



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 22, 2024**

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

[www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org)

Click "Worship Together"

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy God, may I allow the message of Christ, in all its richness, to live in me and completely fill my life. May we teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. May our singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs be inspired by the Spirit, so that grace sings in our hearts. Whatever I do, whether it is word or action, may I do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Prelude in D-flat Major"

Chopin

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

You shall love the Lord your God and keep God's law.

**The law of the Lord is life-giving, therefore we meditate on it.**

Those who walk in the ways of the Lord experience deep joy.

**The law of the Lord is like a rich stream of living waters, therefore we are drawn to immerse ourselves in it.**

Those who find their nourishment in the law of the Lord bear fruit in due season.

**Teach us your paths, O Lord, and train us in your ways.**

Come, let us worship with thanksgiving and offer God our praise.

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN - NO.385

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

**All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice; him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell. Come ye before him and rejoice.**

Know that the Lord is God indeed; without our aid he did us make; we are his folk; he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise; approach with joy his courts unto; praise, laud, and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good; his mercy is forever sure; his truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.

*(Please be seated.)*

#### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION†

**God, my Creator, you asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard. You asked for my mouth, to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused. You asked for my eyes, to see the pain of poverty. I closed them, for I did not want to see. You asked for my life, that you might work through me. I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved. God, my Redeemer, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you—only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. Remind me that you are not just my Redeemer, but the Redeemer of the world. I rush to judge everyone around me, but ask you to be more patient with my repeated errors. God, my Sustainer, forgive me, cleanse me, renew me, and send me out as a usable instrument, that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.**

*(A time of silent prayer)*

#### KYRIE

**Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### \*GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Iona Creed

We believe that God is present  
in the darkness before dawn;  
**in the waiting and uncertainty**  
**where fear and courage join hands,**  
conflict and caring link arms,  
and the sun rises over barbed wire.

**We believe in a with-us God**  
**who sits down in our midst**  
**to share our humanity.**

We affirm a faith  
that takes us beyond a safe place:  
into action, into vulnerability,  
and onto the streets.

**We commit ourselves to work for change**  
**and put ourselves on the line;**  
**to bear responsibility, take risks,**  
**live powerfully,**  
**and face humiliation;**  
**to stand with those on the edge;**  
**to choose life and be used by the Spirit**  
**for God's new community of hope.**

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Paula Gale

*All children are invited to come to the Chancel steps.  
Afterward, young children may remain or proceed to the nursery.  
Worship bags are available beside the entrance to the Sanctuary.*

**PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 11:1, 18-21, 25-28

Love the Lord your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always. Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth. See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse—the

blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the Lord your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Matthew 7:7-23

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD “On Christ the Solid Rock”

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.**

SERMON

Rev. Rebecca Luter

“Good Gifts and Good Fruit Are God’s Will”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please remember those on our prayer list.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

**RESPOND TO GOD**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "God is Our Refuge and Strength" Allen Pote

\*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of Grace, you have abundantly blessed us that we might be a blessing. May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love. Give us wisdom for the right use of all you have provided, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*HYMN - No. 175 "Seek Ye First"

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find; knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!**

**You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia!**

\*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No. 765

"May the God of Hope Go with Us"

**May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race. Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

\*POSTLUDE “Recessional”

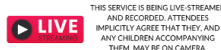
Gordon Young

\*Stand as able.

**Bold Type** – congregation in unison

†Prayer of Confession adapted from The Worship Sourcebook, ©2004, Faith Alive Christian Resources

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### **Participating in the service today:**

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor

Jim Thrash, Director of Music

Tom Bryant, Accompanist

Davis Howe, Interim Youth Director

Shelley Wann, Liturgist

Paula Gale, Children’s Moment

Leslie McNamara and Roland Mittag, Ushers

## Welcome IN THE NAME OF JESUS, THE CHRIST

We hope that you will sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in this place and find here a place that feels like home. We are grateful for the visitors and friends of the Farmington family who add to our community each week.

**Need more information? Want to sign up for something? Looking for the livestream of worship?** Go to our website: [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org)

**Need to give us information? Want to ask a question? Looking for assistance with signing up?** Email us at: [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org)

**How do I join the church?** Members are received by Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation of Faith, and Transfer of Membership from another congregation. If you are interested in joining, please let Rev. Rebecca know or email [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org). We look forward to officially welcoming you into the Farmington Presbyterian Church family!

**Prayer Concerns and Pastoral Care** You are encouraged to complete a Prayer Concern card in the pew rack to add someone to the church’s prayer list. Copies of the complete list are available in the folder under the Prayer Board in the office. You may reach Rev. Rebecca Luter at (901)674-8000 or [rluter@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:rluter@farmingtonpres.org).

# Happenings AT FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN

## This Sunday

**Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God by Jinney Hart in loving memory of Jim Waller, Leslie McNamara's father.

**Fellowship Coffee** Enjoy a time of fellowship after worship today, Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Narthex. Please sign up to host Fellowship Coffee on our website to provide refreshments following worship, [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org) Please keep it simple-something sweet and something salty.

