



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF FARMINGTON

*Church of the Open Hands*

Welcoming All • Sharing Christ • Serving Others

26165 Farmington Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
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www.farmington-pres.org

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*In preparing our hearts for worship, we will be dimming the lights in the narthex, indicating a time to prepare ourselves for worship. Please enter the sanctuary quietly and in time to hear the welcome and announcements.*

## November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Prayer of Preparation

"Search my heart O God. Make it ever new. Search my heart O God, may I be like You."

## We Enter into God's Presence

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

arr. Brent Endstrom

Welcome / Greetings

MJ Floreno

*Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards*

Advent Study Announcement

Charlene Diehl

\*Call to Worship

One: God calls us to service,

**All: rather than honor.**

One: God calls us to love the unknown,

**All: rather than the familiar.**

One: We come to this time of worship,

**All: trusting in the grace of Jesus Christ,**

One: who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

\*Opening Hymn #37

Let All Things Now Living

**1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
Who guideth us on to the end of our days.  
His banners are o'er us,  
His light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
'Til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.**

**2 His law He enforces: the stars in their courses,  
The sun in His orbit, obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
The deeps of the ocean proclaim Him divine,  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing,  
With glad adoration a song let us raise,  
'Til all things now living unite in thanksgiving  
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.**

\*Prayer of Confession (standing)

Rev. Penny Pitts

*Our prayer of confession is followed by a time for silent confession.*

**Merciful God, forgive us for we exalt ourselves and mock the humbled. We choose to believe we are self-sufficient rather than trust in your strength. Open us to your spirit, that we might serve all people without regard to the outcome, devoting ourselves to your honor alone. We pray in Jesus' name. (Silent confession)**

\*Words of Assurance (standing)

Rev. Penny Pitts

One: Amen. For every age and generation, God's mercy is endless. This is the good news:  
**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

\*Passing of the Peace (standing)

Rev. Penny Pitts

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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

Prayer for Illumination

MJ Floreno

Holy God, your word is a light in darkness and a source of blessing. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us; enliven our hearts and minds as we hear your word for us today; through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen**

Listen now to the Word of the Lord

This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Lord, I Want To Be A Christian  
(Choir)

arr. Moses Hogan

Gospel Reading

Luke 17:11-19 (NRSV)

Rev. Penny Pitts

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. <sup>16</sup> He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Sermon

"Blessing and Wholeness"

Rev. Penny Pitts

Offertory & Collection of Prayer Cards

\*Doxology #606

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

# We Respond to God's Word

Prayers of the People, Thanksgiving, & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Penny Pitts

Faithful God, you ask us to place you first in all that we do. You call us to surrender completely to your will and to be obedient to your word. However, letting go is such a great barrier to overcome. We fool ourselves into the premise of being in control. Lift this barrier! Increase our hearts desire to freely provide for others in our giving and our serving. In the name of your servant son, Jesus, the Christ, we bless these offerings to your glory. We pray in Christ's name who teaches us to pray together ...

**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.**

Affirmation of Faith (Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## We Follow God's Word into the World

\*Hymn of Sending #611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

**1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.**

**2 All thy works with joy surround thee;  
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.**

**Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
call us to rejoice in thee.**

**3 Mortals, join the happy chorus  
which the morning stars began.**

**Love divine is reigning o'er us,  
joining all in heaven's plan.**

**Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife.**

**Joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.**

Benediction

Rev. Penny Pitts

Postlude

Rejoicing Always

Colin Curtis

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Rev. Penny Pitts has been serving Presbyterian churches in Michigan, Maryland, and Florida for thirteen years until her retirement in December 2023. She earned her Masters in Divinity from Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, and McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. She has three children in Pleasant Ridge, Michigan, Clarkston, Michigan, and Brussels, Belgium, and five grandchildren. Pastor Pitts was raised in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Michigan in Dental Hygiene, which she practiced part-time for many years while raising children. She is active at her home church, Grosse Pointe Memorial. She is a member of the Presbytery of Detroit and enjoys serving as pulpit supply.

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Today's flowers are presented by Pat Plamondon in loving memory of her Dad, David Sivil.



**OFFICE NEWS:** Amanda May Schreiber, our administrative assistant, will be in the office on Monday and Wednesday mornings 9:30am-3:00pm, and working from home intermittently throughout the week. Please email any bulletin requests by Tuesday morning before the Sunday bulletin you wish to have updated.

