterian Church Staff

### Ministers of the Church

**Pastoral Care Parish Associate**

**Minister of Music & Organist/Pianist**

**Office Administrative Assistant**

**AV Tech Intern**

### Members of the Congregation

The Rev. Craig S. Aue

Shari Fiore-Bloom

Carly Vivio

Jaiden Thomas



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