



FEB 2021

Farmington's virtual services have reached over 100 subscribers and now has a personal IP address at www.YouTube.com/c/farmingtonpresbyterian.

THIS ISSUE:

FPDS

Page 02

PRESBYTERIAN

WOMEN

Page 03

MONDAY BIBLE

STUDY

Page 04

SESSION REPORT

Page 04

TAPESTRY

Page 05

WEDNESDAY

WORSHIP

Page 07

LENT TESTIMONY

Page 07

BIRTHDAYS

Page 08

Deepening Our Discipleship

BY REV. REBECCA LUTER

I have been thinking a lot lately about how I will observe Valentine's Day throughout February. I have seen parents who put hearts on their children's doors each night of February leading up to the 14th noting something about the child that they love. I have thought of sending cards to the children of the church to let them know that the Farmington family loves them (see "A Letter in the Box" to take part). I have thought about family and friends I haven't seen this year and considered ways to let them know that I love and miss them. Chris and I generally see Valentine's Day as a "card/candy makers' holiday" and do not observe it with gifts. Estimates are that in 2021, over 25 BILLION dollars will be spent in the United States to celebrate Valentine's Day.

With Valentine's Day generally close to Ash Wednesday, I usually use this space to focus on the later. The history of Valentine's Day didn't begin with merchants, though. In the 200's, Bishop Valentine was repeatedly arrested for trying to convert people to Christianity and to assist Christians who were being persecuted. He also was imprisoned for marrying couples who were Christian, thus the connection to love. Bishop Valentine was martyred for refusing to renounce his faith. Emperor Claudius ordered him beaten with clubs, beheaded, and his body burned in the street on February 14th - not exactly what we normally think about when we wish one another "Happy Valentine's Day!"

Perhaps the story of St. Valentine might be an encouragement to us to consider our own level of commitment to Christianity and engage in a Lenten class or practice this year. Perhaps when we hear "Happy Valentine's Day!" we could consider what our greatest loves are. May we love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength!



Transitional Kindergarten to present a Virtual Red, White, and Blue Program.

The Transitional Kindergarten class is working hard on our annual Red, White and Blue program. Each child represents a famous American. They dress in costume, learn famous lines and sing patriotic songs. All preschool classes will be invited to watch the program. It is one of our favorite Farmington traditions. This year it will be presented virtually with a link to the program sent to our FPDS Families.

Reminders

- Remember to register for Summer Camp 2021, Fall Programs 2021-2022 or ask for other details on programs offered to School Age Children.
- Be on the lookout for information from your child's teacher for Classroom Valentine Parties.
- Each month the Preschool children work on a Virtue and Manners. January we learned about Patience, and in February we will learn about honesty.

Winter Poem:

"Snow"

The snow fell softly at night.
It made a blanket soft and white.
It covered houses, flowers and ground,
But did not make a single sound.

-Alice Wilkins

Winter Song:

"I'm a Little Snowman"
(Tune: "I'm a Little Teapot")

I'm a little snowman,
Short and fat.
Here are my buttons,
Here is my hat.
When the sun comes out,
I cannot stay.
Slowly I just melt away.



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP STUMP THE PASTOR

Why does God let bad things happen? Why did Jesus have to die? Do all dog's go to heaven? What's a Presbyterian? Are there questions you have always wanted answered about faith, God, the Bible, or Presbyterians, but have not had the opportunity to ask? We ask a lot of our confirmands, now it is your chance to get back at us! Join Youth Fellowship February 21 at 2pm via Zoom for **Stump the Pastor**. Rev. Luter will be joining the us to answer your quirky conundrums as best she can. Please submit your questions to Doug via text or email over the next few weeks. Till then, High School will meet at 2pm and Middle School at 3pm.



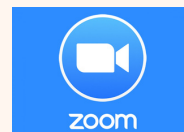
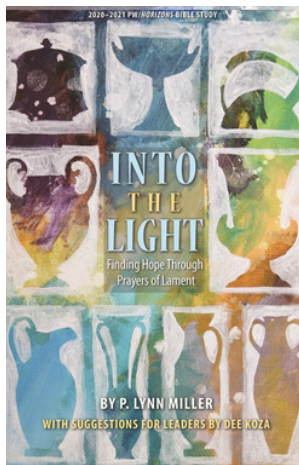
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Farmington Presbyterian Women's Circle continues to meet by Zoom to discuss Lynn Miller's Horizon Bible study Into the Light. All women of the church are welcome to join us Sunday, February 28 at 2:00 pm.

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.

