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Deepening Our Discipleship

BY REV. REBECCA LUTER

"I am the light of the world."

- Jesus

"I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations."

- The Word of the Lord spoken by the Prophet Isaiah

"Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light."

-Micah, the prophet

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

-The Gospel of John

"The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?"

- The Psalmist

"Let your light shine before others."

- Jesus

Dedication of the Light. September 4th, 6:45pm



Following our First Wednesday Dinner we will gather on the front steps for a Carillon Concert and Dedication of the Steeple Light. Pat Sherman gave this light in memory of Rev. Neil Sherman. Neil and Pat returned to Farmington, their home church, after he retired from ministry, and he continued to faithfully serve here. Neil believed deeply in reaching out and being in relationship with the community and shared Christ's love and light in his life. It is fitting to honor his memory in this way, and we are thankful that this light will be a beacon to the community for years to come.

Farmington Day School

Back to School has been an exciting time around here at FPDS! It is always fun welcoming all our new and returning families back to school. September is a busy time as we will invite and host our preschool grandparents to a special Grandparent's Day event. This will be the 3rd year we host Muffins with Grandparents. After the first year, we had to move it to a two-day event as it was standing room only!

The safety lesson for the month of September is Learning Car Safety and Traffic Safety. We will have the Germantown Police come talk to our students about Traffic Safety. We have Soccer Shots starting up and KinderMusik will begin their lessons this month as well. The children and staff will get school pictures taken.

One of our biggest events that happens in the month of September is the Scholastic Book Fair. It will be held the week of September 16th-20th. All are welcome to come by and take a look around. You may purchase books for yourself, for gifts or even gift one or two to a classroom. Every purchase gives the school credit for books and classroom supplies.

One of our school board goals is to connect the school and the church. This year the church will be hosting Friendsgiving on Friday, September 27th. We have made this night our school Classroom Family Picnic night. Each year we host a classroom picnic so our families can meet the other children and parent's in their child's classroom. We look forward to teaming up with the church to make this year's Friendsgiving a big success!

See you all at Friendsgiving!

Ms. Gretchen & Ms. Andrea



Fall Kick-off Mothers in Community

All moms (with children of any age) are welcome to a time of fellowship, study, and support for one another.

Our first meeting will be
September 5th at 6pm in Fellowship Hall.

Come dream about what "living your best life" might look like! Maybe you'll even take some steps toward it!

Free childcare is provided.

MIC



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

YOUTH KICKOFF PARTY

Join us for a fun-filled evening of delicious pizza, games, and the beginning of our Fall youth programming!

Sunday, September 8th
at 6 pm
Youth Room
Farmington
Presbyterian Church



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Potluck Salad Dinner - September 25 at 5pm

PW will have a Potluck Salad dinner at the home of Ann Erickson. Bring any type of salad that you prefer. Dessert and beverages will be provided. This will be a casual event so we can enjoy being together and catching up. Please RSVP to Ann at annerickson@bellsouth.net

PW Gathering at Pinecrest



Paula Gale, Ann Erickson, Melissa Still, Charlene Still, Vesta Andrews, Bonnie Blair, Kay Patterson, and Jinney Hart recently attended the Horizon Bible Study for the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Mid-South. Rev. Amy Howe gave an overview of *Let Justice Roll Down*, our 2024-2025 Horizon's Bible study. It was a beautiful day to be at Pinecrest, eat delicious cinnamon rolls and lunch, and visit with fellow Presbyterian Women. Our new Horizons Bible study will investigate justice issues related to environmental damage and healing. Come join us as we listen to how we are called to care for society's least powerful members shown in scripture and during current times. Our first lesson will be Sunday, September 29 in the East Room at 12:30pm. ALL women are invited to attend.

2024 Churchwide Gathering of the Presbyterian Women



Ann Erickson, Jinney Hart, Kirsten King, and Bonnie Blair joined other ladies from the Presbyterian Women of the Mid-South in St. Louis recently for the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. We had the opportunity to hear Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull, author of *Let Justice Roll Down*, and meet other Presbyterian Women. Our spirits were enlightened as we listened to keynote speakers who addressed loving our world, loving ourselves, loving our community, and loving out loud. To live as Jesus commanded is hard work, but we can continue to battle greed and corporate control one step and prayer at a time. By the way, we also had fun touring the city!



