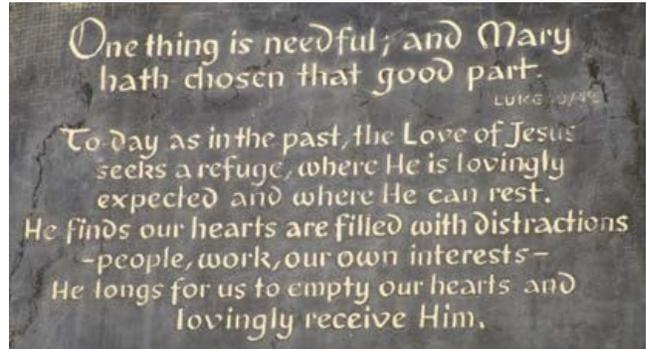




In preparing our hearts for worship, we will be dimming the lights in the narthex, indicating a time to prepare ourselves for worship. Please enter the sanctuary quietly and in time to hear the welcome and announcements.

September 14, 2025 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Prayer of Preparation

"Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth."

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude My Faith Looks Up To Thee arr. Brent Edstrom

Welcome / Greetings Jim Tubbs

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

*Call to Worship from Psalm 52 (standing) Jim Tubbs

I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.

I will thank you forever, because of what you have done.

In the presence of the faithful I will proclaim your name, for it is good.

Come, let us worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*Opening Hymn #276 Sing a New Song unto the Lord

**Refrain: Sing a new song unto the Lord; let your song be sung from mountain's high.
Unto the Lord, singing hallelujah!**

**1. Shout with gladness! Dance for joy! O come before the Lord.
And play for God on glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound. Refrain**

2.

2. Rise, O Children, from your sleep; your Savior now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy, and filled your soul with song. *Refrain*

3. Glad my soul for I have seen the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised. I know my Savior lives. *Refrain*

*Prayer of Confession (standing)

Rev. Susan Mozena

Our prayer of confession is followed by a time for silent confession.

All: Sometimes, O God, we get so wrapped up in our daily chores that we forget to take the time to stop and breathe, to look and to listen. Sometimes, O God, we spend our time thinking that all we are commanded to do is to love God, while forgetting the needs of our neighbor, forgetting to get our hands dirty. God of balance, help us: forgive us when we do not know when to be workers and when to be hearers. In your mercy, heal us, so that we may do your will in your kingdom.

*Words of Assurance (standing)

Rev. Susan Mozena

Amen. You have been reconciled to God by the death and resurrection of Christ. Live in peace. Live thankfully. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Passing of the Peace (standing)

Rev. Susan Mozena

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Jim Tubbs

All: Open our hearts and minds so that we can understand the fullness of your Word. Fill us with the light of your Holy Spirit, and bless us as we sing, preach, proclaim and hear your Word today. In the name of Jesus we pray.

New Testament Reading

Colossians 1:15-28

Jim Tubbs

Our first reading today is from the letter to the Colossians, a community in Asia Minor, today's Turkey. Many scholars believe that Colossians was written in Paul's name after his death. Others believe that Paul was indeed the author.

Our text today is from a portion of the letter in which the writer inserts what is believed to be an early Christian hymn focusing on the nature of Christ and then ends with a description of the implications of Christ's work for his personal ministry and for a Christian way of life for all of us.

Listen now to the Word of the Lord, Colossians 1:15-28:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and strive with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Whispering Hope
Choir

Alice Hawthorne

Gospel Reading

Luke 10:38-42

Rev. Susan Mozena

Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Sermon

"A Question of Balance"

Rev. Susan Mozena

*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

Rev. Susan Mozena

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 #324 For All the Faithful Women

- 1. For all the faithful women who served in the days of old,
To you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.**
- 2. We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly
while Pharaoh's vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;
for Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,
Who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death.**
- 3. We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan
While Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.
We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb
And found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.**
- 4. Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, who served the sick and poor.
Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.
O God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise,
That, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.**

Benediction

Rev. Susan Mozena



"Your comments and shares on Facebook (FB) help us share the Good News of Jesus AND all the good that is happening at First Pres. Please take the time to leave a short comment on our FB posts, then share to your FB feed. 😊"



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.



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.

Stewardship 2026 – Living Our Vision: Welcoming All, Sharing Christ, Serving Others

As we move through our process of change and transition toward a permanent pastor, what better way to move forward than by "living our vision" – Welcoming All, Sharing Christ, Serving Others. This Stewardship season, may we all draw closer to each other and God as we follow the Holy Spirit into living our vision!

SAVE THE DATE: Congregational Retreat on Saturday, October 11, 10 am – 3:00 pm

Our entire congregation is invited to an all-day (10:00 am – 3:00 pm) retreat to be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church located on 30650 Six Mile Rd. in Livonia, between Middlebelt and Merriman Roads. Holy Cross has a prayer labyrinth that we'll incorporate into our agenda. Our theme is "Living Our Vision: Welcoming All, Sharing Christ, Serving Others" and we'll have special speakers for you to enjoy. A light lunch will be provided and refreshments will be available throughout the day. A donation of \$20 per person is recommended. Sign up through this link <https://tinyurl.com/FPCF-Congregational-Retreat> or on the sign up sheet on the kiosk in the foyer.

Peace and Global Witness Offering (September 7 – October 5)

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. The offering will be split among Mission Agencies, mid-council, and local peace activities. You can use the appropriate envelopes located in the pews or inside the friendship pad for your offering. Thank you for your gift for peace.

JOY Study Resumes Tuesday, September 16 at 7:15 pm! We will be reading and discussing *Sermon on the Mount* by Amy-Jill Levine. We meet via Zoom Tuesdays, 7:15-8:30pm for a lively and thoughtful discussion that helps us to understand and strengthen our faith. See Sharon Cressman for the Zoom credentials (and zoom coaching!) We'd love to have you join us!

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 21: Last names beginning L-R

September 28: Last names beginning S-Z

October 5: Last names beginning A-D

October 12: Last names beginning E-K



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

Pastoral Care Parish Associate

Minister of Music

Office Administrator

Administrative Assistant

AV Tech Intern

Members of the Congregation

Rev. Craig S. Aue

Peter Cartwright

Liz Labourdeth

Amanda May Schreiber

Lidia Neathamer