



JANUARY 2023

Children and youth presented the Christmas story with congregational participation on December 11.

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Deepening Our Discipleship

BY REV. REBECCA LUTER

Unto us a Son is given, born of a woman in the ordinary way with the most extraordinary purpose, to redeem us that we might be adopted by God as God's own children.

When his purpose was questioned by the Pharisees, Jesus answered, "I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd." We celebrate at Christmas the birth of our ability to thrive, to have abundance in life. This abundance is not found in material things or financial gains. This abundance, this thriving, is both internal and external. Internally, it comes as we become more and more like Jesus in our thoughts and motivations, in our compassion and our convictions. Externally, it comes as we live out God's purpose for us. Who did God dream you would be before you were even born? Jesus told us that each one of us is so important to God that God knows the number of hairs on our heads. Surely God knows our abilities and interests and has gifted them to us for a reason.

Over the last 3 years, we have endured a season of limitations. The pandemic shut us into our homes and restricted our opportunities. Winter is part of God's creation and is followed by spring. The time of spring allows what has been planted to blossom and thrive.

As a congregation, God is calling us to thrive! January 20-22nd the Session will be engaged in a time of prayer and retreat as we seek together God's dream for the next 5-10 years of ministry and mission through Farmington Presbyterian Church. You are invited to join us in praying for God's direction and guidance.

As individuals, God is calling us to thrive, to live in such a way that we are more and more like Jesus every day! What longing has been nagging at you that you keep ignoring? What dream have you delayed so long the dust has almost buried it? God's message to you in this new year is that the time has come. "Take the next step, Daughter. Go ahead, Son. Thrive, My Child. Thrive."



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL



2023-24 ENROLLMENT BEGINS



Current students will apply via email link application sent to your inbox at 7am January 9

New student enrollment begins 7am, January 21. Check our website for details www.farmingtonpres.org



STAFF CHRISTMAS BOWLING PARTY & SWEATER COMPETITION



The staff of Farmington Day School celebrated the Christmas season at Billy Hardwick's Bowling Alley.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Women of Farmington Presbyterian Church recently met by Zoom to discuss chapter 4 of our Horizon's Bible study: Celebrating Sabbath.

We continue to explore how and when to celebrate Sabbath, how to create Sabbath, and how to let go and surrender to Sabbath. Kay Patterson and Jinney Hart shared their blessings for each other during this time. For the next 5 lessons, we will pair up to share a blessing for our partner. Please join us for our next meeting Sunday, January 22, 2023 to discuss chapter 5. You can join in person after church at 12:30 PM or you can Zoom in. All women are welcome!



These ladies were pleased to sport festive attire during one of the several holiday gatherings we had at Farmington Presbyterian.



FARMINGTON'S NEW COAT

Over the Christmas Break there were a few changes to the look of our beloved church building. The halls and Narthex received a fresh coat of paint and the floor tiles have been replaced with laminated wood grain. It is a beautiful expression of welcome to all who enter our doors!

SESSION REPORT

In the December meeting of Session, the proposed FPDS tuition rates for Summer Camp 2023 and School Year 2023-2024 were approved. A motion to pledge \$17,500 in 2023 to the mission and ministry of the Presbytery of the Midsouth was approved. Motions to approve Capital Budget Requests for painting and flooring the hallways and Narthex were approved. In addition, Session received an update on the 2023 Stewardship Campaign and agreed to delay adoption of a 2023 budget until the January Stated Meeting of Session.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting is called on February 5 for the purposes of receiving the 2022 Annual Report, considering the Pastoral Terms of Call, and electing the 2023 Nominating Committee.



DEEPER QUESTIONS

One of the theological mysteries that makes Christianity so honest and appealing to me is the concept of the Trinity. It is not written as such in the scriptures but it is present throughout the Bible, even "from the beginning." God created, the Spirit hovered, and the Word of God "spoke."

This idea is incredibly important if we are to understand personal faith, especially in this era of authenticity. For the next five weeks, **Youth Sunday School** will focus on the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit mystery of God. What is the Trinity? Why is it important? And what does it mean for us?

HYPOTHERABLES

The questions are *hypothetical*.
The conversations are *real*.

Hypotherables are a creative self assessment that uses stories to get at difficult and sometimes revealing questions about who we are in light of God's presence. Every Hypotherable we have done has led to an amazing conversation about our own biases, our honest faith, and our uncomfortable truths while helping us feel comfortable sharing as a group.

Join us each Sunday for **Youth Fellowship** from 2-4pm to experience a different kind of youth group: one where the conversation outshines the games.



Pinecrest Youth Connection Retreat February 24-26 Only \$50

The Presbyterian Youth Connection Retreat is an opportunity to meet up with other Presby's in our area for a fun weekend of spiritual growth and fellowship. This year's theme, "When did we See You?" offers time to consider how God is making God's self known in the margins, the church, and throughout our lives. Join us for a weekend for all middle school and high school youth of the Presbytery of the Mid-South, February 24-26 at Pinecrest. We will depart on Friday evening and return during worship on Sunday morning.

