



JULY 2020

Even with physical distancing, face masks, and constant cleaning, Farmington Summer Camp is creating a memorable summer for students of all ages.

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Deepening Our Discipleship

BY REV. REBECCA LUTER

As I reflect on my first General Assembly (GA) of the PC(USA) as a Commissioner, it would be easy to be disappointed. I attended in 2016 when our own Kirsten King served as our Presbytery’s Ruling Elder Commissioner. That GA was in Portland. I attended in 2018 as an alternate Teaching Elder Commissioner. That GA was in St. Louis. I attended in 2020 as a Teaching Elder Commissioner for the Presbytery of the Mid-South. That GA was at home.

The theme for the 224th General Assembly of the PC(USA) was “from Lament to Hope” and our Scriptural focus came from Lamentations 5:20-21, “Why do you always forget us? Why do you forsake us so long? Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old.”

I went lamenting. The meetings would be long and tedious on the Zoom App and on PC-BIZ (our way to interact and follow Presbyterian Polity). The first meeting was scheduled for Friday, June 19th. It was to last from 6-9pm. It lasted from 6pm-10:30pm, and we covered the business that was slated for 6-7pm. I was not encouraged. I wanted to be in Baltimore, to worship together, to wander the booths and talk to mission workers from around the world about ways to partner, to eat with old friends and meet new ones, to struggle in committees with hard issues and recommendations that started with an idea of one church member and had risen to the body as a whole to address...but it wouldn’t be. The docket was short with many important items delayed to 2022. We would make 2 statements: one on the pandemic and one on racial relations. We would pass orders of business that were required for the seating of committees until the next General Assembly, approve

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a budget to guide the next two years, and elect the Stated Clerk for another 4 year term (he ran unopposed). Throughout there was a feeling of being rushed, of not being able to discuss fully across Zoom miles, of a lack of conversations happening throughout the Convention Hall and hotels and restaurants surrounding, and of the good work that committees do being absent.

I was filled with hope. We focused on things that really mattered with a unified sense of community. We elected Elona Street-Stewart, the first Native American elected as a Moderator of the PC(USA), and Gregory Bentley as Co-Moderators - a team who

offered a symbol of their vision for their service to the church. The symbol is a Sankofa bird, a bird that flies forward while looking back. Their slogan is "Learning from the past, living in the present."

As we move from lament to hope, we are grateful for experiences that have shaped us and yet we continue to move forward in hope!

Throughout the PC(USA) emphasis is being placed on being a Matthew 25 church, calling on congregations to be actively engaged in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. The work of Christ is always filled with hope!

MIND THE GAP

Exodus & the Space Between

Summer Virtual Worship

Moses led the people out of slavery in Egypt, 40 years later they entered the Promised Land. What lessons did they learn in that 40 years? Worship with us as we study the lessons the Israelites learned in the wilderness and what we might learn from them today.

Worship premieres on YouTube Sunday mornings at 11am. Simply go to YouTube and search for "Farmington Presbyterian" or go to our website www.farmingtonpres.org and click on "Worship with Us". Services are available on YouTube any time after they premiere, so invite your friends to worship with us during the premiere or forward to friends and family whose lives might be enriched by the service.

If you do not have access to the services online, please call Rev. Rebecca at 901-674-8000 so that we can make arrangements for you to be able to worship.

