



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

26165 Farmington Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 474-6170
www.farmington-pres.org

November 12, 2023

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

Welcome / Greetings

Sue Carlson

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Congregational Life

Sue Carlson

Prelude

Christus, der ist Mein Leben

F. W. Marpurg

*Call to Worship

Sue Carlson

Leader: God of love, we long for you. We search for you. We wait for you.

All: Light the lamps of our hope, so we may wait and watch with patience.

Leader: The world is often dark, and it feels late.

All: Light the lamps of our faith, so we may shine with your light.

Leader: There are still those who wait in darkness.

All: Light the lamps of our love, so we may share your light with others.

God, we open the vessels of our hearts to you;

we hold the wick of our hearts to the flame of your love.

Fill us with your light. Amen.

**1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell.
Come ye before him and rejoice.**

**2 Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk; he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.**

**3 O enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.**

**4 For why? The Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

Sue Carlson

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness

The Rev. Geoffrey T. Piper

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:1-13

Sue Carlson

New Revised Standard Version

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to

meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Anthem

Keep Your Lamps!
Chancel Choir

Spiritual
arr. Andre Thomas

Sermon

Our right response to God's Incredible Invitation

The Rev. Geoffrey T. Piper

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology
Collection of Prayer Cards

The Rev. Geoffrey T. Piper

**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.**

arr. Shari Fiore

Prayers of the People

Sue Carlson

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Sue Carlson

Leader: Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us.

All: We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

Leader: We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,

All: and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

Leader: We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts,

All: and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

Leader: We thank you also for those disappointments and failures

All: that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Leader: Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ;

All: for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Leader: Grant us the gift of your Spirit,

All: that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things.

Leader: We lift our hearts and our prayer to you, Heavenly Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together: in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught 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.”

We Follow God’s Word into the World

*Hymn of Sending #362

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Laurentius Laurenti

**1 Rejoice! Rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing
and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
and soon he will draw nigh.
Up, watch with expectation;
at midnight comes the cry.**

**2 See that your lamps are burning;
replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation,
the end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand;
arise, O heirs of glory;
the Bridegroom is at hand!**

**3 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for,
above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth’s redemption,
and ever be with thee!**

Benediction

The Rev. Geoffrey Piper

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be amongst us and remain with us always. Amen.

Postlude

Festival Voluntary

Flor Peeters

Please Welcome Rev. Geoffrey Piper, Today's Guest Preacher

The Rev. Geoffrey T. Piper retired from fulltime parish ministry in 2020 after 35 years in the U.S. and Canada. He and his wife, Leslie, (a church organist and choir director), began their ministry through the Anglican Church of Canada in remote fishing villages in northern Quebec. They have also served Episcopal parishes in Massachusetts, Michigan and Florida. They have three adult children and five grandchildren. Geoffrey enjoys trout fishing, woodworking, personal fitness, and spending time alongside the grandkids.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Sue Carlson as today's liturgist. MJ Floreno will serve as liturgist on November 19. 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:

- November 19: Last names beginning A-D
- November 26: Last names beginning E-K
- December 3: Last names beginning L-K
- December 10: Last names beginning S-Z

Adopt-A-Teen for Christmas

The **Mission Ministry** is once again hosting an Adopt-A-Teen gift buy for Christmas for 7 teens from families in Farmington Public Schools. On November 26 and December 3, we'll have a small "tree" set up in the narthex with suggested gifts written on "bulbs" that are on the tree for you to select what you will buy for a teen. You can select as many "bulbs" as you wish, from a variety of price points. All the gifts must be delivered to the church by Sunday, December 10, to be delivered to the families in time. It was so rewarding last year to be a part of this Christmas giving. We hope you'll join us once again.

Future Church Planning Task Force Meeting – Sunday, Nov 12

To help our church rethink its mission and practice, please join the Future Church Planning Task Force **TODAY at 2:00 pm in Room 208/210 or online** to begin discussing "Sailboat Church" by Joan S. Gray. We'll be discussing the introduction and chapters 1-3. This is the

first of 4 meetings to be held Nov 12, 19, 29, and Dec 6. Contact **Tom Neal** for Zoom link if you need it. If you don't have the book yet, join us anyway!

