



Madonna Learning Center's Celebration Troupe led worship through sign on February 12th.

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Deepening Our Discipleship

BY REV. REBECCA LUTER

When you pray, do you ever wonder if you are “doing it right”? Here’s a little secret – we all do sometimes. In fact, even Jesus’ disciples asked him how they should pray. They didn’t ask because they didn’t know the Psalms to pray. They had them memorized. They didn’t ask because they had never prayed before. They were faithful, devout Jews who knew all of the ritual prayers. They asked because they saw that when Jesus drew away to pray, there was a change in him. They asked because they saw that prayer for Jesus was about relationship with God and they longed for the same.

How are we to seek God in prayer? The Lord’s Prayer comes from Jesus’ answer to his disciples. He offered it as a pattern for how we are to approach God. Sometimes, we might pray the whole prayer. Other times, we might pause and just think about one phrase and how it applies to us and our lives. There is no one right way to pray, all that is required is a heart that is seeking God.

Jesus taught that we are first to acknowledge who God is: *our* loving, heavenly parent who deserves our praise.

We are to pray for God’s Will to be done here on earth now, just as it is already done in heaven – through us and *our* actions.

We are instructed to ask for what we need *today* to accomplish God’s Will; give us this day *enough*.

We petition God to restore our relationship with God, forgiving our failures *in the same way* that we are restoring our relationship with people who have failed us.

We remember Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness as he was tempted in every way that we are tempted, and we pray that God’s Spirit will not lead us into the temptations of the wilderness, but *deliver us* from all of the tempter’s offers:

1. The tempter offers kingdoms, “Look at all the authority and riches in the world, this is my domain, my kingdom, and it can all be yours in exchange for your worship.” And Jesus answers, **“Our devotion is to God. God not only comes first; we worship and serve no one and nothing else.”**

FARMINGTON
PRESBYTERIAN PRESENTS



THE ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT 2023

Come and join the fun
with the whole family!

**APRIL 8, 10AM IN
THE BACK
PARKING LOT OF
FARMINGTON**

Please donate
individually wrapped
candies and small treats
for the kids to hunt!



(Continued from page 1)

2. The tempter questions power, "If you are God's child, take the risk, throw yourself down. God is powerful enough to save you, right? Scripture says he'll send his angels to pick you up and keep you from getting hurt." And Jesus answers, **"We live to serve God, not the other way around."**

3. The tempter seduces with glory, "Aren't you God's child, if you're hungry, why don't you show off your superiority and do something about it? And Jesus answers, **"It is what is in our hearts, God's glory, that we live on, not what is in our stomachs."**

For *Thine*, O God, are *all* kingdoms, *all* power, and *all* glory. Amen.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?



Members of Farmington met on February 10th for a delicious meal at 3 different restaurants to build community with one another. Mark your calendar for April 21st and join in the fun next time! Discover the variety of folks that make up the Farmington Family. Share a meal and conversation that can lead to life-long friendships.





 **FARMINGTON
PRESBYTERIAN DAY
SCHOOL** 

I joke that once the month of March gets here, our school year is over. The spring goes so quickly here at the Day School. All the classes will be busy getting ready for the Spring Program, practicing their songs and working on many art projects for the art show. In science class the kids will learn about the butterfly life cycle and watch live caterpillars turn into butterflies. We will talk about spring flowers and the changes in nature with the spring weather.

The Transition Kindergarten Class's famous Americans presented, "America: the Red, White, and Blue" for President's Day.

One of the children's favorite spring activities is the Petting Zoo. They get to ride a horse, pet a llama, feed goats, race turtles and be introduced to many more fun and fluffy animals. They get to ride the train around the parking lot and have a great time with their classmates. The staff is busy coordinating end-of-school celebrations and planning Summer Camp. We are looking forward to the change of seasons and wish everyone a season of growth and fresh beginnings!

Gretchen & Andrea



VBS
Save the Date

This year's Vacation Bible School will be **June 12 - 16**. We would love to fill our classes with children from the neighborhood as well as Summer Camp. Invite your friends and neighbors to a week of fun at Farmington.

Volunteer to help as a station leader or crew leader.

Registration is coming Easter Sunday! Participants in FPDS Day school will automatically attend. They do not need to register.



POTLUCK SUNDAY MARCH 5TH

Bring a dish or simply gather for food and fellowship after worship on March 5th.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER AND DEVOTIONALS

Come enjoy mid-week fellowship and leave renewed for the rest of the week! Dinners will be at 6pm with a brief devotion in the Sanctuary that is both in-person and live-streamed from 6:45-7pm. We will not meet on March 15th. All are encouraged to pick up a set of devotional cards from the church to use throughout Lent.

