



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF FARMINGTON

*Church of the Open Hands*

WELCOMING ALL; SHARING CHRIST; SERVING OTHERS

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*In preparing our hearts for worship, we will be dimming the lights in the narthex, indicating a time to prepare ourselves for worship. Please enter the sanctuary quietly and in time to hear the welcome and announcements.*



# March 23, 2025

## Third Sunday in Lent and Pastor Bruce's Birthday!



### Prayer of Preparation

Holy and loving God, as we worship you today, we long for your Spirit to both comfort and challenge us, help us become more holy and more loving. In a world that does not understand repentance, we pray for new understanding, humility, patience, and discipline that will help us die to sin and live for Jesus. **Amen.**

## We Enter into God's Presence

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

Old Rugged Cross

arr Brent Edstrom

Welcome / Greetings

Pastor Bruce Mulder

*Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards*

\*Call to Worship based on Isaiah 55:2, 11-12; John 4:24

Liturgist

From Bethlehem to Nazareth,  
from Jordan to Jericho,

from Bethany to Jerusalem,  
from then to now,

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

To heal the sick,  
to mend the brokenhearted,  
to comfort the disturbed,  
to disturb the comfortable,  
to cleanse the temple,  
to liberate faith from convention,

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

To carry the cross,  
to lead the way,  
to shoulder the sin of the world  
and take it away,

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Today,  
to this place,  
to us,

**Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn #307      God of Grace and God of Glory

**God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;  
Crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, as-sail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the living of these days, for the living of these days.**

**Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.**

**Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.**

## Prayer of Confession

**Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:  
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

**We confess to you, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways  
and our exploitation of other people,

**we confess to you, O God.**

Our anger at our own frustration  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**we confess to you, O God.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**we confess to you, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**we confess to you, O God.**

Accept our repentance, O God,  
for the wrongs we have done.

For our neglect of human need and suffering  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**accept our repentance, O God.**

For all false judgments,  
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and for our prejudice and contempt  
toward those who differ from us,

**accept our repentance, O God.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**accept our repentance, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

Words of Assurance from 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we, free from sins, might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. **Thanks be to God who heals, rescues and forgives us. Amen.**

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

Reading

Isaiah 55.1-9; Luke 13.1-9

Liturgist

### Isaiah 55.1-9

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

### Luke 13.1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when

the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still, I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Anthem

Show Me Thy Ways  
FPC Choir

Walter Pelz

Sermon

“Wait ...Did You Say Repentance is a Gift?”

Offertory & Collection of Prayer Cards

\*Doxology #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here and below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## **We Respond to God’s Word**

Prayer of the People, Thanksgiving, & The Lord’s Prayer

Liturgist

Jesus, remember us when you come into your kingdom. Hear our intercessions. For your church around the world,

**we ask new life.**

For all who carry out ministries in your church,

**we ask grace and wisdom.**

For people who have accepted spiritual disciplines,

**we ask inspired discipleship.**

For Christians of every land,

**we ask new unity in your name.**

For those who cannot believe,

**we ask your faithful love.**

For governors and rulers in every land,

**we ask your guidance.**

For people who suffer and sorrow,

**we ask your healing peace.**

*SILENCE*

Holy God, your Word, Jesus Christ, spoke peace to a sinful world and brought humanity the gift of reconciliation by the suffering and death he endured.

Teach us who bear his name to follow his example. May our faith, hope, and charity turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, and death to eternal life, through Christ, our Lord who teaches us to pray:

**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 # 435      There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.**

