



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

WELCOMING ALL; SHARING CHRIST; SERVING OTHERS

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Farmington Hills, MI 48334
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www.farmington-pres.org

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 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Abide With Me

arr Brent Edstrom

Welcome / Greetings

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

*Call to Worship

Liturgist

Let us contemplate Jesus the Lord: Instead of the joy meant for him, he endured the cross, disregarding its disgrace.

We worship you, Lord Jesus.

O Jesus Christ, born in humility to confound the proud and to raise the humble:

We worship you, our Lord.

You lived among us, restoring the sick, proclaiming good news to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

We worship you, healing and gracious Lord.

You came to unbind the chains of every slavery, O friend of the humble, bread of hungry hearts.

We worship you, Christ the Lord.

Jesus, full of patience and goodness, you showed forgiveness and kindness to the very end.

We worship you, Lord God.

Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, you call to yourself all who are weary and burdened.

We worship you, O Lord our Shelter.

Jesus, you came into the world to serve and to give your life; you were betrayed for money, dragged before judges, and nailed to a cross.

We worship you, Lord. Amen.

*Opening Hymn #649

Amazing Grace

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

Prayer of Confession from Psalm 32; Lamentations 3

Happy are those whose offense is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the LORD assigns no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah¹

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, *I will confess my transgressions to the LORD, and you forgave the guilt of my sin.* Selah

SILENCE

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.

Lord Jesus, great is your faithfulness.

Words of Assurance—based on 2 Corinthians 5

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!

All this is from our merciful and forgiving God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Hear the good news of the Gospel, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

Thanks be to God! Who calls, forgives and sends us, amen.

We Hear God's Word

Reading

Luke 15. 1-3, 11b-32

Liturgist

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So, he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So, he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So, he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son;

treat me like one of your hired hands.” So, he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Anthem

The Lord is My Shepherd
FPC Choir

Allen Pote

Sermon

"TO US, TOWARD US, **FOR US**"



THE HOUND OF HEAVEN

Francis Thompson, 1890

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways
Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears

I hid from Him, and under running laughter.
Up vistaed hopes I sped;
And shot, precipitated,
Adown Titanic glooms of chasmèd fears,
From those strong Feet that followed, followed after.
But with unhurrying chase,
And unperturbèd pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
They beat—and a Voice beat
More instant than the Feet—
'All things betray thee, who betrayest Me.'

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 the Christ, you refused to turn stones into bread.

Save us from using our power, however little, to satisfy the demands of selfishness in the face of the greater needs of others.

Jesus the Christ, you refused to leap from the temple top.

Save us from displaying our skills, however modest, to win instant popularity in the face of nobler calls on our abilities.

Jesus the Christ, you refused to bend the knee to a false god.

Save us from offering our devotion, however weak, to cheap or easy religion in the face of the harder path on which you bid us to follow you.

Jesus the Christ,

Give us wisdom to discern evil, and in the face of all that is deceptively attractive help us to choose your will and your cross as we 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 # 771

What is the World Like

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

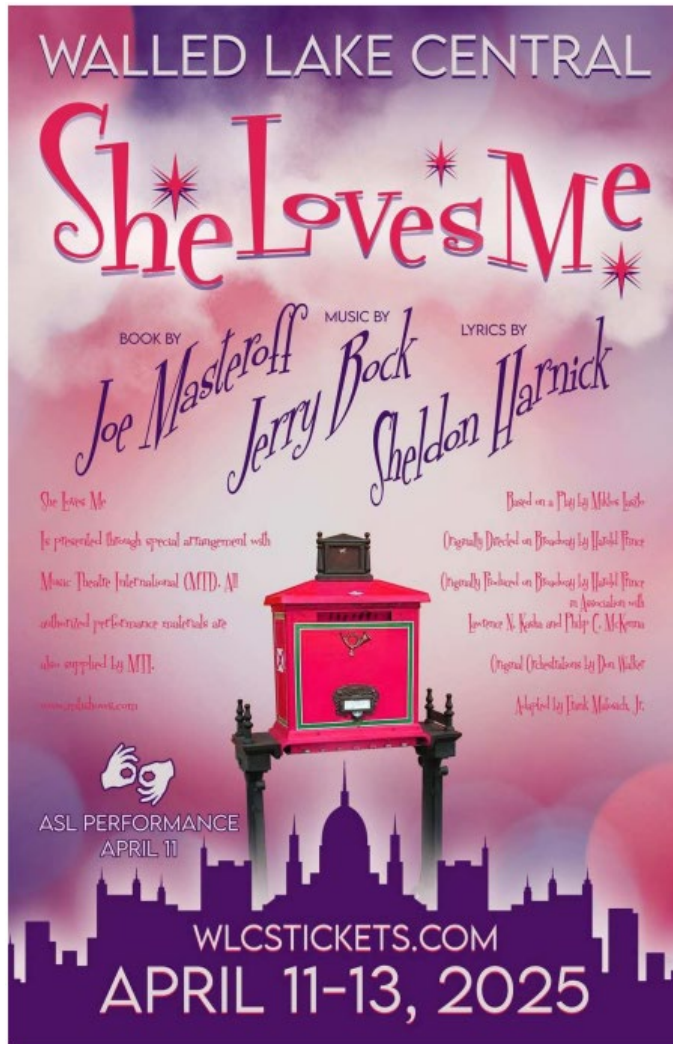
Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

I Need Thee Every Hour

arr. Jason Payne



BARBARA MADANY MEMORIAL APRIL 5

Barbara Madany, a longtime member of our congregation, moved to more life on March 13. Barb was Moderator of Presbyterian Women in 1990-92 and the recipient of the Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women in 1993. She was the leader of FISH, a program which provided drivers for those needing rides to medical appointments.

