



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF FARMINGTON

*Church of the Open Hands*

26165 Farmington Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
(248) 474-6170  
[www.farmington-pres.org](http://www.farmington-pres.org)

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**December 3, 2023**  
**The Lord's Supper**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**

Prayer of Preparation

Rev. Susan Mozena

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

**We Enter into God's Presence**

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude	<i>Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland, BWV599</i>	J. S. Bach
Welcome / Greetings		Jim Tubbs
<i>Signing of the Friendship Pad &amp; Prayer Cards</i>		
Advent Reading & Lighting of the purple First Candle		Jeff, Ellen & Chris Ely
Congregational Life		Jim Tubbs
*Call to Worship		Jim Tubbs

One: O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!

**All: Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.**

One: Be Alert! Keep awake!

**All: The time is drawing near: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

One: Let us worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**1 Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.  
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.  
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?  
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.**

**2 Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.  
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.  
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.**

**3 Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.  
Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.  
Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.  
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!**

\*Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

Rev. Susan Mozena

**God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.  
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives,  
ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,  
abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us.  
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure  
when Christ comes to judge the world.**

\*Silent Confession.

\*Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness

One: Amen. The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Jim Tubbs

**Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away: May our generation be attentive so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we remember your ways and gladly do right, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

<sup>2</sup>As when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.

<sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.

<sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name  
or attempts to take hold of you,  
for you have hidden your face from us  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Anthem

*"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us*  
Chancel Choir

J. S. Bach

Scripture Reading

*1 Corinthians 1: 3-9*

Rev. Susan Mozena

**3** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**4** I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, **5** for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— **6** just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— **7** so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. **8** He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Sermon

**Back to the Basics**

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-Bloom

## **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Song of Invitation 701

*Sanctuary*

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Susan Mozena

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God...

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord...

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Words of Institution

Sharing of the Gifts of Bread & Cup

*With consideration for public health concerns (especially the rise in COVID and RSV cases) we will be coming forward to receive communion. Please come forward to receive the bread and cup when you are ready, or raise your hand and you will be served where you are seated.*

Communion Prayer

Rev. Susan Mozena

Congregational Prayer Petitions & The Lord's Prayer

Jim Tubbs

**"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 # 321

*The Church's One Foundation*

Samuel John Stone

**1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord. She is his new creation by water and the word. From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride. With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.**

**2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth. One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.**

**3 Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed, yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?" And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.**

**4 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forevermore: till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.**

**5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won: O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.**

Benediction

Rev. Susan Mozena

Postlude

*Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates*

T. Williams  
arr. Wilbur Held

Portions of today’s liturgy have been taken from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2014. The texts draw from today’s Advent lectionary readings.

**Today’s flowers are presented by Dale Hawkins in memory of John’s birthday on December 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**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 Grosse Pointe Hospital. She and John, married for 55 years, have two children and three grandchildren.

## **Worship Liturgist**

We welcome Jim Tubbs as today's liturgist. 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:

- December 10: Last names beginning S-Z
- December 17: Last names beginning A-D
- December 24: Last names beginning E-K
- December 31: Last names beginning L-K



### **“It’s The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year” Is This Wednesday Morning**

Today is the last day to buy tickets (\$10) for the Christmas Gathering, since we need to give a count to the caterer tomorrow. Tickets are on sale in the narthex today, so either purchase yours after worship, or call Sue Carlson later today at 248-330-7188 to reserve.

This Gathering on the morning of Wed. Dec. 6 is sponsored by PWPD and our PW. All men and women, including guests, are invited. There is a coffee hour in the narthex at 10:00, followed by a program in the sanctuary and then a hot catered lunch in Knox Hall.

The program features Christmas music (with Shari Fiore-Bloom as our piano accompanist) and an original play, “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of Year” (by Anne Sebesta), proudly presented by Presbyterian Players. The play is about a family on Christmas who learns about Christmas traditions and each other. The cast includes Laura Hedgecock, Tom Neal, Sally Kirsten, Jeff DeGrasse, Vicki Najjar, Manny Sharpe, Sue Carlson, and Deb Anderson.

Please remember to bring your ticket as your admission to lunch, and please sit front and center in the sanctuary so you can hear and see the play well.