**There's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where Earth's sorrows are more felt than up in Heaven.**

**There is no place where Earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.**

**And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.**

**If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,**

**And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.**

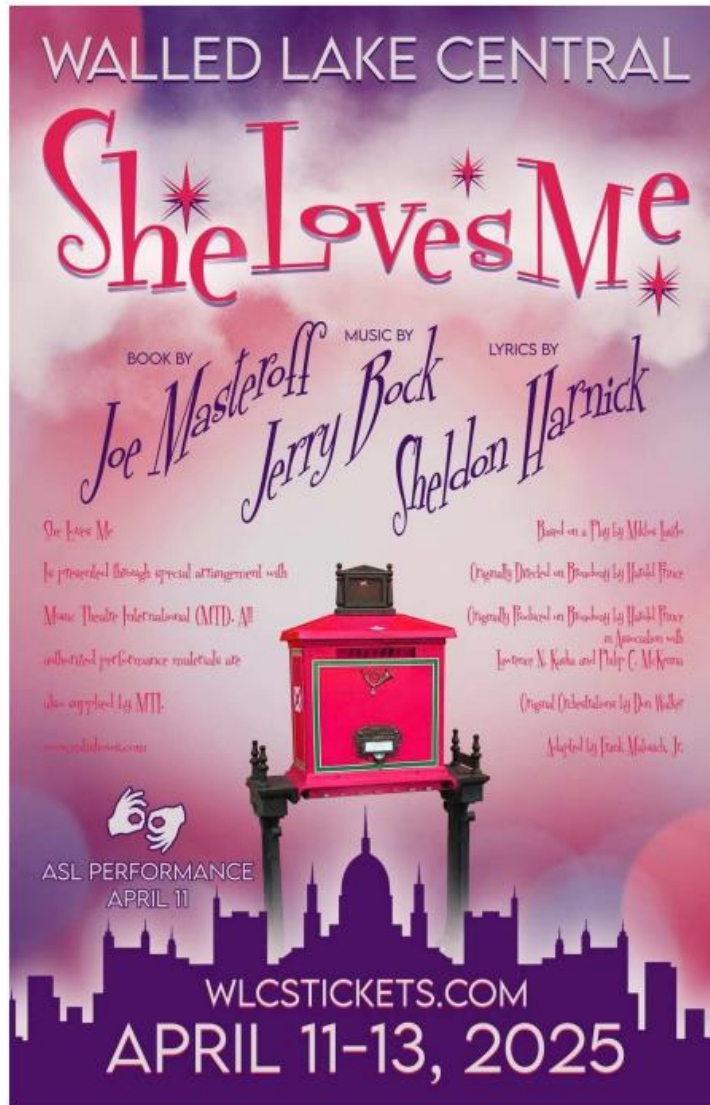
Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

Wie Lieblich Ist Der Maien

arr Todd Kendall




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**Financial Town Hall**

Please join us Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> in Knox Hall following Worship to discuss FPC’s finances.

**Pastor Nominating Committee**

Please keep the PNC in your prayers as they begin the process of finding/calling our next pastor. The team is comprised of Lois Caito, Karl Cressman, Becca DeSloover, MJ Floreno, Donna Marvicsin, Tom Neal and Bill Vincent.

**Solve-A-Riddle Sunday – Today!**

Today, after the service, not only will we enjoy a yummy “green potluck,” but the Nurture Ministry and Membership Committee have a riddle for you to solve. Join in the fun!

**CROP Hunger Walk - Building a better world ... where there is enough for ALL**

The 2025 Farmington/Farmington Hills/West Bloomfield CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 4, 2025. This is the 40th year for this walk and the hope is to make this the best year ever! The CROP Hunger Walks are at the center of CWS’ work which embodies the shared values of faith, hope and compassion and together, we can make a difference. In 2024, this area's CROP Walk raised a record-setting total of \$66,276, of which \$16,056 was allocated to local identified charities: CARES of Farmington Hills (\$5,619), Neighborhood

House (\$5,619), Salvation Army (\$1,606), Yad Ezra (\$1,606), and Zaman Int'l (\$1,606) with the rest going to areas around the world that have the most need.

This year's fundraising has begun. Donations can be made online, given directly to one of the walkers or sent to the church office. Online donations are preferred, but cash and checks written to CWS/CROP Hunger Walk are also accepted. The online link is: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/first-presbyterian-of-farmington> and our team name is "First Presbyterian of Farmington". If donating online, you will need to register first before donating to the "First Presbyterian of Farmington" church team or to a specific walker. To donate in-person, sign-up forms will be available in the Narthex on April 27 and May 5, the day of the Walk. Everyone is welcome to participate. Please contact Dorothy Tait ([detai1957@gmail.com](mailto:detai1957@gmail.com)) for more info or to sign up to walk. The walk is downtown Farmington at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33112 Grand River, Farmington. We are so grateful for your support of this program which can make an immediate and life-saving impact.

### **CARES Food Pantry**

The number of people needing assistance in providing enough food for their family continues to grow. Between 750 and 800 households are served by CARES each month. Please take home a yellow CARES shopping list, found in the pews, and take it with you on your next shopping trip. We have provided a plastic bin in the Narthex for your generous donations. Thank you for remembering your neighbors.

### **CALLING ALL WOMEN EUCHRE PLAYERS for a fun afternoon**

Our next 2 afternoons of cards will be: **Friday March 21 and Friday May 2** from 2:00 to 4:00 in the **Library**. Add these dates to your calendar and sign up on the kiosk. Get in on the fun before we go on summer break! New players are welcome- we can teach YOU!

