



JAN 2021

The authenticity of struggle in bringing forth the light spoke anew to our hearts this Christmas Eve. Joy to all the world! Our Savior is born anew into our world and into our lives!

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Deepening Our Discipleship

BY REV. REBECCA LUTER

It would be easy to blame 2020 and look to 2021 with high hopes that things would change overnight. The list of things gone wrong in 2020 is long. When I turned the Bundt cake pan upside down on Christmas Eve and only half of the cake released my first thought was, "Figures." 2020 has been hard, so we have hopes that 2021 will be different.

My hopes? I do hope that COVID-19 will be conquered in 2021. I do hope that we will return to shopping and eating out and travel and that businesses will be able to survive and then thrive. I do hope that violence that stems from frustration and anger will be stemmed. I do hope that division and distrust will be bridged. Yet, we have, in the famous words of Robert Frost, "miles to go before I sleep." And, at the same time, like the new-fallen snow in the wood, there has been beauty in 2020, there has been grace, there are many things for which to be thankful.

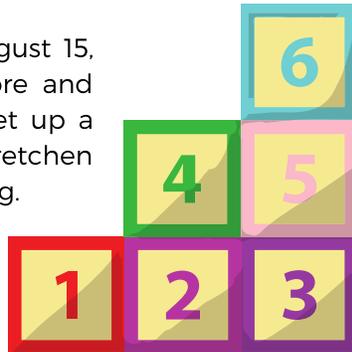
So, I encourage you to pause and observe the beauty of the new year, whether it is a snowy evening or not, and to reflect on 2020. I believe that you will find you, like I, have learned lessons in the midst of the challenges of the year. I have learned the blessing of more time with the people who share my home. I have learned that no matter how much time we have, I am the only one who really likes puzzles. I understand more deeply my love of travel as a way that I am reconnected with God as I delight in the diversity of creation and creatures, people and places. I understand more deeply my desire for knowledge and love of innovation as I reflect on our pivot to online worship and my search for benchmarks and ideas for connection and creating community. Most of all, I will never take for granted again the joy of worship together, the sound of the whole congregation in song reverberating through the Sanctuary, the laughter around the tables in Fellowship Hall, the handshakes and the hugs. What have you learned? I'd love for you to email me and share your list.

We have come to the end of 2020, and we do have miles to go before we sleep: miles of waiting, miles of justice, miles of listening, miles of peacemaking, miles of love. Let us embark together on the journey. Happy New Year!

FPDS REGISTRATION

Applications for Farmington Presbyterian Day School will begin to be received from current families on **January 11th** and from new families on **January 25th**. For more information and to apply, go to our website www.farmingtonpres.org and click the "Apply Now" button.

Preschool students must be 3 by August 15, 2021 to register and we accept Before and Aftercare Students K-8th grade. To set up a tour of FPDS, email our Director, Gretchen Burch, at gretchen@farmingtonpres.org.

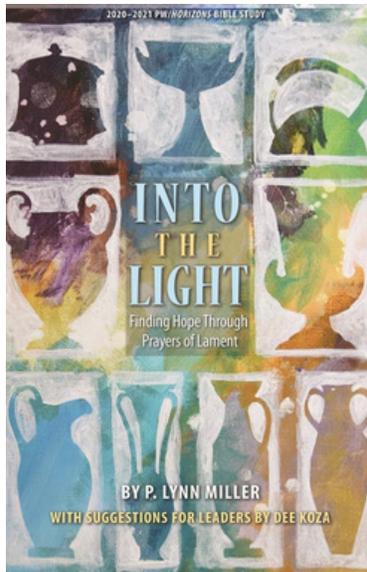


PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Women's Circle of Farmington Presbyterian Church continues to meet monthly by Zoom. We are combining Lesson 5 and 6 of Into the Light Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament when we meet January 24 at 2:00 pm. Zoom information will be posted in the Church bulletin.

We support our community in a variety of ways and have made generous donations to Mission Haven, Johnson Auxiliary, and the Church Health Center. We continue to support each other by being prayer partners and caregivers. Please join us! We would love to be together with you!