#### **4<sup>th</sup> Future Church Planning Taskforce Meeting – Wednesday, Dec 6**

The Future Church Planning Task Force has been reading through and discussing the “Sailboat Church” by Joan S. Gray. The **fourth and last meeting will be on Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 pm in Room 208/210**. If you prefer to attend by **Zoom**, ask Tom Neal ([ttneal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttneal@sbcglobal.net)) for the Zoom link. One participant said: “I’m excited! I feel like we’re pushing off the shore!” We’ll also be discussing “next steps,” like the Mission Study, so don’t miss out on this important meeting as we move forward toward a vision and mission for our church! If you need a copy of the book, we have extra copies.

#### **Adopt-A-Teen for Christmas**

Today is the **LAST DAY** to select a bulb representing a gift from the Adopt-A-Teen Christmas tree located in the narthex. 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 the Mission Ministry once again.

#### **Come Join the Congregation-Wide Workshops on 12/3/23 & 12/9/23**

The last of the Healing and Visioning Sessions are two Communication Workshops to be held in December and are open to the whole congregation. The first is Sunday, December



3, 2023, 6:00-8:00 p.m. and will be held via Zoom (info to be provided later). The second is Saturday, December 9, 2023, 12:00-2:00 p.m. in Knox Hall. The workshops are the same, just delivered in different formats to accommodate the most people. Feel free to come to one or even both if interested. After these workshops, Beth Buelow and Dorsey Sherman will compile the information they learned in the Listening Sessions and Leader Development Workshop and present their summary and recommendations to FPCF to help in the future church planning.

### **Support CARES**

The "suggested" donation for December is "protein". This includes: canned meats, tuna pouches, peanut butter, nuts, shelf stable cheese, and more. The last day of food distribution in 2023 at CARES is December 14. All donations for them in our bin will be picked up on Dec. 11. CARES will reopen on January 9. Feel free to begin dropping off donations again on January 7. Thank you for your generous donations of baking supplies and much more during November. Your neighbors appreciate the love you give!

### **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.

### **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:** Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter Remembered For 'Life of Service and Compassion' To get on the email list contact Tom Neal at [ttnear@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttnear@sbcglobal.net).

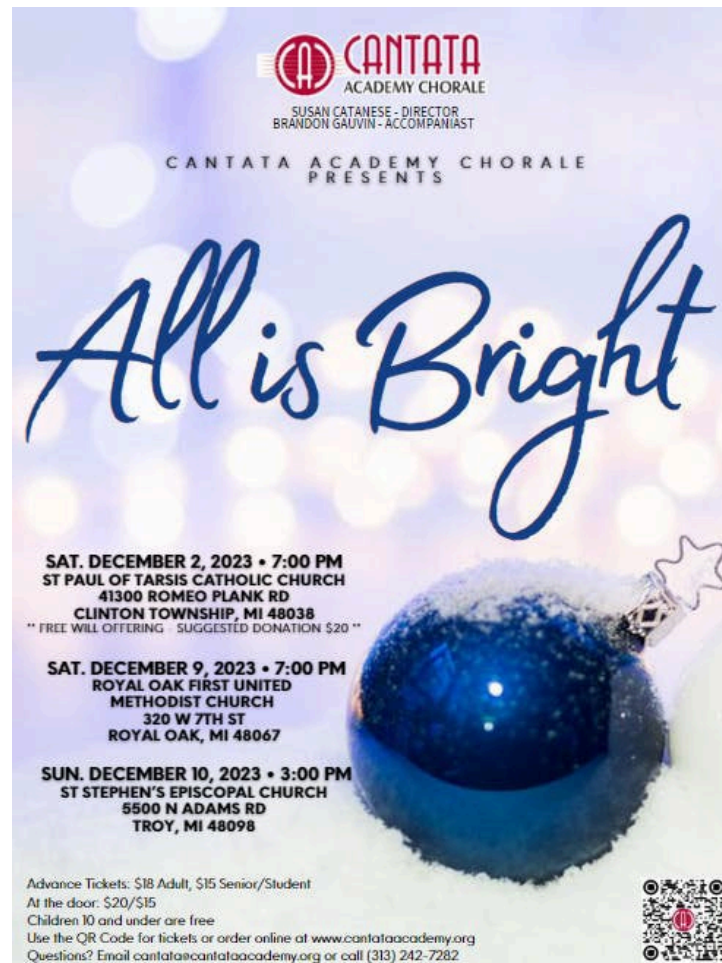
## Cantata Academy Invites You to the Chorale, *All is Bright*

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 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm

December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

December 10<sup>th</sup> at 3pm



The poster features a light purple background with soft, out-of-focus bokeh lights. At the top center is the Cantata Academy Chorale logo, which includes a red circular emblem with a white 'C' and the text 'CANTATA ACADEMY CHORALE' in red and black. Below the logo, the names 'SUSAN CATANESE - DIRECTOR' and 'BRANDON GAUVIN - ACCOMPANIST' are listed in small black text. The main title 'All is Bright' is written in a large, elegant, dark blue cursive script. To the right of the title is a large, shiny blue Christmas ornament with a silver star on top. The concert details are listed in black text on the left side of the poster. At the bottom left, there is a QR code and contact information.

