



JUNE 2020

While we continue to practice physical distancing, the church continues to serve and love our community and Lord.

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Deepening Our Discipleship

BY REV. REBECCA LUTER

I just finished registering for General Assembly. As many of you know, I am our Presbytery's Teaching Elder (minister) Commissioner to the 224th General Assembly of the PC(USA). I was supposed to fly to Baltimore on June 19th and serve our denomination in prayerful deliberation and decision-making on practical and theological questions facing the church. Instead, I will serve from my desk via Zoom and a website known as PC-Biz.

As I registered, I was asked several short-answer questions. One of them was

“What do you miss most in this time of pandemic?”

I knew my answer immediately,

“I miss my people.”

I hope you will come to the Worship on Wednesday (see information on pg. 7) so that we can all be together!

And yet, as much as I yearn (and I know you do as well) to be back together in worship, we must not rush to return to “church as usual.” Why?

1. Many members of our congregation are vulnerable adults. We do not want them to risk their health to attend worship, and we do not want them to be cut off from worship.
2. There is much about coronavirus and how it is spread that is simply unknown.
3. Jesus commissioned the church to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). We have been fulfilling this commission in boundless ways (literally) as we have taken our worship to the internet. The YouTube analytics show that we have reached more people with the Good News of Jesus Christ since March 22nd than we would reach in years! In the last 90 days, we have reached 620 unique viewers who on average have watched 2.9 services with a total of 1,796 views. The average viewer watches 15

(Continued on page 2...)

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minutes and 58 seconds (the length of a sermon). Those who study church data suggest that attendance figures for online worship be figured at a rate between 1.7-2.4 attendees per unique viewer. It is mind-boggling to realize that we realistically might have reached between 1,054-1,488 individuals, who have worshipped with us an average of

3 times, in less than 3 months. Each online worship service has attendance well over our typical Sunday attendance in the Sanctuary.

Farmington family, we are in the mission field! I encourage you to continue to share our services on social media and with your friends and family. I hope you will join me in praying for God to guide us.

New series beginning next week...

MIND THE GAP

Exodus & the Space Between

Summer Virtual Worship

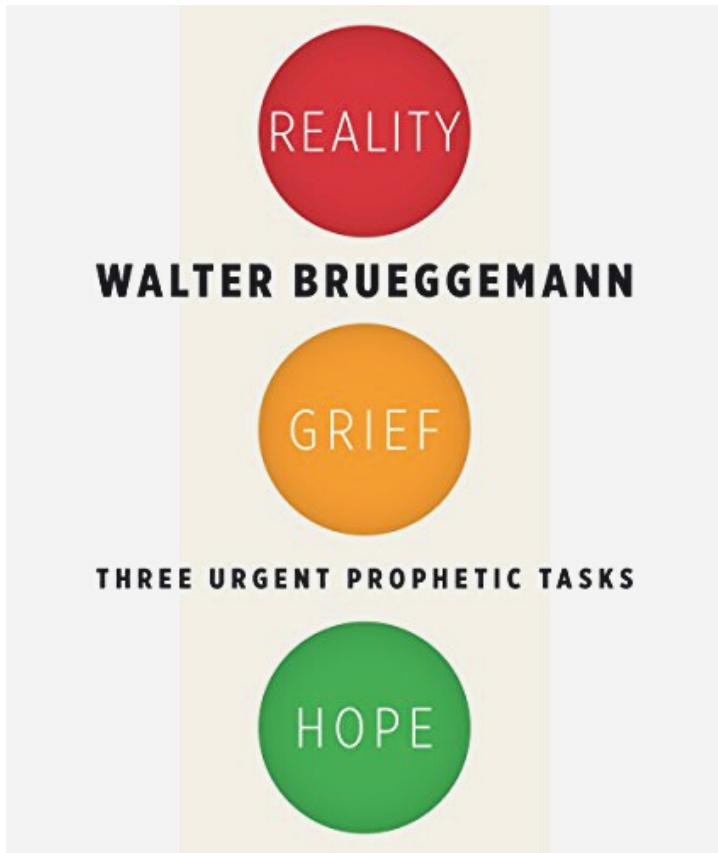
Moses led the people out of slavery in Egypt, 40 years later they entered the Promised Land. What lessons did they learn in that 40 years? Worship with us as we study the lessons the Israelites learned in the wilderness and what we might learn from them today.

Worship premieres on YouTube Sunday mornings at 11am. Simply go to YouTube and search for "Farmington Presbyterian" or go to our website www.farmingtongres.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

- June 7 - Exodus 3:1-15 – God hears and responds**
- June 14 - Exodus 12:1-14 – What is enslaving you?**
- June 21 - Exodus 16:2-15 – Ah, Remember the Fleshpots?**
- June 28 - Exodus 1:8-2:10 and 17:1-7 – Wade in the Water**
- 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.

