



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

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

Please enter the sanctuary quietly, in reverence to our Lord and others meditating.

February 25, 2024

2nd Sunday in Lent

Prayer of Preparation

God of Love, we are grateful to be gathered together. We are connected in the Spirit and invited to love one another. Together, we experience your sacred calling, and together, we worship you. We offer you our thanks, our wonder, and our marvel. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

Welcome / Greetings

Sue Carlson

Welcome back Rev. Renee Roederer; signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Card submissions

Congregational Life

Sue Carlson

Minute for Mission - *Danika Community Development Inc. (DCDI)*

Colleen Tavor

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision

Irish melody arr. Cindy Berry

*Call to Worship

Sue Carlson

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to God;

God's face is not hidden from us when we cry to God.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and God rules over the nations.

1 All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam, sing praises!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 O brother wind with clouds and rain, you nurture gifts of fruit and grain. Alleluia! Alleluia!
O sister water, flowing clear, make music for your Lord to hear. Sing praises!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 O brother fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shadows of the night. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds such blessings on our way, sing praises!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 All who for love of God forgive, All who in pain or shadow grieve, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears; so, even in the midst of tears, sing praises!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and one another in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. There is a brokenness in us that reflects the brokenness of our world — and it is deep and broad. Yet in your mercy and healing grace, you can restore us and empower us to walk in the way of Christ. In your mercy and healing grace, you can reform our paths toward love and justice for our neighbors and for the earth. In your mercy and healing grace, you can make your peace – your shalom – a reality in our communities and lives. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness

Rev. Renee Roederer

The grace of God is sure for each and for all. Be restored to right standing with God and with one another. Know that we are set free and empowered by God's Spirit to create loving and just communities in our world. Thanks be to God.

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Reading

Mark 9:2-29

Sue Carlson

New Revised Standard Version

The Transfiguration

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰ So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. ¹¹ Then they asked him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" ¹² He said to them, "Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things. How then is it written about the Son of Man, that he is to go through many sufferings and be treated with contempt? ¹³ But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written about him."

The Healing of a Boy with a Spirit

¹⁴ When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them and some scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵ When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. ¹⁶ He asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" ¹⁷ Someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak, ¹⁸ and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid, and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so." ¹⁹ He answered them, "You faithless generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me." ²⁰ And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ Jesus asked the father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²² It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, help us! Have compassion on us!" ²³ Jesus said to him, "If you are able! All things can be done for the one who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" ²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!" ²⁶ After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. ²⁸ When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁹ He said to them, "This kind can come out only through prayer."

Anthem

"Take Up Your Cross," the Savior Said
Chancel Choir

Das Leiden Des Herrn
arr. Paul Bouman

Sermon

Following Jesus Down the Mountain

Rev. Renee Roederer

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology

Collection of Prayer Cards

Rev. Renee Roederer

**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

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Sue Carlson

O God, our Provider, you open your hand and lavish good gifts upon us. So we give you thanks. You create the beauty of the earth and stock it with abundance to sustain human life. You give us friends who share the journey of our lives; family who make us laugh with joy and dry our tears of sorrow; strangers who minister to our needs with generous kindness. You knit us into your larger family called church to encourage us in your Way. You have blessed us with the freedoms of a great nation. "Thank you" seems insufficient for all your blessings, yet we say it with all we are as an offering of gratitude for our many blessings that we name before you. Though we may have seen our fortunes fall this year, we praise you for hiding our treasure in Jesus Christ our Lord, whom not even death can destroy. Though we miss those whose places sit empty at our table, we give you thanks for lending them to us for what time we had. For all your providence, we give ourselves to you with all we are, in thanks and praise in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught 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."

We Follow God's Word into the World

*Hymn of Sending# 771

What Is the World Like

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil, branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home,
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

5 These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.

Benediction

Rev. Renee Roederer

Postlude

Christus, Der Uns Selig Macht, BWV620

Johann Sebastian Bach

Please Welcome Back, Rev. Renee Roederer, Today's Guest Preacher.

Our preacher today is Rev. Renee Roederer. She is a Presbyterian (PCUSA) minister who lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She is the Senior Director of Programs and Community Care at the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan where she connects with individuals and families and provides educational information, resources, referrals, companionship, and support. Renee enjoys choral singing, hiking, photography, and traveling, and she's an avid writer. One of her greatest joys in life is the large, chosen family she has built over time, with whom she enjoys keeping in touch, laughing hard, and reflecting on life.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Sue Carlson as today's liturgist. Mike Rogers will serve as liturgist on March 3. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

We have a Transitional Pastor!

During the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 4, the Transitional Pastor Search Committee (TPSC) was pleased to announce that we have a Transitional Pastor and he will begin on Sunday, April 21!

All necessary paperwork has been signed and approved by the Committee on Ministry (COM) and we are thankful to God for blessing us in the next step of our journey! And what a journey it has been! Our church leadership has stepped up in the past year and a half without a pastor and the various committees continue to work hard to keep the church on course.

We pray that you'll understand that, at this time, we are not releasing any additional information in order to give the pastor time to give notice to his current church and make sure that everyone is informed before we provide more information to the FPCF congregation. This is a common practice in providing a sacred space and privacy at a tender time for a congregation.

Thank you for your prayers and patience and let us all offer thanks and praises to God for his blessings upon this congregation.

Coffee Time with Danielle Ware, Director of DCDI, Today – Please join us!

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.

Town Hall TODAY after Danielle Ware's presentation (11:45 a.m.)

In the last quarter of 2023, we worked with two consultants on Healing and Visioning activities. They presented their recommendations to Session in January and we'd like to share them with you today. So please enjoy a second cup of coffee and a few more treats to hear their words of encouragement.

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.

Charity Collection

The Presbytery of Detroit is collecting toilet paper for those in need. Church will deliver any TP dropped off at church but another easy way to help is by "shopping" online, like Amazon, and having your purchase delivered directly to Presbytery. The address is: 17575 Hubbell Street, Detroit, MI 48235.

Please pay your 2024 Per Capita Apportionment

The Presbyterian Church is a “connectional” church where we interact through the Presbytery of Detroit, the Synod of the Covenant and the General Assembly. These councils are funded by the “Per Capita” on each of our active members. For 2024, the Per Capita amount is \$36.00. We ask that you contribute \$36.00 for each member of your household confirmation age and above to help offset this amount. Checks may be made payable to the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington; please note “Per Capita” on the memo line.

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 2.5s, 3s and Pre-K (4s) classes. Please visit the website:

<https://farmingtonprespreschool.org/enroll/> or call the preschool:

(248) 474-9752 to schedule a tour and/or pick up your enrollment forms.

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.

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.

Adult Bible Discussion – The Wired Word

Join our Bible discussion **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Library**. Sunday Topic: **Putin Critic Navalny Dies in Russian Prison**. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. To get on the email list contact Tom Neal at ttneal@sbcglobal.net.

COVID-19 or Flu Symptoms

Please be mindful if you have symptoms, stay home, and take care of yourself and others.

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:

March 3: Last names beginning S-Z

March 10: Last names beginning A-D

March 17: Last names beginning E-K

March 24: Last names beginning L-R

News from the Church Office

Office hours are as follows: **Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**; **Wednesdays: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.** The office is closed on Fridays. 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.



Farmington First Presbyterian Church

The Church of the Open Hands

26165 Farmington Road

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

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