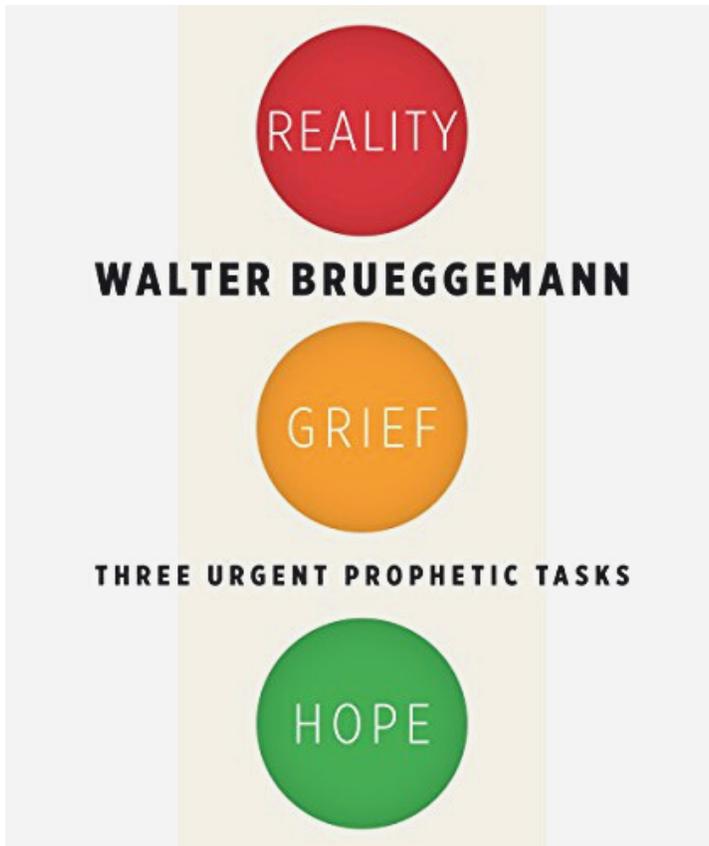
SCHEDULE

July 5 - Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 - New Rules for Community Life

July 12 - Exodus 24:12-25:9 - The God who Pitches a Tent to Be with Us

July 19 - Exodus 18:13-26 - The Structure of the Community

July 26 - Deuteronomy 8:7-18 - How Quickly We Forget



Reality, Grief, Hope

A New Study with Rev. Rebecca Luter

How might the Old Testament prophets guide us in the midst of a pandemic? Join Rev. Rebecca Luter as we study together Walter Brueggemann's *Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks*. Brueggemann wrote the book in the wake of 9/11.

The reality is that our future has challenges and our past has mistakes. This has always been and will always be the case. What lessons do our past mistakes have for us as we face future challenges? How is God calling the church to be agents of hope in the world in response to crises that befall us?

Join us as we explore the thoughts of Walter Brueggemann, one of the most highly regarded Old Testament scholars of our time and the William Marcellus McPheeters Professor emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary, on the fall of Jerusalem in 587 BCE to the Babylonian empire and the catastrophe of 9/11.

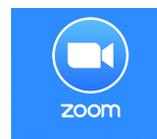
In *Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks*,

"The reality is that our future has challenges and our past has mistakes. This has always been and will always be the case."

Brueggemann shows how the prophetic biblical response to that crisis was truth-telling in the face of ideology, grief in the face of denial, and hope in the face of despair. He argues that the same prophetic responses are urgently required from us now if we are to escape the deathliness of denial and despair and boldly confronts the dominant forces of our time, taking on principalities and powers that vie for our souls, and calls the church to courageous action.

The book is available from Amazon in either paperback or Kindle formats.

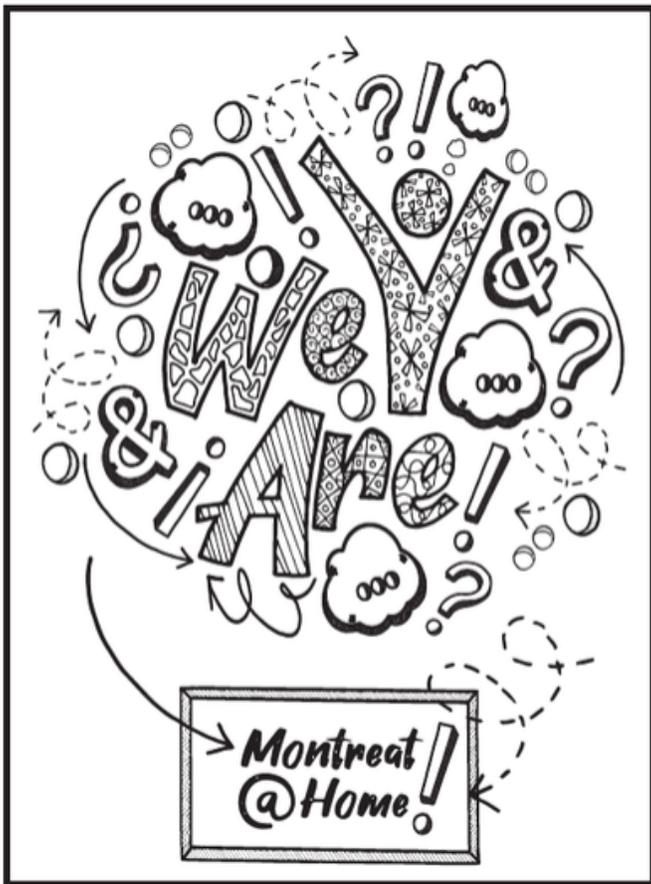
As we study Brueggemann's thoughts on themes from the fall of Jerusalem and 9/11, we will consider the application of the same themes to the current pandemic.