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## To all my friends at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington:

As many of you already know, I have resigned as Treasurer of the church. My husband, Ken, had a serious health scare in September and we have decided to move to upstate New York to be closer to our grandchildren who live near Montreal, Quebec. We will probably make the move in January or February.

I have considered it a privilege and an honor to be able to serve God and this church as the Treasurer for the last two years. I had hoped to continue for many years, but that is not to be. While it is a challenging position, for me it was also a lot of fun, thanks to the great people I had to work with. I have been very impressed by the generosity, unselfishness, and dedication to God shown by the members of this church. You have all inspired me to be a better Christian. In particular, I would like to thank Rick Fuller and Ron Preiskorn for their unwavering patience and kindness as I learned the job. I could not have done it without them.

Love,  
Sue Cooper

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### **KIDS' WORSHIP BAGS**

The kids' worship bags are available at the welcome desk (on the wooden tree hanger). The activities in the bags are updated each week to reflect the lectionary readings for that Sunday as well as some other fun items. The yellow bags are for kids aged preschool to 8 years old; and the white bags are for kids aged 8+ years. Kids are welcome to take a bag each Sunday to use during worship and/or to take home to enjoy. If your child forgot to pick up a worship bag before service, please let an usher know and they will get one for your child.

### **JOY! Advent Study (Nov 18, Dec 2, 9, 16)**

The JOY Study group invites all of you to join us! Beginning November 18, the JOY Book Study will be reading *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachal Billups (the book costs about \$10.50). This four-week Advent study focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story. Contact Sharon Cressman if you would like Zoom details (and Zoom coaching if needed).

### **Day of Prayer on Thursday, November 13**

Prayer works and we're having another Day of Prayer on Thursday, November 13, from 8:00 am – 5:30 pm. As before, we're asking that you sign up to come to the sanctuary to pray for half an hour (or more, if you wish) for the PNC, the future of our church, a new pastor, and anything else you would like to pray about. The sanctuary will have soft lighting and prayerful music to set the mood. Sign up with Sharon or Colleen, or use sign-up Genius:

<https://tinyurl.com/FPCFNov13Pray> or this QR code.



### **PW CIRCLES INVITE YOU TO NOVEMBER MEETINGS**

Many women here find that their Circle meetings are a favorite part of being connected to our church. Many have become lifelong friends with their Circle sisters. We would love to have you try us out by visiting one (or more than one!) of our Circles in November for book and bible study, prayer, and fellowship. No obligation! We hope to have you become a part of our supportive women's network!

Deborah: Thurs. Nov. 13, 10:00 a.m., room 207

ACTS: Tues. Nov. 11, 9:30 a.m., parlor, optional lunch at Leo's following

Phoenix: Tues. Nov. 18, 10:00 a.m., parlor, optional lunch at a casual restaurant TBD following

Contact the office, Mary Carson, or any PW leader (see the bulletin board in Knox Hall) with questions.

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### **Adopt-A-Family for the Holidays**

The Mission Ministry is hosting an Adopt-A-Family for Christmas for three families from the Farmington Public Schools. On **November 16 and 23**, please select your gift choices from our tree in the Narthex. All the gifts must be delivered to the church by Sunday, **December 7<sup>th</sup>**. Gifts may be wrapped, if you wish, and please attach the "bulb" tag to your gift.



### **PW CHRISTMAS GATHERING IS DEC. 10**



Everyone is invited to join us for the PW Christmas Gathering on Wednesday, December 10 at 1:00 p.m. (Please note the new time for this event.) The afternoon begins with a musical program featuring many of your favorite First Pres musicians. Next is a stage play presented by Presbyterian Players. This is a comedy, "Operation Whispering Pines." After the play, there will be light refreshments in Knox Hall. The play is about a small, homey retirement facility that is in danger of being sold

and turned into a golf course by its unscrupulous owner. The resourceful residents hatch a clever plan in hopes of saving their home and avoiding eviction. The playwright, Karen Jones, summarized the play's message as "don't mess with old people!" Tickets (\$5.00) will be available at the welcome table beginning Nov. 16 or by contacting Sue Carlson.

