



The Sherman's hosted their annual Christmas open house December 3rd.

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Deepening our Discipleship

Rev. Rebecca Luter

Each time we ring in a New Year, we inevitably reflect on the year that has passed and lament the ways it wasn't what it might have been, and we look with hope toward the coming year. In that moment, we make resolutions— promises to change, commitments to improve. Rarely do we really keep those resolutions. The journey to transformation is too hard for us to make alone.

Why? Transformation requires community. Whether your resolution is to improve an aspect of your physical health, emotional health, relational health, or your spiritual health, you need community to realize your hope.

As disciples, we are always on a journey of transformation, seeking to be more and more like Jesus. Dallas Willard writes that we are “to bring the presence of the kingdom and its King into every corner of human life ” In worship beginning in January, Farmington will be a studying Jesus in the Gospel of Mark. Join us in community as we resolve to be more like Jesus and support one another in our journey.

Day School News



Linda Turner and Kaylin Celosky dance at the Staff Christmas Party, December 16 at Halle Plantation.

Jingle Bells were ringing as the children came into the sanctuary for the Christmas Music program. All the classes marched in singing “*Jingle Bells*” and started their performance with “*Come on Ring Those Bells*”

Our preschool music teacher, Ms. Kristy Fischer of Musik Adventures, presented a program filled with joyful sounds. Each class was showcased with their own special song. One of the favorites was “*Does the Baby Need a Blanket?*” The song reminds us of Jesus as a baby in the manger. Children had mini blue blankets to hold as they sang. Occasionally, a blanket covered the three year old heads which brought smiles to the audience. Four year old classes rocked out with “*Jingle Bell Rock*” and “*Santa Claus Rock.*”

The preschool classes all came together to sing a familiar *Feliz Navidad*. The group sang with great enthusiasm to “*Oh, What a Special Night*” and “*Halleluiah*” Means “Praise the Lord”

There was a grand finale of loud voices singing “*We Wish You a Merry Christmas.*” Parents and grandparents felt the spirit of Christmas and the joy of hearing children singing.



You are invited to CONNEC+

Child

- Enjoys being a kid
- Learns in purposeful play
- Interacts in happy, fun, classrooms

Church

- Encourages a love of God and love of others
- Creates a safe space to learn and explore the stories of God
- Equips parents, teachers, and children with the knowledge that all are God's beloved children.

2018-19 Preschool Register Online!

Current Students: January 16
Incoming Students: January 30

www.farmingtonpres.org

Parent

- Develops relationships with teachers and other parents
- Observes how their child's knowledge expands
- Watches child's self-confidence growing

Teacher

- Loves and nurtures every child
- Identifies each child's strengths
- Communicates with weekly email
- Broadens child's critical thinking skills
- Demonstrates positive reinforcement



Preschool



Prechoolers love showing us what they can do. They are full of WATCH THIS moments. And it can be anything – turning in a circle, running and jumping on a pile of pillows, curtsying like a princess, or my favorite, making their eyebrows go up and down. I love it when they learn how to do that. Their facial expressions are hilarious! Pretty much anything a preschooler can do falls into the WATCH THIS category, simply because they think anything they learn how to do deserves a WATCH THIS moment.

This month we're going to run with that theme and the words 'WATCH THIS!' will be said A LOT! For all of you science experiment fans, you're going to have a blast! Any messes that will be made will be TOTALLY worth it. We want to invite preschoolers to WATCH THIS as we do a few impressive things so we can lead them to the ONE who can do ANYTHING!

The goal for this month is to learn that Jesus is the one to watch, because JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING!



Elementary



Growing in faith is not something that happens by simply cramming information about the Bible into a child's brain. The knowledge in their head means nothing if we don't help kids experience what that knowledge can do in their heart. To experience faith, we want kids to practice their faith and that takes commitment.

God keeps all His promises and puts His plans into action. Because God has kept His promises to us, we can make a plan and stick to it. One of the best plans you can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. Commit to practicing faith by reading God's Word, praying to Him consistently, talking about Him with friends, and living out your faith every day.

EXTRA Ordinary

a PYC retreat

SUPER, COLOSSAL, LIFE-ALTERING, MIND-BOGLING, RADIOACTIVE, 2018 PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION

February 23–25

What meaning does God bring to our lives? Are we simply an organized group of atoms and neurons or is there more we are called to be?

\$110/person.

Youth



Do you ever find it difficult to connect with God? Sure, you read your Bible, pray, go to church, but still somehow you feel distant from God. If we're being honest, I think we'd all say that at times it just seems difficult to actually feel as though God is close or at work in our lives. When that happens, Paul gave us a simple strategy to see and feel God's presence in a different way. He wrote:

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God (Romans 1:20 NLT).

For the 4 weeks of January, we'll be talking about the unique and sometimes unexpected things we can do to truly know God better.



January 20, the youth will be responsible for Room in the Inn. Join us for serving the needs of those experiencing homelessness. We will restore dignity by providing clothing essentials and showers. We will provide fellowship over a meal together. And we will grow in understanding and faith as we carry out the instructions of Jesus to serve the needs of the oppressed and marginalized. 5pm, January 20. Contact Doug Barr if you are able to attend.

College



Lattes with the Lord, Yahweh Chia Way, Coffee with Christ, He-Brews, Theo-ccino! It goes by many names, but the substance is the same. For the last month and a half, college students from Farmington have been gathering at Starbucks every Friday morning to read the Gospel of Mark. Part Bible study, part Social hour, this time together is a chance for students to faithfully exploring life together through the lens of Scripture.