SESSION REPORT

Session received the final Stewardship report and adopted a 2023 Budget. The January 2023 Financial Report was accepted. School Board Chair, Mike Schneider, reported that registration for Summer Camp and 2023-24 School Year are both strong. Rev. Luter's housing allowance compensation for 2023 will remain the same as 2022. Session approved a salary range for the Temporary Pastor during Rev. Luter's Sabbatical and other preparations were discussed. Rev. Luter is planning to be on Sabbatical Memorial Day - Labor Day.

Holy Week Events

April 2 - Palm Sunday - Sanctuary
In-person and Live-streamed @ 11am

April 6 - Maundy Thursday with Communion
Dinner @ 6pm - Fellowship Hall
Service @ 7pm - Sanctuary
In-person & Live-streamed

April 7 - Good Friday - Sanctuary
In-person & Live-streamed @ 6pm

April 8 - Easter Egg Hunt -
Back Parking Lot @ 10am.

April 9 - Easter
- Sunrise Service - Outdoor Chapel @ 7am
- Easter Morning Worship - Sanctuary
In-person & Live-streamed @ 11am



July 16 -23

Summer Retreat

Rising 9th-High School

Student Cost: \$375

Purchase Stock in the retreat for any amount and receive daily updates from Doug Barr in your email and a personal postcard from a youth attending the retreat!

HE IS RISEN

MONTREAT.
CONFERENCE CENTER



Sabbatical

for Rev. Rebecca Luter
and Farmington Presbyterian Church
May 26, 2023 – September 4, 2023

“Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.” -Genesis 2:1-3



What is a sabbatical?

The word sabbatical has its roots in the biblical concept of Sabbath (“to rest” or “to cease”). Sabbath keeping is setting aside time that God consecrates and makes holy. Sabbatical leave is a time for our pastor to shift gears in order to rest, disengage, study, and reflect in order to return to minister among us refreshed and renewed in body, mind, and spirit.

Sabbatical is more than a vacation from meetings, budgets, sermons, and people in need. It is a time for Rev. Luter to receive spiritual nourishment and a change in perspective, to deepen her relationship with God – a season of spiritual growth.

Sabbatical is also a special season of growth for the entire congregation. “We tell our churches and our pastors that the sabbatical is good for so many reasons, including that it teaches both the pastor and the congregation that the congregation can survive without the pastor,” said the Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston, the general presbyter for the Presbytery of Charlotte, where sabbaticals are required in the terms of call for any installed pastor.



Do other clergy go on sabbatical?

Yes, the Office of the General Assembly recommends 3 months of sabbatical for all full-time pastors serving churches who have served in their current position for six continuous years. Since 2017, the Presbytery of the Mid-South has required a 3-month Sabbatical Leave for every 7 years of service in the minimum Terms of Call when a congregation calls a pastor.



How long will Rev. Luter be gone?

After serving as our pastor for 9 years, Rev. Luter will be gone for a little over three months. We will have a formal send-off event for her on Sunday, May 21, 2023 with a fellowship event following worship. Rebecca’s last day in the office will be Thursday, May 26, 2023. She will return to the office on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. Her first Sunday back will be September 10, 2023.



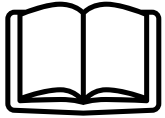
What will Rev. Luter be doing on her sabbatical?

Rebecca is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry program at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She will be engaged in two projects related to her degree program during her sabbatical, one related to leading hybrid worship (worship that is both in-person and online) and the other related to the theology of the Lord’s Supper.



Who will preach and lead worship?

Tom Sauer will serve as the temporary pastor during Rev. Luter’s sabbatical leave and in that role will preach and lead worship. Tom, a lifelong Presbyterian, has always felt a call to the ministry. He completed his studies in the Commissioned Lay Pastor program at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in 2010 and began leading worship at LaGrange Presbyterian Church. In May 2011, he was commissioned as a lay pastor in the Presbyterian Church by the Presbytery of the Mid-South and continued to lead worship in LaGrange until November 2019. In April 2013, Tom joined the staff of Germantown Presbyterian Church as minister to senior adults and continues to serve in this role.



Who will cover Rev. Luter’s responsibilities during her absence?

Tom will be available to contact if you have prayer requests or experience a family or personal crisis. He will be working approximately 20 hours per week. The mission and ministry of Farmington will continue to be led by the members of Session.



