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.

August 11, 2024
12th 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
Lentamente
arr. Sergei Rachmaninoff
Chancel Choir

Welcome / Greetings
Pastor Bruce Mulder

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Congregational Life
Sandy Adkins

*Call to Worship
Sandy Adkins

I will bless the LORD at all times; God’s praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the LORD with me and let us exalt God’s name together.
I sought the LORD, and God answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to God, and be radiant, so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried and was heard by the LORD and was saved from every trouble.

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear God and delivers them.
O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in God. Let us worship the Lord our God. Amen.
All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind with clouds and rain, you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sister water, flowing clear, make music for your Lord to hear,
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shadows of the night
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds such blessings on our way,
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain or sorrow grieve,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ bears your burdens and your fears; so, even in the midst of tears,
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you.

Forgive our sins and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon from Psalm 130

Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!
If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. I wait for the LORD; my soul waits, and in God’s word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with God is great power to redeem.
We Hear God’s Word

Reading  
Ephesians 4.25-5.2  
Sandy Adkins

New Revised Standard Version

25 So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. 26 Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not make room for the devil. 28 Those who steal must give up stealing; rather, let them labor, doing good work with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. 29 Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. 31 Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. 5 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Anthem  
Prayer of St. Francis  
Chancel Choir  
Allen Pote

Sermon  
Imitators of God  
Pastor Bruce Mulder

We Respond to God’s Word

Offertory & Doxology  
Pastor Bruce Mulder

Collection of Prayer Cards  
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  
Sandy Adkins

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord’s Prayer  
Sandy Adkins

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. Loving our neighbors as ourselves, we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions on behalf of the church and the world.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we bless you for the gift of our lives. We bless you for the invisible fibers of loyalty and trust that bind us to the people we love and care for, for fidelity in our marriages, for care and love for our children, for the gifts you've allowed us to discover within ourselves, and for the gifts other people have given us by giving of themselves. We bless you for useful jobs to do, for leisure to enjoy, for fun to have, for homes to live in, for bodies to touch, and for love to share.

Hear our prayers, God of power, and through the ministry of your Son free us from the grip of the tomb, that we may desire you as the fullness of life and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. We ask it all in the name of Christ 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 #542  
*God Be with You Till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you, with shepherd’s care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Unseen wings protecting hide you, daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
When life’s perils thick confound you, put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love’s banner floating o’er you; smite death’s threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Benediction  
Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude  
March Royale  
Jean-Baptiste Lully

Worship Liturgist
We welcome Sandy Adkins as today’s liturgist. Our liturgist for August 18th is Mary Carson. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.
A memorial service for Jeanie E. McRae has been scheduled:
Wednesday August 21, at 11am
St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church Rose Garden
27475 –5 Mile Rd. Livonia, 48154

Salad Sunday
Back by popular request and always a fan of the nutritionist! We are having Salad Sunday again on August 18, bring your favorite salad dish.

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.

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
Thank you for using your 2024 CARES shopping list each month to donate. Your neighbors, the guests at CARES, appreciate the availability of a variety of food from which to choose.

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 ttleal@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!

Office Hours Change
Office hours Monday-Thursday 10:00am – 4:00pm. As a reminder, please contact the church office via telephone at (248) 474-6170 or email at info@farmington-pres.org. It is a good idea to call ahead if you need to come into the building.

Join the JOY study this year!
JOY will be reading and discussing the book of Romans using a study guide written by New Testament scholar N.T. Wright. Get your order in for a study guide to Sharon Cressman by August 15. Cost will be about $10. The JOY study will resume after Labor Day. Come learn from Romans with us!