

# ADVENT 2018

*waiting on the light*



DECEMBER 2018

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion worship will be at 5pm, Monday, December 24.  
Come celebrate the Light of the World with the Farmington Family.

## THIS ISSUE:

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
Page 02

**DAY SCHOOL**  
Page 03

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
Page 04

**CHRISTMAS EVENTS**  
Page 06

**THANKS FROM XPUJIL**  
Page 07

**SESSION REPORT**  
Page 08

## Deepening Our Discipleship

BY REV. REBECCA LUTER

What does Christmas mean to you? When the streets are lined with decorations on the light poles, I am reminded of my childhood hometown. When we decorate our home for Christmas, I remember our family's story through ornaments given to us by friends and family or purchased when we were married, when our children were born, or on vacation. When I gather with friends and family, I remember how blessed I am to be shaped and supported by these people in my life. When I hear the hope of the prophets and the song of the angels, I remember that the greatest gift is wrapped by my memories, but it is not my memories. The greatest gift, when I open my memories like beautiful wrapping paper folded and set aside to keep, is the gift of love. The message of the baby born in a stable in Bethlehem is that every person is loved. "For God so loved the world, that he sent his only begotten Son... (John 3:16)." God loves you. This is the message of Christmas, under the wrapping, the music, and the decorations. How will you share the message?



## SCHEDULE OF CONFIRMATION EVENTS

TEMPLE ISRAEL  
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP  
MEMPHIS ISLAMIC CENTER  
ROOM IN THE INN

JANUARY 18 @ 5:30PM  
JANUARY 25 @ 4:30PM  
FEBRUARY 1 @ TBA  
FEBRUARY 16 @ 5PM

CONFIRMATION 2019

# BIG GOD BIG QUESTIONS

Every two years, the youth group studies the particulars of the Presbyterian faith. For many, it is a time honored process of Confirmation. At the end, Confirmands answer four questions in front of the congregation.

- Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the way of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?
- Who is your Lord and Savior?
- Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?
- Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

Beginning January 6 we will be preparing for these questions to be answered March 3rd in worship. Throughout this program there will be opportunities to visit other worshipping communities and practices. Feel free to join us on these field trips and explore your own understanding of faith with us.

## ADULT STUDY

### JOB AND THE LIFE OF FAITH: WISDOM FOR TODAY'S WORLD

Sundays 9:45-10:45 am,

Led by Rev. Rebecca Luter in the Fellowship Hall.

"The book of Job cuts straight to the heart of what it means to be human. It is the most profound exploration of the life of faith ever written, and wrestles with some of life's most perplexing questions."

Author Carol M. Bechtel

### GALATIANS & EPHESIANS

Sundays 9:30-10:30 am Led by Rev. Neil Sherman and Sara Miller in the East Room.



## PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY

12/2

**A GOOD RULER**

Jeremiah spoke God's promises to the people.

12/9

**ZECHARIAH**

We can sing of God's love for all!

12/16

**JOHN THE BAPTIST**

John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus

12/23

**MARY VISITS ELIZABETH**

God gave us Jesus as a gift!



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

12/2

**DISCIPLESHIP**

Can someone lose their salvation?

12/9

**DISCIPLESHIP**

Can I be a Christian without going to Church?

12/16

**JESUS**

Was Jesus of Nazareth God?

12/23

**JESUS**

Did Jesus know he was God?

# Save the Date FPDS Online Registration School Year 2019-2020 and Summer Camp 2019

Who:

All currently enrolled FPDS Families who plan to continue in School Year 2019-2020 and/or Summer Camp 2019.

New families need to make an appointment for a tour to be ready to register online for School Year 2019-2020 and/or Summer Camp 2019.

When:

Current Families - Monday, January 14th beginning at 7:00 am

New Families - Monday, January 28th beginning at 7:00 am

Where: [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org) and click "Registration"



**Farmington  
hosted a  
Thanksgiving  
Feast &  
Program!**

## Don't Miss the Christmas Music Program

The Preschool classes will present a Christmas Music Programs December 13 and 14 at 10 am. Teachers will let you know which date your child will perform. Mark your calendars because this is a joyous occasion the whole family will enjoy.





# ADVENT SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE

For many people, the approaching Christmas holiday does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised on television or in greeting cards. This service offers the opportunity to quietly reflect on the gift of the Christ child to a dark and grieving world.

Whether you are dealing with the death of a loved one, struggling with infertility, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or another life-threatening disease, or constant Christmas songs and cheer are difficult for another reason, this service is for you. As we remember the struggles of Mary and Joseph as Jesus was born to them, we also acknowledge our own struggles to God. Those who attend will have opportunity for silent prayer or prayer with our pastor, Rev. Rebecca.

