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Deepening Our Discipleship

BY REV. REBECCA LUTER

I really didn't want to write about the election. Yet, I have had people reach out to me to ask how I am praying in this time, so I decided to share my response with you.

First, it is important to maintain perspective. While it may seem that this election is critically important, every election is critically important. Our leaders make decisions that shape our lived experience, but they do not hold the balance of the future.

When I feel anxious, I focus on creation and the beauty of nature, and I think of other unsettled and contentious times in history. God has not and will not abandon us. I read the prophets and remember that throughout the ages people have strayed far from God, realized the pain of life without God, and returned to God. I read the history of world civilizations and remember that every civilization has eventually fallen, and our nation will at some point cease to be as well. I pray for direction and guidance, wisdom and clarity to live according to God's Will because I trust God, who does hold the balance of the future.

Recently, I was reintroduced to a hymn from the Taize community in France, and I have found these words murmuring in my thoughts like a brook, continuously refocusing my perspective:

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid;
lift up your voices: the Lord is near,
lift up your voices: the Lord is near.**

We have nothing to fear. The God who created us, who sent the Son to redeem us, loves us and is with us still. In the Lord, let us be ever thankful!

Hello, Farmington Families!

November is a time of reflecting on people, places and things we are thankful for. The school's virtue for the month is thankfulness and our manner will be saying, "thank you." The school will host a Friendsgiving lunch for our preschool classes. Each class will have children bring in an item to share at our feast. Prior to our feast the children will walk in our shoebox parade! Each child prior to the day will decorate a shoebox as a parade float. These have been quite the creations and we have some very talented kids... and/or parents!

Thanksgiving and the turkey get a lot of attention, but we also like to give attention to our veterans. We started a new tradition last year at FPDS of inviting veterans of families to enjoy coffee and donuts at drop-off time on Veteran's Day. If you are a veteran and would like to come by for coffee and donuts, we would love to welcome you.

The school will be closed Wednesday-Friday of Thanksgiving week, giving our staff and children time with the ones they are most thankful for. We are thankful for our staff, families, children and all of you! Thank you for the continuous support and may you all enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday.

Many Thanks,

Gretchen & Andrea

Farmington Day School





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Schedule 2024-2025

November 22 Lesson 4. Pot Luck Lunch at 11:00 in the East Room. Meeting to follow

December 11 Bake Sale 10:00-6:00

January 26 Lesson 5. Meet in the East Room at 12:30 PM

February 14 Lesson 6. Valentine treats in the East Room at 2:00 PM

March 23 Lesson 7. Meet in the East Room at 12:30 PM

April 16 Bake Sale 10:00-6:00

April 27 Lesson 8 & 9. Meet in East Room at 12:30 PM

May TBD Possibly a pool party



Farmington Presbyterian women met recently at Jinney Hart's house for a discussion of the Horizon Bible study topic addressing land and food justice. Along with various beverages and appetizers we learned that we were formed from God's hand to serve and preserve God's garden (land). We also discovered that the way food is grown, harvested, and sold is a matter of social justice. Please be mindful of our environment and take care of each other. (Vesta Andrews and Melissa Still are not pictured but attended.)

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee meets on Tuesday nights, either in person or virtually.

After meeting the requirements of the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of the Midsouth our committee was provided with a liaison, Rick Baker, for assistance with any questions that we might have as we proceed in viewing resumes matching our MDP (Ministry Discernment Profile). If you know of anyone that is interested in applying for the position of Associate Pastor for Community Life, our email is apnc@farmingtonpres.org. As we continue with our search, we ask that you pray for our committee as well as our Farmington congregation.

APNC Committee,

Elizabeth Moots (Ch.), Tom Bryant, Mike Colley,
Kay Patterson, Sandy Wann, Rick Baker (COM Liaison)



MIC

Mothers in Community

Bee Happy.

November meetings will held in the fellowship hall **Thursday, Nov 7th and Nov 14th.**

Moms Movie

Please join us **Sunday, Nov 24th** for a group outing to see the matinee showing of *Wicked*.
Time and theater TBA.



