



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 4, 2024
5th Sunday After Epiphany
The Lord's Supper & Annual Congregational Meeting

Prayer of Preparation

Spinner, weaver of our lives, your loom is love. May we who are gathered here be empowered by that love to weave new patterns of truth and justice into a web of life, that is strong, beautiful, and everlasting. May it be so. -Adapted-Barbara Wells

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

Prelude	<i>Praeludium in C</i>	Dietrich Buxtehude
Welcome / Greetings		Pastor Aue
<i>Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards</i>		
Congregational Life		Pastor Aue
*Call to Worship		Alvine Cooper

People of God, welcome! Surely God is in this place!

We come to worship and to rest in God's presence.

Breathe deep for the goodness of God surrounds us. The Holy One who sustains the universe is near.

When we are tired, worn down, and carrying heavy burdens, God is with us.

God strengthens us that we might help carry one another's burdens. So, let us join together in wonder and thanksgiving for God's love that lifts us up on wings like eagles.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

1 A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure.
One little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession (Responsively)

Lord, today we confess that we often live as those who have never heard of you. We plan and strategize as though the outcome depended solely upon us. We worry and fret like those who have no advocate.

Forgive us Lord,

for the scheming and conniving we do to make sure that we have our own way.

Forgive us Lord,

for grasping at power when you are the Power,
for seeking glory when all glory belongs to you,
for not leaning upon you when we feel weak, or powerless or alone.

Forgive us Lord,

for relying upon ourselves and other mortals when we should turn to you.

Teach us how to live more like those who belong to you and less like those who belong to the world.

(Silence)

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

Alvine Cooper

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
and spreads them like a tent to live in,
²³ who brings princes to naught
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
²⁵ To whom, then, will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.
²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and assert, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹ He gives power to the faint
and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted,
³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Anthem

Praise the Lord
Chancel Choir

Traditional Cameroon Melody
arr. Ralph Johnson

Reflection

Waiting On God

Pastor Aue

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology
Collection of Prayer Cards

Pastor Aue

**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.**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Aue

May God be with you

And also with you.

Lift your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the God we love.

We freely give God thanks and praise.

It is right and good, beautiful and holy that we should, in ceaseless joy.

Give our thanks and praise to you, Holy and merciful God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

And so, in grateful procession of endless praise with the church that is, was, and shall be forever,

We glorify you, joining together in declaring your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of all knowledge. All creation sings glad praises to you.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed is the One who came for our sake. Hosanna in the highest!

....Life's greatest feast before us,

We excitedly proclaim:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Dear God, you transform.

...For all honor and glory are yours, O God, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in your glorious creation both now and forever. **Amen.**

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. **Please be sure to deposit your trash in the trash can, not the recycling bin- Thank you!***

Communion Prayer

Pastor Aue

Prayers of the People

Alvine Cooper

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Alvine Cooper

You lift us to our feet so we can walk with you, Loving God, and you fill us with your gifts so we may pour them out for those around us. May your powerful presence become obvious not only in the undeniable glory of the sky, but also in the seemingly base and common processes of the earth. We are torn between our faith in your goodness and our awareness of the evil in your creation, so deliver us from the temptation to despair. Give us what we need, day by day, to keep body and soul together, because clever as you have made us, we still owe our existence to you. Take what we offer and use them in that kingdom work which strengthens the weary, feeds the hungry, and gives hope to the despairing. In the holy name of Christ, who teaches 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 #169

Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind

John Greenleaf Whittier

**1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.**

**2 In simple trust like theirs who heard beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.**

**3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee, O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!**

**4 Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.**

**5 Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!**

Benediction

Pastor Aue

Postlude

Toccata in G

Theodore Dubois

Please welcome Back Today's Guest Organist Dr. Norah Duncan IV

Dr. Norah Duncan IV is Professor and Chair of the Department of Music at Wayne State University. Duncan received an undergraduate degree from the University of Detroit, a Master of Music degree from Wayne State University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan. Duncan has performed extensively in both the United States and Europe and Australia. He was music director for the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament from 1980 to 2007. He was director of music for the historic visit of Pope John Paul II to Detroit in 1987. Because of his interest in Gregorian Chant, with the Benedictine Monastery in Solesmes, France, he established the Gregorian Institute of Detroit for the study of chant music. Additionally, he has presented papers on liturgical music at international congresses, clinics and workshops in Rome, Dublin, and for the Diocese of Enugu and the Archdiocese of Abuja, in Nigeria. Dr. Duncan was a member of both the editorial and advisory committees for the revision of "Lead Me, Guide Me," the African American Catholic Hymnal. Several of his compositions are included in this hymnal, including the "Unity Mass," the "Holy Name of Jesus," and many settings of psalms and canticles. Since the publication of "Lead Me, Guide Me," Norah has been commissioned to write music for national NPM conventions, including "Where the Joys and Hopes of Living," for the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of *Gaudium et Spes*.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Alvine Cooper as today's liturgist. Mary Carson will serve as liturgist on February 11th. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

Annual Congregational Meeting Notice First Presbyterian Church Of Farmington- Sunday, February 4, 2023

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation of First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, *The Church of the Open Hands*, will be **held in person in Knox Hall and virtually via Zoom (click this link [HERE](#)) Today, Sunday, February 4, at 11:15 a.m. following worship**. The purpose of this meeting is to review the 2023 annual reports of the boards, teams, committees, and staff of the church, review the 2023 financial reports and the 2024 budget, and conduct any other business which might come before the congregation.

A link to the 2023 Annual Report is provided [HERE](#). **A limited number of print copies of the 2023 Annual Report also are available in the narthex or call the church office to get a copy sent to you.**

First Presbyterian is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Annual Congregational Meeting

Time: Feb 4, 2024 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84189196799?pwd=UnVvcnUxZW52MVIUdSsvK2tjR21pdz09>

Meeting ID: 841 8919 6799

Passcode: 219899

Preschool Open House



The preschool will be open on Saturday, February 3rd from 10a.m.-Noon to meet the teachers and enroll in the upcoming 2024-25 school year. Please spread the word about our preschool to friends and family who may be interested in enrolling. Enrollment for the 2.5's, 3's and Pre-K (4's) is now open enrollment. 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.

Need to make a bulletin announcement?

If you need to make a bulletin announcement, it **MUST** be submitted in writing via email to info@farmington-pres.org no later than Tuesday before the given Sunday worship. If the announcement or correction is submitted after Tuesday it will not be printed in the given bulletin and will be printed in the following week's bulletin. Please check spelling, dates, times etc. and the timeline in which you would like the announcement to run. before submitting. Bulletin announcements should be 3 sentences or less. Additionally, as a reminder, you will need prior approval for inclusion of an activity in the church calendar. Any questions? Contact the church office at info@farmington-pres.org with any questions and/or submissions.

Scam Alert!

The Craft Fair for First Presbyterian Church of Farmington has been notified that a scammer (Arielle Lizz Debra) is asking people to send money via Venmo to book a booth for the craft fair. **This is not us and we don't have Venmo set up.** Please don't send money to this person! First Presbyterian Church of Farmington only takes checks or cash only. Questions: info@Farmington-Pres.org.

Ash Wednesday Service-February 14th

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which falls on Feb. 14 this year. Please join us on that date at 7:00 p.m. for a service of prayer and contemplation that will include the imposition of ashes.



First Pres Sailors Meeting 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!

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 4: Last names beginning S-Z

February 11: Souper Bowl- everyone is welcome to bring a soup to pass

February 18: Last names beginning E-K

February 25: Last names beginning L-R



****Note:** On 2/11/2024, Nurture Committee invites you to gather for fellowship after worship where you can enjoy soup for the Super Bowl LVIII. Please bring your favorite soup to pass; We hope this event will be a complete touchdown!