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!

ACTS: Tues., Nov. 14, 9:30 a.m., Garden Room/Parlor, optional lunch at Leo's following

Phoenix: Tues., Nov. 21, 10:30 a.m., Garden Room/Parlor, optional lunch at a casual restaurant TBD following

Hope to have you become a part of our supportive women's network. Contact the office or Deborah Draper or any PW leader (see the bulletin board in Knox Hall) with questions.

FAIA Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Mon. Nov. 20, 7:30 pm

Trinity in the Woods Church, 26880 La Muera, FH

Let us gather as a community to show our gratitude, to sing and to worship together. Interfaith choir (anyone who would like to join) meets at **6:30 pm** to practice a hymn to sing together (wear your choir robes, if your congregation has them, not necessary, though.)

Scouts Wreath Sales



Scouts BSA Troop 179 are selling wreaths for the holidays. They will be for sale Sunday, November 19, before and after Church. The small wreath is \$27, the medium wreath is \$37, 25 feet of roping is \$30, and stands are \$6 each.

If you would like one, but cannot be at Church on Sunday, please contact Katie Malisow at kmalisow@sbcglobal.net or by cell at (248) 202-3411. We will happily deliver! We take checks, cash, Venmo or Cash App.

Second Mile Outreach Opportunity

For the past decade, Farmington Presbyterian donors have provided individual Christmas gift bags to disadvantaged children served by the Second Mile Center in Detroit. Last year we delivered 16 wonderful big bags. These bags include an outfit, socks, underwear, a hat and gloves, a toy or two from the child's wish list, and a book. Since these items can add up to as much as \$75- \$100, in several cases friends or groups have gone together to put together a gift bag. If you would like to participate in this program, contact Sue Carlson by Nov. 15. The bags are due Dec. 8. If you prefer to contribute without shopping, cash or \$25 gift cards would be helpful too.

Support CARES

A reminder that the November "suggested" donation for CARES is "something for baking". Consider donating a bag of flour or sugar; a brownie, muffin or cake mix; nuts, dates, or a can of pumpkin filling. Perhaps a spice, baking powder or a package of yeast is something that you'd like to donate. Baking something during the holidays makes for special memories with families. Thank you for helping to make those cherished memories with our neighbors!

PW Collecting for Hat and Mitten Tree



Cold weather is here, and the forecast says it will be an "arctic winter." Hats and mittens are going to be a must for school children. Therefore, it is time for Presbyterian Women's annual Hat and Mitten Tree collection!

From Sunday, November 5 through Monday, December 10, we will be collecting hats, mittens, underwear, and socks (no scarves, please) for needy children right here in our own community. (These items are distributed through Neighborhood House and the GoodFellows).

We will also collect these same items for adults: hats, mittens or gloves, underwear, socks. (And the adults can use scarves). There is an ever-present need for all items during the cold, winter months. Adult items will be shared with Calvin East Presbyterian Church, Neighborhood House, Heartfelt Families of Farmington, Second Mile Center, and GoodFellows.

Your new items should be placed on or below the dowel tree in the Narthex starting Sunday, November 12. Please leave the price tags on the items. Thank you in advance for your generosity. If you have questions, feel free to contact Dale Hawkins, PW Vice Moderator for Justice and Peace, at (248) 478-6283.

"It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year" is Wed., Dec. 6



Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Detroit (PWPD) and Our Presbyterian Women invite all men and women, including guests, to a festive Christmas Gathering the morning of Wednesday, Dec. 6. The day will start at 10:00 a.m. with coffee and treats in the narthex. The program in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. features an original play by Anne Sebesta (proudly presented by Presbyterian Prayers) and includes the singing of Christmas songs accompanied by Shari Fiore-Bloom. Then a hot catered lunch will be served.