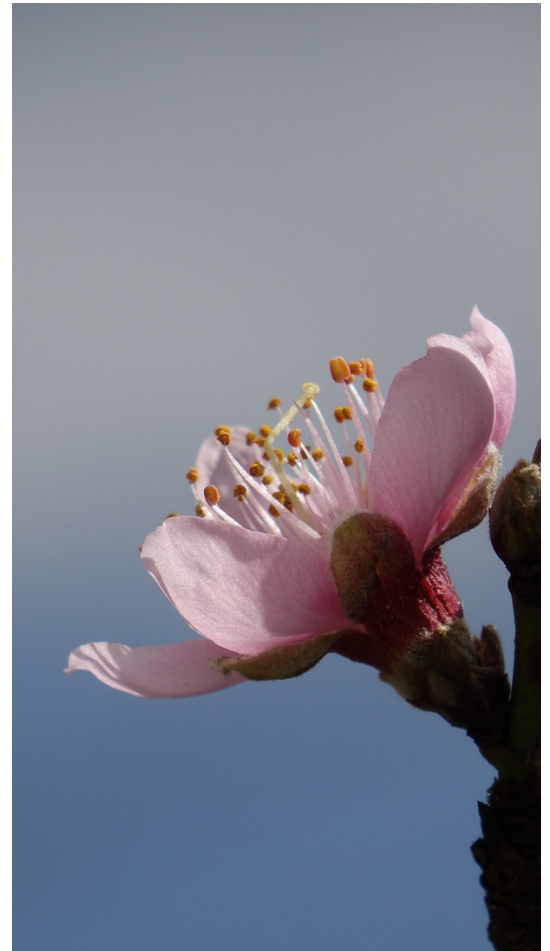
All are welcome to attend, and you are encouraged to invite someone for whom Christmas this year may be difficult and to attend with them to be a quiet, supportive comfort. The service is at 5pm on Tuesday, December 4.

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

RECEIVED DURING LESSONS & CAROLS, DECEMBER 16 AT 5PM.

Each year, the Presbyterian Church (USA) receives a Christmas Joy Offering in each congregation. This offering supports our past and present church workers and prepares the way for future leaders. Church workers past and present can receive financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. From allowing a husband to live with his wife in assisted living to assistance after the hurricanes, these funds make a difference in the daily lives of those who have devoted their lives to the work of the church. This offering also supports our future leaders in the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Supporting these students helps the whole church develop leaders who reflect the wideness of God's intended diversity.

For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus the Christ.







Deck the Halls!

## HANGING OF THE GREENS

9 am, December 1, 2018

Everyone is invited to join in decorating the church for the Advent Season.



Light in the Darkness.

## ADVENT SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HOPE

5 pm on Tuesday, December 4.

An opportunity to quietly reflect on the gift of the Christ child to a dark and grieving world



Share the Joy of Christmas!

## CAROLING CARAVAN

3 pm Sunday, December 9, 2018

Farmington will travel to homes and nursing facilities to share Christmas Carols with those unable to join us for worship.



And a child shall lead them.

## FPDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

10am Thursday and Friday,  
December 13-14, 2018

The children of the Day School have practiced music to share with their families in a special Christmas program.



Christ is Born!

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

6:30 pm Wednesday December 12,

Join us for the annual Christmas Pageant starring children and youth of Farmington.



Worship the new born king!

## LESSONS & CAROLS

5 pm Sunday, December 16, 2018

Join us for the reading of scripture, the singing of carols, and a special Christmas Reception.



# CHRISTMAS EVENTS

## DECEMBER 2 @ 11AM

First Sunday of Advent - The Hope of New Life

## DECEMBER 5 @ 5PM

Advent Service of Remembrance & Hope

## DECEMBER 9 @ 11AM

Second Sunday of Advent - Preparing the Way

## DECEMBER 9 @ 3-5PM

Caroling Caravan

## DECEMBER 13 & 14 @ 9:30AM

Day School Christmas Program

## DECEMBER 16 @ 11PM

Third Sunday of Advent - The Joy of Giving

## DECEMBER 16 @ 5PM

Lessons and Carols followed by Christmas Reception

## DECEMBER 23 @ 11AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Can They Hear Us Singing

## DECEMBER 24 @ 5PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

## DECEMBER 30 @ 11AM

1st Sunday of Christmas - The Sound of Silence

## YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

**December 9**, bring a wrapped gift you made yourself or that cost less than a cup of coffee. We will exchange gifts, and play games at 2pm then join the Caroling Caravan at 3pm.

## CAROLING CARAVAN

The word "carol" actually means "dance" or "a song of praise and joy." There is no better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than going Christmas Caroling! The weather outside may be frightful, but the fellowship will be delightful –and who doesn't want to get to sing "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Joy to the World," "Silent Night" and other favorite carols a few extra times? Even if you "can't sing," join in the joy of bringing the warmth and love of Christmas to members of the Farmington family who are limited in their mobility. We will meet in the Narthex of the church at 3pm, December 9 and be back to the church by 5pm.

