



**AUGUST 2020**

Wednesday night worship continues in this season of physical distancing, but we are united in Christ and committed to the fellowship of faith.

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## Deepening Our Discipleship

BY REV. REBECCA LUTER

Dear friends,

I don't know about you, but I am tired. I am tired of setting a date when things will "get back on track," when routine will return, and having to push the date back again and again. "When school starts in August" has for years been the demarcation of new – a new year, new routine, new school supplies, new opportunities, new energy. At our house, we have bought new clothes and shoes and school supplies, but the merchandise seems to only serve as a reminder of pandemic and uncertainty rather than a reassurance of the inevitability of the first day of school.

In the midst of uncertainty in so much of our daily lives, I believe it is important to center ourselves on what is unchangeable. God is unchanging; God's love is steadfast; and God's desire for us to live as disciples is constant. Therefore, God's purposes for the church in the world have not changed, but our methods must shift. Join us each week in worship as we get "Back to Basics" and consider how we continue God's work in the world even in the midst of pandemic because God's work does not wait!

Blessings,  
Rebecca

# A New Sermon Series



Here is the church.  
Here is the steeple.  
Open the Doors...

We all know the following line is uncertain. But I love the way this little rhyme uses our hands to represent the church. It really is not a building but the people that gather, the fingers that function as the church. As we get back to basics in our sermon series, remember it is you who make the steeple, the doors, the walls and roof of the church. Use your hands to preserve, maintain, shelter, nurture, promote, proclaim, and exhibit the church. A special thanks to Christian Barlow for using his gifts and talents to create this logo for the Back to the Basics sermon series.

## Back to the Basics

We begin a new sermon series in August titled "Back to Basics." In 1910 the United Presbyterian Church of North America adopted a mission statement. As this denomination folded into the formation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the statement of mission was included in our Book of Order in the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity. This mission statement sets forth six purposes for the church, known as the Great Ends of the Church:

- Preservation of the truth
- Maintenance of divine worship
- Shelter, nurture, spiritual fellowship of the children of God
- Promotion of social righteousness
- Proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind
- Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

These 6 purposes are the foundation, the basics of who the church is called to be. Each week in worship we will be considering how we have lived into our commission and how we continue our work even in the midst, especially in the midst, of a world that is facing pandemic.

## Schedule

**August 2 - Our Purpose Is Clear**

**August 9 - What Is Truth?**

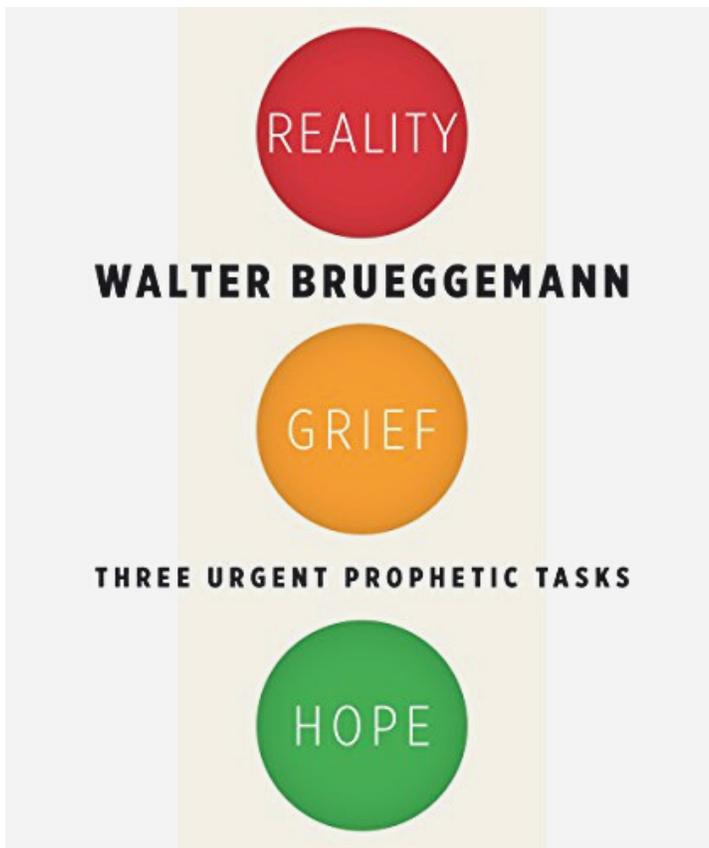
**August 16 - Worship Is Not for Us!**

**August 23 - Safe and Secure under God's Wings**

**August 30 - What Does the Lord Require of You?**

**September 6 - I Just Can't Wait to Tell You!**

**September 13 - Total Transformation**



## Reality, Grief, Hope

*A Continued 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.

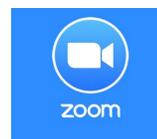
In *Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks*,

*"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

## A YOUTH ZOOM

HIGH  
SCHOOL  
2PM - 3PM

## FELLOWSHIP SPLIT

MIDDLE  
SCHOOL  
3PM - 4PM

As the new school year begins we will be splitting the Youth Zoom Fellowship so that attention can be given to High School and Middle School students separately. High School will continue to meet at 2pm with middle school following at 3pm. Each one hour meetup will consist of time for checking in, a brief study, and online games. If you haven't been with us in the past or if you have taken a break from youth over the summer, this is a great time to reconnect with the fellowship of faith.



## COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

In the beginning of a new school year, we always feel stressed, but this year is especially taxing. More than ever, we need a way to gather with friends and experience fellowship over the Word of God. Madison Lewis and Doug Barr are beginning a new Zoom Bible study for college students and young adults to reconnect with each other and with God as we enter uncharted territory. When we feel adrift or unsettled by the events surrounding us, we can recenter ourselves by opening Scripture.

In fact, if you take your Bible and open to the very center you will likely find yourself in Psalms or Proverbs. The Psalms are like our music that reassures us that we are not alone or that what we feel has been felt before. The Proverbs provide direction and instruction. These books of wisdom will be our starting point as we enter this uncertain season.

The first gathering will be Tuesday, August 4 at 5pm on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 769 5579 3868

Passcode: Psalms



## FPDS SUMMER CAMPS!

Hello Farmington Families. Even though Covid-19 has thrown us many curveballs since March, we here at Farmington Presbyterian Day School are ready to take on the challenges. Summer gave us a great opportunity to practice and implement our plans and practices for the school year. The kids did a wonderful job of wearing their mask, practicing social distancing all while still having summer fun!

We are still opening the preschool year starting Thursday, August 6th. Even though parent's plans have changed we are still looking forward to our families that are returning and eagerly await their arrival. We will offer holiday care to our school age students as their start date has been delayed, but we will continue to provide before and aftercare services once school starts for them on the 17th. The staff will be attending an in-service meeting on Wednesday, August 5th and we are so excited for them to be returning and for the joy they bring to their students.

Please continue to pray for our school, families, staff and children as we enter a year of unknowns and uncertainties.

Gretchen Burch  
Program Director

**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](http://www.memphisseminary.edu). Past classes are also available to view on YouTube, simply search for Sunday Morning Seminary. The schedule is: 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



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

- 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.

### 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.

## 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 [hutchinsathome@gmail.com](mailto:hutchinsathome@gmail.com).

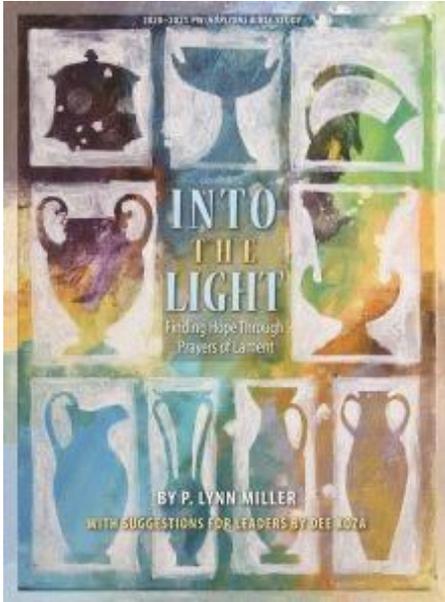
## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER MENU

- 8/5 Grilled pork tenderloin w/ smoked pineapple salsa, roasted potatoes and veggies
- 8/12 Pasta jambalaya and spinach salad
- 8/19 Smoked bacon wrapped meatloaf w/ caramelized onion mashed potatoes and cole slaw
- 8/26 Chicken and dumplings with garden salad. Pizza menu is always available.





# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The Farmington Women's Circle will have their first Horizon's Bible Study Meeting for Into the Light by P. Lynn Miller sometime the end of August. It is unfortunate that we can't have our usual salad luncheon to begin our season; however, Kirsten King has agreed to lead Lesson 1.

The date for the virtual meeting is to be determined. Stay posted for exact time and Zoom log-in information.

The Coordinating Team for 2020-21:

- Moderator.....Jinney Hart
- Secretary/Historian.....Kay Patterson
- Treasurer.....Melissa Still
- Prayer Partners.....Nadine Oest
- Bible Study Leaders.....Kirsten King, Jinney Hart, Ann Erickson, Kay Patterson
- Sunshine.....Ann Erickson & Jinney Hart



## 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 - 4pm  
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

**Young Adult Bible Study - Join Doug and Madison as they explore the Psalms with young adults.**

Tuesday @ 5pm  
Meeting ID: 769 5579 3868  
Passcode: Psalms

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Lynn Rushdi
- 2 Pat Sherman
- 3 Erin Webb
- 7 Daysi Alda
- 10 Harland Lovell
- 10 Leslie McNamara
- 14 Ellen Renfrow
- 17 Courtney Erdman
- 20 Thomas Moots, Jr
- 22 Bonnie Blair
- 23 Nora Haguewood
- 23 Autumn Borrego
- 24 Iris Lawing
- 24 Gwynne Gladden
- 29 Ray Bendall
- 30 Rory Mansour
- 31 Willa Bohannon



## WORSHIP ONLINE

Join us, Sunday mornings for worship on YouTube. You can find us through our website, [www.Farmingtonpres.org](http://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 September New Vision newsletter is due Monday, August 24. Email articles and event information to Shelley Wann at [Shelley@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:Shelley@farmingtonpres.org)



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