All are invited to join the discussion on Zoom on Monday mornings at 9am.

Meeting ID: 869 8138 8088

Password: Bible



With all the camp cancellations it is nice to have a little of the Montreat experience to take home. Each Sunday through the rest of summer, we will gather at 2pm to experience a little of Montreat together. This will include video bible study, an activity journal, and connecting with the larger church body through social media posts. Activity journals will be emailed to you this week and Montreat @ Home will launch on Sunday at 2pm.

The Theme is We Are...

What are we? Each week we will explore a different aspect of who we are in light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Join us as we hear from Montreat leaders, PCUSA teachers, and engage with artists that make Montreat special.

Contact Doug Barr if you have questions or concerns. Join us for this fun camp experience!



ONLINE MEETUPS!

Each week there are opportunities to touch base with the Farmington Family. If you have not already connected with us, consider logging into one of our Zoom events. Download the app and use the codes below! Direct links are available in the Happenings.

Fellowship Coffee - An informal gathering online to check in with each other at the start of the week.

Sunday's after the service airs at 11am.
Meeting ID: 603 671 0393
Password: coffee

Youth Fellowship - Doug Barr and the youth play games and check-in with each other.

Sundays @ 2pm
Meeting ID: 122 607 840
Password: Farmyo

Bible Study - Join Rev. Rebecca as we look at Walter Brueggemann's book, Reality, Grief, Hope. (more info on pg. ??)

Mondays @ 9am
Meeting ID: 864 2083 7859
Password: 466493

**Thursday Morning Prayer
Rev. Rebecca leads a short morning prayer through the Psalms**

Thursday @ 8am - 8:15
meeting ID: 871-7741-1085
Password: Prayer

FARMINGTON SUMMER CAMP IS IN FULL SWING



FPDS SUMMER CAMPS!

Farmington Day School is doing a wonderful job of creating social fun with physical distance.

Kids are able to enjoy the playgrounds, learn lessons in STEM, and receive meaningful caring attention from staff and peers. Temperatures are checked on entry and a crew cleans the surfaces and grounds around the clock.

Everyone is wearing masks but the smiles can be seen in their eyes.



SUNDAY MORNING SEMINARY



Sunday Morning Seminary Memphis Theological Seminary is offering free courses on Sunday mornings from 9-10am. Register to receive the Zoom link at www.memphisseminary.edu. Past classes are also available to view on YouTube, simply search for Sunday Morning Seminary. The schedule is: Dr. Mitzi Minor on "The Gospel of Mark" June 7, 14, 21, & 28; Dr. Peter Gathje on "Christian Spirituality in a Time of Pandemic" July 5 & 12; Dr. Christopher Davis on "Worship in a Time of Pandemic" July 19 & 26; and Dr. Michael Turner on "Religion and the Civil War" August 2, 9, 16, & 23.



Wednesday Nights TOGETHER

Worship

Fellowship

Dinner pickup



Dinner
Pickup

Outdoor
Worship



HERE'S THE PLAN:

- Bring your lawn chair as we worship together outdoors at 5:15pm
- Park on the East side (near the Youth Room/Boy Scout trailers/swing sets).
- Come a bit early to get set up so that we are all social distancing and wear your mask. In response to current advice of the CDC, we will not be singing. Please talk with children ahead of time about not touching others, keeping our distance, and not hugging.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Scott and Becky Hutchins (Firehutch Fine Foods) are now catering to-go orders for dinner to be picked up on Wednesday evenings at the church at 5:45pm. They are donating 10% back to Farmington. If you would like to order, please contact them at firehutch@gmail.com.