## POINSETTIA ORDERS

Placing a poinsettia (s) in the sanctuary for the Advent Season is a lovely way to honor or celebrate the life of loved ones and/or friends. Order forms are available in your bulletin or outside the sanctuary. Turn it into the church office or place it in the offering plate.

Poinsettias may be taken home after Christmas Eve worship at 5pm on December 24th. The poinsettias are \$8.00 each, cash or check made payable to Farmington Presbyterian Church with "poinsettias" noted on the memo line.

## LESSONS & CAROLS

Through the reading of Scripture and the singing of carols, we hear the story of God's faithfulness to all generations and proclaim the joyful birth of the Messiah in the fullness of time. Come and enjoy this time-honored tradition followed by a Christmas reception for all in honor of the Chancel Choir. The Christmas Joy offering will be received during this service.

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to experience the beauty and joy of the Christmas season! The service is at 5pm on Sunday, December 16.

The reception committee is asking for your help in providing a finger food for the occasion. The committee kindly asks that the fingerfood already be plated on clear glass or silver plate and can be placed in the kitchen the day of the event. Help will also be needed in the area of setting the food tables and cleanup afterwards. Sign up sheet on the Woman's bulletin Board.





# GIVING THANKS FROM XPUJIL

In a small village that struggles within a vast forest—far from the nearest bank or supermarket—a group of American women and men shovel sand and gravel into buckets that are whisked away and emptied into a cement mixer. Again and again and again. We offer soft hands, muscles unfamiliar with manual labor, and skin that protests against a blazing Mexican sun. We work with cheer next to the villagers—strangers that guide us with smiles, waving fingers, and other gestures. Words fly in Ch'ol, Spanish, and English; but nobody knows all three.

Passers-by and workers alike may wonder, “What’s happening?”

There is a quenching of families’ thirst for clean water. And more.

This is just a glimpse of our cistern partnership—our fruitful folly.

If you have ever filled a bucket, sent a dollar, or said a prayer to make this happen; then you are part of this amazing and improbable story.

I thank God. He works through you to help American and Mexican families unite to improve health—physical, emotional, and spiritual.

And I also thank you. Without fanfare you share your time, toil, talent, and treasure with our partners.

Please keep us in your prayers. We will do the same.

Muchas gracias por todo.

Many thanks for everything you do.

Todd Luke







## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

The Farmington Presbyterian Women December Bible Study and Meeting will meet on Sunday, December 9 @ 12:15 pm in the East Room. Our study will be Lesson Four: God with Us When We Seek God. The focus of the lesson will be God summons God's people, and especially God's leaders, to walk in God's way and to seek God.

## SESSION REPORT

Session approved the Clerk's Annual Questionnaire, the Confirmation Curriculum "Big God, Big Questions," and new FPDS 2019-2020 rates. Bonnie Blair and Sandy Wann were elected Commissioners to the November 13 Presbytery Meeting at Pinecrest.

## BEST WISHES TO CYNDI BEVINGTON



Cyndi has filled a number of roles in the Farmington Family. Since 2003, she has been with us as a snack coordinator, teacher, hall monitor, and, most recently, our Church Office Administrator.

Her passion for St. Jude Children's Hospital was the driving force behind years of Trike-a-thon events and Ronald McDonald House collections. We wish Cyndi the best both professionally and personally as she moves into her new career at FedEx. While we will miss her, we know she will continue to put passion into all she does in the name of Christ.



## Worship Schedule

Date	Acolytes	Children's Moment
December 2	Jack Ritchey	Charlie Smithers
December 9	Charlotte Motts	Jinney Hart
December 16	Delilah Davis	Sandy Hillard
December 23	Hadley Barr	MaryShelley Ritchey
December 29	Lorelei Phillips	Laurinda Ingram

## Staff Extensions

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor, Ext. 3134  
Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education, Ext. 3130  
Cyndi Bevington, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 3131  
Polly Knight, Financial Records Keeper, Ext. 3136  
Linda Turner, Managing Director of Day School, Ext. 3138  
Gretchen Burch, Program Director of Day School, Ext. 3132  
Anthony Jones, Maintenance Technician

## Session Members

Administration – Kirsten King  
Christian Education – Susan Bryant  
Clerk – Laurinda Ingram  
Congregational Care – MaryShelley Ritchey  
Fellowship – Becky Hutchins  
Property and Grounds – Roland Mittag  
School Board – Charlie Smithers  
Service – Lance Palmer  
Treasurer—Steve Demaree  
Worship – Sandy Wann

If you have content for the January edition of New Vision, please email Doug Barr no later than December 17 at [Doug@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:Doug@farmingtonpres.org)



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