



# Please, Won't You Be My Neighbor?

**OCT 2020**

For our new sermon series, we asked Kerry Stockslager of 901Drones to film outside the church. Kerry donated the footage because her children were once students of FPDS .

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## Deepening Our Discipleship

BY REV. REBECCA LUTER

Who was Mr. Rogers? If we look at his resume, we see that he earned his undergrad from Rollins College in Music Composition and his divinity degree from Pittsburg Theological Seminary. He was ordained a Presbyterian minister by Pittsburg Presbytery. He studied at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Child Development.

More important than the education on his resume, Mr. Rogers was a man of faith who used his gifts to benefit others. He said of his life, "I'll never forget the sense of wholeness I felt when I finally realized, after a lot of help from a lot of people, what, in fact, I really wasn't. I was not just a songwriter or a language buff or a student of human development or a telecommunicator, but someone who could use every talent that had ever been given to me in the service of children and their families."

For 31 seasons, 895 episodes, Mr. Rogers welcomed children and their parents into his television neighborhood to explore how we should live together, appreciate one another's differences, work together, express our anger and our sorrow, respond to loss and change, and use our gifts to benefit others. Over the coming weeks, we will reflect on the lessons imbedded in the series as we consider our gifts and abilities to be creators of neighborhood on our street, as the Farmington family, in Germantown and the Greater Memphis area, and in the world.

# Back to School in Full Swing!

The end of August brought a big change to the day school. Ms. Linda Turner retired after 27 years of wonderful service. She is definitely missed, but we were happy we could help her celebrate her retirement. I have stepped into the role of interim director and have really enjoyed getting back to the preschool side of things. We have a lot planned for September and October. We will still be having our annual Scholastic book fair, but this year it will be virtual. We have fall school pictures scheduled and will be talking about fire safety month and inviting the firemen for a visit. The teachers and I are planning a fun fall festival for the preschool children. We will hold this event outside and provide games, crafts, music, story time and extra playground time! I will also be contacting Priddy Farms for our annual 4 year old fieldtrip to the pumpkin patch - a student and teacher favorite!

All the classrooms are in full swing with the children learning, growing and having fun. We have even added a virtual preschool program and have a student attending from Virginia! We have a wonderful team of teachers and staff that have all been flexible with all the changes and regulations due to Covid-19. We are looking forward to a great year of learning and fun.

Gretchen Burch



## F.P.D.S Family Picnic

You and your family are invited to an outdoor family style picnic. Please pack a blanket, chairs and food and join us as we celebrate the start of a new school year!

Thursday, October 1st  
6:00- 7:00 p.m.

Set up your blanket behind the school.



Please park in the front, west side of the building or on the side street (Whispering Pines).

Farmington Presbyterian's Annual

# TRUNK OR TREAT!

**October 25  
3:30pm - 5:30pm**

**SIGN UP to host a trunk or  
SIGN UP FOR A TIME TO VISIT**

**COVID SAFE!  
(see details in the right column)**

**Trunk competition  
Outdoor fun  
costumes  
& Treats for everyone**



## Caring Caravan!

It's time for another caravan!! This time let's make it a Halloween Caravan. We will visit the little ones of the church and present them with bags of goodies!! The youth are encouraged to dress up and join the fun! Participants can dress in Halloween attire if he/she wishes. We will meet at the church parking lot, **Saturday, October 31 at 10:00 AM.** Please contact Jinney Hart at [virginiahart2@comcast.net](mailto:virginiahart2@comcast.net) if you intend to participate.



## Sign ups



HOST A TRUNK



NO TREATS WILL BE HANDED OUT AT TRUNKS. Instead, bring your individually wrapped TREATS to the church by Wednesday, October 21th so they can be prepped to share at the end of the line of trunks. Then, bring your TRUNK on Sunday, October 25 at 3pm and park in your assigned parking spot. ALL TRUNKS SHOULD HAVE A CHILD APPROPRIATE MOVIE THEME! Participants will be invited to guess your theme on a Trunk or Treat game card!



SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT



Sign up for an arrival time to participate in this year's Trunk or Treat. We are taking steps to make this year fun and safe during these difficult times. NO TREATS WILL BE HANDED OUT AT TRUNKS. Instead, you are encouraged to play some no-contact games and receive a treat bag at the end of your walk through the event. We ask that everyone wear a mask and that only 10 families arrive in 15 minute time slots in order to maintain physical distance. Guess each vehicle's theme, search for the painted pumpkins, and follow the path to great fun and fellowship with the Farmington Family.

# Stewardship

The Farmington family is a good neighbor, providing a home for your family with a heart for God's world both to those who live in the Germantown and greater Memphis area and to those who live across our country. It has been in our fingerprints from the beginning.

I can just imagine Mr. Rogers examining his fingerprints as he told his television neighbors about how unique they are. Every person has his or her own fingerprint that is like no one else's. You leave those fingerprints on everything you touch. What will your fingerprints tell about you?

As we make our estimates of giving for 2021, let us pause and consider our fingerprints.