**CANTATA ACADEMY CHORALE PRESENTS**

*All is Bright*

**SAT. DECEMBER 2, 2023 • 7:00 PM**  
ST PAUL OF TARSIS CATHOLIC CHURCH  
41300 ROMEO PLANK RD  
CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI 48038  
\*\* FREE WILL OFFERING - SUGGESTED DONATION \$20 \*\*

**SAT. DECEMBER 9, 2023 • 7:00 PM**  
ROYAL OAK FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
320 W 7TH ST  
ROYAL OAK, MI 48067

**SUN. DECEMBER 10, 2023 • 3:00 PM**  
ST STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
5500 N ADAMS RD  
TROY, MI 48098

Advance Tickets: \$18 Adult, \$15 Senior/Student  
At the door: \$20/\$15  
Children 10 and under are free  
Use the QR Code for tickets or order online at [www.cantataacademy.org](http://www.cantataacademy.org)  
Questions? Email [cantata@cantataacademy.org](mailto:cantata@cantataacademy.org) or call (313) 242-7282



Good Morning, Good Afternoon, Good Evening.

I am writing to you as the Moderator of the Presbytery of Detroit to share my thoughts and encouragement to persevere in the midst of trials, and to invite you to a Blue Christmas Service.

There's a lot going on in the world: A war between Ukraine and Russia and an ever-growing war between Israel and Hamas/Gaza, to name just two. Fighting between our political parties. Suicide rates going up. (I know of four individuals just in the last two months that are gone too soon.) Conflict within our own congregations, churches, and presbytery.

With all that is going on in the world, we need to return to our identity as Christians—our trust in Christ Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. (John 11:25-26 NIV)

Christ has called us to be people of love, honor, peace, and grace. Yet we his people have not been loving, honoring, peaceful, or graceful. We have been lacking on many levels. We may be tired, exhausted, or even hurt, but we are called to gather at the table and work on narrowing the divide. For Jesus has promised that he is with us when even two or three are gathered in his name.

We as Christians and as Presbyterians of the Presbytery of Detroit are known for our love. Plain and simple. Love. And we are invited to hold out the light, not hide it under a bushel. For as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that."

Christ is the light we need to see in this world. Let us reach out and be that light.

As we enter this Advent season, we are waiting, waiting for the baby to be born, waiting for peace, waiting for hope, and waiting for love. Sometimes we feel blue at this time of year. The days are shorter, and the darkness seems longer. We invite you to join us for a Blue Christmas Worship, where together we will light candles to help drive out the darkness.

### **Blue Christmas Service**

**Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Northbrook Presbyterian Church** (22055 W. 14 Mile Road, Beverly Hills)

-sponsored by the Presbytery of Detroit in partnership with Northbrook Presbyterian

In Christ,

Kevin Smith

Moderator, Presbytery of Detroit

## 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](mailto:info@farmington-pres.org). It will be a very good idea to call ahead if you need to come into the building.

First Presbyterian Church Staff	
Ministers of the Church	Members of the Congregation
Pastoral Care Parish Associate	The Rev. Craig S. Aue
Minister of Music & Organist/Pianist	Shari Fiore-Bloom
Office Administrative Assistant	Carly Vivio
Office Assistant	Amanda Schreiber
AV Tech Intern	Jaiden Thomas



## 2023 Christmas Poinsettias

**Deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 10**



**Please complete and return this form to the church office along with your payment.** The cost for a red or white eight-inch double Poinsettia plant with gold foil cover is \$16.00 each. Poinsettias are available for you to take home after the 10:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Contact Eddie Matteson or the church office to arrange to pick up your poinsettia at another time, have it delivered to your home or to donate it to one of our homebound members.

Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and mark it for poinsettias or Christmas flowers. For last-minute orders, please contact the office at 248 474-6170 and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

**Please PRINT the following information so that it will be published accurately.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE No: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of red poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of white poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount due to First Presbyterian Church: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Enclosed: Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_



**Farmington First Presbyterian Church**

*The Church of the Open Hands*

26165 Farmington Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

