



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 prepare ourselves for worship. Please enter the sanctuary quietly and in time to hear the welcome and announcements.

July 28, 2024

10th Sunday After Pentecost

Prayer of Preparation

*Loving God, in this sacred moment we come before you with humble hearts, recognizing your unwavering mercy and boundless compassion. As we present ourselves to you, may we also lay bare our shortcomings and seek your forgiveness and guidance. Grant us the courage to confront our humanity and the strength to strive for righteousness in all our endeavors. **Amen.***

We Enter into God's Presence

*Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i> Chancel Choir	arr. Bret Edstrom
Welcome / Greetings <i>Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards</i>		Pastor Craig Aue
Congregational Life		Sharon Cressman
*Call to Worship		Sharon Cressman

Children of God, you are welcome here. All of who you are—even your regrets and failings—is welcome here.

We come to tell the truth about who we are in relationship with God.

Many of us find it easy to recognize our goodness and difficult to notice our sins.

We come to tell the truth about who we are in relationship with God.

Others of us live under a shroud of guilt and shame, believing we can never be good enough to receive the fullness of God's love.

We come to tell the truth about who we are in relationship with God.

However you enter this place, know this: you are loved, accepted, and called. May God's love draw us to honest confession; God's acceptance assures us of the work of grace in our lives, and God's call compels us to live in grace.

We come to tell the truth about who we are in relationship with God who loves us, accepts us, and calls us. Amen

**Opening Hymn #19*

God of Great and God of Small

**1 God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

**2 God of land and sky and sea, God of life and destiny,
God of never-ending power, yet beside me every hour
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

**3 God of silence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
God of day and darkest night, God whose love turns wrong to right
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

**4 God of heaven and God of Earth, God of death and God of birth
God of now and days before, God who reigns forever more
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

Merciful God, we hear the story of David and wonder how he could so abuse his power—serving his own interests in such a selfish way. How different from the way Jesus used his power—serving, healing, and nurturing others.

Forgive us when our actions reflect those of David more than those of Jesus.

The account of David shows someone yielding to temptation by feeding his own particular hunger with disastrous results, whilst Jesus took time to feed the crowds with miraculous results.

Forgive us the times when we have yielded to the temptation of feeding our own interests to the detriment of others around us.

David demonstrated how things can get out of control when God's rules are not followed, while Jesus demonstrates how God's power can bring peace even into the stormiest situations.

We confess that the way of the world does reflect more the way of David than the way of Jesus, and we pray that we may be powerfully strengthened by the Holy Spirit to witness to Jesus' love and compassion in and through all we do and say. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness

We Hear God's Word

Reading

II Samuel 11: 1- 17

Sharon Cressman

New Revised Standard Version

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

² It happened, late one afternoon when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. ³ David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴ So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵ The woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

⁶ So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared and how the war was going. ⁸ Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰ When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" ¹¹ Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths,^[a] and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." ¹² Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day,^[b] ¹³ David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk, and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

¹⁴ In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die." ¹⁶ As Joab kept watch over the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant warriors. ¹⁷ The men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite was killed as well.

Anthem

The Call
Chancel Choir

Ralph Vaughn Williams
Matthew Konopacki, Bass

Sermon

The Blindness of Privilege

Pastor Craig Aue

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology
Collection of Prayer Cards

Pastor Craig 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

Prayers of the People

Sharon Cressman

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Sharon Cressman

Almighty and most Holy God, we offer ourselves to you this day. We bring our meager gift, and our major concern, we offer our praise and our humble service.

Your glory flows through all generations, as you name every family in heaven and on earth. And so we come to you this day, O God.

Your grace is higher than the farthest star; your peace is deeper than our greatest emptiness; your love spans the abyss of death; your hope stretches into all eternity. And so we come to you this day, O Christ.

When our lives bottom out, your grace is still our bedrock; when our spirits run dry, you fill us with your joy; when we falter in our faith, you strengthen us to serve with hope and peace. And so we come to you this day, O Spirit.

God in Community, Holy in One, we come to you this day, praying as we have been taught...

"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 # 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

**1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of Heaven, bread of Heaven,
feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.**

**2 Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield**

**3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.**

Benediction

Pastor Craig Aue

Postlude

Scherzo for the Flutes

Norman Warren

Today's flowers are presented by Rob and Sally Kirsten in honor of Art & Katie Malisow's 25th anniversary.

Please give a warm welcome to Baritone Matthew Konopacki, today's soloist.