### **GIFT BAGS FOR SECOND MILE CHILDREN**

Presbyterian Women is organizing Christmas gift bags for the children who attend the Second Mile Center in Detroit. The gift bags are large bags that will include items like shirts & pants, socks & underwear, hat & gloves, a toy from the child's wish list, and a book. The cost per gift bag is usually about \$100. This is a great opportunity for friends or a small group to contribute together and put together a gift bag. The names of the children and their requests are usually received from Ruth Azar, the director of SMC, at Thanksgiving, and the bags need to be received by the second week of December.

If you or a group would like to sponsor a Second Mile child by providing a gift bag or help by donating money in any amount (ex: \$25 gift card to Target or Amazon) to be included in a bag, please contact Sue Carlson.

### **Community Donation**

Nov 1, the SNAP program ended. Many people and organizations are impacted by this (Houses of Worship, Charities, etc.) and are working on how to help with the increase of requests for assistance. Our Church will be sending donations to selected agencies. Members are invited to contribute money, time, and assistance as this concern is likely to continue to grow. Checks can be made out to the church and will be processed and added to our donations. As always, thank you for being a blessing to our local community.

## **WOMEN'S RECOGNITION SUNDAY**

On Sunday, October 26, PW Moderator Mary Carson presented an honorary life membership in Presbyterian Women to Colleen Tavor. Colleen was selected for this special annual award for her faithful work in many areas of our church's ministries. PW hosted a reception in Colleen's honor after worship. Congratulations, Colleen!

### **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, eggs, cheese & crackers, veggies etc. Here's the upcoming schedule:

November 16: Last names beginning L-R

November 23: Last names beginning S-Z

November 30: Last names beginning A-D

December 7: Last names beginning E-K



### **QR Code for Donations!**

If you ever forget to go to the ATM, or simply don't carry cash on you, we've decided to include the church QR code for a more streamlined donation process. To donate, just scan the QR code and follow the prompt just scan the QR code and follow

## **First Presbyterian Church Staff**

**Ministers of the Church**

**Pastoral Care Parish Associate**

**Minister of Music**

**Office Administrator**

**Administrative Assistant**

**AV Tech Intern**

**Members of the Congregation**

Rev. Craig S. Aue

Peter Cartwright

Liz Labourdeth

Amanda May Schreiber

Lidia Neathamer



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## SUPPORTED BY YOU THROUGH YOUR MISSION MINISTRY 2025

*“As you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40)*

### LOCAL AGENCIES

CARES	[Community. Action. Resources. Empowerment. Services.]
Freedom House	[Comprehensive approach to those who seek asylum]
Lighthouse	[Emergency and stability services]
Crossroads	[Emergency assistance, advocacy, & counseling]
Second Mile Center	[Safe environment for after-school and summer programs]
Oakland Co Foster Closet	[Support services, supplies, aid to children in foster care]
Neighborhood House	[Supports clients to reclaim well-being after economic upset]
Ruth Ellis Center	[Supports LGBTQ+ youth and young adults in need]
Danika Community Development Inc (DCDI)	[Supports under-served populations]

### OTHER LOCAL SUPPORT

Auto Clinic	[Help with simple auto repairs]
Troop 179	[Support camp scholarship]
Crop Walk	[Nationwide movement to raise funds to end hunger and poverty]
Youth United	[Inter-faith summer camp for youth to promote understanding]
Juneteenth	[Support local celebration of Juneteenth, day of freedom for all]

### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

World Central Kitchen	[Serves freshly made meals to people affected by disaster]
Marion Medical	[Builds wells in Africa]

### PRESBYTERIAN BODIES

- Presbyterian Women (PW) Benevolence
- Governing Bodies
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

### OTHER COLLECTIONS/ACTIVITIES/SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- Blessings Bags for the Unhoused
- Resume Writing and Practice Interview Workshop
- Garden and Nutrition Project
- FAIA Luncheon
- Hospitality House Food Pantry
- Cereal for Summer Collection
- Backpacks for Foster Kids
- Rise Against Hunger
- Christmas Gifts for Farmington Public School Kids
- Mission Ministry Members: Rick Fuller (Chair), Nancy Prieskorn, Leslie Black, Karen Linnell, Laura Hedgecock, Charlene Diehl

Read more about our partner agencies at [Farmington-pres.org/serve](http://Farmington-pres.org/serve).