

26165 Farmington Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 474-6170
www.farmington-pres.org



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

WELCOMING ALL SHARING CHRIST SERVING OTHERS

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 21, 2025 Fifteenth 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

Faith of Our Fathers

arr. Brent Edstrom

Welcome / Greetings

MJ Floreno

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Minute for Mission

*Call to Worship

We are surrounded—by saints, by mentors, by those who cheer us on.

We give thanks for the great cloud of witnesses.

Let us lay aside every weight and anything that clings too closely.

Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

With eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,

Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn #792

There Is A Balm in Gilead

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
There is a balm in Gildead to heal the sin-sick soul.

1. Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. **Refrain**

2. Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
And if you lack for knowledge, he'll not refuse to lend. **Refrain**

3. If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." **Refrain**

*Prayer of Confession (standing)

Rev. Renee Roederer

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

All: God of mercy and encouragement,
We confess that we often doubt ourselves and forget your promises.
We lose sight of your presence and forget the stories of those who endured
before us.
We focus on what we lack rather than trusting what you provide.
Forgive us. Renew us. Lift our eyes again.
Let us hear your voice among the cheers of the cloud of witnesses,
reminding us that we are not alone. Amen.

*Words of Assurance (standing)

Rev. Renee Roederer

Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
The race continues. The love surrounds. The Spirit strengthens.
Thanks be to God.
All: Thanks be to God.

*Passing of the Peace (standing)

Rev. Renee Roederer

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

MJ Floreno

All: Spirit of God,
By your breath, bring scripture to life.
Let us hear stories of promise, courage, and faith.
Speak to us through these ancient words, and give us what we need to keep going.
Amen.

Listen now to the Word of the Lord, Luke 4:14-30

¹⁴ Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?” ²³ He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” ²⁴ And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Be Filled With The Spirit
(Choir)

arr. Gerald Custer

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 12:1-2

Rev. Renee Roederer

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Sermon

“The Balcony People”

Rev. Renee Roederer

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.**

We Respond to God's Word

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

Rev. Renee Roederer

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 #331

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

**1 God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.**

**2 Thy love divine hath led us in the past
In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay:
Thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way**

**3 From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence.
Be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.
Thy true religion in our hearts increase.
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.**

**4 Refresh thy people on their toilsome way.
Lead us from night to never ending day.
Fill all our loves with love and grace divine,
And glory, and praise be ever thine.**

Benediction

Rev. Renee Roederer

Postlude

Stand Up For Jesus

arr. Marianne Kim

The Flowers today are presented by Dave & Mary Carson in memory of loved ones.



"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 Fall Mum Orders will be delivered to the preschool Monday, September 22. Please email or call the office for more information.

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.

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 28: Last names beginning S-Z

October 5: Last names beginning A-D

October 12: Last names beginning E-K

October 19: Last names beginning L-R



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
Pastoral Care Parish Associate	Rev. Craig S. Aue
Minister of Music	Peter Cartwright
Office Administrator	Liz Labourdeth
Administrative Assistant	Amanda May Schreiber
AV Tech Intern	Lidia Neathamer