



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

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

In preparing our hearts for worship, we will be dimming the lights in the narthex, indicating a time to quiet our minds (and mouths!). Please enter the sanctuary quietly and in time to hear the welcome and announcements.

March 17th, 2024

5th Sunday in Lent

Prayer of Preparation

O God, in this Lenten season, as we follow Jesus to Jerusalem, the earth turns us at the same time toward spring. Let these two seasons teach us of you, of the letting go and springing forth, the dying and rebirth that is life's truth. Let these two seasons bring us to our full stature in you. Amen.

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Welcome / Greetings

Jim Tubbs

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Congregational Life

Jim Tubbs

Prelude

To Whom in Days of Suffering

Caswall
arr. Malcolm Archer

*Call to Worship

Becoming a baby,

Christ transformed all of us into his sisters and brothers.

Telling us stories we had forgotten,

God helps us to walk the paths of discipleship.

Becoming foolish in the world's eyes,

the Spirit teaches us all we need to find our way into the kingdom.

**1 Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;
looking toward our Savior's cross, joined in love we stand.**

**As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:
Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for you are the way.**

**2 Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands;
yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's demands.
While in darkness hope appears calling age and youth:
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.**

**3 Nature's secrets open wide, changes never cease;
where, O where, can weary souls find the source of peace?
Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife:
Jesus, healer, bring your balm, for you are the Life.**

**4 Grant, O God, an age renewed, filled with deathless love;
help us as we work and pray; send us from above.
Truth and courage, faith and power needed in our strife:
Jesus, Savior, be our way; be our Truth, our Life.**

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi

Covenant-making God, you use every possible means to reach us, breathing your Spirit in us, calling us by name, showing us symbols of your promise, offering us a new way of life. We confess that our hearts are hardened. We choose certainty over faith, anxiety over courage, independence over compassion. We turn our eyes from our neighbors in need, and from stories of despair, and from pleas for peace, and from anything that might bring tears to our eyes, for we prefer our own comfort. We get caught up in our own needs and desires, and forget you have made us to be your people, together. Engrave your word on our hard hearts again, O God. Then break them open for what breaks yours, that your word might sink in and become a part of us, so we might truly live as if you are our God and we are your people. We pray in the name of the One whose love breaks all bounds, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Reading

Psalms 25:1-10

Jim Tubbs

New Revised Standard Version

Psalm 25

Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance

Of David.

- ¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
² O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.
⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!
⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
⁹ He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.
¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Anthem

Prepare the Way!
Chancel Choir

Nancy Price, Don Besig

Sermon

Down the Up Staircase
Philippians 2:1-13

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology
Collection of Prayer Cards

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi

**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

Jim Tubbs

Holy One, You are a God of compassion and love. Time after time we have experienced your care and provision. Time after time You've answered our prayers and met our needs—often in ways we could never have dreamed possible. We praise You for Your faithful love toward us.

Because we have known Your love, we come to You with confidence, offering our prayers for the world that You love.

We see so much pain and suffering; so much anger and frustration and despair. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the needs around us. But we continue to bring our prayers to You in faith, because we know that nothing is impossible for You. You are the God who rained down bread from heaven,

and made water flow from a rock in the desert; the God who resurrected Jesus Christ from the dead,

and who brings new life and hope to all who believe. For You, all things are possible. Hear our prayers.

We pray for the regions of our world caught up in wars, violence and disruption: in Israel and Gaza, in Ukraine, in Yemen, Sudan, the Red Sea, the South China Sea and the myriad other places where conflict reigns. We pray for peace, for an end to our inhumanity against one another, for security, well-being and reconciliation to occur. Because nothing is impossible for You, O God, **hear our prayer, and in Your love, answer.**

We pray for those who live with illness, those with chronic pain, those without access to proper medical care,

those for whom treatment is no longer an option. We pray for wholeness, for restitution in body, soul and spirit, for the healing touch of Jesus to be real to those who suffer. Because nothing is impossible for You, O God, **hear our prayer, and in Your love, answer.**

Merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to show us a different way to live—the way of deep humility and obedience. You've called us to love one another, and to work together with one heart and mind,

balancing our needs with the needs of those around us. Give us courage to follow faithfully, and with integrity—with actions that bear witness to the words we speak, and worship that overflows into our daily tasks and relationships—so that our lives will bring glory and honor to you.

We pray all of these things 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# 767

Together We Serve

Daniel Charles Damon

**1 Together we serve, united by love,
inviting God's world to the glorious feast. We work and we pray
through sorrow and joy, extending God's love to the last and the least.**

**2 We seek to become a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We learn, year by year,
to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.**

**3 We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care. We offer a home
to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.**

**4 Together, by grace, we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong. Together we serve
in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.**

Benediction

Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi

Postlude

Martyrdom

C. Hubert H. Parry

Please welcome Rev. Marjorie Wilhelmi back, as today's guest preacher.