Thursday Adult Ministries Luncheons



The Adult Ministries Group met for lunch, Thursday, October 24. Gretchen Burch, FPDS Director, was the speaker. Chef Scott prepared Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato Salad and Hot Apple Crisp for the October luncheon.

**Plan to join us in January, 2025
when we resume our
monthly gatherings.**



INSPIRING
SHOUTS OF
Joy

**Stewardship
Sunday**

November 10, 2024



**A Home for Your Family
with a Heart
for God's World**

Our stewardship theme this year is "Inspiring Shouts of Joy." It comes from Psalm 65:8, "The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; from where the sun rises to where it sets, you inspire shouts of joy."

When I think of the sun rising, I think of new beginnings and hope. What new ministries is God calling us to begin at Farmington? As we prepare for a new Associate Pastor, what gifts and passions will this person bring to our community? How will we share a message of hope with our community and those in need? Your pledge will allow us to plan and prepare for God's hope for Farmington Presbyterian Church and us.

When I think of the sun setting, I think of the cooling of the evening and sometimes the chill and the dark. How is God calling us to care for those going through a time of crisis or sorrow? How will we be present to others as witnesses to God's love and grace? Your pledge will allow us to plan and prepare for sharing God's love and grace.

As Farmington Presbyterian Church lives into God's vision for us, we inspire shouts of joy!
To God be the glory!



TRUNK or TREAT





Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

is part of a large and dedicated community of disaster response organizations.

PDA is in communication with all affected presbyteries and National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster) to share information and coordinate resources as damage is assessed. PDA has deployed a National Response Team to Tampa Bay Presbytery, Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Northeast Georgia Presbytery and Holston Presbytery. We have approved several initial assistance grant requests and are anticipating additional requests from affected presbyteries to help respond to needs in their communities.

Farmington Presbyterian Church responded within days to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's request for flood buckets. Knowing our neighbors in east Tennessee and Western North Carolina had suffered from devastating floods of epic proportion, the team gathered the required supplies and with the help of the congregation packed 50 flood buckets. These buckets along with the 200 hygiene kits will be taken to the PDA campus this week.

Thanks to all who participated in this "shout of joy"!

Saturday, November 16

The Cottage at Germantown United Methodist Church

We will be hosting on the 3rd Saturday each month beginning November 16 at The Cottage at Germantown United Methodist Church. This ministry provides housing for homeless persons. Each time we host, a group of people prepare a meal for the evening: a casserole or meat, side(s), salad, bread, and dessert. The meal should serve 22 adults. A group of 6-8 people host our guests by setting up at 5pm and welcoming the guests at 6pm. We eat together and visit or play games until 9:30pm. At 9pm, 2 overnight shepherds arrive to spend the night, prepare coffee and a to-go breakfast, and do light clean-up after the guests depart at 6am. After we host, 2 laundry angels volunteer to launder the sheets, pillow cases, and blankets after we host our guests. This is a great way for someone who cannot be there in the evenings to still be a part of this ministry. The sign-up is on the website.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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. On October 19th, the youth got a bit



lost, and found again, going through the Mid-south Corn Maze. After making their way through the winding paths, they earned their corn dogs and funnel cakes! In November, we will continue our Sunday school studies and Sunday evening gatherings. Stay tuned for upcoming events!

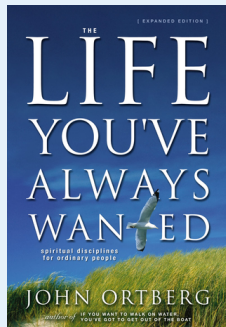
Sunday School for Adults

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



FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ FPC

November 6

Dinner (Fellowship Hall) - 6pm
Devotion (Sanctuary) - 6:45pm

Menu: Roast pork loin with peach bourbon glaze, hashbrown casserole, and green beans.