FPC Presbyterian Women's Gatherings

You are invited to one or all! Come for support, to get involved in mission, or to learn about our study on justice and ecology.

September 25

Get to know other women as we share a potluck dinner of our favorite salads at the home of Ann Erickson at 5pm.

September 29

Learn about the mission work of Presbyterian Women as we determine our involvement this year. We will meet in the East Room at 12:30pm for Lesson 1.

October 23

Enjoy an evening of wine and appetizers with other women at the home of Jinney Hart at 5pm. Lessons 2 & 3 will be discussed.

November 22

Gather with friends to share a potluck lunch and recount our blessings in preparation for Thanksgiving. We will be discussing Lesson 4. Potluck Lunch will be held in the East Room at 11:00am.

December 11

Annual Holiday Bake Sale 10am-6pm. In this busy season, pause to focus on your own preparation to welcome Jesus in your life anew.

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School Sundays at 10am-10:45am in the Transition Kindergarten room (A6) on Sunday mornings.

This fall we will be following a Travel Guide to the Beatitudes. You won't want to miss this trip! All children K-5 are encouraged to attend.



Youth Sunday School

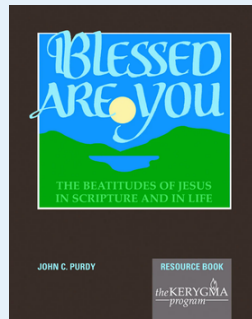
Students in 6th-12th grades will have Sunday School from 10am-10:45am in the Youth Room on Sunday mornings.

The youth will choose what they will study at their Pizza Party Kick-off Event on Sept. 8th.

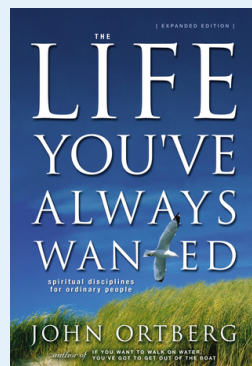
Sunday School for Adults

Rev. Rebecca Luter will be facilitating a study of The Beatitudes for Youth and Adults in the Youth Room from 10am-10:45am on Sunday mornings. These are the questions that will guide our discussions:

- How is Jesus teaching us to live?
- What does he mean, and what is he promising?
- Who lives that way?
- Do we? Do we want to?
- So, what does that look like?



Cooper Patterson will be leading a study of John Ortberg's *The Life You've Always Wanted* in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30am to 10:30am.



Davis Howe

Interim Youth Director

Davis is our new Interim Youth Director. He grew up in Memphis, attending Woodland and Evergreen Presbyterian, where his mother Amy Howe served as an Associate Pastor. As he grew up in the church, he began spending his summers at Pinecrest Camp and Retreat Center, where he led "Huddle," AKA the daily devotionals. In addition, he served as Head Counselor, Co-director, and most recently Rec Director. In 2018, he joined the Young Adult Volunteer program of the PCUSA, and he was sent to New Orleans to serve as an after-school tutor. There, in addition to tutoring, he developed and taught Wednesday Night Bible Study curricula for the youth of Carrollton Avenue Church of Christ. After the pandemic cut his volunteer year short, he returned to Memphis, where for the past few years he has been a member of Idlewild and helped with their youth events. He is very excited to become a part of the goings-on at Farmington!



Renee Abel

New Administrative Assistant

Originally from St. Louis, I have lived in Memphis and the Germantown area for many years. My three adult children bring me joy, and my eight grandchildren make life complete! Megan, my oldest, is a high school principal at a Christian school in the Atlanta, GA area. She lives with her husband Clint, and their two children: Emma (15) and Eli (11). My middle son, Kevin, lives in Washington DC, and is a Lt. Colonel in the Army, specializing in Military Intelligence. Kevin and his wife, Marina, have three children: Amelia (7), Armen (4), and their infant son William. My youngest daughter, Katie, lives in Germantown with her husband, JD, and their children: Nora (11), James (9) and Simon (9). Yes they are twins! Katie works with Memphis & Shelby County Juvenile Court as an advocate for abused and neglected children.