Marjorie has served the Detroit Presbytery as Associate Pastor at Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian, as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff at Northbrook Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills, and as Parish Associate at Kirk in the Hills. She is certified by the Shalem Institute in Contemplative Leadership and a recent graduate of Living School for Action and Contemplation.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Jim Tubbs as today's liturgist. Richard Spurgeon will serve as liturgist on March 24th. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

Meet Pastor Bruce!

The Transitional Pastor Search Committee is happy to announce Pastor Bruce Mulder as our new Transitional Pastor! Pastor Bruce will be joining us on Sunday, April 21. Please check out his bio at the end of the bulletin.

Town Hall with Session – Sunday, March 24

Please join us in Knox Hall for our town hall meeting on Sunday, March 24, while you're enjoying your coffee and treats. We'll have updates on our new Transitional Pastor – Pastor Bruce – and we'll share recommendations from our two consultants who conducted the Healing and Visioning Workshops.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

OGHS envelopes are available on the table as you enter the sanctuary. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church Farmington but be sure to note that it is for OGHS in the memo line.

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.



FPP Fundraiser-Cards for a Cause

Farmington Presbyterian Preschool is hosting their spring fundraiser, and we think you are going to be excited about the practical use, incredible value, and fundraising potential associated with the "Cards for a Cause" program! Throughout the year, we all need greeting cards for various occasions: birthdays, thank you, get well, anniversary, sympathy, and more. A nice card at the store costs anywhere from \$5-8, plus the gas and time involved. Both you and your friends, family members,

and co-workers will love these themed keepsake boxes of 30 beautiful, handmade greeting cards—for only \$30! There are five different types of boxed sets you can choose from: All occasions (2 different sets), thanks & blanks, Holiday set (with 50 total cards), kids birthday box. The fundraiser will run from **March 4th to March 18th**. All orders are due by **March**

18th and should be turned in to Farmington Presbyterian Preschool. **PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL.** Contact Carly Vivio if you have any questions at info@farmington-pres.org or visit the church office for more information to place an order.

On-Call List for Personnel

The Personnel Committee is putting together an on-call list of people who could be available to volunteer to staff the office in the event that all office staff are sick or simultaneously out of the office. Please email Bob Van Hamme mvanhamme@twmi.rr.com and/or Sally Kirsten sckirsten@hotmail.com at for more information or to sign up to volunteer.

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.** 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 24: Last names beginning L-R

March 31: Last names beginning S-Z

April 7: Last names beginning A-D

April 14: Last names beginning E-K

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.

Holy Week Services

March 24 – Palm Sunday @ 10:00 a.m.
The beginning of Holy Week and Jesus' final journey to the cross.

March 28 – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae- @7:00 p.m.
Service of the Shadows & Sacrament of Holy Communion.

March 31– Easter Sunday @ 10:00 a.m.
Celebration of the Resurrection



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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livestreamed & in person

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

Dear family and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Farmington,

Grace and peace in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

It is a joy to be serving alongside you all as your Interim Pastor. I am excited to learn what God has in store for us, and how the Spirit will equip us to be the Body of Christ at First Presbyterian of Farmington, our nation and in the world.

To provide some background, I was born in Muskegon and raised in St. Petersburg, Florida. I graduated from Hope College (1984) and Western Theological Seminary (1999), both in Holland, Michigan. I am an ordained Minister in the Reformed Church in America (RCA) and will begin my 26th year of ministry in July.

I am married to Jean. She is a therapist at Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids working with teenage refugees from all parts and continents of the world. We live in Grand Rapids with our “105 pound of fur” Buddy, a mastiff/lab mix with a pinch of doofus. 🐶 He’s a rescue from Missouri. I love baseball (a lifelong Pittsburgh Pirates fan), enjoy reading biographies and theology, and **need** my morning coffee and love drinking coffee with others, too!

What I enjoy most about being a pastor is collaborating, preaching, and connecting with members of the congregation. I love to constantly learn, read, study, and interpret God’s word, and to translate and share the meaning and positive impact it can have on our lives. (I’m a self-described Word Nerd).

I am delighted with the opportunity to be your interim pastor, to serve you and to get to know you all in our time together.

Shalom,

Bruce Mulder



Bruce and Jean



Buddy



Farmington First Presbyterian Church

The Church of the Open Hands

26165 Farmington Road

Farmington Hills, MI 48334



2024 Easter Flowers Order Form

All orders are due by Monday, March 25



Please place your order for Easter lilies and tulips (in 6-inch pots with foil cover) and/or fresh produce for CARES by completing this form and returning it along with your payment. Plants may be taken after the Easter worship service at 10:00 a.m. on March 31 or left for delivery to a homebound member.

☐ I / We wish to donate the following plant(s) or fresh produce for decorating the church on Easter Sunday. Please use the following recognition in the Easter bulletin:

In honor of _____
name of person(s)

In memory of _____
name of person(s)

Donated by: _____ Phone: (____) _____

I / We would like to order the following number of plants:

_____ Red Tulip plant - \$12 each

_____ Fresh Produce for CARES - \$15 each

_____ Easter Lily plant - \$16 each

Total due \$ _____ ☐ Payment included with order

☐ Please deliver my plant to a homebound member.

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