



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

*Rise in body or spirit.

Bold Type-Participate in unison.

Children are welcome in worship, and worship bags are available from an usher.

A nursery is located across from the Sanctuary.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Holy God, we gather as your people, uniting our voices in worship and praise. You formed each person in your image, claiming us as your own. Heal every division caused by not recognizing your image in the other. Reinvigorate us as individuals and as a community to seek to be a living witness of your vision for humanity, where all your children live in peace, honor one another's dignity, and work together for the flourishing of your creation to the end that you, O God, may be glorified and your name be praised. Amen.

WELCOME

Visitors and members are encouraged to fill out the attendance folder located on the center aisle of each pew and pass it to those seated along the pew.

PRELUDE "Intermezzo in E-flat Major"

Brahms

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 67

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

We gather to worship God who is wise and just.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.

For God judges the peoples with equity, and God's justice is supreme.

Let God's way be known everywhere.

God heals our brokenness, transforms us, and makes us whole.

Let all the earth reverberate with songs of joy!

We raise our songs and lift our hearts in worship!

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 341 "O God, Show Mercy To Us"

Please be seated.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, we are grateful that your mercy is wider than our wanderings and deeper than all our sin. Forgive the times we take life for granted and the times we live only to please ourselves. Forgive our callousness toward those who lack what they need and our envy of those who seem to want for nothing. Forgive our desire to hold grudges and retaliate and remind us of our own need for forgiveness. Soften our hearts where they have become hard. Cleanse our hearts where they have been stained. Change us so that we desire what is good, love what you love and live as you command – loving you and loving the other above all else.

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 – NO. 581

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 Confession of 1967

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. Christ's life as man involves the church in common life of people. Christ's service to people commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. Christ's suffering makes the church sensitive to all the sufferings of humankind so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of people in every kind of need. Christ's crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on people's inhumanity toward other people and the awful consequences of its own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of Christ's coming the church sees the promise of God's renewal of life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY

Madi Lewis

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Matthew 15:15-21

Pew Bible 1522

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 45:1-15

Pew Bible 75

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE TO THE WORD – NO. 587 “Alleluia!”

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SERMON “Testing the Heart”

Rev. Rebecca Luter

RESPOND TO GOD

PRAYER CONCERNS – *Please remember those on our prayer list.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “O Come, Let Us Sing”

Walter Pelz

O come, let us sing unto the Lord! O come, let us sing unto the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. O come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord, our maker. (from Psalm 95)

DOXOLOGY – NO. 606

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

Creating, Redeeming, and Sustaining God, you have entrusted us with a variety of gifts and an abundance of blessings. For all that you are and all that you do, we offer our time, talent, and treasure with thanksgiving and praise. Strengthen us to encourage one another, build each other up, and work together faithfully as we wait with hope and anticipation to welcome your kingdom on earth. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

CLOSING HYMN – NO. 800 “Sometimes a Light Surprises”

Verses 1-3

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH HYMN – NO. 753 “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Verse 1

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there’s doubt, true faith in you.

POSTLUDE “Allegretto” (from Concerto No. 1)

G.F. Handel

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FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Barb Johnson, Associate Pastor

Davis Howe, Youth Director

Jim Thrash, Director of Music

Dr. Tom Bryant, Accompanist

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE TODAY

Pat Sherman, Liturgist

Paula Gale and Paula Patterson, Ushers

WELCOME

We seek to be a community that is a home for all of God's family with a heart for God's world. We hope that you will sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in this place and find that you feel at home. We are grateful for the visitors and friends of the Farmington family who add to our community each week.

Need more information? What to sign up for something? Looking for the livestream of worship? Go to our website: www.farmingtonpres.org

Need to give us information? What to ask a question? Looking for assistance with signing up? Email us at: church@farmingtonpres.org

How do I join the church? Members are received by Profession of Faith (for those who have never been a member of a church), Reaffirmation of Faith (for those who have joined a church in the past but not been involved in a while), and Transfer of Membership (for those who are coming from active participation in another church). If you are interested in knowing more about Farmington Presbyterian or about joining, let Rev. Rebecca or Rev. Barb know or email 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 church office. You may reach Rev. Rebecca Luter at (901)674-8000 or rluter@farmingtonpres.org.

Large print hymnals and hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.

HAPPENINGS

Coffee in the Narthex After worship this morning, you are encouraged to enjoy fellowship over coffee and cookies in the Narthex.