2024 Offering Envelopes

Those who have used numbered envelopes in 2023 will automatically receive envelopes for 2024, unless you inform us otherwise. If you have NOT used envelopes this year, but DO wish to have them for next year, please contact the church office at 248-474-6170 to make your request known. Numbered envelopes facilitate the speed and accuracy of the data entry process for our offering counters, so we do encourage you to use envelopes if you contribute manually on a regular basis. We also encourage the use of electronic debit. If you wish to automatically submit your pledge electronically from your bank account monthly, please call the church office to have the forms mailed to you. If you have any questions, please call the church office at (248) 474-6170.

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**. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. To get on the email list contact Tom Neal at ttnear@sbcglobal.net.

Regularly Scheduled Committees and Activities at FPCF

Committee/Activity	Meeting day/time	Where	Contact
Church Leadership Meetings			
Deacons Meeting	2nd Wed every other month at 7:00 p.m.	In person Room 208/210	Leslie Black Leslieblack1956@gmail.com
Session Meeting	3rd Wed each month at 7 – 8:30 p.m.	Zoom and Room 208/210	Dorothy Tait Detait1957@gmail.com
Committees/Activities			

Bells Rehearsal	Every Thurs 6-7 p.m.	Bell Room, 2 nd floor	Shari Fiore-Bloom Shari.fiore@farmington-pres.org
Choir Rehearsal	Every Thurs 7-9 p.m.	Sanctuary	Shari Fiore-Bloom Shari.fiore@farmington-pres.org
Communication/ Technology Committee (Comm/Tech)	2nd Tues each month at 5:30 p.m.	Zoom	Laura Hedgecock 2hedgemeister@gmail.com
First Pres Sailors	TBD	Zoom	Tom Neal tneal@sbcglobal.net
First Pres Sailors Prayer Group	Every Wed at noon	Garden Room / Parlor	Colleen Tavor cmtcounseling@gmail.com
JOY! Study	Every Tues at 7 p.m.	Zoom	Sharon Cressman Simplify2live@yahoo.com
Mission Ministry Team	1st Mon each month at 4:00 p.m.	Zoom	Rick Fuller asiaref@hotmail.com
Nurture Ministry Team	1st Sunday of month at noon	In person in the kitchen	Karl Cressman Karl.cressman@yahoo.com
Operations Ministry Team	2nd Tues each month at 3:30-5:30 p.m.	Zoom	Sally Kirsten sckirsten@hotmail.com
Social Justice Book Club	Last Mon each month at 7 p.m.	Zoom	Colleen Tavor cmtcounseling@gmail.com
The Wired Word	Sunday at 9 a.m.	Church Library	Tom Neal tneal@sbcglobal.net
Worship Ministry Team	2nd Mon each month At 6:30 p.m.	Zoom	Jim Tubbs tubbsjb@udmercy.edu
Presbyterian Women Circles			
ACTS Circle	2nd Tues each month 9:30 am (optional lunch)	Garden Room / Parlor	Marcia Van Hamme mvanhamme@twmi.rr.com
Deborah / Lydia Circle	2nd Thurs each month 10:00 am	Room 207	Anne Fuller Annefuller02@hotmail.com
Phoenix Circle	3rd Tues each month 10:30-11:30 a.m. (optional lunch)	Garden Room / Parlor	Nancy Cook Ncook483@aol.com
Know Your Elders: Nancy Cook, Martha Countegan, Karl Cressman, MJ Floreno, Anne Fuller, Kari Gorman, Marc Hemmye, Colleen Tavor, Dorothy Tait (Clerk of Session), Rev. Ken Kaibel (Moderator), Rev. Michelle James (COM Liaison)			
Know Your Deacons: Leslie Black (moderator), Deb Anderson (memorial reception), Sue Andrews (memorial reception), Sue Carlson (prayer chain & flower delivery), Deb Hemmye (wellness seminars), Garren Lewis (cluster group coordinator), Lauren Haas (cluster coordinator), Pat Plamondon (home communion coordinator), Laurel Scott (card chairwoman)			

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.** 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

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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