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

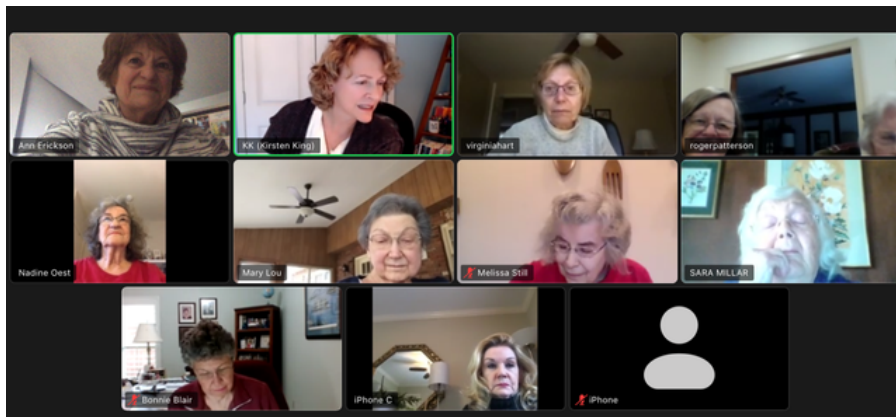
Wednesday @ 6pm

Meeting ID: 843 7787 5851

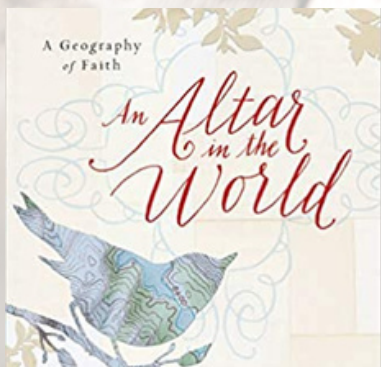
Passcode: Worship

Register at

www.farmingtonpres.org/weekday-worship



Monday Morning Bible Study



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.

Monday mornings at 9am

Zoom Meeting ID 869 8138 8088

Passcode: Bible



Session Report

Session received the Annual Pastor Feedback Analysis. Further discussion and action will be taken around these areas identified in the report: "Multiple session members report they would like to see increased involvement in church life and activities from all age groups both by church members and day school families. Elder development is an area of opportunity as well and was noted in the majority of the comments. There is also a similar desire to more deeply engage new members. Mentioned frequently by Session members is the opportunity dive into Vision Casting and Long-Term Planning during this time period. There is a theme among comments that we are lacking in alignment of the entire congregation and a desire to convene the Ruling Elders and Committees on roles, responsibilities and planning. Community building, service, planning and coordinating are areas that seem to warrant further discussion among Rev. Luter and the Session." Rev. Luter's Terms of Call will remain the same for 2021. Session approved making the unused 12 days of vacation and 10 days of study leave from 2020 available for use by Rev. Luter through 2023.

Session accepted the Memorials and Gifts Subcommittee's 2020 Annual Report. Session decided that Sunday worship will remain online via YouTube through February with Wednesday night services on Zoom. Communion will be served at the first Wednesday night Zoom service. There will be a brief

outdoor Ash Wednesday Service with safe imposition of ashes. Worship Committee is discussing how and when we will return to worship in the Sanctuary.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, February 21st following 11:00 Worship. The meeting will take place on Zoom. The purposes of the meeting are to receive the 2020 Annual Report, which will be mailed to all member households prior to the meeting and to elect the 2021 Nominating Committee. Session elected Suzanne Thomas to chair the 2021 Nominating Committee and MaryShelley Ritchey to serve as the second elder on the committee. Please consider who you would like to nominate and whether you would like to serve on the Nominating Committee and be prepared with nominations at the Congregational Meeting.

Session held a Called Meeting on Wednesday, January 20th, to consider whether to apply for a second Payroll Protection Plan loan. The decision was made to apply, and the application has been submitted.

Tapestry

A biennial leadership training event for the people of the Presbytery of St. Andrew and the Presbytery of the Mid-South, continues in a new way with a special digital offering in 2021!



Saturday, January 30

9:00 a.m. - noon

via Zoom

This event will consist of a group lecture and breakout group conversations. THIS YEAR'S EVENT IS FREE BUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Register at www.standrewpresbytery.org

“The Book of Ecclesiastes: Living Your Best Life in a Time of Crisis”

The book of Ecclesiastes is one of the strangest and most ignored books in the biblical canon, yet its wisdom seems perfectly crafted for such a time as this—because the author, a sage known only as Qohelet, had first-hand knowledge about living in the midst of a crisis. In this workshop, we will discuss the historical context for the book of Ecclesiastes and explore its life-affirming, experiential and even joyful message.

