



May 2017

Farmington celebrated the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday Morning with a procession of the cross, shouts of Halleluiah, and glorious worship of our risen Lord.

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Deepening our Discipleship

Rev. Rebecca Luter

The Magic House, a children’s museum in St. Louis, has a sign on the wall that says “The average 4 year-old asks 437 questions per day.” I read that sign as I rested beside the end of the two-story slide for my children, then preschoolers. Wryly, I reflected that they must be above average!

Questions are how we learn. Questions allow us to engage and feel ownership and investment. And as I waded through years of questions from my children, I was made aware of how many things I did not know. I realized quite often that I could not articulate a good reason “Why?” I discovered that I had filled in many blanks with wrong assumptions or taken for granted that things were the way they were without questioning the reasoning behind them.

Over the next several weeks, our sermon series will be focused on answering questions about worship. Why do we worship? How do we worship? What is the history, the theological significance, and the purpose in each part of our service? If you have a question about worship, I encourage you to send it to me—rluter@farmingtonpres.org. Join us for worship at 11am as we learn and worship together.



The Journey of the Cross

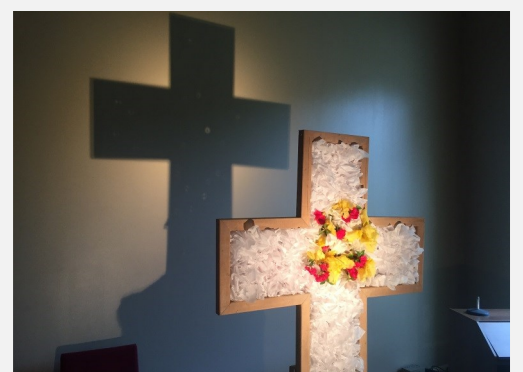
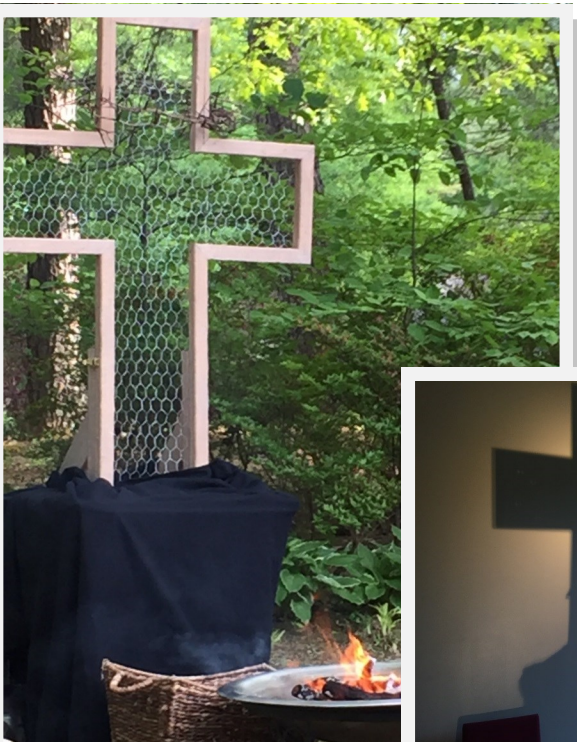
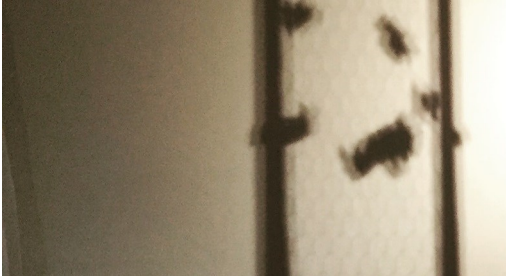
It began in January when the worship committee created a team from the congregation to thoughtfully look at our worship practices in Lent. We were asked to creatively explore how we could enhance our liturgy through visuals rather than call and response. But the team did much more than that. We created an interactive experience where prayer, music, and ritual would commit us to action and movement throughout the season.



Each week during worship, people brought prayers to the cross and filled in the gaps with worries, roadblocks, bad habits, distractions, and more. By the end of Lent, the cross was full.

