



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

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 24, 2024

Reign of Christ

Prayer of Preparation

Lord God, the words Jesus is King come easily to our lips, yet we often fail to grasp the significance of what they mean for us. In this service, help us worship you in spirit and truth, and give us a vision for how we may live in homage to you every day of our lives, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We Enter into God's Presence

*Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude

Sweet Hour of Prayer

arr. Teresa Wilhelmi

Welcome / Greetings

Bruce Mulder

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Minute for Mission

Deborah Draper

*Call to Worship— from Psalm 95

Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into The Lord's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to The Lord with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are the Lord's also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For The Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of the Good Shepherd.

*Opening Hymn #348 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;
Thousand, thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain:**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

**Now redemption, long expected comes in solemn splendor near;
All the saints this world rejected thrill the trumpet sound to hear:**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! See the day of God appear!

**Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Savior take the power and glory; claim the kingdom as thine own.**

**Come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus.
Thou shalt reign and thou alone!**

Prayer of Confession

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

We confess that we have not bowed before him and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us.

Raise us to acclaim Christ as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance— from Revelation 5

Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. By the blood of Jesus Christ, he has purchased people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. Christ Jesus has made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.

We are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

We Hear God's Word

Reading

Psalm 93; Revelation 1.4b-8

NRSV

Psalm 93

The LORD is king; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he is girded with strength. He has established the world; it shall never be moved; your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves^[a] of the sea, majestic on high is the LORD! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

For people who are sick and unable to do the ordinary things they used to do,
that they will be patient with themselves and with those who care for them,
Lord in your mercy—

Hear our prayer.

For people whose lives are recorded in our newspapers and magazines,
Lord in your mercy—

Hear our prayer.

Gracious and merciful God, hear our prayers and the prayers of all your people. Help us to
be faithful in ordinary ways, loving and caring for your people whom we meet every day.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord and King, who teaches to pray

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer—

MJ Floreno

Our Lord Jesus Christ, Ruler of all Nations, of every Tribe, Tongue, and People and all
Creation:

We praise you for your Justice and Righteousness;

We give you thanks and worship your Holy Name for:

The order you give to Creation

SILENCE

Your merciful and gracious rule of all peoples

SILENCE

Your faithfulness to your Church

SILENCE

Your Lordship over our lives

SILENCE

You are at once both King and Servant, willing to give your life, and caring even for what
we might as count insignificant. So we approach you throne knowing you will listen to our
prayers and hear us as we pray:

**“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 # 265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head;
His name like sweet perfume, shall rise with every morning sacrifice.**

**People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.**

**Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the prisoners leap to loose their chains;
The weary find eternal rest, and who suffer want are blest.**

**Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud Amen!**

Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

Set Me As A Seal

arr. Gilbert Martin

Today's flowers are presented by Sandra Adkins in honor of her mother Bonnie Adkin's 95th Birthday.



A Warm Welcome for our new Director of Music Peter Cartwright!

Peter Cartwright has been a music director for churches in the greater Detroit area for the past 32 years. He obtained his B.A. and M.A. in piano performance from Oakland University, Michigan. Peter has been a past president and program coordinator for the National Guild of Piano Teachers and is a member of the American Guild of Organists. He has performed and entertained extensively in classical, pop and jazz genres.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome MJ Floreno as today's liturgist. Next week's liturgist will be Manny Sharpe. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

Reminder to send in pledge form or letter of intent

If you haven't done so already, please mail in your pledge form or letter of intent to the office or drop them off in the collection basket when you attend the Sunday service. We are putting together our 2025 budget and need your pledge. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the programs and ministries of First Presbyterian Church of Farmington. We couldn't do what we do without you!

Scouts BSA Troop 179 Holiday Wreaths

Scouts BSA Troop 179 are selling wreaths for the holidays. They will be for sale TODAY before and after Church. The small wreaths are \$29, medium wreaths are \$39, 25 feet of roping are \$30, and stands are \$6 each. If you would like one, but can not be at church on Sunday, please contact Katie Malisow at kmalisow@sbcglobal.net

Don't Forget: Adopt-A-Teen for the Holidays

The Mission Ministry is hosting an Adopt-A-Teen gift buy for Christmas for 7 teens from families in Farmington Public Schools. On **November 17 and 24**, please select your gift choices from our "tree" in the Narthex. All the gifts must be delivered to the church by **Sunday, December 1**. Gifts may be wrapped, if you wish, and please attach the bulb tag to the gift.



First Presbyterian 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 24 through Sunday, December 8, we will be collecting hats, mittens, underwear, and socks for needy families right here in our own community. These items will be donated to Heartfelt Families of Farmington and Second Mile Center of Detroit.

Your new items should be placed on or below the tree in the Narthex starting Sunday, November 24. 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 at (248) 478-6283.