**Youth Fellowship** All youth are invited to come from 6pm-8pm on Sunday evenings for fellowship, games, faith-building, and food.

## This Week

**Presbyterian Women Potluck Salad Dinner** All women are invited to a time of fellowship on Wednesday, September 25, at 5pm at the home of Ann Erickson. Text Rev. Rebecca for the address (901) 674-8000.

**Adult Ministries Luncheon** All are invited on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at noon to enjoy lunch and hear our guest speaker Rev. Lisa Anderson, Executive Director at Room in the Inn-Memphis, as she shares 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. RSVP to Sandy Wann at [srwann@bellsouth.net](mailto:srwann@bellsouth.net) by Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Friendsgiving** Come and invite your friends to join you on Friday, September 27, 5-8pm for an evening of live music from Ted Horrell and the Monday Night Card, facepainting and bounce house for the kids, and hotdogs and hamburgers for all. Donations to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

**Presbyterian Women Meeting** Next Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> is our first meeting of a new study, and this year is all about justice – for our neighbors and for creation! All women are encouraged to come and 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.

## Coming Up

**First Wednesdays @ FPC** Next Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, is Wednesday Night Dinner and Devotion. Dinner will be at 6pm with Devotion in the Sanctuary at 6:45pm. Mark your calendars now for November 6 and December 4. We will also have Thanksgiving Dinner and Worship on Wednesday, November 20. The cost for dinner will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (under 12) with \$30 family maximum.

**MIC** Mothers in Community (a new name for MOPS and a new vision to include all mothers) meets on the first Thursday each month at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Rev. Rebecca will lead a conversation on

“Living Your Best Life.” Come and invite moms you know to gather for fun, support, and fellowship.

**Potluck Sunday** Following worship on October 6<sup>th</sup>, we will enjoy a potluck lunch together in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to the kitchen (with warming instructions, if needed) prior to worship. If you are able to help with setup or cleanup, contact Paula Gale or Paula Patterson.

### **Sunday School Classes**

**Children’s Sunday School** Children meet at 10am in A6. This fall, all children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and under are invited to discover how to live a life full of blessings – even when things get tough – as we study Jesus’s Sermon on the Mount.

**Youth Sunday School** Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) meet in the Youth Room at 10am. What’s in a logo? What do our faith symbols mean? Join us as we discover the Biblical foundation of the Presbyterian cross.

**Blessed Are You** Rev. Rebecca Luter will be facilitating a study of The Beatitudes in the East Room from 10am-11:45am 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?

**Romans Bible Study** This class is facilitated by Cooper Patterson and meets in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am.

**The Life You’ve Always Wanted** by John Ortberg A new study facilitated by Cooper Patterson will begin on October 13<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall at 9:30am. If you have not been in an adult Sunday School class in the past, consider attending!

### **Announcements**

**Food Pantry Collection** Farmington is collecting food pantry items for the Oakland Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. Canned meats, vegetables, pasta sauce, peanut butter, etc. can be dropped off in the basket by the West entrance of the church.

**Fellowship Coffee** Please sign up to host Fellowship Coffee on our website to provide refreshments following worship, [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org) Please keep it simple-something sweet and something salty.

**2024 Flower Calendar** Giving flowers for worship is a way to remember those we love and celebrate significant moments in our lives. You may sign up on our website under “Sign-ups.”

**Bulletin Mailing List** While we were all worshiping online, we sent a bulletin weekly to every household. If you are returning to worship in the Sanctuary and would like to be removed from the weekly mailing or if you are worshiping online and would like to be added to the weekly mailing, please email us at [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org) and let us know.

**Gathered to Worship...Sent to Serve** In response to God’s blessings and to support what God is doing through the Farmington family, you can make your offering through the website, using a checking account, or mail your offering



to Farmington Presbyterian Church, 8245 Farmington Boulevard, Germantown, TN 38139.

**This week at Farmington...** was the Annual Scholastic Bookfair with a new children's Bible, stories of Creation and Christmas, and stories that teach morals and virtues available for families to purchase.

**Remember in Prayer...** Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Ashlyn Bonner Allen, Jackie Baker, Kevin Beard, Betty Boyd, Jeanne Carr, Luke Talley-Carver, Judith Cassidy, Mary Lou Collins, Pat Rush Davis, Joe Gaul, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Robert Herring, Chris and Sabrina Johnson, Bill Jones, Peter Kendall, Bill Knight, Faye McKenzie, Sara Millar, Stan Neighbors, Kathryn Moots Newhouse, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Pat Register, Bill Renfrow, Jack Scherer, JoAnne Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Jon Still, Jerry Trimble, Kathy VanderEcken, Kasi Wann, Frank Whited, and from our Presbytery: 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Rosemark, TN

**Sympathies...** to the family and friends of Nellie Miller, friend of Pat Rush Davis and to the family and friends of Jay Precourt, brother-in-law of John Hazen.

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8245 Farmington Blvd.

Germantown, TN 38139

901-754-2794 [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org)