Maundy Thursday Service began with the weaving of a crown of thorns. In the end, the chancel was stripped of all comfort and decoration. The Cross was also stripped of all prayers. Good Friday was held in the outdoor chapel and the crown of thorns was placed on the empty cross. The Prayer sheets were placed in a fire pit in a reflection of our hopelessness in the absence of God.

Easter morning, flowers were brought to add new life to the cross and at 11am worship the cross was filled once again, this time with white and flowers to represent new life and resurrection.



Day School News

Music Program and Art Show



Happy Spring
Farmington Families,

As I sit here typing this article I can't believe we are heading into our last month of school! It might be the last month of school, but it is one of the Day School's busiest months. The last week

of April we hosted a Trike-A-Thon benefiting St. Jude with donations already totaling over \$6,000 dollars!!! Way to go families.



The first week of May will bring Teacher Appreciation Week and what better way to say Thank You to ALL our amazing teachers than a week celebrating them! We had an awesome parent committee that headed up the celebration details, and we would like to give them a BIG THANK YOU as well. So as we are heading into May and you see a teacher, make sure to say thank you for all their hard work this year.

The 4 year old preschool students entering Kindergarten will be taking field trips to the school they will be attending in the fall for a tour of the school and to see what their future classrooms will look like. What a big step for our preschool students as they take a HUGE leap into the next phase of their education.

The end of the school year will be celebrated by featuring the preschool students performing at their annual Spring Music Program and Art Show. Ms. Anita, our music teacher, and Ms. Cortney, our art teacher, have really worked hard this spring making sure the students are ready to show off their talents. The classrooms will then host a picnic lunch for families to eat with their children after their program. This year's Art Show theme is: The Art of Memphis. This will be a program not to be missed!

Ms. Linda and I have kept busy as the month of May is the finalization of all summer programs and enrollment. As this article goes to press we have 210 kids registered for summer! We have a lot of fun and exciting themes planned and look forward to joining Mr. Doug and the church for a combined Summer Vacation Bible School Week, Super Hero style!

We can't say thank you enough to all our families, students and teachers for making Farmington Presbyterian such a fun and educational place to learn and play! We have had an amazing year and look forward to seeing many of you this summer.

Until next month,

Gretchen Burch



Easter Egg Hunt!



The Farmington Family enjoyed a beautiful morning Easter Saturday as we sang together, listened to the Easter story, hunted eggs, and then enjoyed a feast of treats together.



Farmington Presbyterian Day School collected over \$6000 for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Last year, we were in the top 30 donors to St. Jude and we are on course to do the same, this year! Well done!





All Farmington Women
are cordially invited to the
May Luncheon
Saturday, May 13 at 11:45 am
Farmington Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall

RSVP by May 10 (attending only)
Carolyn Demaree 754-444, demareee@earthlink.net,
or sign up sheet on Women's bulletin board.



Bake Sale

The bake sale was a great success. Thanks to all who either donated bake goods, helped with the bake sale, or gave a cash donation. The funds from the sale will be donated to the camp scholarship fund at Pinecrest. The camp scholarship fund helps a child in need to be able to attend summer camp. Thank you again for kind generosity and support of our bake sale.

Food for Fellowship

Each Sunday, coffee, snacks, and finger foods are set out and the people of God are invited to the table. But it's never about the food, is it? After worship, we gather with our church family and share our joys and sorrows, celebrations and frustrations, in a safe place set apart for Fellowship. It is an important time that follows up our devotion to God with our devotion to each other. Food provides that needed invitation to gather together, meet new people, and hear good news.

In order to keep this going, the food needs to be provided and we know this gets expensive. Many hands make light work, so please consider one of the following options.

- You and a friend could host a Fellowship Coffee (providing all the food for a Sunday)
- You can offer to provide an item for Fellowship Coffee. Fellowship Committee can then team you up with others and more people can participate.

With more people providing the food for fellowship, the burden is lighter and the joy of giving is increased. Please sign up on the clipboard outside Fellowship Hall.

Christian Education

Elementary



Determination is a response of the character of God.

Throughout Scripture, we can discover that God has been faithful to His people. He rescued them from slavery in Egypt. He sent Jesus to rescue us from our sin. He remained faithful to the early church as they spread the message of Jesus throughout the world. When we see how God gave His people what they needed to continue following Him, we can respond with determination believing that God will give us what we need to finish what we start. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us have determination.

