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Deepening Our Discipleship

BY REV. REBECCA LUTER

Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” In the church year, we observe 4 weeks of Advent, waiting for Christ’s arrival. That arrival for which we wait did not happen only once, some 2,000 years ago, but is happening with us now, and will be fulfilled with Christ’s coming again in glory at the end of the age. As we wait, we prepare. This Advent we will again utilize resources from “A Sanctified Art;” this year’s theme is “Words for the Beginning,” imagining the words Mary might have spoken to her newborn son.

Can you imagine her whispering as she swaddled and rocked him? What do these messages say to us?

December 1: You are a blessing; you are a vessel of hope.

December 8: Do the good that is yours to do; you are an agent of peace.

December 15: Lessons & Carols – Through Scripture and song we reflect with joy on the wondrous mystery of Christ’s birth and our redemption.

December 22: We can’t go alone; you are made for relationships of love.

Christmas Eve: Love knows your name; The God who formed the depths of the ocean and set the stars ablaze is also the God who spun your hair and filled your lungs.

The message of the angels that rang out across the skies that night is global but also personal, “To you...a savior is born.” God is born. Love is come, and love knows your name.

Happy Holidays from the Day School!

December is always a magical and fun time here at FPDS! It's a joy to witness the kids' excitement and anticipation for Santa's visit.

Our first big event of the season is our Christmas Music Program. We will have one program on Thursday, December 12th and another on Friday, December 13th. Both programs are at 10:00 a.m., and you are invited to attend.

This year at the annual Bake Sale (December 11th) we will be having cookies with Santa! Also this month, classrooms will be having class parties and playing games. We will have spirit week - a fun way to have the children and staff show off their best Holiday Wear!

Of course, we can't let the kids have all the fun. The school will host our annual Staff Holiday Party. We will go bowling for a little friendly competition, food and fellowship.

As the year comes to a close it is a good time to reflect on the year, count our blessings, and to set goals for the new year! We want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year, and look forward to seeing you in 2025!

Ms. Gretchen & Ms. Andrea

Farmington Day School





Giving Thanks





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PW Schedule 2024-2025

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

MiC

Mothers in Community

Bee Merry.

Christmas meeting

in the fellowship hall

Thursday, Dec 12th

6 pm - 8 pm

Free childcare provided





FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN'S

Bake Sale

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 11 , 10AM-6PM

Most individually packaged
treats will be \$1.

We will also have full pies
and cakes available for your
Christmas Dinner.



CHRISTMAS *Market*

ARTISAN-MADE GIFTS

We are partnering with The Mustard Seed store to offer artisan-made gifts from around the world. All of the items are sourced from fair-trade vendors.

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 11 , 10AM-6PM

CINNAMON ROLLS

Bake Sale

\$15/PAN



Packaged for gifting and ready on December 13
6-7 rolls per pan - delivered frozen

call/text 901.878.1247 or
amanda@camppinecrest.org

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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 apnccfarmingtonpres.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)



Thursday Adult Ministries Luncheons

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



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



Caroling Caravan

Do you love Christmas carols? Are there Farmington members you have missed seeing because they have limited mobility? Come, spread some Christmas joy on Sunday, December 8th at 2pm-5pm. We will leave from the back parking lot at 2pm. Those who prefer to drive will be in a caravan. We will also be taking the church bus.



Advent Service of Wholeness

Dec. 12 at 6pm

Did you lose someone you love? Lose your way? Is the cheery buzz of Christmas just too much after this year? Come for a quiet, reflective time of worship and prayer. Light a candle to remember. Receive God's blessing. Christ was born for you.



Lessons & Carols

Each year the Chancel Choir leads us in Festive celebration as we remember the story of Christ's coming incarnate among us through word and song. If you know someone without a church home, invite them to join you for worship.

DECEMBER 15

11AM

**FOLLOWED BY A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS
LUNCH IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**



Saturday, December 21

**The Cottage at
Germantown United
Methodist Church**

We host Room in the Inn on the 3rd Saturday each month 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.