When not with my family, I love to decorate, cook, and entertain in my home! I like spending time with friends, and volunteering in the community. I serve on the City of Germantown's Beautification Commission and volunteer at the GPAC. Before working at Farmington Presbyterian, I worked at Germantown United Methodist Church and the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee as a personal assistant for the bishop. I have a rescue dog named Lolly, or "Lollipop" as my grandchildren say. She is a blue heeler mix. I look forward to meeting all of the members of this church.



FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

You can HELP

Farmington Presbyterian is collecting food pantry items for Oakland Presbyterian Church's Food Pantry. Any items would be greatly appreciated.

- Soups and stews
- Grain breakfast
- Canned or dried beans
- Canned fish, meat
- Peanut or other nut butters
- Pasta sauce
- Canned tomatoes
- Shelf-stable milk
- Canned vegetables

Drop-off Items in the Basket at the west doors

FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ FPC

September 4

Dinner (Fellowship Hall) - 6pm

Dedication (Front of church) - 6:45pm

Menu: Lemon Pepper Chicken, rice pilaf & mixed vegetable.

- \$10 Adults
- \$5 Kids (12 & under)
- \$30 Family maximum

RSVP to church@farmingtonpres.org



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

Session Report

Session approved several motions for the 2024-2025 session year. New committee assignments were approved (see listing on back page). Melissa Still was approved to serve as Treasurer. Laurinda Ingram was approved to serve as Clerk of Session. The July 2024 Financial Report was accepted. Session approved changes to update the job description for the Administrative Assistant. The job description for the new position of Interim Youth Director was approved. The wage rate scale was updated to add the Interim Youth Director position. A motion was approved for Rev. Elizabeth Dick to preach on October 6.

Mexico Cistern Ministry

Summer Update from Mission Coordinator, Todd Luke

When the dust settles, and five American mission teams will have come and gone, twenty families will be new cisterns owners. That will bring the 2024 cistern total to thirty-two, and the grand total to 699. All thanks to God who motivates and empowers our partners year after year.

Back in the early 1990's, Maria (Todd's wife) lived with her mom and siblings in a house with a tarpaper roof, dirt floor, no electricity, and no running water. She regularly pushed a wheelbarrow to a pond about 1/3 mile from home to fill two 8-gallon containers. Sixteen gallons of water weigh 133 pounds. Her sisters Pati and Teresa often helped. That old house is gone. Pati and her husband, Felipe, built a home there. It has cinderblock walls, concrete floor, concrete ceiling, and electricity. Most new homes in Xpujil are similar. Despite many improvements, unreliable access to water remains a huge problem.

The government's underground pipeline rarely or never supplies water to our homes. The water tanker trucks do not visit often enough to fill the water receptacles we set out on the roadside. Our hearts sink whenever a tanker rumbles by without stopping. The other day, I saw a man, in Xpujil, pushing a wheelbarrow with two 8-gallon containers. He had just drawn water from the same pond frequented by Maria and her sisters. Twenty minutes later, he was back for more.

This is happening in Xpujil—the county seat. This situation is worse in the outlying villages. In January, the President of Mexico came to Xpujil to inaugurate the new water pipeline that should deliver water to Xpujil from a deep well located over 63 miles away. The visit was 100% Absurd Theatre because the new pipeline is not even close to operational. A little later, a national news outlet reported the results of their investigation into our celebrated new pipeline: 1) Not even half finished; 2) Over 50% of the budgeted funds are missing; and 3) No completion date in sight.

Now in our 23rd year, our little rainwater collection ministry has always believed that the Mexican government would not solve the water problem in our region. We do trust the strength, love, and creativity of American and Mexican Christians willing to work together. Our results are modest: 679 families own a cistern. During the typical six-month dry season, a family can draw from its cistern about 35 gallons of water per day. All our cisterns added together can store and supply over eight million gallons of water annually. A reliable water source improves family health, but we understand that access to the ever-replenishing source of living water is infinitely more valuable.