When Jesus gave His disciples the incredible mission of spreading the message of the Gospel throughout the world, He didn't make them do it alone. Instead, He sent the Holy Spirit to empower them to show faith and determination in the face of whatever might happen along the way. When we put our faith in Jesus, the Holy

Spirit empowers us to finish what we start.

We think it's important for us to help our kids and families discover more about determination—deciding it's worth it to finish what you started.

Our Memory Verse for May comes from Galatians 6:9.

In Galatians 6:9, we read, "Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up" (NIRV). When Paul wrote this verse to the church at Philippi, he encouraged the followers of Jesus to show determination and keep doing good. We may not see results right away, but in time, God will help us see that finishing what we started was worth all of the effort.

Let's see how determination shows up in the early church and the first followers of Jesus as they worked to accomplish the mission He had for them.



Farmington Youth Fellowship (FYF)

Bring your pillow and sleeping bag, but it's not like you will need it. Join us May 5 for the up-all-night youth lock-in. Movies, games, and an evening outing to Golf & Games Family Park on Summer avenue for Putt-putt, bumper boats, and more. Youth in Junior and Senior High are welcome to attend. Bring a \$20 activity fee and snacks or drinks to share. We will gather in the Youth Room at 7pm and dismiss at 7am, Saturday morning.

All Youth Lock-In May 5



EASTER IS A BEAUTIFUL REMINDER THAT WE HAVE SUCH A GOOD, GOOD FATHER.

And, this month, we want to continue teaching our preschoolers more about the Father who sent His only Son to be our friend forever.

We are loving the “Come to the Castle” theme, not because we love castles but because we want to help preschoolers know the King that lives in the castle – our good, good Father!

As we travel through the stories of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego – Hagar, Gideon and Daniel – your

preschoolers will learn that God is always with me, hears me and gives me what I need, teaches me the way to go, and protects me.

God truly is a good, good Father. And we want our preschoolers to know it! So get ready for an amazing trip to the castle as we help preschoolers get to know the God who made them and loves them—our good, good Father.



Vacation Bible School

June 12–16 from 9am–12pm.



In a world, where superhero movies are all the rage. Where it seems that someone stronger must always appear to take on the bad guy and save us from certain doom. We invite you to join us for HERO CENTRAL Vacation Bible School! Discover your strength in God through Crafts, Games, Science, Snacks, Music, Mission, and amazing Bible Adventures in a week long, campus wide explosion of fun and learning. This year, the entire FPDS Summer camp will attend and it promises to be the biggest VBS we have done in years. 200 students of all ages will march the halls of Farmington discovering their heart, courage, wisdom, hope, and power in Christ Jesus. If you would like to help out, contact Doug Barr. For students outside of the Day School, Registration forms are available in the office or outside the sanctuary.

Station Leader training will be May 17 at 6pm in the Youth Room.

Presbytery News

Pentecost Gathering at Rhodes College



A Pentecost Gathering

of the Presbytery of the Mid-South

June 4, 4pm—7pm

Registration is due May 22nd to the Presbytery Office.

(Check In begins at 3:30pm. Nursery Provided.)



This summer, we'll talk about how people (now and in Bible times!) learn so much getting from here to there. We'll notice really cool things about each other, ourselves, and creation, and start making our own paths in God's world. Let's start walking. Have a look at what Pinecrest has to offer here, and pick up a brochure to fill out a registration form.

Feeling called to join our summer team?
www.camppinecrest.org to apply or
901.878.1247 for questions.

Worship

4pm— We will gather in one Spirit from the many congregations around the presbytery at Rhodes College. Voices from all over will be incorporated into our liturgy and choir.

Stop Hunger Now

5pm— We will bag 10,000 nutritious meals for those in need. All ages are encouraged to participate and each church can support this ministry by donating \$100 to the cause.

Dinner

6pm— The event will close as the church gathers to give thanks and break bread together in the Bryan Campus Life Center.

Adults \$10

Children \$6

LEADERS IN TRAINING

Campers tell us they can't wait to come back as counselors. Here's a camp to equip you with the practical and people skills necessary to answer your call to volunteer at Pinecrest and pass on your great experiences as a camper.