**Mexican Cistern Ministry
Mission Trip**

January 12-18

It isn't too late to book your flight and join the team! We currently have 6 planning to go - we'd love for you to come too!



*As we celebrate
the birth of the
Christ Child,
may we honor him
with our gifts.*

**Christmas Cards for
Rise Against Hunger**

Blessing those in need is a wonderful way to give a gift to that person who has everything. Service Committee is offering Christmas cards for \$10 each, or for \$15 each they will take your Christmas card list and sign, address, and mail your cards for you!

FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ FPC

December 4

Dinner (Fellowship Hall) - 6pm

**Carol Sing-A-Long with Jim Thrash
(Sanctuary) - 6:45pm**

Menu: Baked Spaghetti Pie,
salad and garlic bread

- \$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



Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 22nd during worship.

Don't miss this interactive presentation of Jesus' birth led by the children and youth of Farmington Church. Don't worry, there is a part for you as well.

Christmas Eve

**CANDLELIGHT
COMMUNION SERVICE
AT 5PM, DECEMBER 24**



Welcome New Members



Chris and Ashleigh Williams
joined FPC 11/10/24

Abby McNeer
joined FPC 11/17/24



Session Report

Session met with Jim Laycook who will be welcomed into membership. The October 2024 Financial Report was accepted. Session approved changes to update the job description for the Financial Records Keeper. A motion was approved for the purchase of new choir robes. BSA Eagle Scout Projects to improve our outdoor worship space were approved for Joshua Robinson (new pulpit and table) and Brian Jegier (new benches). Session approved BSA Troop 368's request to hold a lock-in on January 10-11, 2025. A letter from Hord Architects was received for discussion at the Stated Session meeting in December. Jinney Hart provided an update on service and PW projects. Paula Gale and Tom Moots presented the Commissioners Report from the Stated Presbytery Meeting on November 16, 2024.

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

November was a great month for the youth! In Sunday School, they finished an eight week series on the symbolism contained within the Presbyterian Seal/Cross. During one Sunday evening, they gathered to go through



countless magazines and cut out pieces for vision boards, a fun way to visualize where they are and where they want to go! Also, the youth came together to attend Lizzie's school production of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, and an afternoon of pickleball kept the group active.

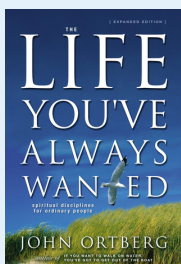
In December the program plans to decorate the youth room on December 1st for Christmas (including homemade ornaments!), as well as having a white elephant gift exchange and a Christmas movie night. Details will be provided during the month.

Sunday School for Adults

Rev. Rebecca Luter will be facilitating an opportunity to reflect on the theme for worship each week through art and Scripture study. All are welcome; no preparation necessary. Meet at 10am in the East Room.



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.



FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Thank you to all who donated to our Thanksgiving Food Drive for Oakland Presbyterian Church's Food Pantry. Your generosity is a blessing to those who are hungry! Once again, you have shown that Farmington Presbyterian has a heart for God's world.



You can HELP

- 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





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jackie Hall
- 3 Natalie Lively
- 3 Julia Lively
- 3 Elizabeth Luter
- 3 Graham Perkins
- 4 Jennifer Kauffman
- 9 Michael Wann
- 10 Wendy McNamara
- 10 MaryShelley Ritchey
- 11 Mike Schneider
- 12 Molly Sweet
- 13 Susie Fister
- 15 Merry Bonner
- 18 Hudson Barr
- 19 Ed Byrne
- 21 Kenny Williams
- 21 Carol Lyons
- 23 Lu Schneider
- 25 Melanie Oest
- 26 Margarita Cabas
- 26 Caroline Churchwell

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 January New Vision newsletter is due Monday, December 16th.
 Email articles and event information to church@farmingtonpres.org