Jinney Hart
Farmington Presbyterian Moderator



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

Young Adult Study

Led by Doug Barr & Madison Lewis

Thursday @ 6pm

Meeting ID: 769 5579 3868

Passcode: Psalms

Weekday Worship

Led by Rev. Rebecca Luter & Doug Barr

Wednesday @ 6pm

Meeting ID: 843 7787 5851

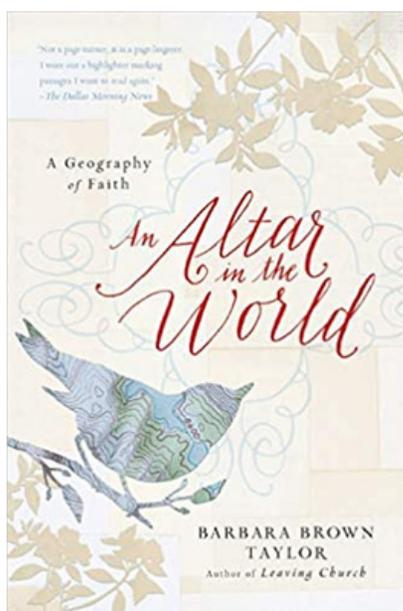
Passcode: Worship

Register at

www.farmingtonpres.org/weekday-worship

monday

In 2021, would you like to learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in? Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* has as its goal to guide us in practices that will help us do just this as we incorporate them into our daily lives.



Barbara Brown Taylor is one of the best known preachers in the United States. In 2014, TIME magazine listed her as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. And then she left full-time ministry to become a professor, a decision that stretched her faith and caused her to look for God far beyond the walls of the church. Join us as we discuss her journey of discovering God in the small things, the simple things we do and see every day, and learn to discover altars everywhere we go, in nearly everything we do.

Monday mornings at 9am beginning January 11th with Chapter 1 "Vision: The Practice of Waking Up to God."

Zoom Meeting ID 869 8138 8088
Passcode: Bible



Session Update

Session approved the following roles for leadership in 2021: Ann Erickson – Administration Committee, Doug Barr – Christian Education Committee, MaryShelley Ritchey – Congregational Care Committee, Becky Hutchins & Suzanne Thomas – Fellowship Committee, Roland Mittag – Property and Grounds Committee, Susan Bryant – School Board, Jinney Hart – Service Committee, Paul King – Worship Committee, Laurinda Ingram – Clerk of Session, and Melissa Still – Treasurer. The annual review of the Membership Roll was received with no persons recommended for removal. The 2021 budget was adopted with discussion regarding the uncertain needs at this time and agreement to review quarterly as we are able to return to in-person gatherings. After discussion of the importance of keeping our commitments and the blessings we have received in the last year, the Session approved payment in full of our 2020 pledge to the Presbytery of the Mid-South. Rates for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 school year for FPDS were approved. A capital funds request for replacement of the exterior doors to the Rhodes-Collins Hallway and to the east hallway were approved, completing the replacement of all exterior doors. Session determined that worship will continue to be online only in January with Sunday worship premiering on YouTube at 11am and Wednesday worship on Zoom at 6pm. Communion will be shared on Epiphany, Wednesday, January 6th at 6pm.

W E D N E S D A Y

Worship

January 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

6pm

Zoom

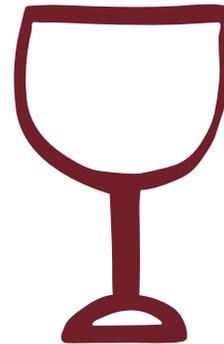
Register at www.farmingtonpres.org.

Lost your link? Simply register again and a new one will be sent to you.

January 6th - Prior to the service, prepare your elements, any kind of bread and juice, for Holy Communion.

What was it about the star that caused the wise men to follow?