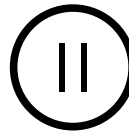
Will the FPC operating budget need to be increased as a result of the sabbatical?

No, the cost of the sabbatical will be paid for from funds earmarked for this purpose.



Will the church just be in a “holding pattern” while Rev. Luter is away?

No, we are confident that all of our ministries will continue to flourish while Rebecca is away. It is important to remember that the sabbatical is a two-way process: while Rebecca is on her journey of renewal, refreshment, and study, we will embark on a journey as well – to grow in our love for each other and for Christ as we take primary lead for guiding and providing the ministries of Farmington. Congregations have long experienced the joy of growth as a community during times of pastoral vacancy. As we lean on one another, we will learn new ways that we can be involved in making Farmington a home for God’s people and how we can engage in having a heart for God’s world. Our great joy is that at the end of 3 months, Rebecca will be back as our Pastor.



Will Rebecca be in contact with Farmington during the sabbatical?

No, an important part of a sabbatical is to make a complete break from things. Rebecca will be taking a break from all contact. She will not be checking email or on social media. She has given guidance to Tom and Session about special circumstances in which she is to be notified.



How will we welcome Rebecca back when she returns?

The worship service on September 10, 2023 will be followed by a special “welcome home” reception for Rebecca with food and opportunities for sharing.



How can I learn more about the sabbatical?

Please feel free to speak with or email Rebecca directly before the Sabbatical begins. Session members are also available to answer your questions.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WHO: Women from the Presbytery of the Mid-South

WHERE: Idlewild Presbyterian Church, 1750 Union Avenue,
Memphis, TN 38104
(901) 726-4681

TIMES:

9:00 a.m. Registration, Fellowship, Coffee and Pastries
10:00 a.m. Program with Keynote Message by Rev. Joshua
Narcisse, Director of Spiritual Care at Church Health and
Parish Associate at Idlewild Presbyterian Church
12:00 p.m. Lunch

PROGRAM: Highlights of 2022-2023, Reports,
Presentation of Grants, Installation of New Officers, In
Memorium, Special Offering and Worship Service.

QUESTIONS: Contact Diane Meess, Chair,
diane.meess@yahoo.com, 901-692-6078

Presbytery of the Mid-South Synod of Living Waters 2023 Annual Spring Gathering Saturday, April 22, 2023



JOHNSON AUXILIARY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION APRIL 18, 2023 IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10:30am Worship in Trippeer Chapel, the space of our chartering with honored guests and supporters of the Auxiliary

The Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson, Senior Pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church in Charleston, South Carolina, preaching.

12:00pm Lunch in Montgomery Hall

Celebrate and connect with others committed to ministry at Regional One Health today and into the future. A meal with Southern fried chicken will be prepared by Idlewild Presbyterian Church.

The cost of lunch is \$10 and payable to Idlewild Presbyterian by cash, check, or credit card. Please indicate if a vegetarian option is preferred.

After lunch we will travel by bus to Regional One Health for a tour. Buses will leave from the Idlewild parking lot at 1pm. Tours will conclude by 3:30pm. Please indicate if a limited mobility option is preferred.

RSVP by April 4th to Bonnie Algee at bbalgee@bellsouth.net or 5400 Park Ave., Apt. 210, Memphis, TN 38119.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Pat Sherman Recognized by the City for 20+ Years of Joyful Service

Former Commissioner Pat Sherman approaches volunteer work from a place of pure delight. "In my time, I've served on five different commissions. I am joyfully motivated by the great pleasure of serving our city," she said. "When I go shopping or go to appointments, I look around with merriment and think, 'Oh yeah, this is what we did on the Design Review Commission and this looks good!' Or when I drive by a house I recognize, I think, 'Oh, that's the house we approved for the height of a fence while on the Board of Zoning Appeals.'

"It motivates and pleases me when I see the accomplishments and improvements made while serving on each commission."

At the City's Commission Celebration in October last year, Sherman was one of four commissioners who were recognized for serving for more than 20 years.

"I initially chose the Planning and Personnel Advisory commissions because my husband had recently passed away and I wanted to stay as busy as possible," Sherman said. "I requested to take his Design Review Commission position for his term and also be on the Personnel Commission. I've made personnel decisions and written policies in my business, so I thought this could be a good fit."

Sherman is a graduate of San Jose State University, where she earned her Master's in Nursing. Over the course of 21 years, she's worked at Unity Hospice, Unity Healthcare, Southern Healthcare Solutions and as a partner in Hospice of Hope.

