



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 19th, 2023

25th Sunday After Pentecost

Prayer of Preparation

*Gracious God, may we enter this time of worship prayerfully, hopefully, and peacefully,
with our hearts and minds open to hear and respond to your word. Amen.*

Rev. Susan Mozena

We Enter into God's Presence

Welcome / Greetings

MJ Floreno

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Congregational Life

MJ Floreno

Minute for Mission

MJ Floreno

*Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude

O God, Our Help In Ages Past
First Pres. Choral Bells

William Croft
arr. Charles Maggs

*Call to Worship

MJ Floreno

One: People of God, listen:

All: The Lord has done marvelous things.

One: Teach your children all that God has done

All: So that they may live in hope and die in peace.

One: Come, let us worship God.

ENGLISH:

**1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:**

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: [Refrain]**

**3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin: [Refrain]**

**4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" [Refrain]**

**Prayer of Brokenness/Confession*

Rev. Susan Mozena

**Loving God, we confess that there are days when we feel our hope at low ebb,
when the world's fearsome negative realities, and our own imperfect realities,
threaten to overwhelm us, and we worry about the future. Great God, we confess
that we forget that you are always with us, that you never abandon us. We forget
that you have given us, and continue to give us, your love, in the great gift of your
Son, and in the gift of your Spirit, which we receive in so many ways. Forgive us,
we pray, for our lack of trust in your steadfast love which endures forever.**

**Silent confession*

**Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness*

Rev. Susan Mozena

Amen. My sisters and brothers, hear the good news: Nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Believe the gospel! We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

MJ Floreno

Lord, to whom should we go? You have the words of eternal life. By the power of your Holy Spirit, speak to us of your promises that we might hear your truth and enjoy you forever. In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN

First Reading

Psalm 78:1-4

MJ Floreno

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,

3 things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.

4 We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

We Pray To Thee
Chancel Choir

I. Drozdof

Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Rev. Susan Mozena

New Revised Standard Version

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Sermon

The Between Times

Rev. Susan Mozena

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology
Collection of Prayer Cards

Rev. Susan Mozena

**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

MJ Floreno

Eternal God, we praise your holy name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You are our hope and our salvation, for in Jesus Christ you have conquered death. Baptized in him, we are raised to new life. Increase in us our faith, and keep us watchful, that we may welcome Christ with joy when he comes to set the whole world free.

God of life, you created the world and called it good. In sure and certain hope, we pray for your world, that we may live into your coming reign of justice and peace. We pray for those who govern: grant them wisdom and a commitment to justice. We pray for planet Earth: Heal its wounds and make us better stewards of its wonders and gifts. We pray for those who are dying: calm all fears and welcome them into your peace. We pray for those who are ill, for those who are suffering: give them relief, comfort them, make them whole in body, mind, and spirit. Feed and protect those who endure days and nights without food or shelter. We pray for our families, we pray for our community, we pray for the church, we pray for our nation.

With thanks that you hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken, we entrust all of life to you, gracious God, our only hope in life and in death. We pray all of this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who taught us when we pray to say 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 #687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past
First Pres. Choral Bells

Isaac Watts

**1 Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:**

2 Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Benediction

Rev. Susan Mozena

Postlude

Shall We Gather at the River

Robert Lowry
arr. Patti Drennan

Please welcome back Rev. Susan Mozena, today's guest preacher.

The Rev. Susan d'Olive Mozena, ordained in the PC (USA) in 2009 at the age of 64, is "mostly" retired, serving as Parish Associate at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, where she continues to lead Bible studies, preaches and leads worship occasionally, and provides some adult education on Sunday mornings from time to time. A board-certified hospital chaplain, Susan provides spiritual care on a very part-time basis at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital. She and John, married for 55 years, have two children and three grandchildren.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome MJ Floreno as today's liturgist. Mary Carson will serve as liturgist on Sunday, November 26th. 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 26: Last names beginning E-K
- December 3: Last names beginning L-K
- December 10: Last names beginning S-Z
- December 17: Last names beginning A-D

FYI: No Choir or Bells Practice on Thursday, November 23, 2023

Due to the holiday, there will be no Bell rehearsal or Choir rehearsal on Thursday evening, November 23 since everyone will be sleeping after eating all the turkey and fixings for Thanksgiving. I will see everyone back at rehearsals on November 30.