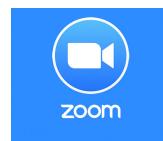
In Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks,

"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 June 1-July 6 at 9am.
Meeting ID: 869 8138 8088
Password: Bible

YOUTH STRING VIDEO



Imagine if Mr. Doug came out of some random room in your house frantically trying to get back home. How would you and your family react? Film a POV (point of view) video with your phone as if you are looking through the eyes of Mr. Doug. Have family members react to him being in your home. Here is how it works.

1. Start filming with your phone/camera against a closed door of your choice. Could be a laundry room, bathroom, front door, mailbox, refrigerator, Shower door, etc. Any door!
2. Open the door and begin moving through your home, filming anything you want Mr. Doug to see.
3. Optionally, have something silly happen to him while he runs through your home. (pet a dog, open a wrong door, ride a bike, etc.)
4. End the video clip by pressing the phone against a closed door. (Mailbox, fridge, cabinet, garage, etc.) Once the camera goes black (because it is pressed against a door), stop filming.
5. Send the video clip to doug@farmingtonpres.org or text to 901-606-6292.

Doug will compile the clips into a fluid video of himself jumping through "portals" into other peoples homes and supply voice over of his reactions. Each clip should be between 15 - 30 seconds. Feel free to film more than one or send more than one take.

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

NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN US FOR VIRTUAL WORSHIP.

While this situation is not ideal, each week Farmington maintains the feel of our worship services by producing meaningful, participatory, virtual worship. Through the week, members send photos based on a theme. The images make their way into the service as we prayerfully reflect on God's presence and call to action.

Sign up to receive our newsletter and communications so you can contribute your gifts to God's work. All are welcome to contribute.



FPDS SUMMER CAMPS ARE OPEN!

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

The CARES Act allows you to deduct up to \$300 of your gift to Farmington even if you do not itemize your deductions. If you do itemize, the limitation on your deduction is lifted for 2020 so that you are able to claim all of your charitable contribution.

We encourage you to talk with your tax advisor even as you continue to give generously to the work and mission of Farmington Presbyterian.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act





Wednesday Nights TOGETHER

Worship

Fellowship

Dinner pickup



Dinner
Pickup



HERE'S THE PLAN:

- Bring your lawn chair as we worship together outdoors.
- 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 5:30pm. 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, 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.



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.

OFFICE HOURS

WITH CHRIS HOLMES
AND BRENNAN BREED

THE BOOK OF JOB: SEEKING GOD IN A CHAOTIC WORLD

A Virtual Bible Study sponsored by Columbia Theological Seminary and First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta

Are you looking for thought-provoking reading this summer? Join us for a new online Bible Study on the book of Job.

Brennan Breed, from Columbia Theological Seminary, and Chris Holmes, from First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, are teaming up with guest professors to offer an in-depth, spontaneous and unrehearsed five-week study of the book of Job.

During the study, we will engage with scholars such as Carol Newsom from Emory University, Choon-Leons Seow from Vanderbilt University, Brent Strawn from Duke University, Safwat Marzouk from Anabaptist Mennonite Seminary, and our own Christine Roy Yoder from Columbia Theological Seminary.

All are welcome to the free, hour-long conversation livestreamed to Facebook every Sunday morning from 9:30AM EST (8:30 AM CST), from this Sunday, May 31st to June 28th at <https://bit.ly/CTsofficehours>.

Participants who want a deeper experience may also register to receive free access to course material, complete with syllabus, downloadable readings, and audio-video links for further study. Register here for additional resources below.

OFFICE HOURS SCHEDULE:

May 31

The Frame Story to Job

Guest Host: Dr. Christine Roy Yoder, J. McDowell Richards Professor of Biblical Interpretation, Columbia Theological Seminary

June 7

Job's Friends

Guest Host: Dr. Carol A. Newsom, Charles Howard Candler Professor Emerita of Old Testament at Candler School of Theology

June 14

Job's Dialogues

Guest Host: Dr. Brent Strawn, Professor of Old Testament at Duke Divinity School

June 21

The Divine Speeches

Guest Host: Dr. Choon-Leong Seow, Distinguished Professor of Hebrew Bible and the Vanderbilt, Buffington, Cupples Chair in Divinity at Vanderbilt University

June 28

Is Job a Theodicy?

Guest Host: Dr. Safwat Marzouk, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4	Kay Patterson
6	Anthony Jones
6	Susan Ossario
8	Tyler Paine
10	Nathan Williams
12	Walker Ward
12	Mary Lou Collins
13	Vesta Andrews
14	Sandy Wann
16	Tony Howard
22	Brandon Wann
23	Bo Bradham
23	Jerry Renfrow
24	Jean Wiseman
27	Rhonda Byrne
30	William Ingram
30	Shelley Wann
30	Simone Bourgeois



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.



Subscribe

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 June New Vision newsletter is due Monday, June 22. Email articles and event information to Shelley Wann at Shelley@farmingtonpres.org



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