



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF FARMINGTON

*Church of the Open Hands*

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

---

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 29, 2024

### 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Prayer of Preparation

Loving God, for each one who leads us in worship today, we pray that they may be so filled with your Spirit that they will clearly reflect the glory of Christ in all they say and do. We pray that everyone in this place will know you are with us and be drawn to bring you all honor and praise. **Amen.**

**We Enter into God's Presence**

\*Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

Joseph Barnby

Welcome / Greetings

Pastor Bruce Mulder

*Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards*

Update from the Stewardship Team

\*Call to Worship—from Psalm 118

This is the day that you have made, Lord.

**Help us to rejoice in it and be glad!**

Remind us of the privileges we enjoy as your people:

**to come to you in these moments, to confess our sins,**

**to receive forgiveness and give it, to pray and sing and listen,**

**to renew our fainting spirits, to rest in all your promises.**

Open our eyes to see you, Lord.

**Open our ears to hear your Word.**

Visit us through your Holy Spirit,  
**and help us to celebrate our faith.**

This is the day that you have made, Lord.

**Let us worship God. Amen!**

*\*Opening Hymn #645      Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

**Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled:  
To God all praise and glory!**

**What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth;  
By morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.  
Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! All is just and all is right:  
To God all praise and glory!**

**The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,  
an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,  
as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory!**

**Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,  
That all my hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body take your part:  
To God all praise and glory!**

#### Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. **Amen.**

#### Words of Assurance— from Romans 8

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? God who did not withhold his own Son, but gave Jesus up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**No! In all these things we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

## We Hear God's Word

Reading

Psalm 19:7-14; Mark 9:38.50

NRSV

### Psalm 19:7-14

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; <sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; <sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. <sup>12</sup> But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults. <sup>13</sup> Keep back your servant also from the insolent; <sup>[a]</sup> do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression. <sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

### Mark 9:38.50

<sup>38</sup> John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, <sup>[a]</sup> and we tried to stop him because he was not following us." <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. <sup>42</sup> "If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me <sup>[b]</sup> to sin, <sup>[c]</sup> it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to sin, <sup>[d]</sup> cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, <sup>[e]</sup> to the unquenchable fire. <sup>[f]</sup> <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to sin, <sup>[g]</sup> cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>[h]</sup> <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, <sup>[i]</sup> tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>[k]</sup> <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies and the fire is never quenched. <sup>49</sup> "For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>[l]</sup> <sup>50</sup> Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? <sup>[m]</sup> Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Anthem

*Prayer of St. Francis*

*Allen Pote*

Sermon

What's the Word?

Pastor Bruce Mulder

## We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology

Pastor Bruce Mulder

**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

Colleen Tavor

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Colleen Tavor

Let us pray for the church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

*Silence*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace, that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

*Silence*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

*Silence*

Bless all whose lives are intricately linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them and love one another as he loves us.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

*Silence*

Comfort and heal all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

*Silence*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, mercifully accept the prayers of your people and strengthen us to do your will through Jesus Christ, our Lord who teaches us to pray:

## **We Follow God's Word into the World**

Hymn of Sending #320

*The Church of Christ in Every Age*

**The church of Christ in every age,  
beset by change but Spiritled  
Must claim and text its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.**

**Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry  
For shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live before they die.**

**Then let the servant church arise,  
a caring church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice  
and clothed in Christ's humanity**

**For Christ alone, whose blood was shed  
Can cure the fever in our blood,  
And teach us how to share our bread  
and feed the starving multitude**

**We have no mission but to serve  
In full obedience to our Lord:  
To care for all without reserve  
And spread Christ's liberating word**

Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

The Archbishop's Fanfare

Francis Jackson

**Today's flowers are presented by Dave and Mary Carson in memory of loved ones**

### **Worship Liturgist**

We welcome Colleen Tavor as today's liturgist. Our liturgist for October 6<sup>th</sup> is Ev Randlett. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

### **New Furniture in the Narthex!**

We hope you like the new furniture in the narthex! We'll be adding more changes in the near future and we hope you enjoy them. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Colleen Tavor, Laurel Scott, or Vicki Najjar.