Greening of the Church- December 2nd

Its that time of year again! Please join us for intergenerational activities to begin the Advent Season. We need your help to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas! On Saturday December 2nd at 9 a.m., we will decorate our building and beautiful campus. Come one, come all! And bring your friends too!

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.

2nd Future Church Planning Task Force Meeting – Sunday, Nov 19

The Future Church Planning Task Force had a great meeting last Sunday discussing "Sailboat Church" by Joan S. Gray. One participant said, "I'm excited! I feel like we're pushing off the shore!" Please join us again **TODAY at 2:00 pm in Room 208/210 or online** to continue the enlightening discussion. We'll be discussing Chapters 4 & 5. This is the second of 4 meetings. The last two meetings are set for Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm (Nov 29 and Dec 6) Contact Tom Neal for the Zoom link if you need it. If you don't have the book yet, join us anyway! We have extra copies for you!

Town Hall with Session – TODAY

Please join us in Knox Hall for the monthly town hall meeting TODAY while you're enjoying your coffee and treats. There will be updates on the search for a Transitional Pastor as well as

the agency we are working with on healing and transformation. If you have any questions or concerns, let's talk about it.

Phoenix Circle Meets Nov. 21

If you would like to visit a PW Circle this month, you have one more opportunity. Phoenix Circle meets this Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 10:30 a.m. in the Garden Room/Parlor. Colleen Tavor will speak about her experiences living in Israel for many years. After the Circle meeting, the group will go out for an optional lunch at a casual restaurant. All are welcome. All three Circles will meet again in December.

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.

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. **Sunday’s Topic: Some Stores Doing Away With Self-Checkout Stations** To get on the email list contact Tom Neal at ttneal@sbcglobal.net.

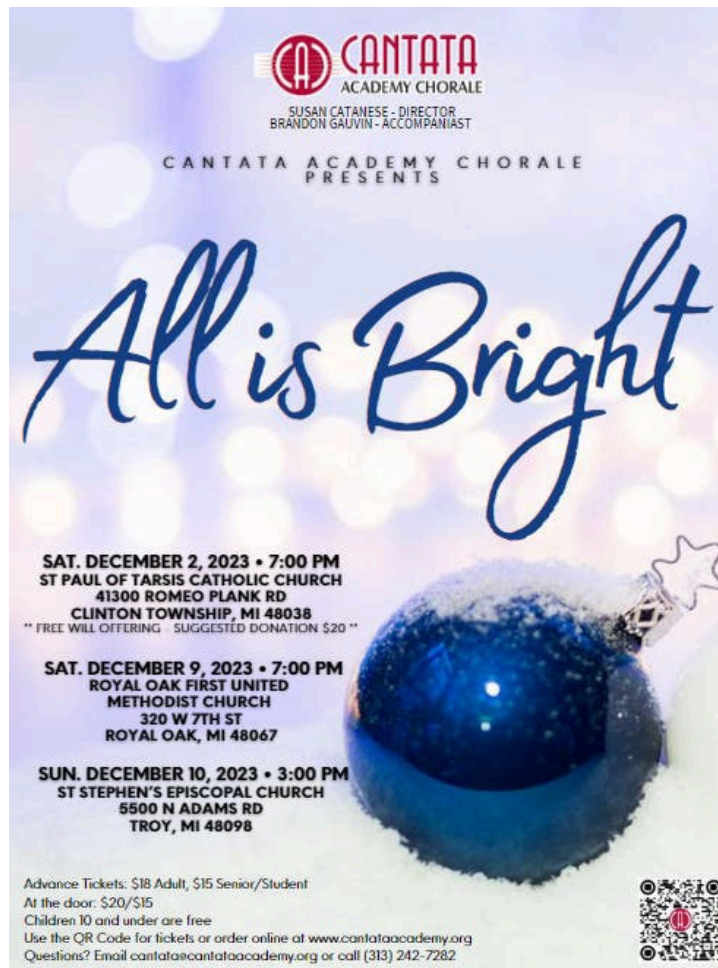
Cantata Academy Invites You to the Chorale, *All is Bright*

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 22nd through 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

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