PURPOSE IN THE PINES

Teenagers want to hang out at camp, BUT they also need to check off some service hours before next school year. Bring your hammock and your swimsuit. We'll have time for that. We'll also do some work to get our camp ready for the kids! Do good. Start summer with a purpose. Hang out. What more could you ask?

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP

NEW for 2017 – Our 'graduating' middle schoolers begged for a High School Camp. They couldn't imagine summer without climbing trees, singing karaoke, and Oscar (camp awards) Night. We listened. Sign up early. Space is limited.



Summer 2017 Camp Programs

DISCOVERY CAMP

Discovery Campers do 'campy' stuff: swim, arts and crafts, archery, biking, hiking, karaoke, night games AND they go home more independent, more gregarious, more fit, more comfortable with the outdoors just MORE. Our counselors ensure that campers make good friends, stay safe, learn who they are in God's world, and have the best time.

MINI-CAMP

Mini-Campers are excited to have a few nights of fun and adventure away from home. Sleeping in cabins with friends and highly trained, adoring counselors who ensure their safety makes for a great first camp experience! An experience so great that they can't wait to return!

DANGEROUS CAMP FOR GIRLS

Journey into some dangerous unknowns for a week at Pinecrest! We'll get into whatever risky endeavors the outdoors may bring Fort building, or maybe a tree-house. Gaze into a puddle and watch as a tadpole becomes a frog. Discover where the Wolf River begins. Start a fire, grab a stick, and cook something. You'll return home with all kinds of stories that will last a lifetime.

DANGEROUS CAMP FOR BOYS

Dangerous Camp was new and COOL last year. Each boy went home with a chair he made all by himself! We'll get into some dangerous unknowns (but not too dangerous) and learn a

bit about the outdoors. There'll be enough stuff here to tell some really great stories when you get home

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

This camp has sold out the last two years! Our middle schoolers like the extra freedom they get to plan their week. As a group, they meet to decide what activities they want to do. They might sleep a little late or stay up all night, but come daylight, they're laughing and enjoying being around other great kids. (40 spaces available)

BEACH RETREAT

You know that you grow closer when you road trip, right? We head to the Gulf Shores area and beach together, play together, talk, study, live (in gender specific areas!), shop, bowl, cook, watch movies together. We become life-long friends who know and love God together.

OUTDOOR CHALLENGE CAMP

Pinecrest has been taking campers to East Tennessee and North Carolina for 17 years now. Campers rappel, go spelunking, whitewater rafting on the Nantahala, paddling different crafts on the Hiwassee, swim in the Ocoee, tackle a ropes course, sleep in tents, and generally discover the outdoors. Great camp. Forever memories. (Fills fast!)

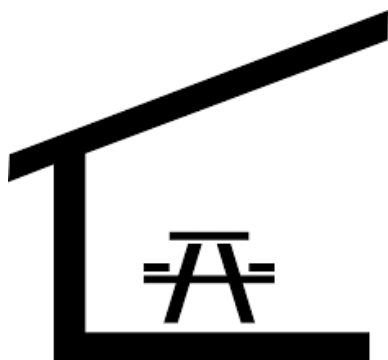


Georgia Harris passes the stole and gavel of the Presbyterian Women of the Mid-South to new Moderator, Kirsten King.

A Unique Gavel

In 1983 the reunion between the northern and southern Presbyterians was celebrated in Atlanta with the new denomination taking the name of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Not only was this the forming of a new denomination but the merging of two organizations of Presbyterian women. At that time Regina Benson, current member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church, was moderator of the Women of the Church group for the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. and was

on the committee to lead the merger with the women of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.. When Regina realized that each group had their own gavel for meetings she proposed that they fuse them together rather than choose one over the other. She asked her husband, Frank, to bore the hole and insert the pin that bonds the two gavels together. Since 1985, Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Mid-South continue to moderate their meetings using the merged gavel, a symbol and commitment to unity.



