



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

WELCOMING ALL; SHARING CHRIST; SERVING OTHERS

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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 17, 2025
Tenth Sunday in Pentecost

Prayer of Preparation

Teach us your way, O Lord, that we may walk in your truth;
Give us an undivided heart to revere your name.

Psalm 86.11

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

Morning Has Broken
Michelle Good - Harp

arr. Rhett Barnwell

Welcome / Greetings

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Pastor Bruce Mulder

*Call to Worship based on Colossians 2:3; Revelation 5:12

Liturgist

The Lord Jesus who calls us to worship him today is the same Jesus who refused the temptation to worship the evil one. Rather than receive the glorious kingdoms of this world, he endured the shame of the cross, and today is Lord of lords and King of kings. Now are gathered in him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, glory, and power. With the saints of all ages we say,

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

*Opening Hymn #713

Touch the Earth Lightly

1. Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
Nourish the life of the world in our care:
Gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
Trust for the children tomorrow will bear.
2. We who endanger, who create hunger,
Agents of death for all creatures that live,
We who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!
3. Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
Water that blesses and air that is sweet,
Health in God’s garden, hope in God’s children,
Regeneration that peace will complete.
4. God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
Teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
Using us gently and making us one.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance – 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24

Hear the good news: This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,*

that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

We Hear God's Word

Reading

Romans 12.9-21; 1 Thessalonians 5.12-22

Liturgist

Romans 12.9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1 Thessalonians 5.12-22

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling
Michelle Good - Harp

arr. Rhett Barnwell

Sermon

"Good Words"

*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

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

Liturgist

Lord God, Creator above us, Spirit within us, Lord ahead of us, open us to yourself, that we may become transparent to ourselves. Make us masters of ourselves, that we may be the servants of others. 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, for love to share. We pray to you for our friends and the people we care about, for people whose life has somehow become boring and lusterless, whose marriages have lost their tenderness, whose health is poor, whose hope for the years ahead is dim, and whose death is near. We pray for peace. Let all who think lightly of making war be converted to think strongly of making peace. We pray for people for whom today is another day of trying to find something to eat, for people in our world for whom today is another day lived under the yoke of oppression, for people who have no friends and are desperately lonely, for people who have lost somebody so close to them that they are almost dying with grief, and for people today who are dying. O Spirit of Christ, give us a joy that outlasts our sorrows, give us a hope stronger than the despair of our discouragement, and give us a new belief that we have reason to rejoice—to be glad for who we are because you made us and gave us life, and all we have is a gift from you. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Hear us 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 #408 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

2. There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know him in his fullness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

Refrain:

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love,
And for these blessings we lift our heart in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.

Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

God of Our Fathers

arr. Gilbert Martin



Today's flowers are presented by the church members in honor of Pastor Bruce for his guidance, leadership and support during his time spent at First Presbyterian. MANY thanks!

Welcome Today's Harpist Michelle Good!

Michelle Good (M.M.) is an American pianist, pipe organist, harpist and composer. You can find her teaching at her private studio on Lake Erie, and online. She and her students perform across Michigan, the USA, and internationally.

Organ Donations

Anonymous donation forms for the church that were mailed out and placed in previous week's bulletins need to be turned into the office by Monday, August 18th for accurate tallying of the results. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the church office.

CHURCH SAFETY

Please help us to keep our members and staff safe. If you have scheduled a meeting, gathering, event or other, please KNOW that *you are the person responsible* for church security. If you unlock the front door – lock it again when your event STARTS. This is especially important when you are meeting upstairs. When your event is finished, make sure all exterior doors are locked as well as any interior doors you may have unlocked. If you need to assign someone in your group to be your “back-up” door locker, do so. The safety of our staff and members is important.

Thank you, The Property Committee

JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY!

Please join us in a rousing sending off for Pastor Bruce on Sunday, August 17 following worship. Food is involved, of course! The main dish will be provided, but we are asking for contributions of side dishes and desserts. Let's thank him and wish him well on his next journey in life!

Day of Prayer (Pray-A-Thon) on Friday, August 22, 8:00 am – 5:00 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 another Day of Prayer (Pray-A-Thon) focused on praying for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), the future of our church, the organ replacement, budding youth ministry, or anything else you would like to pray for. The sanctuary will be open from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm for prayer in a quiet, candle-lit atmosphere with soft music. **You can sign up for a half-hour time slot on the sign-up kiosk in the foyer or sign up with Sharon Cressman or Colleen Tavor** or sign up online using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/pray-a-thon-2025>. We want the whole day covered in prayer!

CALLING ALL EUCHRE PLAYERS for a fun afternoon!

Formerly known as “Women’s Euchre”, we’re including men and women. We’ll meet the first **Friday** of each month from **2 to 4 pm** in the Church Library. If you are new to the game, we can teach you. Depending on the number of players, we may play a different game. Mark these dates on your calendar: **Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, and Dec. 5**. Please see the sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the foyer!

KIDS’ WORSHIP BAGS

The kids’ worship bags are available at the welcome desk (on the wooden tree hanger). The activities in the bags are updated each week to reflect the lectionary readings for that Sunday as well as some other fun items. The yellow bags are for kids aged preschool to 8 years old; and the white bags are for kids aged 8+ years. Kids are welcome to take a bag each Sunday

to use during worship and/or to take home to enjoy. If your child forgot to pick up a worship bag before service, please let an usher know and they will get one for your child.

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.

Garden and Nutrition – every Saturday, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Once again, this year, FPCF is sponsoring DCDI’s Garden and Nutrition Class, every Saturday, from 9:30 am – 11:30 am. Sometimes we’ll be in the classroom (Room 208/210) and always in the garden. We’ll learn vermicomposting, making a ginger bug, and more! Bring your kids or grandkids! If you have any questions, please contact Tom Neal, Sharon Cressman, or Colleen Tavor.

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 17: Last names beginning E-K
- August 24: Last names beginning L-R
- August 31: Last names beginning S-Z
- September 7: 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 prompt just scan the QR code and follow

First Presbyterian Church Staff	
Ministers of the Church	Members of the Congregation
Transitional Senior Pastor	Rev. Bruce Mulder
Pastoral Care Parish Associate	Rev. Craig Aue
Minister of Music	Peter Cartwright
Office Administrator	Liz Labourdeth
Administrative Assistant	Amanda May Schreiber
AV Tech Intern	Lidia Neathamer