



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

Welcoming All • Sharing Christ • Serving Others

26165 Farmington Road

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 474-6170

www.farmington-pres.org

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 16th, 2025

23rd 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

In My Heart There Rings A Melody

arr. Jerry Nelson

Welcome / Greetings

MJ Floreno

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Scouts Announcement

Autumn & James Manninen

*Call to Worship

One: God has accomplished all things through Christ,

All: so that we might live as God's own children.

One: Let us give thanks to God

All: and live for the praise of God's glory.

All: Together, let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn #839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
2. Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

**3. Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**

Refrain:

**This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

*Prayer of Confession (standing)

Rev. Penny Pitts

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

Saving God, we confess that our faith is too small and our fear is too great. When we are overwhelmed, we think you do not care enough for us. When life is uncertain and risky, we are not sure we can trust you with our whole hearts. Even when you move among us in powerful ways, we question who you are. Forgive us and calm our fears, we pray. Teach us to trust in your power to save and guide us in every circumstance. Grant us your peace, which is clearly beyond our understanding. In Christ's name we pray. Amen. (Silent confession)

*Words of Assurance (standing)

Rev. Penny Pitts

Sisters and brothers, God loves us, forgives us, and frees us from our sins; therefore be at peace, and love with boldness and generosity.

*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

Loving God, remove from our hearts and minds the concerns we carry with us to this time of worship. Fully open us to receiving the richness of your word, as it is read, sung and preached by us and for us today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Hebrews 4:12-16

Rev. Penny Pitts

Listen now to the Word of the Lord

Indeed, the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without

sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Kum Ba Yah
(Choir)

arr. John Carter

Gospel Reading

Mark 10:17-31 (NRSV)

Rev. Penny Pitts

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Sermon

“Pushing the Camel”

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

MJ Floreno

Gracious and giving God, we bring our tithes and offerings to you this day and pray as we give them that you will kindle in us a deeper faith and a stronger commitment. We acknowledge that some of us have found our way back to you on our own; others of us have lived into a faith that surrounded us from the time we were born, lived out in parents, grandparents, siblings, and spouses. However, this faith found its way into our hearts or into our DNA, help us to kindle it to flame, that the world might be set on fire with your love and compassion. In the holy name of Christ, 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 #738

O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

- 1. O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.**
- 2. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.**
- 3. Teach me thy patience, still with thee in closer, dearer, company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.**
- 4. In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.**

Benediction

Rev. Penny Pitts

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.

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.

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

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.

Mission Committee Donations

SNAP benefits have been in the news a lot lately. SNAP is the current name for food stamps. Our congregation along with COOS and Covenant, have always generously supported agencies that alleviate hunger, especially in our local community. The Mission Committee has used our 2025 budgeted money that was not already earmarked and sent a \$250 check to the three local agencies that provide hunger relief: C.A.R.E.S., Neighborhood House and Salvation Army. Additional information is provided on the board. If this is an issue you personally feel passionate about, you can make an individual donation. QR codes and envelopes are provided for your convenience. They are located on the project board that has been set up in the middle of the church narthex. Donations will not go through the church books. Donations are entirely individual.

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).

Adopt-A-Teen for the Holidays

The Mission Ministry is hosting an Adopt-A-Teen for Christmas for six teens from the Farmington Public Schools. On November 16, 23 and 30, please select your gift choices from our tree in the Narthex. All the gifts must be delivered to the church by Sunday, December 7th. Please leave all gifts unwrapped; just attach the "bulb" tag to your gift. Wrapping paper, tape and gift bags may be donated separately. Merry, merry!

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, hats & gloves, a toy from the child's wish list, and a book. The cost per gift bag is on average \$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.

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.

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 23: Last names beginning S-Z

November 30: Last names beginning A-D

December 7: Last names beginning E-K

December 14: Last names beginning L-R



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