"The world in silent stillness lay..." As the world winters, you are encouraged to find solace and hope in our weekly Vespers services. Each service in January will be composed of a time of Praise, a Psalm, Proclamation, and Prayer. We are exploring ways to be interactive in our time together. Each week there is a PowerPoint worship guide that functions as our bulletin. Some weeks there are images for reflection, other times music accompanies our worship, and we incorporate each week some opportunities for sharing beyond responsive reading. "Liturgy" is the "work of the people" and Zoom worship is a new form of worship for all of us. It probably won't always be comfortable. It may be inspirational. It may be challenging. It will be connecting as we gather with one another and with God.



Wednesday Dinners

Scott and Becky Hutchins (Firehutch Fine Foods) 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.

Merry Christmas! We want to thank you for your business in 2020. It has been a tough year for everyone and you have been a light to us in these dark times. We are going to take a break until January 13, 2021. We will send out a menu beforehand as we have done in the past. We hope that you enjoy the holiday season. Stay safe and healthy and we will see you in the new year. Love, The Hutchins

Menu

- Jan. 13th - Chicken & Dumplings
- Jan. 20 - Cheese Manicotte
- Jan. 27 - Meatloaf & Mashed Potatoes

Homemade Pizza is available each week as an alternative.

Worshipping Together

As the incoming Worship Committee chair, I first would like to acknowledge and thank our outgoing chair Sandy Wann for her tireless outstanding leadership and service in this role for the last six years. As a member of her committee, I learned so much, but there is much remaining to be learned from her as I transition into the role. Thank you Sandy!

We have now passed through Advent, the season of waiting, into Christmas, and will soon enter Ordinary time on the church liturgical calendar. But thanks to the worldwide pandemic, there is nothing "ordinary" about anything, and worship planning and practice is no exception. I am still amazed how quickly in March, after the Safer-At-Home directive was given, that Rev. Luter, Doug Barr and our Worship team were able to create faithful and reverent worship services in a virtual form in order to praise God and worship together. Since then, we have been in a different season of waiting. In this one we are waiting until we can safely worship in-person in the sanctuary on Sunday morning, weighing the risks with the rewards. You may wonder why we are not worshipping in-person while other churches are doing so. The reason is not that virtual worship is

easier. It is not! It requires significantly more planning ahead, coordination, production, and review than in-person worship. But, like the secular world, every house of worship has to make the in-person worship decision based on their own situation, state and local guidelines, and interpretation of risks. Rev. Luter and the Session has thus far decided that we simply do not have the space to safely distance the worship team, instrumentalists, a minimal choir and the congregation from one another. We pray we will be back in the sanctuary soon to worship together. In the meantime, we will continue to think creatively about future worship services.

Lastly, as I begin my Worship Committee leadership tenure, I welcome your input. Worship is one of the most important things we do. I also invite you to contact me about participating on the committee with us. Call or text me at 901.633.0360 or email nomonarch@comcast.net.

Blessings,

Paul King





Christmas Eve Outdoor Worship

Christmas Caroling Care-a-van



O Come, All Ye Faithful (fun verse)

Stay home, all ye faithful, prudent and protected, Stay home now, stay home now, and wash your hands. Six feet between you, wear your mask with everyone. Stay home and wait for vaccine. Stay home and worship online. At home, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Love to the World





Sunday 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.

And don't forget to like, share, and hit that subscribe button!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jennifer Young
- 6 Vanessa Howard
- 7 Eddie Morgan
- 8 Doug Barr
- 13 Bettye Lucas
- 15 Linda Bourassa
- 16 Rebecca Hutchins
- 16 Sandra Hilliard
- 23 Thomas Nagel, Jr.
- 29 Jon Still
- 29 Kristie Lively

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
- Administration – Ann Erickson
- Christian Education – Doug Barr
- Clerk – Laurinda Ingram
- Congregational Care – MaryShelley Ritchey
- Fellowship – Becky Hutchins & Suzanne Thomas
- Property and Grounds – Roland Mittag
- School Board – Susan Bryant
- Service – Jinney Hart
- Treasurer—Melissa Still
- Worship – Paul King



Content for the January New Vision newsletter is due Monday, January 18. Email articles and event information to Shelley Wann at Shelley@farmingtonpres.org



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