



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.

September 7, 2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost and Communion



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

Stand Up For Jesus

arr. Brent Edstrom

Welcome / Greetings

Pastor Craig Aue

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

*Call to Worship

Liturgist

God is like a potter who shapes and forms our lives.

We have been called to be faithful to God's intention.

God seeks for us to be vessels of compassion and service.

We have given multiple opportunities to witness God's love.

Come, let us worship the Creator who has given us life.

Let us send our praises to God who knows us totally and loves us. AMEN.

1. **God, you spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain, mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
We, created in your image, would a true reflection be of your justice, grace, and mercy and the truth that makes us free.**
2. **You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship joined in one community.
When we blur your gracious image, focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as your people, we move onward toward your goal.**
3. **God, your word is still creating, calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion. Polish us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.**

Prayer of Confession – Call to Reconciliation

Our sins are not to be hidden from God. Rather, we bring them into the Light and lay them on the Table, trusting in the One who shaped us for goodness and will transform our brokenness into wholeness. Please join me as we pray, our unison prayer of confession.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Searching God, we are so attached to our possessions, we have trouble sharing them. We are so connected to our pleasures that we cannot feel the pain of those around us. We are so stuck on ourselves, we cannot sense our souls slipping away into the shadows.

Most merciful God: loosen us from the grip of the world, so we may feel your healing touch. Sever us from our sin, so your Spirit might bind us to you. Reshape us, redeem us, renew us, so we may take up our crosses and follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Silence is kept

Words of Assurance – Assurance of Pardon

The God who calls us is the God who created us; the God who formed us is the God who forgives us. This is the Good News – we are God's new creation.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are reshaped, renewed, forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

Reading

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Liturgist

Jeremiah 18:1-11 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ²“Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” ³ So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴ The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

⁵ Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁶ Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. ⁷ At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸ but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. ⁹ And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰ but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. ¹¹ Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Rain Down
Choir

arr. Gerald Custer

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:25-33

Pastor Craig Aue

Luke 14:25-33 ²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Reflection

“Fire or Not Fired”

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 Potter of life be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the One who reshapes them into grace.

People of God, give thanks to the Lord our God.

We praise the One who has shaped us for love and service.

With joy we praise you, Creating God.

You stooped down and took the clay lying on earth's floor, shaping us in your image.

But we wondered what it would be like to follow our own paths and detached ourselves from your side.

We counted the cost of being your children, and found it to be too much for us.

We pondered your words and found them useless for our lives.

But you did not take your hands from us, but continue to recreate us, to reshape us, to redeem us.

Giver of breath, shaper of words, all the living find voice to praise you, as we celebrate with the people of every time and place, singing to your glory:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God who shapes us with hands of grace and hope.

Your wondrous works of creation praise your name.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes, appealing to us on the basis of love.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, Redeeming God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Traveling with us, he points out the paths we are to walk.

When he could command us to do whatever he wants, he appeals to us to follow his example.

Whatever wrong we have done, whatever good we have failed to do, Christ charges them to his account, that we might be counted as your beloved children.

So, as we come to the Table of grace and hope, we remember that mystery we call faith:

Christ died, having counted the cost.

Christ was raised, the foundation of resurrection being set in place.

Christ will come, refreshing our hearts for all eternity.

Spirit of the Living God, renew us with this bread and this cup which have been set aside for sacred us, even as you refresh our hearts.

Fill us with all the goodness of the kingdom, that we may do good for Christ as we serve others:

in the ways in which we treat our families;

in our willingness to draw the outcast to our side;

in our efforts to be your healing hands to the sick and grieving.

Then, here at the Table and beyond; here in this moment, and through eternity: remind us that we are always with you, God of all places and times, Christ of those who suffer, Spirit of justice and hope: God in Community, Holy in One.

Amen.

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

Liturgist

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, your unworthy servants, give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord 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 # 695

Change My Heart O God

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart O God; may I be like you.**

**You are the Potter; I am the clay
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.**

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart O God; may I be like you.**

Benediction

Pastor Craig Aue

Postlude

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

arr. David Paxton





Prayers for the Laboureth family: A prayer of joy and thanksgiving for the birth of Zara Jade Labourdeth, daughter of our Office Administrator Liz and her husband Manuel, on August 31, 2025, 11:59 a.m, 6lbs. 13oz, 19in.

Amanda May Schreiber, our administrative assistant, will be in the office on Monday mornings, Wednesdays, and working from home on Thursdays. Clerk of Session Dorothy Tait will be covering on Mondays as well. The office will continue to be closed on Fridays. During this time of transition, you may wish to call or email ahead to make sure staff will be available to assist you.



Fall Fest TODAY!!!

Please join us for food, fun, music, and games after the service, 11am - 1pm!
Everyone is invited!



PRESCHOOL FALL MUMS FUNDRAISER

Farmington Presbyterian Preschool is once again offering the Schwartz's Greenhouse Fall Fundraiser and selling Mums. We have all of the favorite colors: Yellow, Orange, Purple/Pink, or Red! The deadline for all orders this year will be Tuesday, September 16. Orders will be delivered to the preschool Monday, September 22. Please email or call the office for more information. There are flyers outside the sanctuary.

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.\

PRESBYTERIAN PLAYERS WANT YOU

Yes, it's still summer, but we are starting to prepare for the Christmas play. If you have not been part of this before but you might like to take a role in the play, please let Sue Carlson know today or very soon. We need to choose a play with the right number of cast members. The main requirements for acting in the play are feeling comfortable on stage and being able to project your voice with good volume. There may be a couple of very small walk-on roles too. Also, let Sue know if you can help with props, set decoration, scenery, or costumes.

Rise Against Hunger: Mission Opportunity for young and old!

We have the opportunity to join our Mission partners at Faith Community Presbyterian Church in Novi to help pack 10,000 meals on October 4, 2025 at FCPC 44400 W. 10 Mile Road in Novi. The event lasts about 2 hours and some jobs can be done while sitting. Please sign-up using the SignUp Genius link: <https://tinyurl.com/FPCF-Rise> Or see the sign-up sheet on the Kiosk in the foyer. Any questions? See Nancy Prieskorn

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!

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 gingerbug, 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:

September 7: Last names beginning A-D

September 14: Last names beginning E-K

September 21: Last names beginning L-R

September 28: Last names beginning S-Z



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

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