Why does Jesus keep telling people and demons not to say who he is? Why is Jesus so rude to his relatives, and wait... Jesus has brothers and sisters?! What role does Satan have in all of this? These and many more questions are expressed and explored. I am so grateful for the wisdom, faith, and joy these students bring to every meetings. On weeks when I have been absent, they have met regardless to explore the Bible with curiosity, honesty, and faithfulness.

-Doug Barr



College Conference @ Montreat 2018

January 2—5, Madison Lewis, Eddie Morgan, Joanna Andrews, Taylor Clay, and Cydnee Young will travel to Montreat with Doug Barr, Rebecca Hutchins, and Melanie Oest for the Montreat College Conference. Pray for a safe journey and a great Montreat experience.

Upcoming Farmington Events



Dinners return
January 10th !

Quiz Time Game Show Challenge

January 10

We will put what we know to the test in our first Mid-Week Meal of the new year. Join us for a family game of Mythic Trivia, January 10 after dinner.

MID-WEEK MYTHBUSTERS

Have you ever heard, “God helps those who help themselves” or “He who dies with the most toys wins” or “A little white lie won’t hurt you”? These myths, whether we admit it or not, run unchallenged in our brains leading to unnecessary suffering. We want to present an alternative approach to these common misunderstandings for the whole family to experience and adopt into their daily approach to life. Join us as we kick off a new year of Wednesday night dinners with a series on myths and their effect on our faith and practice.

Life App Wrap

January 31

After a month of studying commitment, we will Launch the February Life App in a monthly family production where the children teach the adults.

Boxing of the Greens

January 6, 2018

After all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season, it is time to "Box the Greens". Please join us on January 7th, 9:00 am, as we say farewell to 2017. Coffee, hot chocolate and doughnuts will be available.

Farmington Men will also take down the Outdoor nativity. Property and Grounds may have a short meeting afterward.



First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen

January 7, 2018

For close to 4 decades every Sunday afternoon, First Presbyterian Church opens its doors to the hungry: some are homeless, some are struggling to remain housed. About 100 individuals come hungry and leave fed.

This ministry began as a Soup Kitchen and has grown to include a Clothes Closet, obtaining State IDs and Food Stamp assistance. In addition to serving in the Soup Kitchen twice a year, Farmington supports the ministry financially through our Church Budget.

We are up first! The first Sunday of 2018, we are serving the meal and staffing the Clothes Closet. If you are able to participate, please let Rev. Rebecca know.

Where: First Presbyterian Church, 166 Poplar

When: January 7, 1:45-3:45 pm

Give two hours and make a difference in the lives of 100 people!



The flower chart for 2018 is on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall. Flowers add so much to the beauty of our worship service and are a wonderful way to honor a loved one or friend. The cost is \$60.00. If you have questions please contact Annette Hosier.

Potluck

January 14, 2018

Bring a dish to share January 14 and gather in the Fellowship Hall for a feast after Worship. Potluck Sundays are back!



Presbyterian Women

Sunday, January 28

12:30-2:00 pm, East Room

All women who are interested in fellowship and Bible Study with other women are encouraged to attend.

This month we will be studying Hebrews 3:1-6:11. Our discussion will focus on how our history as a community of faith shapes our future.

Session Report

Session adopted a 2018 Budget.

Gifts of Women Sunday was approved for April 8, 2018 with Dr. Jinney Hart preaching.

Church membership rolls were updated, removing Jim Darnell, Kathy Doelling, Rachel Doelling, Rich Douglas, and Leah Douglas.

Security during worship services was discussed. Options are being explored to ensure the safety of the Farmington Family.

Lynn Rushdi, Amanda Rushdi, and Katie Rushdi were received by Transfer of Letter from Cordova Presbyterian. We welcome them home to the Farmington Family.

Committee Meetings

Christian Education

9:30 am Sunday, Jan. 7

Congregational Care

12:30 pm Sunday, Jan. 7

Service

6:00 pm Monday, Jan. 8

School Board

5:30 pm, Thursday, Jan. 11

Property and Grounds

7am Friday, Jan. 12

Session

6:00 pm, Monday, Jan. 15

Worship

12:30 pm, Sunday, Jan. 21

Administration

5:15 pm, Monday, Jan. 22

January Birthdays

2	Jennifer Young
6	Vanessa Howard
6	Karen Dickinson
7	Eddie Morgan
8	Doug Barr
9	Madison Shirley
10	Ethan Simpson
11	Gabe Statom
13	Bettye Lucas
15	Linda Bourassa
16	Rebecca Hutchins
16	Sandra Hilliard
18	Ed Patterson
20	Frances Ryan
23	Thomas Nagel, Jr.
24	Schneider, Vickie
29	Jon Still
29	Kristie Lively

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

Acolyte Schedule

January 7	Bailey Wann
January 14	Julia Lively
January 21	Jack Ritchey
January 28	Meredith Oest
February 4	Delilah Davis

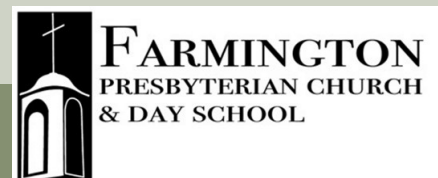
Staff Extensions

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor, Ext. 3134
Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education, Ext. 3130
Gabe Statom, Director of Music, Ext. 3139
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 – Melanie Oest
Congregational Care – Becky Hutchins
Fellowship – Mary Shelley Ritchey
Adult Discipleship—Laurinda Ingram
Property and Grounds – Jerry Hosier
School Board – Charlie Smithers
Service – Lance Palmer
Treasurer—Steve Demaree
Worship – Sandy Wann

If you have content for the February edition of New Vision, please email Doug Barr no later than January 23 at Doug@farmingtonpres.org



Farmington Presbyterian Church and Day School
8245 Farmington Blvd. Germantown, TN 38139
www.Farmingtonpres.org