Plans were made to provide a preschool to the community even as the congregation was building the first phase of our building. That preschool has grown into a full-service day care, before and after program, Summer Camp, part-time preschool, and virtual preschool. Our flexibility is intentionally maintained to best meet the needs of our neighborhood. FPDS in the last year has provided care for essential workers, doing our part to ensure the health and safety of our neighborhood even in the midst of the pandemic.

The Farmington family is also a good neighbor to those in need. While the pandemic has placed many of our ministries on hold and is requiring us to think creatively about how to safely be involved, our fingerprints have been seen in continuing financial support to the First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen. Individuals and family/quaranteam groups are being encouraged to provide meals for essential workers and prepare Bags of Blessing to keep in your car and share with those in need. While we will not have an in-person fair trade sale this fall, we are working on an on-line sale to support artisans in developing countries as they

seek to support themselves in small business co-ops. We will continue to leave fingerprints of care and compassion in places of hurt and need.

The Farmington family reaches out in care for one another. With phone calls, cards, and texts; in Zoom fellowship and caring caravans; at Worship on Wednesdays and youth gatherings on Zoom and on the parking lot, the love and care that this congregation shares is evident. We will continue to care for one another because our fingerprint shows that we live together as brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ.

The Farmington family has also reached out in a way that is new during the Covid-19 pandemic. The fingerprint of Christ's commission has always been the defining swirl of our fingerprint. "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age," Jesus commissioned and promised. As we pivoted and began worshiping online, we found the Farmington family fingerprint touching more lives, sharing Jesus' teaching across the United States. In the month of September, our worship services have had 207 unique viewers (and some viewers may not be viewing alone). Surely, Jesus has been with us and used us for good even in this difficult time.

May our fingerprints continue to be evident in our neighborhood as a home for families with a heart for God's world. Consider the fingerprints of Farmington on your life. Your estimate of giving for 2021 is an expression of gratitude and ensures that those fingerprints continue to bless our neighborhood and our world.





# 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

- October 7 - Fettuccine Alfredo with Chicken and Broccoli
- October 14 - Chicken Pot Pie
- October 21 - Traditional Lasagna
- October 28 - Enchilada Casserole

Homemade Pizzas available each week



Even though we cannot meet in person at this time, the Women's Circle of Farmington Presbyterian Church remains active and have concluded their second meeting by ZOOM. Using ZOOM presents a challenge to some, but we are very patient with each other and are thankful we have a way to connect. Kirsten King has been leading our group in a discussion of P. Lynn Miller's Horizon's Bible study book *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*.

Our discussion is thought provoking and relevant to our times. All women of the church are invited to attend. The next meeting will be Sunday, October 25 at 2:00 PM. We will be talking about Lesson 3. This will be another ZOOM meeting, so check the weekly bulletin and your email for login information. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me.

Blessings,  
Jinney Hart, Moderator



## Help Us Serve You

We continue throughout October to consider the life lessons for all of us that were imbedded in Mr. Roger's Neighborhood - lessons of acceptance, of sharing, on emotions, and on relationships. Our services premiere each Sunday at 11am on YouTube and Facebook and are available any time following. You can get to the service by going to our website ([www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org)) and clicking "Worship with us!" on the right side of the homepage.

Since March, we have had limited contact with one another and have been limited in our worship, fellowship and hands-on service work. Each month, Session considers the latest scientific knowledge about COVID-19, the current trends in Shelby County of infections, and the CDC recommendations. We have sought to maintain divine worship and provide for the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the congregation while protecting the health and safety of the children in the school and of the members and visitors in the church.

We seek your input as we move forward in this liminal space that has no definite end. Session has created a survey about worship and fellowship that we would like each of you to fill out. It takes about 2 minutes to complete. You can find it here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BKVBS9V>

You will also receive an email through Survey Monkey this week and a printed copy with your bulletin. We encourage everyone to respond.

Mr. Rogers said that "It's not so much what we have in this life that matters. It's what we do with what we have." The Farmington family is a home for your family with a heart for God's world. May all that we, the Farmington family, do bring glory to God!



## 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**

Sunday's after the service airs at 11am.

Meeting ID: 603 671 0393

Password: coffee

### **Youth Fellowship**

Led by Doug Barr

Sundays @ 2pm - 4pm

Meeting ID: 122 607 840

Password: Farmyo

### **Adult Bible Study**

Led by Rev. Rebecca

Mondays @ 9am

Meeting ID: 869 8138 8088

Password: Bible

### **Tuesday Young Adult Study**

Led by Doug Barr & Madison Lewis

Tuesday @ 6pm

Meeting ID: 769 5579 3868

Passcode: Psalms



## 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.



### October

- 3 Cole Ritchey
- 3 Jack Ritchey
- 3 Jim Collins
- 3 Steve Demaree
- 3 Jerry Hosier
- 4 Gerry Wilder
- 8 Charlie Smithers
- 13 Annette Hosier
- 14 Aiden Barlow
- 18 Gretchen Burch
- 20 Angel Elias
- 23 DJ Davis
- 23 Oakley Bohannon
- 24 Suzanne Thomas
- 29 Carol Lovell
- 31 Myrt Saxon

### 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
- 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 November New Vision newsletter is due Monday, October 19. Email articles and event information to Shelley Wann at [Shelley@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:Shelley@farmingtonpres.org)



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