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

RSVP to church@farmingtonpres.org

ADVENT Candle Lighting



Let Rev. Rebecca know if you would like to light the advent wreath on Sunday during Advent or Christmas Eve

- December 1
- December 8
- December 15
- December 22
- December 24 (5pm, Christmas Eve)
- December 29
- January 5

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 Entrance



POTLUCK SUNDAY

November 3rd *following worship*

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



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 met with Abby McNeer who will be accepted into membership. The September 2024 Financial Report was accepted. A motion from the Worship committee to restore and paint the outside Nativity pieces was approved. Session elected Paula Gale and Tom Moots to serve as Commissioners for the Presbytery meeting on November 16. Session approved the request for transfer of membership for Doug and Rachel Barr to Second Presbyterian Church of Little Rock. Session received the annual pastor feedback report and wishes to thank Stephanie Nagel for preparing this year's report.

Thanksgiving Dinner and Service of Gratitude

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Dinner in Fellowship Hall @ 6pm
Service of Gratitude in the Sanctuary @ 6:45 pm

Dinner is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (under 12)
with \$30 family maximum and will be served buffet-style.
Email churchefarmingtonpres.org to make reservations.



Hangings of the Green November 24

Get in the holiday spirit as we deck the halls, doors,
and Sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas
season. The Nativity will be setup outdoors during
this time. All ages are encouraged to participate!

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED



Mexican Cistern Ministry Mission Trip

January 12-18



XPUJIL UPDATE

Cistern Ministry Friends,

Thank you for all your financial gifts, well wishes, and prayers asking God to continue to bless our little rainwater collection ministry. Without your steadfast support, we cannot continue to share this ministry with more families that thirst.

The 2024 cistern building season is finished. Here are a few details:

- 33 Total Cisterns Built in 2024.
- 700 Total Cisterns Built since 2002.
- Around 8.4 million gallons of water are stored and used by the hundreds of cistern-owner families annually.

Pastor Eleazar from Castilla Brito and his teenage son, Caleb, built cisterns with us in La Guadalupe. A few weeks later in Xpujil; Pastor Eleazar, Caleb, and Pastor Abdiel from Xpujil worked with us. Their presence was positive for the workers, the new cistern-owner families, and our visiting American mission partners. We hope to do this again when the pastors have openings in their busy schedules.

For the first time, three American mission teams flew into the new Tulum International Airport. That reduced the drive time to Xpujil by at least two hours. In 2025, we expect the drive from Tulum International Airport to Xpujil will take about three hours.

Our summer mission teams enjoyed some improvements to our guesthouse. New floor tile, new sinks, new water heaters, more fans, and new entry sidewalks have made the stay a little more comfortable. Our serving-guests work very hard, and deal with varying degrees of culture shock. We want the guesthouse to be a place where they find rest. We hope to have a few more upgrades ready for the 2025 mission teams.

Please pray for all our cistern building partners, but especially Victor and Raul. For over two decades they have sacrificed blood, sweat, time, and tears. More than anyone, they want to nurture a healthy cistern ministry for years to come. We are looking for young local laborers who discern God's call to get involved, discover they do it well, and enjoy the work.

Also pray for Pastor Abdiel, Pastor Eleazar and all the elders and deacons in Calakmul County. The Presbyterian churches have decided to rededicate themselves to their longstanding efforts to create and strengthen Christian communities in villages where the Good News is rarely discussed. Our cistern partnership is already playing a valuable role. In so many locations, our local Presbyterian cistern-building partners draw the respect from hundreds of cistern-owner families who enjoy better health and more freedom. We hope to build upon those relationships that God has already created.

Muchas Gracias.

Todd Luke
224-808-9825



The local crew in Xpujil including Pastors Abdiel and Eleazar



Maria and I with the kids and granddaughters.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Charlene Still
- 1 Cristaldawn Smith
- 6 Deborah Aleman
- 9 Nadine Oest
- 10 Eliza Schneider
- 10 Chris Luter
- 11 Meg Sweet
- 13 Jeremy Paine
- 13 JB Wann
- 17 Nic Luter
- 18 Kirsten King
- 22 Amelia Palmer
- 24 Lauren Thomas
- 24 Darlis Scobey
- 24 Cooper Patterson
- 28 Graham Perkins

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 December New Vision newsletter is due Monday, November 18th.
 Email articles and event information to church@farmingtonpres.org