Tickets (\$10) should be purchased in advance since we need a count for the caterer. They will be on sale at the welcome table on Nov. 19, Nov. 26, and Dec. 3. Contact Sue Carlson (248) 330-7188 with any ticket questions.

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 9:00 a.m. in the Library**. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. To get on the email list contact Tom Neal at ttneal@sbcglobal.net.

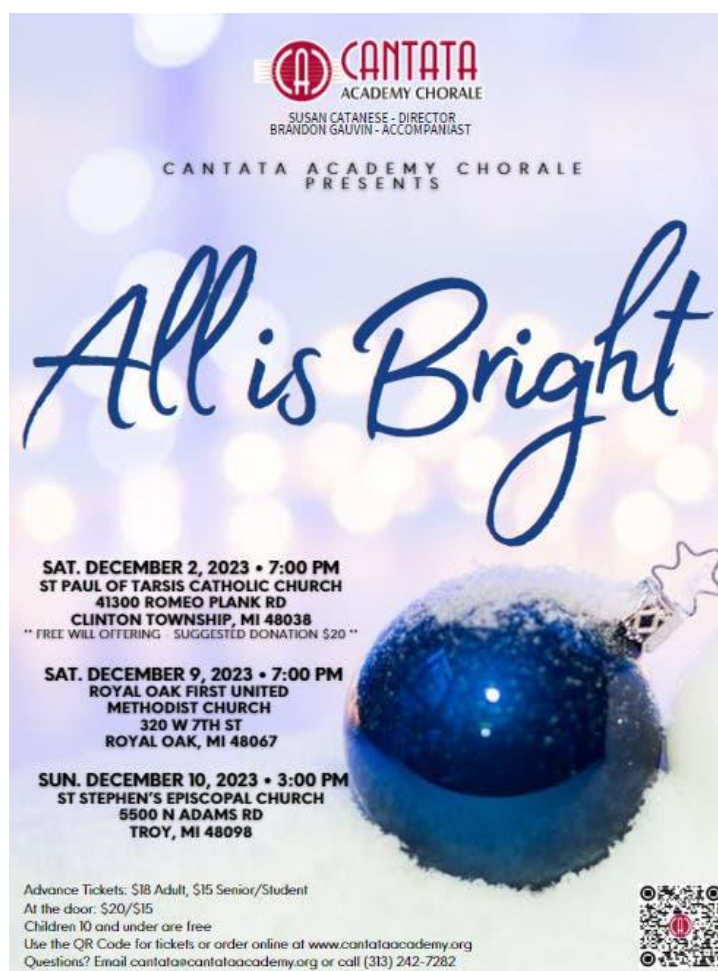
Cantata Academy Invites You to the Chorale, *All is Bright*

We invite you to enjoy one of our concerts this year. Among a number of inspirational pieces we will feature selections from Rutter's Magnificat. We have three venues to choose from with a variety of times. We hope you will join in the holiday concert fun!

December 2nd at 7pm

December 9th at 7pm

December 10th at 3pm



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 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wednesday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.** As a reminder please contact the church office via telephone at (248) 474-6170 or email at info@farmington-pres.org. It will be a very good idea to call ahead if you need to come into the building. **Please note that the office will be closed on November 23rd and November 24th in observance of Thanksgiving.**

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

A Christmas Gathering



Wed. Dec 6, 2023

Coffee Hour	10:00 AM
Program, Play and Music	10:30 AM
Catered Lunch	12:00 noon

Tickets \$10.00

First Presbyterian Church of Farmington

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers of the Church

Pastoral Care Parish Associate

Minister of Music & Organist/Pianist

Office Administrative Assistant

Office Assistant

AV Tech Intern

Members of the Congregation

The Rev. Craig S. Aue

Shari Fiore-Bloom

Carly Vivio

Amanda Schreiber

Jaiden Thomas



Farmington First Presbyterian Church

The Church of the Open Hands

26165 Farmington Road

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

