



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

WELCOMING ALL; SHARING CHRIST; SERVING OTHERS

26165 Farmington Road,
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.

May 4, 2025

Third Sunday in Easter and Communion



Prayer of Preparation

O Christ, who lived to show what life is like, who died to show that sin is death, who rose to raise us up to life eternal, help us to follow you and love you forever. **Amen.**

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

arr. Bret Edstrom

Welcome / Greetings

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

*Call to Worship based on from based on 1 Peter 1:3-5

Liturgist

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God has given us new life and hope.

God has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

Christ has brought us out of darkness.

Jesus has made us light to the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*Opening Hymn #4

Holy God We Praise Thy Name

1. Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you.
All on Earth your scepter claim; all in heaven above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain, everlasting in your reign.
2. Hark! The glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising.
Cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord: "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"
3. All apostles join the strain as your sacred name they hallow.
Prophets swell the glad refrain, and the blessed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
4. Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit: three we name you,
While in essence only one; undivided God we claim you,
And adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death.

We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made.

SILENCE

Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

Amen.

Words of Assurance based on Ephesians 2

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in

Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come God might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to our God who forgives and unites us in Jesus Christ. Amen!

We Hear God's Word

Reading

Psalm 30; Revelation 5.11-14

Liturgist

Psalm 30

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and did not let my foes rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit. Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. "I shall never be moved." By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed. To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!" You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Revelation 5.11-14

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Anthem

For the Beauty of the Earth
FPC Choir

John Rutter

Sermon

"AMEN!"

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.**

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.
Celebrating the Lord's Supper**

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal God, holy and mighty, it is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks ... the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Words of Institution

The Lord Jesus, the same night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me.*"

In the same way, after they had eaten, Jesus poured a cup saying, "*This cup is the New Testament in my blood: do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*"

Sharing of the Gifts of Bread & Cup

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.

Communion Prayer—from Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and forget not all God's benefits,

who forgives all your iniquity,

who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit,

who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

and all that is within me, bless God's holy name! Amen.

We Respond to God's Word

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

Liturgist

We worship you, Jesus, our Savior; you conquered death by your cross:
you are the stone rejected by the builders; you have become the cornerstone:
make all of us living stones in your church. We pray to you for Christians: may they live in
the joy of the resurrection and be a visible sign of your presence by their mutual love. We
pray to you for the leaders of your church: as they celebrate your resurrection with all your
servants, may they be strengthened for your service.

We pray to you for the leaders of the nations: may they exercise their office as servants of
justice and peace. We pray to you for all who are suffering from illness, grief, old age, and
exile: may your resurrection be a source of comfort and aid for them. We pray to you as
our Risen Lord teaches 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

1. Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of the 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 eyes; 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 eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

Jesus Loves Me

by Jason Payne

Today's flowers are presented by Sue Cooper in memory of David Wiens.

TODAY - May 4, 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting, 11:15 a.m., Knox Hall

All are invited to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting today after the Worship Service in Knox Hall and virtually via Zoom. The purpose of this meeting is to nominate and elect the next class of Deacons, Elders, Nominating Committee Members and the Financial Review Team. A Q&A Session will be held after the meeting for any questions and comments. The meeting will open 5-10 minutes early to allow people to join. Zoom meeting link

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88484031677?pwd=Ry8bd9THnrKhTclD9Wf7h4vYBmesms.1> Meeting ID: 884 8403 1677, Passcode: 524162.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

2025 ELDER NOMINATIONS - BIOS

Deb Hemmye, Class of 2028

I am a long-time member of First Pres and have served as both Elder and Deacon. I have not been an elder since my kids were in diapers (one look at me and you'll know how very, very long ago that was) so I am excited to again serve my congregation in this way. My personal goal is to follow Christ's example as much as I can and to help our church be Christ's hands and feet in the world. I believe this is the best way we can witness to others and invite them into our midst.

My husband Marc and I have been married for 18 years and have a sweet pit bull, Abby, who is the best snuggle-bunny we've ever known. Between Marc and I we have four adult children all over the country - Tampa, Los Angeles, Traverse City, and Hazel Park - whom we don't see nearly enough and who have yet to do their duty and gift us with grandchildren :). I am currently the director of the Huntington Woods Public Library and I enjoy running, biking, reading, and fiber arts of all kinds.

Sara Kirsten (Sally), Class of 2028

A life-long Presbyterian, I grew up in this church. My family moved to Farmington when I was a 6th grader. We attended church in the "Barn" and have been a part of the growth and changes here over many, many years. My husband Rob and I will celebrate our 58th anniversary this year. We have three daughters who also grew up in this church; and we have been blessed with six grandchildren, two of whom also attend First Presbyterian. We now have one great-grandchild, and another due in August.

Before raising a family, I taught math in the Farmington Public Schools. When our girls grew older, I went to work at the Samaritan Counseling Center of Southeastern Michigan and was the Administrative Manager there for 24 years.

I am active in Presbyterian Women as a member of the Phoenix Circle, and have held various offices on the Coordinating Team. I have served numerous terms as a Deacon, when I was still working. I am a cluster leader and have served on the Nominating and the Stewardship Committees a number of times, including again this past year.

I am happy to return as an Elder serving on the Operations Committee. (I also served as President of the Corporation for the previous 5 years.) As an elder, I hope I can help our church move forward as we search for our next pastor. I truly feel God's hand in many of the things I have done here, and I am anxious to see where God leads me (and all of us) next.

