



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

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

February 18, 2024

1st Sunday in Lent

Prayer of Preparation

O Holy Spirit, Give me faith that will protect me from despair, from passions, and from vice; Give me such love for God and [people] as will blot out all hatred and bitterness; Give me the hope that will deliver me from fear and faint-heartedness. Amen.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer (from "Morning Prayer for Fellow-Prisoners")

We Enter into God's Presence

*Please stand in body or spirit

Welcome / Greetings

MJ Floreno

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Congregational Life

MJ Floreno

Prelude

Forty Days and Forty Nights

arr. Charles Callahan

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 25)

MJ Floreno

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust;

People: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Leader: Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

People: for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

*Opening Hymn #167

Forty Days and Forty Nights

George Hunt Smyttan

**1 Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.**

**2 Shall not we your sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with you to suffer pain?**

**3 Then if Satan on us press, flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness, grant that we not faint nor fail!**

**4 So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine, such as served you faithfully.**

**5 Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.**

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

O Lord, we turn to You in all Your beauty and grace, and we confess before you our sins, our trespasses, our debts to You, to others, and to ourselves. We pray that you grant forgiveness of our sins as befits Your boundless mercy and compassion. And help us go forward from here living anew, as befits our baptisms, so that we may live more fully into our lives as Your children. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:9-15

MJ Floreno

New Revised Standard Version

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. ¹¹ And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Testing of Jesus

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Anthem

What Shall I Render to My God
Chancel Choir

Austin C. Lovelace

Sermon

Spirit Driven

Rev. Travis Hacker

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology
Collection of Prayer Cards

Rev. Travis Hacker

**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

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

MJ Floreno

God of all love and light, we thank You for Your gifts of grace, for pardon, for true freedom. Help us embrace these gifts You have given and continue to give. Help us continue to be attentive to Your will and guidance, as You eternally lead us to green pastures by still waters. With our cups filled and with Your anointing, may we go forward living into our own baptisms, throughout the season of Lent and far beyond, serving as signs of Your love for all the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

"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# 783

When We are Tested

Ruth Duck

**1 When we are tested and wrestle alone, famished for bread when the world offers
stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way, food that sustains us by night and by day.**

**2 When in the desert we cry for relief, pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test, trusting your presence, our only true rest.**

**3 When we are tempted to barter our souls, trading the truth for the power to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you, seeking your will in the work that we do.**

**4 When we have struggled and searched through the night, sorting and sifting the
wrong from the right, Savior, surround us with circles of care, angels of healing, of
hope, and of prayer.**

Benediction

Rev. Travis Hacker

Postlude

Abridge

C.S. Lang

Please Welcome Back, Pastor Travis Hacker, Today's Guest Preacher.

Rev. Travis Hacker is currently a chaplain with Brighton Hospice, serving with Pastor Craig Aue. Previously a pastor at New Palestine Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Indianapolis area, he has also served as an associate in Evansville, IN and a student minister in Louisville, KY before that. Pastor Travis was ordained a Disciple in Indiana, received an MDiv. from Lexington Theological Seminary. He's married with a grown-up daughter, two twin baby granddaughters, and the whole family lives close by in Farmington Hills.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome MJ Floreno as today's liturgist. Sue Carlson will serve as liturgist on February 25th. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

Preschool Open Enrollment

The preschool is now open for enrollment for the upcoming 2024-25 school year. Please spread the word about our preschool to friends and family who may be interested in enrolling. The program offers 2.5's, 3's and Pre-K (4's) classes. Please visit the website:



<https://farmingtonpreschool.org/enroll/> or call the preschool: (248)

474-9752 to schedule a tour and/or pick up your enrollment forms.

First Pres Sailors Meeting TODAY February 18th– Please join us!

The Future Church Task Force regrouped in Nov/Dec and renamed our group as "First Pres Sailors" based on our reading of the book Sailboat Church by Joan S. Gray. We gleaned many ideas from the book and our discussions. We have formed a prayer group to pray for the future of our church and are beginning to work on our self-study (last done in 2015), which needs to be completed before we contract with a permanent pastor. Please join us and play an active role in the future direction of FPCF! **We'll meet in the Room 208/210 on Sunday, February 18th, at 11:30 am.** Everyone is welcome!

Coffee Time with Danielle Ware, Director of DCDI, February 25

Join us for coffee after the service to hear Danielle Ware, Director of Danika Community Development, Inc. tell us more about their work in the community. The Mission Ministry collaborates with DCDI on the **Resume Writing/Practice Interview Workshop** and the **Garden & Nutrition Project**. Please join us to hear what else they do.

Laughter Yoga Returns - Saturday, March 2, 2024, 11:00 a.m.-Noon

We are happy to bring Laura Lerman, a certified Laughter Yoga instructor, back to lead us in a joy-filled, uplifting hour of gentle movement. Hasyasana (Laughter Yoga) promotes laughter without comedy or jokes. It builds resilience to stress by strengthening inner resolve and joyfulness and can be done in street clothes that have just a little wiggle room, and is done either sitting on a chair or standing. You just need a willingness to mindfully breathe and play. A few minutes of laughter a day can reduce stress, make your immune system stronger, and keep your mind positive during challenging times. Give it a try - we dare you not to laugh!

Program guarantee: Not a single “downward-facing dog” and you’ll leave with a smile and a lighter heart. Come early for light refreshments and fellowship at 10:30 a.m. To help plan for headcount, please contact the church office or Dorothy Tait (detait1957@gmail.com) to RSVP

Resume Writing & Practice Interview Workshop (March 9, 16 & 23)

We’re happy to report that we’re scheduling another Resume Writing & Practice Interview Workshop before summer. If you would like to help coach others in writing their resumes and/or conduct a practice interview with a participant (March 23 only), please contact Colleen Tavor (248.302.9396 or cmtcounseling@gmail.com). You’ll be given all the materials and info that you’ll need to do this. The workshop will take place on three Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (March 9, 16, 23), in room 208/210.

FPCF is looking for Legal Counsel

From time to time, there are contracts or other documents to be reviewed to ensure everything is correct and all parties are covered. If there is anyone in the church willing to provide help in this area or if there are any recommendations, please contact the church office.

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:

February 25: Last names beginning L-R

March 3: Last names beginning S-Z

March 10: Last names beginning A-D

March 17: Last names beginning E-K

FPCF's Shopping List for CARES

Have you picked up your CARES shopping list yet? Look for it in the pew backs or the Mission bulletin board. Take it with you to the store. The items on the list are those most needed by the guests at CARES. Here is a suggestion: If you see a BOGO Sale (Buy One Get One), pick up the free item for CARES.

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**. Sunday Topic: New Study Finds Probable Linkage Between Body Temperature and Depression. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. To get on the email list contact Tom Neal at ttneal@sbcglobal.net.

News from the Church Office

Office hours are as follows: **Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**; **Wednesday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.** The office is closed on Friday. It is a good idea to call ahead if you need to come into the building.

As a reminder please contact the church office via telephone at (248) 474-6170 or email at info@farmington-pres.org.

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	Jaïden Thomas



Farmington First Presbyterian Church

The Church of the Open Hands

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