44th Annual Presbyterian Men's Communion & Advent Breakfast

December 14th The 44th Annual Presbyterian Men's Communion & Advent Breakfast will be hosted at Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Township. The breakfast will include breakout sessions discussing communication and stewardship! FPCF Men will meet in the church parking lot to carpool and will leave by 7am. if or RSVP to Tom Neal (ttneal@sbcglobal.net)

Greening of the Church November 30

Come one, come all to help with the Greening of the Church on Saturday, November 30, starting at 9:30 a.m. Join us as we decorate our worship and fellowship spaces for the Advent and Christmas seasons. The more hands, the quicker the decorating -- and it is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit!

Join the new Hospitality Team

The Membership Committee encourages you to join our Hospitality Team. Help us welcome guests each Sunday. Pastor Bruce will be leading a Hospitality training session. If interested reach out to Collee Tavor (CMTCounseling@gmail.com) or Tom Neal (ttneal@sbcglobal.net)

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS FOR SECOND MILE CENTER

For more than a decade, PW has organized a Christmas outreach project for the children at Second Mile Center in Detroit. This is an opportunity for you as an individual or group to provide a Christmas gift bag for a child in need. The large bag includes an outfit, socks and underwear, a hat and gloves, a book, and a gift or toy from the child's list. The total value of the items is about \$100, so often a bag is put together by more than one person. If you would like someone to do the shopping for you, that can easily be arranged. (In lieu of providing a whole bag, gift cards (\$25 suggested) or cash donations are also appreciated to supplement the bags.) The children's wish lists come from Ruth Azar around Thanksgiving, and the bags are due on Dec. 8. If you would like to find out more or sign up, contact Sue Carlson at srdcarlson@me.com.

Stewardship 2025 – What does following Jesus mean to you?

As we move through our process of change and transition toward a permanent pastor, what better way to move forward than by "following Jesus?" Last year we committed to being a "sailboat church," depending on God's provision as the Holy Spirit guides us forward. May we all draw closer to Jesus as we explore what it truly means to follow him. Please feel free to share what "following Jesus" means to you on the Stewardship bulletin board in the foyer.

FPCF's Shopping List for CARES

Thank you for using your 2024 CARES shopping list each month to donate. Your neighbors, the guests at CARES, appreciate the availability of a variety of food from which to choose.

Adult Bible Discussion – The Wired Word

Join our Bible discussion **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in 208/210**. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. To get on the email list, please contact Tom Neal at ttneal@sbcglobal.net.



Christmas Gathering is Dec 11 at 10 A.M.

What happens when a city family, the Kings, gets hopelessly lost while cutting down a Christmas tree in the woods and is rescued by an extended back country family, the Shepherds? Find out by attending the Christmas comedy "Shepherds and Kings," by Karen Jones, presented by Presbyterian Players on Wed. Dec. 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

There will also be Christmas music performed by our First Pres musicians, and light refreshments after the program. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased at the welcome table or by contacting Sue Carlson. Your hosts, Presbyterian Women, invite men and women, including guests, to join us.

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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 10: Last names beginning E-K

November 17: Last names beginning L-R

November 24: Last names beginning S-Z

December 1: Last names beginning A-D

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 make a donation, just scan the QR code and follow the prompts!



First Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers of the Church

Transitional Senior Pastor

Pastoral Care Parish Associate

Minister of Music & Organist/Pianist

Office Administrator

Administrative Assistant

AV Tech Intern

Members of the Congregation

Rev. Bruce Mulder

Rev. Craig S. Aue

Shari Fiore-Bloom

Liz Labourdeth

Amanda May Schreiber

Lidia Neathamers

MISSION STUDY TEAM UPDATE

FPCF Family: Thank **You** for all your input, wisdom, and ideas!

As we've collected and evaluated all the information from the two surveys and two Town Hall Gatherings, here are the five key area that will shape the foundation of our report, based on what we heard and learned from you all.

That report will be used to write the *Position Description* for our next pastor. The five arenas are below and ranked in no particular order:

- a. Christian Education Ministry
 - i. Establish Children/Youth Ministries
 - ii. Build on existing Adult Ministries
- b. Technology; Communication
 - i. Upgrade technology
 - ii. Become more proficient in Communicating
- c. Missions
 - i. Grow them; collaborate with other churches and their local missions
 - ii. Offer our building to other ministries
- d. Fellowship
 - i. A core strength!
- e. Stewardship and Spiritual Gifts
 - i. Desire to learn about and put both to even stronger service

We will continue to work, pray, and discern on behalf of the entire FPCF Community. Continue to hold us in your prayers.

Grace and peace from your Mission Study Team,

Colleen Tavor, Katie Malisow, Becca DeSloover, Tom Neal, Alvine Cooper and Ginny Hubble.

Choosing Our New Vision Statement

Hi FPCF Family,

Last week at our Town Hall Gathering we asked your table to submit your respective choice for FPCF's new Vision Statement. The Mission Study Team tallied, sorted, and prayed: of all the submissions here are the top three (in no particular order);

- ***Welcoming All; Sharing Christ; Serving Others***
- ***Embracing All; Sharing Christ: Serving Others***
- ***Helping People Know God; Discovering Their Purpose; Making a Difference***

We're asking you to rate these— 1. High 2. Medium 3. Low

Please either circle and drop off after worship in the offering plate

Grace and peace from your Mission Study Team,

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