We thank God for giving us a ministry where our Christian Chol Cistern Building Partners can casually share the Good News as they matter-of-factly explain to prospective cistern owners how this project differs from government projects. We are a partnership of Christ-following Americans and Mexicans moved by gratitude and delight in our salvation to share our Father's love with neighbors. The participation of our American work teams adds sweat, sore muscles, and smiles to embody and emphasize that message.

Thank you again for your steadfast commitment to this outreach. I am amazed how God works through your gracious prayers and outrageous generosity to touch more families through cistern construction. May the Holy Spirit continue to work through us to transform lives in Mexico, the United States, and our own homes. May God use our participation to drive us deeper and deeper into His loving embrace. Perhaps you'll join us in 2025? Great dates are still available.

Muchas gracias.
Todd Luke
224-808-9825

Farmington Presbyterian Church will be going January 12-18! Will you go with us to build the 700th cistern? Each person is responsible for their airfare (currently approx. \$500). We fundraise our in-country expenses (travel from the airport to Xpujil, room and board). The church budget contributes to the cost of building the cisterns. If you are interested in knowing more, or if you have a friend or family member who may want to travel with us, please let Rev. Rebecca know.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES DONATED TO ROOM IN THE INN



Living out our call to be a home for God's family with a heart for God's World

Room in the Inn was overjoyed to receive the school supplies donated by Farmington Presbyterian Church and Day School. Lisa Anderson, Room in the Inn's Director, shared that they had begun to grow concerned about being able to provide what the children would need to be ready for the school year. Farmington Presbyterian was there for them! Once again Farmington demonstrated that we respond to the opportunities God gives us to serve others as we strive to follow Jesus's teaching in Matthew 25. We are blessed to be a blessing!



ADULT MINISTRIES LUNCHEON

September 26
at Noon

The Adult Ministries Group will host a luncheon on Thursday, September 26th at noon. The guest speaker will be **Rev. Lisa Anderson, Executive Director at Room in the Inn-Memphis**. She will share stories about the ministry that has provided many homeless people a sanctuary of hope, warmth and caring.

Please make plans to attend and invite a friend. Chef Scott Hutchins will be catering. The cost is \$13. Please email Sandy Wann at srwannebellsouth.net by Monday, September 23rd to make reservations.

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER

September 13
6pm

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner will return Friday, September 13th at 6pm. Signup on our website by September 10th with your preference for Jim's Place, Mellow Mushroom or Huey's. You will be notified regarding your reservation by 1pm on the 13th. Sign up to enjoy this opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones!



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



4TH ANNUAL FRIENDSGIVING



**LIVE MUSIC
BURGERS & HOTDOGS
BOUNCE HOUSE**

Face Painting

Photo Booth

Hygiene Kit Packaging

**| BENEFITING |
PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**SEPTEMBER
27
5PM - 8PM**



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Paula Patterson
- 3 Camille Hempel
- 3 Kate LaVelle
- 3 Elizabeth Moots
- 5 Hadley Barr
- 5 Brooke Stegeman
- 7 Cydnee Brown
- 10 Melissa Still
- 15 Sharaze Colley
- 18 Rev. Rebecca Luter
- 18 Joanna Andrews
- 20 Tracy Riddle
- 20 Grigg Schneider
- 21 Mary Elizabeth Ward
- 22 Laurinda Ingram
- 25 Paulette Bukauskas
- 27 Blanche Hamilton
- 30 Tom Bryant

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!



Staff Extensions

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor, Ext. 3134
 Davis Howe, Interim Youth Director, Ext. 3130
 Polly Knight, Financial Records Keeper, Ext. 3136
 Renee Abel, 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
 At-large - Paul King
 Congregational Life - Paula Gale
 Christian Education – Liv Palmer
 Clerk – Laurinda Ingram
 Discipleship - Charlie Smithers
 Property and Grounds – Bob Plotner
 School Board – Tom Moots
 Service – Jinney Hart
 Treasurer—Melissa Still
 Worship –Jackie Hall

Content for the October New Vision newsletter is due Tuesday, September 17th.
 Email articles and event information to church@farmingtonpres.org



New Vision | **September 2024**



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