The memorial for Barbara will be held on Saturday, April 5, with visitation at 11:00 a.m., service at noon officiated by Pastor Craig Aue, and a luncheon in Knox Hall at 1:00 p.m.

Financial Town Hall

Please join us Sunday April 13th in Knox Hall following Worship to discuss FPC's finances.

PNC Update

The PNC thanks all of you for your prayers for us and our congregation. We have met several times with our first task being to write a job description for our next pastor. The established process created by Presbytery is to have the job description approved by our Personnel Committee, Session and the Commission of Ministry. As we continue with this process, we will continue to give you updates. Please continue to pray for our church as we all discern God's will for our congregation.

Men's Breakfast

Thank you to all the members that attended the Men's Breakfast this past week, we had a great turn out! We truly appreciate all the support and friendships that have been developed through this amazing church.



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!

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 afternoon of cards will be: **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.

Volunteer Information Form: What Are Your God-Given Talents?

When considering how you would like to be a part of the FPCF family and helping to fulfill our vision of Welcoming All, Sharing Christ, Serving Others, a good place to start is to identify your God-given talents. What sort of activities do you like to do? Consider what you enjoy doing, what skills come easily to you, what you've been known for in the past. Let's all work together, using our God-given gifts and talents, to grow our church family and be the hands and feet of

Jesus in and around our community. Please fill out the Volunteer Information Form attached to the bulletin and return it either by mail to the office or give it to Tom Neal, Colleen Tavor, or Karl Cressman.

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

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.

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 ttnear@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 30: Last names beginning E-K

April 6: Last names beginning L-R

April 13: Last names beginning S-Z

April 20: Last names beginning A-D



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!

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers of the Church

Transitional Senior Pastor

Pastoral Care Parish Associate

Minister of Music

Office Administrator

Administrative Assistant

AV Tech Intern

Members of the Congregation

Rev. Bruce Mulder

Rev. Craig Aue

Peter Cartwright

Liz Labourdeth

Amanda May Schreiber

Lidia Neathamer

First Presbyterian Church of Farmington

Volunteer Information Form

Welcoming All Sharing Christ Serving Others

Things are happening at First Pres! Let's all work together, using our God-given gifts and talents, to grow our church family and be the hands and feet of Jesus in and around our community.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Cell phone: _____ Is it ok to text you? ___yes/no_____

What sort of activities do you like to do? Consider what you enjoy doing, what skills come easily to you, what you've been known for in the past. Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Playing an instrument |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baking | <input type="checkbox"/> Posting on social media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being creative | <input type="checkbox"/> Praying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brainstorming | <input type="checkbox"/> Redecorating a room |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building something | <input type="checkbox"/> Repairing things/maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calling homebound | <input type="checkbox"/> Researching/reporting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capturing history/archiving | <input type="checkbox"/> Ringing hand bells |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caring for babies/toddlers | <input type="checkbox"/> Sending greeting cards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning up messes (files, cupboards, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping for sales (school supplies, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching (life skills, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Showing hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking/food preparation | <input type="checkbox"/> Singing/choir |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creating documentation | <input type="checkbox"/> Summarizing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creating graphics/infographics/flyers | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting a meaningful project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decorating for the holidays | <input type="checkbox"/> Talking on the phone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing/diagramming | <input type="checkbox"/> Talking to people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driving/delivering | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching (workshops, etc) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Figuring out how to do something new | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching/tutoring children/youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening (flowers/landscaping) | <input type="checkbox"/> Trying something new |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening (vegetables) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeting guests/congregants | <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting homebound |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping to get something done | <input type="checkbox"/> Working at home, independently |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improving/simplifying a process | <input type="checkbox"/> Working with others on a team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leading change | <input type="checkbox"/> Working in Information Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leading a project | <input type="checkbox"/> Working with electronics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leading a team | <input type="checkbox"/> Working with budgets/finances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning and sharing | <input type="checkbox"/> Working with numbers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing | <input type="checkbox"/> Working with data |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opening the church/making coffee | <input type="checkbox"/> Working with kids (elementary) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing | <input type="checkbox"/> Working with kids (pre-school) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Working with youth (high school) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning/preparing events | <input type="checkbox"/> Working with youth (middle school) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning something | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |

Please list below (or on the back side) any other activities you enjoy doing, have a talent for:



2025 Easter Flowers Order Form



All orders are due by Monday, April 14

Please place your order for Easter lilies, tulips, and/or azaleas (all in 6-inch pots with foil cover) by completing this form and returning it along with your payment. Plants may be taken after the 10:00 a.m. Easter worship service on April 20 or left for delivery to a homebound member.

I / We wish to donate the following plant(s) for decorating the church on Easter Sunday and/or to support a community member in need. Please use the following recognition in the Easter bulletin:

In honor of _____
name of person(s)

In memory of _____
name of person(s)

Ordered 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(s) to a homebound member.