1/3 of the fee for the retreat will come from the youth fund, 1/3 from fundraising, and 1/3 will be the attendees responsibility. That means it is only \$50 per person for this retreat! Your portion holds your spot for the retreat.



Adult Sunday School

C.S. LEWIS THE GREAT DIVORCE



Rev. Rebecca will be facilitating a discussion and Bible study based on C.S. Lewis's *The Great Divorce* on Sunday mornings at 10am in the East Room. *The Great Divorce* is an allegory about visiting heaven and hell. Join us as we discuss the story and dig into what the Bible teaches us about good and evil.

10am - 10:45am
East Room
Led by Rev. Rebecca Luter

THE ACTS of the Apostles

N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides

We call the book "The Acts of the Apostles," but we should think of it as "The Acts of Jesus (II)." These studies from Tom Wright help us to do so, and to see how Jesus' acts through the apostles inform our acts today.

9:30am - 10:30am
Fellowship Hall
Led by Cooper Patterson

Farmington Adult Ministries **January 19th** **12:00pm**

The Farmington Adult Ministries monthly luncheon will be held on Thursday, January 19th at noon in the East Room of FPC. Our guest speaker is Paul King. We're sure you don't want to miss hearing Paul share his story. What led him to retire from his successful career in business and pursue a seminary education? Where does he sense God calling him next?

Scott Hutchins will cater the luncheon. The cost is \$13 per person. Please contact Sandy Wann to RSVP. Adults of any age are cordially invited.

Bonnie Blair, Chair
Sandy Wann
Brenda Geise
Jamie & Carol Jameson

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE



We gather for Fellowship Coffee following worship. If you would like to provide Sunday Morning snacks, please sign up on our website.

www.farmingtonpres.org/sign-up

December Service through Farmington



Johnson Auxiliary

Barbara Bowling, Director of Johnson Auxiliary, sent a request to Farmington Church for items to stock their clothes closet. Johnson Auxiliary was founded almost 50 years ago by the Presbyterian Women within the Shelby County area to serve Regional One Health Center. Regional One is the only Level One trauma unit and burn center in the Greater Memphis area and has one of the oldest and largest neonatal intensive care units in the US. To support Regional One Health facility, patients and their immediate family members who may be here with them, the Auxiliary provides a variety of ongoing social services to assist our neighbors during their time of need. Having clothing on hand is one way of helping these families. Farmington Presbyterian provided 3 full carts of bagged clothing items to assist with the Auxiliary request. Ms. Bowling expressed her gratitude to all those who provided these much needed items.



PW Bake Sale

Sweetness and joy can be expressed in a variety of ways. The women of Farmington Presbyterian Church baked a variety of desserts this December as part of a fundraiser to support a variety of missions (Church Health Center, Johnson Auxiliary, Mexico Mission, Mission Haven, Pinecrest, Presbyterian Disaster Relief, Room in the Inn, Soup Kitchen). Smiles and happiness were evident in the hallway by both young and old as the children lined the hallway with their money, eager to purchase an item from the overwhelming display of cookies, etc. Each interaction taught about Jesus and how he can impact our lives. The bake sale earned \$1,229. A special note of appreciation is extended to all who took part in baking, working at the tables, and buying the home baked goodies. We are truly a "home for God's family with a heart for God's word".





First Pres Soup Kitchen

The community of Farmington Presbyterian Church displayed their generosity and love of Jesus in a variety of ways. Blankets were delivered to First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen, and wish list items were delivered to Room in the Inn. Our recipients were most thankful for our donations.



Caroling Caravan

*Dear Church Group,
It was such a joy Sunday to have you sing for me - gave me a special lift as I was expecting my family that evening for our Christmas dinner. Have been missing seeing everyone at church.
Thank you again for that special treat.
Love to all,
Faye McKenzie*





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!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jennifer Young
- 6 Vanessa Howard
- 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, Director of Day School, Ext. 3132
- Andrea Soto, Assistant Director of Day School, Ext. 3138
- Anthony Jones, Maintenance Technician

Session Members

- Moderator - Rev. Rebecca Luter
- Administration – Ann Erickson
- Congregational Life - Becky Hutchins
- Christian Education – Doug Barr
- Clerk – Laurinda Ingram
- Discipleship - Bonnie Blair & Paul King
- Property and Grounds – Bob Plotner
- School Board – Mike Schneider
- Service – Jinney Hart
- Treasurer—Melissa Still
- Worship –Jackie Hall



Content for the February New Vision newsletter is due Tuesday, January 23rd. Email articles and event information to Shelley Wann at shelley@farmingtonpres.org



Farmington Presbyterian Church & Day School
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