



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.

March 3, 2024
3rd Sunday in Lent
The Lord's Supper

Prayer of Preparation

Holy God, in Jesus Christ you have built for us an eternal house, a temple of righteousness, a place of gracious plenty for the hungry and abundant life for the poor in spirit. Fill us with zeal for the body of Christ. Overturn the tables of corruption and greed and upset the imbalance of injustice, so that we may worship you in spirit and truth; through Jesus Christ, who is risen indeed.

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

Welcome / Greetings

Pastor Aue

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Card submissions

Congregational Life

Mike Rogers

Prelude

Love Unknown

Matthew H. Corl

*Call to Worship

Mike Rogers

L: Our Lenten journey continues. Often the road has been stony and hard. Sometimes we have stumbled and even fallen.

P: But God has been our friend and our guide. We have no cause to be alarmed. God is faithful to us, even when we are faithless.

L: Today we rejoice in God's faithful love, and together ask for strength and signs of hope and life.

P: And again we are drawn together to celebrate the life that is ours in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God!

**1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.**

**2 O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.**

**3 O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.**

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

Mike Rogers

**Our Maker God, we confess to you what we are: We like the path of life to be easy,
comfortable, untroubled. We like problems to melt away, hardships to be smoothed
over, stones to turn into bread for us. We do not want the hard and faithful way that
Jesus takes. By your grace which kept him secure in your love during those forty desert
days, arm us against temptation, alert us to corruption, and forgive our sins. Teach us
to walk in the paths of Jesus, for his sake. (Silent Prayers)**

Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness

Pastor Aue

We Hear God's Word

Scripture Reading

John 2: 13 - 22

Mike Rogers

New Revised Standard Version

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, with the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered

that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Anthem

A Lenten Meditation
Chancel Choir

Douglas E. Wagner

Sermon

Fresh Eyes

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 the God of holy words be with you.

May the Meditation of our hearts be with you.

People of God, open yourselves to the One who is your rock.

God fills us with foolishness, so we may be wise.

Children of God, sing songs of thanksgiving with all creation.

Our voices are lifted to the One who makes all things.

You spoke those words of creation,

God of faithfulness, and

set the sun to run its daily course,

filled the seas with imaginative creatures,

planted fruits and vegetables in the earth.

All that is good and generous was intended

for your children shaped in your image,

but we bore false witness against you,

honoring sin and death more than you.

The prophets came to warn against our foolishness,

but we did not find their words acceptable,

and continued to covet everything

which did not belong to us.

So you sent your Child to us,

so we might find strength in his weakness,
we might find glory through his humiliation.

With those who have great faith,
with those who have very little,
we sing our thanksgivings to you:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of mountaintops.
The heavens join all creation to tell of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!**

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

Day to day, you are holy, our God,
and Jesus Christ declares your wisdom to us.
The Word of your mouth,
He came, to tell us of your work of grace and hope.
The Meditation of your heart,
He came, to quiet our frantic spirits so we might rest in you.
Your foolishness,
He was wise enough to take our sins to the cross.

Your weakness, he was strong enough to endure death for us,
until you brought him out of the grave.

As we remember his zeal for your heart,
as we remember his passion for us,
we would speak of that mystery we know as faith:

**Christ died, the rock which broke sin's power;
Christ was raised, death conquered by our redeemer;
Christ will return, desiring us more than anything in all creation.**

Here at this Table, God of love, we set aside our power to feast
on the weakness found in the broken bread; we let go of our wisdom,
to drink from the cup of your foolish grace.

Your Spirit blesses these gifts, as well as us, so when we have feasted,
we will look at the world with its injustices, oppressions, wars, and fears,
saying, 'take these things out of here! Stop making God's creation a house of horrors!'

And when the sun has finished its course,
when the moon and stars shine no more,
we will be given the words from your mouth
so we can sing from the deeps of our hearts to you,
God in Community, Holy in One. 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

Mike Rogers

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Mike Rogers

Generous God, all we have comes from you and has been given to us as stewards that we might live and love as your beloved children. It is right to give you thanks because praise that may have been stamped down pushes through the cracks crying out like a child for his mother. Here we know we are home, for You have sent away all of the monsters, the dragons, the demons. Here we know enough love to make us brave to face a world that thinks us foolish because we know Your voice would not lead us astray. Here we know we can bring all our concern, and needs to you, trusting in your steadfast love. For all these reasons, Loving God, We give you thanks and praise, even as we offer together the prayer Christ taught us...

"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 #451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Clara H. Scott

**1 Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**2 Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**3 Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!**

Benediction

Pastor Aue

Postlude

Lift High the Cross

Sydney H. Nicholson
arr. Faye Lopez

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Mike Rogers as today's liturgist. MJ Floreno will serve as liturgist on March 10. 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.

Transitional Pastor Search Committee

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://farmingtonpreschool.org/enroll/> or call the preschool:

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

Cards for a Cause Fundraisers

offer boxed sets of 30* beautifully embellished cards with matching envelopes to help your organization reach their fundraising goal.

*Holiday Card Collection Box includes 50 cards and envelopes.



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 at mvanhamme@twmi.rr.com 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**. Sunday Topic: **You Can Improve the 'GPS' in Your Head**. 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 10: Last names beginning A-D

March 17: Last names beginning E-K

March 24: Last names beginning L-R

March 31: Last names beginning S-Z

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
OF FARMINGTON
Church of the Open Hands

livestreamed & in person

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
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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