Nancy Prieskorn, Class of 2028

I grew up in Petoskey attending the First Presbyterian Church there. When Ron and I moved back to Michigan 30 years ago, it seemed right to join FPCF- especially as our daughter, Katelyn, was attending the Nursery School. I am a member of ACTS Circle and am interested in Mission opportunities. I served one 3 year term on the Board of Deacons and this will be my 3rd time as an Elder.

Lisa Hayes, Class of 2027

I have been a member of First Pres since the early 2000's when my family moved here from Southern California. Over the years, I have been involved with various church supported youth activities, mainly Logos, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. I have served as an Elder twice previously. I enjoy ringing handbells (don't ask me to sing) and supporting the musical life of the church.

I am currently employed as a Design Engineer at Nissan, and I enjoy travel, camping, swimming and kayaking.

Charlene Diehl, Class of 2026

I have been a lifelong Presbyterian and a member of this congregation for 38 years. Over the years, I have served in various leadership and support roles, including as a Stephen Minister, twice as an Elder on Session, and twice on the Board of Deacons. I am a member of Presbyterian Women and previously served as Moderator. My husband, Mark, and I have two married children and five beautiful and active grandchildren. Currently, I am working part time as a lifestyle coach; guiding others in healthy lifestyle habits. I enjoy gardening, knitting, reading and playing the flute. I am looking forward to serving on Session.

2025 DEACON NOMINATIONS - BIOS

Sue Carlson, Class of 2028

I have been a member of First Pres since my son, Daniel, started coming to our preschool in 1987. I served in several roles: Church school teacher and Vacation Bible School director through the early 90s. Since then, have also served as a Cluster leader, photographer, and many positions in Presbyterian Women including PW Vice Moderator, PW Moderator for three years, Vice Moderator for Study and publicity chair. I enjoy working on the Christmas play as coordinator, actor, and director. As a Deacon for one term, I have handled the prayer chain and helped coordinate memorial luncheons. I especially enjoy serving Communion to our at-home members.

Dot Basmaji, Class of 2025

I have been attending First Presbyterian Church for over thirty years. Previously, I served on Session and the Worship Committee for three years. I am active in the Phoenix Circle. I am semi-retired as an attorney. I have three grown children and five wonderful grandchildren. I am looking forward to serving as a Deacon for 2025.

Kari Gorman, Class of 2028

I joined FPCF in 2022. A lifelong Presbyterian, I have served in a variety of positions in the various churches I have attended. I first served as a Deacon in 1978 at Grandale Presbyterian on the west side of Detroit and became Moderator of the Board in 1979. I have been an Elder, youth group leader, and active in PW as a Circle leader and Moderator. I also served at the Presbytery level and as President of the Board at the Second Mile Center. In the past, I have sung in the choir and currently, I play with the handbell choir here at First Pres. I am looking forward to serving as a Deacon

Laurel Scott, Class of 2026

I joined FPCF in 2017 and felt the warmth of welcome from the minute I stepped through the door! Throughout the years I have joined and continue membership in: the Hospitality team, Presbyterian Women, Phoenix circle, the Nurture team, the Membership team, the Worship team, and of course, Deacons. I especially enjoy singing God's praises and ringing bells. I also participate in the Joy Book Club and am a Cluster Leader. Together, my husband, Jim and I, have raised seven children. The people in First Pres are such a joy and a balm to my soul. Peace.

TODAY! Cinco de Mayo Potluck!

Please join the Nurture committee in a potluck luncheon celebrating "Cinco de Mayo" TODAY after worship. Our potluck theme is "anything Mexican", with lots of room for individual interpretation. Bring a guest and join the fun. See you then!

The 2025 CROP Hunger Walk is TODAY, May 4, 2025.

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". Donations will also be collected in the Narthex on April 27 and May 4. Everyone is welcome, so invite your family and friends. Please contact Dorothy Tait (detait1957@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. We are so grateful for your support of this program which can make an immediate and life-saving impact. Watch our new Goal Chart in the Narthex grow!

Musical Guest

Guest soprano Erika Thompson will join us for Mother's Day solos. She will be singing the Lord's Prayer and Ave Maria.

Pray-A-Thon on Friday, Friday, May 9, 7:00 am – 6:00 pm, in the Sanctuary

Nothing is more powerful than prayer. And when we pray together for something, it is even more powerful. In that spirit, we are planning a Pray-A-Thon focused on praying for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and the future of our church. The sanctuary will be open from 7:00 am – 6:00 pm for prayer in a quiet, candle-lit atmosphere. You can sign up for a half-hour time slot on the sign-up kiosk in the foyer or use this Sign-Up Genius Link:

<https://bit.ly/4cSSwci>. We want the whole day covered in prayer!

This time, we are adding fasting to those who would like to fast and pray on this day, each according to their health considerations. See the May newsletter for details or ask Sharon Cressman or Colleen Tavor.

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.

Lost and Found!

A men's Columbia 3X black jacket has been hanging in the coat racks for at least a month. If it is yours or you know of someone who misplaced their jacket please reach out to the church office.

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 the 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 back of the pews. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church Farmington but be sure to note that it is for OGHS on the memo line.

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:

May 4: Last names beginning L-R

May 11: Last names beginning S-Z

May 18: Last names beginning A-D

May 25: Last names beginning E-K

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



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!