



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF FARMINGTON

*Church of the Open Hands*

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

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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 8, 2024**

### **16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

Prayer of Preparation

Fill our worship with grace, Lord Jesus Christ, that every thought, word, and deed may be acceptable to you, our Rock, and our Redeemer. Amen.

#### **We Enter into God's Presence**

\*Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*  
Waddles Jazz Ensemble

A.J Showalter

Welcome / Greetings

Pastor Bruce Mulder

*Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards*

Update from the Mission Study Team  
(Visitors Gift Announcement)

Colleen Tavor

\*Call to Worship—from Psalm 145

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God.**

The Lord, who made heaven and earth, is the One who keeps faith forever.

**Let us worship the Lord our God. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn #772

*Live into Hope*

**Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!**

**Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity,  
Removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.**

**Live into hope of the liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,  
The right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.**

**Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.**

Prayer of Confession—from James 2

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture that says, "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself,*" you do well. But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the One who said, "*You shall not commit adultery,*" also said, "*You shall not murder.*" Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So, speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.

**Lord, in your mercy, forgive us our sin.**

*SILENCE*

Lord have mercy;  
**Christ have mercy. Amen.**

Words of Assurance— from Isaiah 35

Thus says the Lord—declare to those who are of a fearful heart, "*Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. The Lord will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. God will come and rescue you.*" Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; and the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water.

### **We Hear God's Word**

Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7a; Mark 7:24-37

*New Revised Standard Version*

## Isaiah 35:4-7a

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”  
<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;  
<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;<sup>[a]</sup> the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

## Mark 7:24-37

### The Syrophenician Woman’s Faith

<sup>24</sup> From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre.<sup>[a]</sup> He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>28</sup> But she answered him, “Sir,<sup>[b]</sup> even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup> Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup> And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

### Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

<sup>31</sup> Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup> He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup> Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup> And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup> Then Jesus<sup>[c]</sup> ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup> They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Anthem

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*  
Waddles Jazz Ensemble  
Chancel Choir

Traditional North American Hymn

Sermon

*Expanding and Including*

Pastor Bruce Mulder

## We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology

Pastor Bruce Mulder

*Collection of Prayer Cards*

**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

Manny Sharpe

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Manny Sharpe

People of God, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**Hear our prayers, O Lord.**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, your servants, praise 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.

**We give you thanks, O Lord.**

Our Holy God, above all, we worship you and bless you for your endless love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ., May your Holy Spirit seal within our hearts the joy of Jesus Christ who is our means of grace, and the hope of our lives.

**Hear our prayers, O Lord.**

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 #733

*We All Are One in Mission*

**We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all  
A single, great commission compels us from above  
To plan and work together that all may know Christ's love**

**We all are called for service to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:  
To touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace,  
So every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace**

**Now let us be united and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming word.  
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.**

Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

*It Is Well*

Phillip P. Bliss

Waddles Jazz Ensemble

**Today's flowers are in honor of Paul and Karen Spica's 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.**

### **Worship Liturgist**

We welcome Manny Sharpe as today's liturgist. Our liturgist for September 15<sup>th</sup> is Becca DeSloover. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

### **Waddles Jazz Ensemble**

We welcome back our favorite Jazz group. The Waddles Jazz Ensemble. The members include, Dominic Waddles on saxophone, Dyllyn Cady on drums, Quentin Casanova on bass and Eli Bucheit on piano. Thank you for all the wonderful music you've given us and continue to give us! We are truly blessed to have such a fine group play at First Presbyterian.

### **Food for a Cause- Food Truck coming to FPCF on September 22**

Imagine enjoying tasty food from a food truck and helping CARES at the same time! On Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11am-1pm. We will be able to buy burgers, wings, fries & street food from DC Novelty Eats, a portion of sales will go to CARES. Tell your neighbors!

### **Presbyterian Players want you!**

Have you ever considered being an actor or actress? Here's the chance to jump in and start your acting practice! No experience necessary, you just need to feel comfortable on stage and memorize 25 lines and project your voice. Presbyterian Players is casting the Christmas play, a Christian comedy "Shepards and Kings" There are 10 in the cast in order to make this production happen we need 3 more cast members (2 men and 1 woman) Rehearsals are Monday evenings beginning September 23. The performances are the mornings of December

11 and 15. If interested please contact – Tom Neal, Sally Kirsten, Laurel Scott , Mary Carson or Sue Carlson. The show must go on!

### **“Back to Church”- Sunday September 15**

In September, our brains are wired to “go back to” something- back to school, college, college football, our regular schedules after summer vacations. Well, September 15 is “Back to Church” Sunday and the Membership Committee invites you to invite your friends or neighbors to be our guest. We’ll have a special gift for new guests that day and something a little extra for coffee time afterward.

### **Flu Clinic**

The deacons will be hosting a Flu Clinic on September 22<sup>nd</sup> immediately following worship. We encourage all members to follow the advice of their doctor and get their yearly Flu Shot if so advised. The Visiting Nurse Association provides this no cost service as a courtesy to promote public health and well-being. Please bring your Medicare/Insurance card. The Deacons will provide extra snacks at Fellowship Hour to help the medicine go down.

### **Foster Closet of Michigan Current Wish List**

Foster Closet of MI, located in Farmington Hills, needs hygiene products for the young people they serve. Items like shampoo, body wash, kid’s toothpaste, brushes, etc. are critically needed. For a complete list of items or for more information please see the Mission Bulletin Board. There is a plastic bin on the Mission Cove for collecting items.

### **Preschool Open Enrollment**



The Preschool is now open for enrollment for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Please spread the word about our Preschool to friends and family who may be interested in enrolling. The program offers 2.5s, 3s and Pre-K (4s) classes.

Please visit the website: <https://farmingtonprespreschool.org/enroll/> or call the preschool: (248) 474-9752 to schedule a tour and/or pick up your enrollment forms.

### **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 8: Last names beginning E-K

September 15: Last names beginning L-R

September 22: Food Truck

September 29: 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.

<b>First Presbyterian Church Staff</b>	
<b>Ministers of the Church</b>	Members of the Congregation
<b>Pastoral Care Parish Associate</b>	The 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>	Jaiden Thomas



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