HERE'S THE JOY:

- We will be gathered together.
- We will hear the Word of God.
- We will praise God!

Please note:

If it is raining or if we return to stage 1 of opening, we will not gather. No one will be able to enter the building because the Day School is open with strict occupancy rules and cleaning procedures.

THURSDAY MORNING PRAYER

Begin your Thursday mornings with prayer. No preparation is necessary. No sharing is required. We will read a Psalm, share prayer concerns, and pray together.



zoom

Thursday mornings 8-8:15am,
meeting ID: 871-7741-1085
password: Prayer

You do not have to be a member of Farmington Presbyterian to join.
All are welcome and wanted.





UPDATE FROM OUR PARTNERS IN MEXICO

Since 2013, Farmington Presbyterian has partnered with the Presbytery of the Mid-South in sending teams to the Calakmul region in the Yucatan of Mexico, specifically to the city of Xpujil, to build cisterns in the surrounding villages. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were not able to travel this year. Todd Luke, the coordinator of this ministry, sent the following update:

Dear Friends,

The seasonal six-month dry season ended when rains came early this year—in April. That was good news for our friends who call the Calakmul region home. Crops were planted. Cisterns were filled with rainwater. Bees made honey like crazy. Good stuff.

On May 26, I spoke by phone with Victor Guzman and Raul Vazquez—our Mexican partners from Castilla Brito. We discussed the five mission teams that had to cancel their summer visits, the cistern building stoppage, and the government order to close all churches due to the pandemic. Victor and Raul also shared stories of family worship and the many Dedication/Thanksgiving services occurring in farmers' homes and fields during this planting season.

Since that phone call, the Calakmul region has been in the path of two named tropical storms. Several days back, Tropical Storm Amanda came from the Caribbean. Yesterday, Tropical Storm Cristobal arrived from the Gulf of Mexico. About two feet of rain has already fallen during the last week. There is much more to come.

Thousands of homes and farmers' fields are under water.

Roads are washed out. The people of Calakmul are familiar with natural disasters and scarcity. Floods, droughts, and poverty are well known. Nobody likes it, but the people deal with it through hard work, resilience, and creativity. And for many, these characteristics are built upon their trust in God.

Please pray today for our partners and all families in the Calakmul region.

Thanks.

Todd Luke



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Taylor Evans
- 2 Sherry Knight
- 2 Scott Hutchins
- 4 Annette Main
- 5 Beverly Bivens
- 7 Stephanie Nagel
- 9 Brooke Reed
- 12 Paul Bourassa
- 13 Barbara Taylor
- 14 Catherine Johnson
- 15 Elsie Black
- 16 Vickie Street
- 16 Katie Connor
- 17 Judith Cassidy
- 17 Paul King
- 18 Carol Blooding
- 18 Lauren Saylor
- 21 Polly Knight
- 22 Patti Adams
- 24 Carolyn Demaree
- 24 Susan Bryant
- 25 Jonas Haguewood
- 26 Jenn Paine
- 26 Jim Thrash
- 27 Jane Egan
- 28 Barbara Whited
- 29 Emma VanFrank



WORSHIP ONLINE

Join us, Sunday mornings for worship on YouTube. You can find us through our website, www.Farmingtonpres.org, by [clicking here](#), or by searching "Farmington Presbyterian" on YouTube. Don't forget to subscribe so you never miss our services or video events.



Staff Extensions

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

Session Members

Moderator - Rev. Rebecca Luter
Director of Christian Education - Doug Barr
Administration – Ann Erickson
Christian Education – Susan Bryant
Clerk – Laurinda Ingram
Congregational Care – MaryShelley Ritchey
Fellowship – Becky Hutchins
Property and Grounds – Roland Mittag
School Board – Charlie Smithers
Service – Jinney Hart
Treasurer—Melissa Still
Worship – Sandy Wann

Content for the August New Vision newsletter is due Monday, July 27. Email articles and event information to Shelley Wann at Shelley@farmingtonpres.org



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