-Questions? See Nancy Prieskorn

### **Hospitality Team Kick-Off Meeting (Sunday, March 30, Room 208/210, 11:30-12:30)**

Several of you expressed interest in being a part of the Hospitality Team! We're excited to get started and what better timing than when so many exciting things are happening at our church! Be a vital part of fulfilling our vision of WELCOMING ALL, SHARING CHRIST, SERVING OTHERS! Contact Colleen Tavor for questions.

### **Mission Opportunity: Service at Hospitality House Food Pantry**

We are joining Crossroads Presbyterian Church (the church Josh Archey serves) Saturday, April 26 for a day of service at Hospitality House Food Pantry located at 15 Mile Road and M5. The hours are 9:45 to 2:00pm.

Here's how you can join us:

1. Go to the Hospitality House website.
2. Click on the volunteer button.
3. Go through the volunteer registration steps.
4. Click on the Sign-up Genius button.
5. Scroll down to April 26.
6. Sign up!

Questions? See Josh Archey or Nancy Prieskorn



### **Blessing Bag Stories**

A few weeks ago, many of us helped to pack “blessing bags” that we could keep in our cars and hand out to needy people that we saw whenever we were out driving. There are still some Blessing Bags in the Mission Cove area of the foyer. Please help yourself to more so you can hand them out. We’ve heard many heartwarming stories from those who are handing them out. We’d like to share these stories in our next newsletter. Please send any stories you would like to share to Colleen Tavor ([cmtcounseling@gmail.com](mailto:cmtcounseling@gmail.com)).

### **Reminder: FYI is Changing its Name to “Community Connections”**

Just a quick reminder that our monthly newsletter will be changing its name from FYI to “Community Connections.” Community Connections is your newsletter where we share our God Moments, our gratitude, our joys, our concerns, our spiritual growth with each other. If you have something you would like to see in Community Connections, please contact Karen Spica or Colleen Tavor.

### **Coming Soon: New Name Tags**

We’ll be moving soon to using lanyard name tags instead of our current pinned name tags. The name tag board will be repurposed and moved to another location, and we’ll be creating a Welcome Center in that area. If you want to keep your current pin name tag, that is fine. Just call the office and let us know not to make a new name tag for you.

### **Interviewing and Resume Writing: Effective Strategies**

In partnership with DCDI (Danika Community Development Inc), we will again sponsor a resume writing and practice interview workshop. Emphasis will be placed on consulting and advising and practice interviews. The workshop will take place on 3 consecutive Saturdays (March 22, 29, and April 5), in Room 208/210 from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm. If you would like to volunteer to help with the resume exercises or practice interviews, please contact Colleen Tavor.

### **Save the Date! Family Friendly Game Night 2.0: Friday, March 28**

The first Game Night was a blast! Let’s do it once more before summer. We’ll gather in Knox Hall at 5:30 for a meal and then games at 6:30. We have board games, card games and BINGO! Bring your favorite game, too. Please sign up on the kiosk so we can get a head count.

### **It is time to pay the 2025 Presbytery Per Capita Apportionment**

The Presbyterian Church U.S.A 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 a “Per Capita” amount which is based on the number of active members at each church. For 2025, the Presbytery Per Capita amount is \$37.09. To make it easier, we are asking that each member contributes \$37.00 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.

### **Adult Bible Discussion – The Wired Word**

Join our Bible discussion **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in 208/210**. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. To get on the email list, please contact Tom Neal at [ttneal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttneal@sbcglobal.net).

## **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, eggs, cheese & crackers, veggies etc. Here's the upcoming schedule:

March 16: Last names beginning S-Z

March 23: Last names beginning A-D

March 30: Last names beginning E-K

April 6: Last names beginning L-R



### **QR Code for Donations!**

If you ever forget to go to the ATM, or simply don't carry cash on you, we've decided to include the church QR code for a more streamlined donation process. To donate, just scan the QR code and follow the prompts!

<b>First Presbyterian Church Staff</b>	
<b>Ministers of the Church</b>	<b>Members of the Congregation</b>
Transitional Senior Pastor	Rev. Bruce Mulder
Pastoral Care Parish Associate	Rev. Craig Aue
Minister of Music	Peter Cartwright
Office Administrator	Liz Labourdeth
Administrative Assistant	Amanda May Schreiber
AV Tech Intern	Lidia Neathamer