## Georgia Roed Memorial Information



Visitation- Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30am

Memorial Service- Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11am

Location- Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 West Twelve Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48331

Attendees are requested to RSVP by calling or texting Heidi Roed at 704-905-3223

\*In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance or visit Georgia's tribute page to donate:

<https://tribute.ocrahope.org/myamazinglystrongandbeautifulmothergeorgiaroed>

### **Learn About Us, Sunday, October 6, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, Room 208/210**

If you have been attending First Presbyterian Church in Farmington for a while, or maybe you've attended a few times, and would like to know more about us, please join us for a "Learn About Us" session on October 6. We'll share with you what's going on at FPCF, and a little bit about Presbyterians. You can ask any questions you may have, and we'll have just a fun time of fellowship and getting to know each other. We're glad you're here with us and want you to feel welcome and cared for. Please call the office and let them know you are interested: 248-474-6170.

### **Pray-A-Thon on Thursday, October 17, 8:00 am – 5:30 pm**

Nothing is more powerful than prayer. And when we pray **together** for something, it is even more powerful. Remember that the Pray-A-Thon we had last year brought us Pastor Bruce! In that spirit, we are planning a Pray-A-Thon focused on praying for the Mission Study Committee and the future vision of our church. See Sharon Cressman or Colleen Tavor to sign up for a half hour of prayer in the sanctuary. Or you can sign up for a time slot using this SignUp Genius link: <https://tinyurl.com/pray-a-thon-2024> We want the whole day covered in prayer! "Do not be anxious for anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:6).

### **Stewardship 2025 – Following Jesus**

As we move through our process of change and transition toward a permanent pastor, what better way to move forward than by "Following Jesus?" Last year we committed to being a "sailboat church," depending on God's provision as the Holy Spirit guides us forward. May we all draw closer to Jesus as we explore what it truly means to follow him

### **Peace and Global Witness Offering (September 8 – October 6)**

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 for your offering. Thank you for your gift for peace.

## **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 [ttneal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttneal@sbcglobal.net).

## **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. The JOY study will resume after Labor Day. Come learn from Romans with us!

## **Interviewing and Resume Writing: Effective Strategies**

In partnership with DCDI (Danika Community Development Inc.) we will again sponsor a resume writing and practice interview workshop. Emphasis will be placed on consulting, advising and practice interviews. The workshop will take place on Sept 21,28, and October 5 in room 208/210 from 10am-1pm. If you are interested in volunteering for the practice interviews please reach out to 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 29: Last names beginning S-Z

October 6: Last names beginning A-D

October 13: Last names beginning E-K

October 20: Last names beginning L-R

October 27: Last names beginning S-Z

## **Volunteers Wanted: Mission Opportunity at Crossroads**

Dust off your aprons and grab your oven mitts! We are preparing and serving lunch at Crossroads of Michigan Sunday, September 29. Some preparation is also needed on Friday, September 27. See the FYI for the sign-up link or Nancy Prieskorn will also be happy to send it to you!

## **Mission Study Committee Established (aka the MS6)**

The Mission Study Committee met for the first time on Tuesday, September 3, and we are excited to begin the next step forward into our future. The committee has 6 members: Alvine Cooper, Becca DeSloover, Ginny Hubble, Katie Malisow, Tom Neal and Colleen Tavor. Pastor Bruce will facilitate and guide our work. A Mission Study looks at the history of our church, who we are now and who we want to be in the future.

We will be involving the congregation in the process and keep you updated via town halls, the FYI, eblasts, and Sunday bulletins. When our Mission Self Study is completed and approved

by the Presbytery, we can put together a committee that will search for our permanent pastor. The Mission Self Study will help inform a potential new pastor about us and help them to determine if we are a good fit and where God is calling them. We hope that you will join us in this important next step in our church's future with your prayers for the committee and providing input as needed. Please direct all questions to anyone on the committee.

**Mission Study Town Hall Gathering:**

Join us on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 11am in Knox Hall for an informational session regarding the data from the Mission Study Committee, a follow up gathering with updates will also take place November 17<sup>th</sup> at 11am in Knox Hall

---

<b>First Presbyterian Church Staff</b>	
<b>Ministers of the Church</b>	<b>Members of the Congregation</b>
<b>Transitional Senior Pastor</b>	Rev. Bruce Mulder
<b>Pastoral Care Parish Associate</b>	Rev. Craig S. Aue
<b>Minister of Music &amp; Organist/Pianist</b>	Shari Fiore-Bloom
<b>Office Administrator</b>	Carly Vivio
	Liz Labourdeth
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Amanda May Schreiber
<b>AV Tech Intern</b>	Lidia Neathamer