"All my life, I've wanted to teach, help others and serve the Lord," said Sherman, an ordained elder at Farmington Presbyterian Church. "Do I do this well? Probably not, but I try hard to accomplish this and often feel that I have."

A native Memphian, Sherman met and married her late husband, Neil, in Memphis. While Neil served in the Navy, they lived all over the country until he retired in 1990 and they returned to the Mid-South, where Neil earned his Master of Divinity. "He and I volunteered together in any way we could," Sherman said.

Now, Sherman volunteers on various company boards and is a member of the Germantown Rotary Club.

"Germantown is a great place to live. I'm very comfortable living here and, most of all, I feel safe," she said. "In addition to safety, I am proud of this city for being awarded the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. It's a challenging award to attain and it says something significant about our city."

As far as volunteering goes, Sherman doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon.

"I will always volunteer and serve the community and my church in any way possible," she said. "The culmination of my life and experiences has brought me to this place I am today, and I gladly continue to share my hard-earned wisdom with the city I call home."



Adult Sunday School



seeking: honest questions for deeper faith

Rev. Rebecca will be leading prayer practices based on the Lenten worship series: "Seeking: honest questions for deeper faith" on Sunday mornings at 10am in the East Room.

10am - 10:45am
East Room
Led by Rev. Rebecca Luter

THE ACTS of the Apostles

N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides

We call the book "The Acts of the Apostles," but we should think of it as "The Acts of Jesus (II)." These studies from Tom Wright help us to do so, and to see how Jesus' acts through the apostles inform our acts today.

9:30am - 10:30am
Fellowship Hall
Led by Cooper Patterson

Farmington Adult Ministries Thursday, March 23 12:00pm

The Adult Ministries Group will host a luncheon on Thursday, March 23rd at noon. The speaker will be Samuel Gakumba Waweru. Sam grew up in Nairobi, Kenya, with his parents and brothers. From early in his childhood, he had a passion for aeronautics. Following college, he spent several years working in air operations for non-profits, where he enjoyed the opportunity of working with colleagues in several countries worldwide.

"One year ago, I moved to the states to earn my Commercial Pilot License, which I have recently attained. I am accumulating the required flight hours to become a full-time commercial pilot."

Please mark your calendar to attend this event. FireHutch Catering will provide lunch. The cost is \$13. Reservations must be made by emailing Sandy Wann at: srwann@bellsouth.net by Monday, March 20.

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE



We gather for Fellowship Coffee following worship. If you would like to provide Sunday Morning snacks, please sign up on our website.

www.farmingtonpres.org/sign-up



Sunday Worship Online

Join us, Sunday mornings for worship on YouTube. You can find us through our website, www.Farmingtonpres.org, or on YouTube at www.youtube.com/c/farmingtonpresbyterian. Don't forget to subscribe so you never miss our services or video events.

And don't forget to like, share, and hit that subscribe button!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Thomas Nagel
- 2 Virginia Hart
- 6 Roland Mittag
- 7 Don Rossman
- 7 Andrea Soto
- 9 Joseph Williams
- 10 Rob Hall
- 12 Madison Lewis
- 14 Lorelei Phillips
- 17 Lance Palmer
- 18 Mia Mittag
- 21 Benjamin Byrne
- 23 Sam Bryant
- 25 Faye McKenzie
- 29 Elizabeth Demaree
- 31 Elias Haguewood

Staff Extensions

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor, Ext. 3134
 Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education, Ext. 3130
 Polly Knight, Financial Records Keeper, Ext. 3136
 Shelley Wann, Church Office Administrator, Ext. 3131
 Gretchen Burch, Director of Day School, Ext. 3132
 Andrea Soto, Assistant Director of Day School, Ext. 3138
 Anthony Jones, Maintenance Technician

Session Members

Moderator - Rev. Rebecca Luter
 Administration – Ann Erickson
 Congregational Life - Becky Hutchins
 Christian Education – Doug Barr
 Clerk – Laurinda Ingram
 Discipleship - Bonnie Blair & Paul King
 Property and Grounds – Bob Plotner
 School Board – Mike Schneider
 Service – Jinney Hart
 Treasurer—Melissa Still
 Worship –Jackie Hall



Content for the April New Vision newsletter is due Tuesday, March 21st.
Email articles and event information to Shelley Wann at shelley@farmingtonpres.org



Farmington Presbyterian Church & Day School
8245 Farmington Blvd.
Germantown, TN 38139