Brennan Breed is Associate Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary and Theologian-in-Residence at First Presbyterian Church in Marietta, Ga. He is author of the monograph *Nomadic Text* (Indiana University Press, 2014) and co-author of *Daniel: A Commentary* (Westminster John Knox, 2014) with Carol Newsom. Brennan is currently writing on Ecclesiastes and the early Hellenistic era in the Levant. He lives in Decatur, Georgia with his wife, Catherine, his children, Freddie and Margaret Ann, and his miniature schnauzer, Winnie.

A Letter in the Box!

We all know how nice it is to receive a card or a note through the mail. As we continue to be physically apart, let's grow closer together. We are inviting our more seasoned family members (65+) to reach out to our less seasoned family members (<18). If you are an older adult and would like to send a card or note to a child or youth in the congregation at least once a month, please let Rev. Rebecca know at rluter@farmingtonpres.org or leave a message at (901)203-3134 to pair you up. When we are able to worship again in person, you will have made a new friend or gotten to know an old one better!



Wednesday Worship

Weekly at 6pm on Zoom

The Farmington Family gathers for vesper services Wednesday nights at 6pm via zoom. All are welcome. Simply register with your name and email at www.farmingtonpres.org/weekday-worship.

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

Communion Service February 3rd

We will celebrate Communion together during the Zoom Worship Service on February 3rd so be sure to have bread and juice available.

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 17 at 5:30pm

Come and Go Imposition of Ashes

February 17 from 6-6:30pm

Thank you to all who completed the Ash Wednesday Worship Survey! Your responses have shaped our plans. We will gather in the lower back parking lot for the service. Please park in the upper parking lot.

The service will be brief and include imposition of ashes. The biblical precedent for the use of ashes usually involves people putting ashes on themselves. Each person will receive a cup with ashes mixed with oil and a cotton ball for the imposition.

Imposition of Ashes will also be offered from 6-6:30pm in a drive-through fashion similar to the Dedication of Pledges we had in November.

**If you would like to receive a porch visit on Ash Wednesday to receive Imposition of Ashes, please let Rev. Rebecca know.*



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 5:30 pm. They are donating 10% back to Farmington. If you would like to order, please contact them at hutchinsathome@gmail.com.

MENU

- 2/3 Ground Beef Lo Mein
- 2/10 Spaghetti with Meatballs
- 2/17 Chicken Pot Pie
- 2/24 Chicken and Broccoli

Fettuccine Alfredo

Homemade Pizza is available each week as an alternative.



TESTIMONY

VOCABULARY OF FAITH

• A SIX-WEEK CURRICULUM •

REMEMBERING • RECLAIMING • REARTICULATING

The Presbyterian
OUTLOOK

Lent, the 40 days leading up to the celebration of Easter, was in the early church a time of preparation for baptism. For those who are baptized, it is a time to deepen our faith practices and restore glorifying God as our first priority in life. Each year, the Farmington family engages in small group study during this time to reflect and grow. This year we will be forming groups that are virtual. Groups may decide to meet together, following CDC guidelines for safety, when all in the group have received full COVID vaccination. The format includes a video and Scripture-based discussion. Groups will meet for approximately 2 hours each week to discuss these topics: Who Is God? Who Are We? God in Relationship. God Who Saves. God of Action. God of Belonging.

Do you want to:

Wrestle with the language of faith and its relevance for today?

Think about what it means to be the Body of Christ?

Consider ways of living that reflect your faith beyond the church doors?

If you are interested in being part of a group, please email the church office at church@farmingtonpres.org.

We hope to have several groups with evening options, a weekend option, and a weekday option. Groups will begin meeting February 20th.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carter Paine
- 1 Liv Ann Palmer
- 3 Mike Colley
- 6 Jackson Paine
- 8 Meredith Oest
- 11 Rev. Ruth Lovell Bradham
- 11 Vickie Haguewood
- 15 Bert Phillips
- 15 Sara Millar
- 17 Pat Rush Davis
- 23 Kristan Perkins
- 23 Susan Phillips
- 24 Martha Mize
- 26 John Hazen

Sunday Worship Online

Join us, Sunday mornings for worship on YouTube. You can find us through our website, www.Farmingtonpres.org, or on YouTube at www.youtube.com/c/farmingtonpresbyterian. 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!



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



Farmington Presbyterian Church & Day School
 8245 Farmington Blvd.
 Germantown, TN 38139