Sunday School Class Bob Freymeyer is leading a class at 10am in the East Room discussing *Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt: A Theological Survival Guide for Youth, Parents, and other Confused Presbyterians* by Ted V. Foote, Jr., and P. Alex Thornburg. The class will consider both the theological issues of what being Presbyterian means as well as the role of religion in the South more generally. Bob is a Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Presbyterian College. Much of his research focused on the social and demographic conditions and recent changes in the American South. The book is available on Amazon for \$9.33 or you can purchase it on your Kindle. If you would like for the church to place an order for you, please email church@farmingtonpres.org and let us know.

Confirmation and Youth 2026: This fall, youth (6th grade and older) are gathering on Sunday evenings from 4:30-6pm for dinner, study, and games as we learn together what it means to be Presbyterian and people of faith. All youth ages 6th grade and up are invited to join us tonight Sunday, September 27th for a conversation with Mike Colley and Davis about Communion and what Presbyterians believe about it. Dinner will be provided.

Thursday Morning Prayer Have you wanted to learn how to pray? Wanted to pray for your concerns, the concerns of others, and for the world? Rev. Rebecca will be leading a weekly time of prayer this fall from 8:00-8:30am on Thursday mornings in the East Room. We learn to pray by practicing prayer. Come as often as you can, there is no registration or prior experience required. We will gather each Thursday until Thanksgiving except October 15.

Potluck Sunday Bring a dish to share next Sunday, October 4, as we gather for lunch following worship. Simply leave the dish in the kitchen before worship labeled with any warming/serving instructions. If you are available to assist in set-up or clean-up, please let Elizabeth Demaree or Paula Patterson know. You can also email church@farmingtonpres.org with your availability.

World Communion Sunday Next Sunday, October 4, we will join with Christians around the world in a global, ecumenical observance of the Lord's Supper. We will also receive the PCUSA's World Communion Offering that supports ministries of justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.

Trunk or Treat It is time to make plans for your trunk for this year's Trunk or Treat on October 25 from 4-6pm. If you are going to host a trunk, please sign up on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall or under "Sign-ups" on our website. If you would like to help with the hotdogs or cake walk, please contact Rev. Rebecca at rluter@farmingtonpres.org.

2026 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."

Electronic Giving We are now able to receive gifts through texts and this QR code. It is a simple process to set up an account or to make a one-time gift as a visitor. You will soon receive much more information about our new church app with Church Directory, calendar, signups, and more available on your mobile phone. Text FarmPresGive (not case-sensitive) to 1-888-364-GIVE (4483) in order to receive a reply with the link to your giving interface, or scan this QR code with your phone's camera.



This Week at Farmington Madi Lewis, Jinney Hart, Rev. Barb and Rev. Rebecca attended the Room in the Inn training for the 2026-2027 winter season of hosting our neighbors experiencing homelessness. We are partnering with Shady Grove Presbyterian Church again this year and are scheduled to host the 1st and 3rd Saturday nights from November through March. Mark your calendar now and make plans to be involved in this critical ministry of hospitality. Each time we host, we need dinner for 24 provided (you might want to gather with

friends to provide dinner together), 6-8 volunteers to host and visit with our guests during the evening, 2 volunteers to spend the night and clean up in the morning, and laundry angels to prepare the sheets and blankets for our next evening of hospitality.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Remember in Prayer Our Farmington Family, Session, and Staff; Earleen Anderson, Kathy and Bill Argo, Harrison Ashley, Jackie Baker, Kevin Beard, Bonnie Blair, Judith Cassidy, Jim Collins, Dan Freymeyer, Rev. Mary Gale, Brenda Geise, Adrienne Pakis Gillion, Betzabe Guzman, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Annette Hosier, Jerry Hosier, John Ingram, Peter Kendall, Bill Knight, Kristie Lively, Jim Mable, Annette Main, Steve Milinkovich, Sara Millar, Tommy Nagel, Robbie Pike, Bill Renfrow, Ellen Renfrow, Pat Sherman, Karen Smaili, Emma Dean Van Frank, William Stephens, Jon Still, The People of Nepal impacted by flooding, Joan Wallace, Barbara White, Frank Whited, and from our Presbytery: First Presbyterian Church, Paris, TN.



THIS SERVICE IS BEING LIVE-STREAMED
AND RECORDED. ATTENDEES
IMPLICITLY AGREE THAT THEY, AND
ANY CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING
THEM, MAY BE ON CAMERA.

Worship Online at 11:00 Sunday Mornings
www.farmingtonpres.org, click “Worship with us!”

FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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