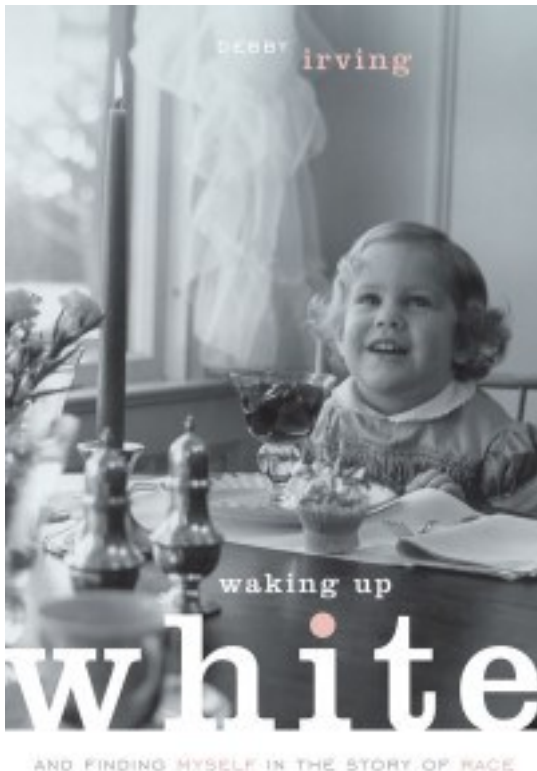
Upcoming Events

End of the School Year Picnic

Enjoy a relaxed evening with the Farmington family at Cameron Brown Park with hamburgers and hotdogs. May 10th, 5:45-7:00, West Pavilion by the lake. RSVP to the church office by Monday, May 8th. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$4 for children, and \$20 maximum for a family.

Waking Up White

Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race has been recommended by the Co-Moderators of the PC(USA) for study by every Presbyterian. The author, Debby Irving, is a racial justice educator and writer. We will have reading assignments and then have discussion on the book led by Rev. Rebecca Luter from 10-10:45 each Sunday morning in Room C1. If you would like Rev. Rebecca to order a copy for you, please let her know at rluter@farmingtonpres.org.



May 3- Farmington Party Play-off (part 2)

May 10- Picnic at Cameron –Brown Park

Sundays at Farmington

Sunday School is at 9:30 am and

Worship is at 11:00 am. Join us!

Children gather in the Sanctuary with music and then proceed to their classroom (A6)

Youth gather in the youth room at 10 am for The Story: Finding yourself in the narrative of the Bible.

Adults choose between Leviticus in the *Interpretation Bible Study* in the East Room and a study of Waking Up White in C1 (the room closest to the West door).

Committee Meetings

Congregational Care
10:00 am Monday, May 8

Service
6:00 pm Monday, May 8

School Board
5:30 pm Thursday, May 11

Property and Grounds
7:30am Friday, May 12
(Meeting at Germantown Kroger
Food Garden on Farmington)

Christian Education
12:30 pm Sunday, May 14

Session
6:00 pm, Monday, May 15

Worship
12:30pm, Sunday, May 21

Administration
6:00pm, Monday, May 22

Session Report

We welcomed into membership Sandy Hilliard (joining on May 14) and Ann Erickson. Gavin Perkins, son of John and Kristan Perkins and great-grandson of the Shermans was baptized on April 23. A search committee for a Director of Music is being established to include: Worship Committee Chair Sandy Wann, Christian Education Committee Chair Laurinda Ingram, Chancel Choir Representative Pat Sherman, Interim Director of Music Tom Bryant, a Congregation Representative named by Worship Committee, Ed Patterson, and Rev. Rebecca Luter.

Acolyte Schedule

May 7	Ethan Simpson
May 14	Natalie Lively
May 21	Lorelei Phillips
May 28	Olivia Mittag
June 4	Cole Ritchey

May Birthdays

10	Duke Lively
11	Gerrie Wilder
11	Billy Wann
12	Jayme White (nursery)
13	John Ingram
13	Jack Williams
14	Camille Young
23	Doug Sweet
24	Jo Anne Simpkins
25	John Bivens
27	Abigail Palmer

If your birthday is not listed, please contact the church office to be added. We would like to celebrate with you.



FARMINGTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
& DAY SCHOOL

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 – Laurinda Ingram
Clerk – Melanie Oest
Congregational Care – Susan Bryant
Fellowship – Mary Shelley Ritchey
Property and Grounds – Jerry Hosier
School Board – Charlie Smithers
Service – Lance Palmer
Worship – Sandy Wann

If you have content for the June edition of New Vision, please email Doug Barr by May 22 at Doug@farmingtonpres.org



Farmington Presbyterian Church and Day School
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