A native of Livonia Michigan, is an active performer of both classical and contemporary works. Equally comfortable on both the operatic and concert stage, his repertoire ranges from the cantatas of J.S. Bach to the contemporary operatic music of Kevin Puts. With Detroit he has performed the roles of The Governor in Bernstein's *Candide*, Ragged Man in Ricky Ian Gordon's *Grapes of Wrath*, 1st Scottish Soldier in Kevin Puts' *Silent Night*, Usciere in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, as well as a part of featured ensembles in both David DiChiera's *Cyrano* and Sonenberg's *The Summer King*. He is also a featured singer on the release of David DiChiera's legacy album, *Letters & Fantasies*, on Innova Recordings. Matthew holds a master's degree in Vocal Performance from The University of Houston and has appeared as a young artist with Pensacola Opera and the Janiec Opera Company.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Sharon Cressman as today's liturgist. Our liturgist for August 4th is Sally Kirsten. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

Please give another warm welcome to Liz Labourdeth, our current Office Administrator.



Originally from Waterford Township, but now resides in Rochester Hills, Michigan with her husband Manuel and her cat Ruby. Liz attended Central Michigan University and obtained a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Photography and two-dimensional design with a minor in Digital Design and Packaging. She comes to us with many years of experience in leadership, organization, and communication skills with a background in the Mortgage Industry.

Welcome Baby Vivio!

A huge congratulations to the Vivo Family and our Administrative Assistant Carly! They welcomed Baby Boy Quinn Tanner Vivio, born last weekend! 7lbs 14oz and healthy! Big sister Stella and Big brother Henry are thrilled.



Backpacks for Foster Kids

Join the Mission team today at 11:30am in Knox Hall as we fill backpacks that will be given to children in the foster care system. We will provide all the supplies.

Foster Closet of Michigan Current Wish List

Foster Closet of MI, located in Farmington Hills, needs hygiene products for the young people they serve. Items like shampoo, body wash, kid's toothpaste, brushes, etc. are critically needed. For a complete list of items or for more information please see the Mission Bulletin Board. There is a plastic bin on the Mission Cove for collecting items.

Growing Hands Garden and Nutrition Project

First Presbyterian Church Farmington is partnering again for a second summer with Danika Community Development Inc. (DCDI) to provide the Growing Hands Gardening and Nutrition Class. The class is structured to have half the time in the classroom and half the time in our garden. The class meets from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. every Saturday throughout the summer and covers growing herbs, how to make your own compost, fermenting, healthy eating habits, and much more. You are welcome to join us as we build a learning



community centered around growing our own veggies and living a healthy lifestyle. If you would like to join us, please let Tom Neal, Colleen Tavor, or Sharon Cressman know which Saturday morning you are available. It is a great opportunity to meet new folks and to learn something new.

Name Tags

If you need a new name tag, please contact the church office. Staff will try and get them processed as soon as possible.

Contacting Pastor Bruce

If you'd like to connect with Pastor Bruce: bruce.mulder@farmington-pres.org His information is also on the UCD app. For assistance with the church phone book app, please contact or stop by the office.

Bulletin Announcements

Please send any announcements for the bulletin by Tuesday of the prior week; this ensures they will be added in before the bulletin is printed. Please include the bulletin dates in which they should be placed and removed. Email announcements to info@farmington-pres.org Please call and ask to make any additions/changes on the church calendar. Thank you!

Preschool Open Enrollment



The Preschool is now open for enrollment for the upcoming 2024-2025 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.

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 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.

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:

- August 4: Last names beginning E-K
- August 11: Last names beginning L-R
- August 18: Last names beginning S-Z
- August 25: Last names beginning A-D

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 Pastor Bruce bruce.mulder@farmington-pres.org, Bob Van Hamme mvanhamme@twmi.rr.com or Sally Kirsten sckirsten@hotmail.com for more information or to sign up to volunteer. We would love your help!

Summer Office Hours

Office hours **Monday-Thursday 10:00am – 4:00pm**. Office Phone: 248) 474-6170 Church Email: info@farmington-pres.org.

Office and Church Donations

Please contact the church office if you would like to make a donation. This ensures that a Staff member is available to receive the donation. Thank you!

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers of the Church

Pastoral Care Parish Associate

Minister of Music & Organist/Pianist

Office Administrator

Administrative Assistant

AV Tech Intern

Members of the Congregation

The Rev. Craig S. Aue

Shari Fiore-Bloom

Carly Vivio

Liz Labourdeth

Amanda May Schreiber

Jaiden Thomas



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The Church of the Open Hands

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