



Charlie Rider was baptized during worship on April 23rd.

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## Deepening Our Discipleship

BY REV. REBECCA LUTER

Beginning May 26th, I will be taking a Sabbatical. What is that? It is a time of intentionally setting aside the mantle of pastor to tend my relationship with God and my relationships with my family. I was ordained in June of 2000 and have not ever taken a time away. I love being a pastor. I love being your pastor. So, why am I taking Sabbatical? I feel God calling me to address a particular question.

During the pandemic, the church began acting outside the bounds of polity because there was no "rule book" for how to be church in a time of isolation. We were assured (and assured one another) that there would "be a lot of grace" if we just did what seemed right at the time. One of the ministries that was born in this time was hybrid worship. It is challenging that we have no best practices or guidelines for hybrid worship or for how to engage, nurture, and lead an online disciple. I will be studying how churches have adapted, what is effective, and developing educational tools for pastors out of that study.

I am also taking time away to think, pray, and study deeply what we believe about Holy Communion. I feel called to be a part of the theological discussion around what we ought to do in hybrid worship related to Communion. Eventually, we will have polity that guides how we conduct Communion online. That polity must grow out of our understanding of theology.

I am excited and energized about this work. The hardest part will be being away from you. I know that I leave you in good hands. Tom Sauer will be faithful and helpful. He is wise and kind and honest. He will serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and most of all, love. I know, always, you are in God's hands and that there is no better place to be.

I'll be writing this note each month to update you on what I have been studying and learning, and I will see you and catch up in the weeks after I return on September 4th.



## FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL



April showers bring May flowers! May in preschool is a busy month and brings with it the end of our 2022-2023 school year. In May we celebrate by having graduations for our Pre-Kindergarten classes. Our teachers have done an incredible job preparing their students for their next educational step.

Speaking of teachers, we have the best, and we are ready to celebrate them! We will be recognizing our teachers and staff the week of May 8th-12th during National Teacher Appreciation Week. Each day we will be celebrating with a different country from around the world. On Friday of that week we will have a Fiesta lunch to let the staff know how much we appreciate them! After all, the Best Teachers from around the world are here at FPDS!

The school will be transitioning from the school year to the start of summer camp! Ms. Andrea and I will be busy hiring new staff, welcoming returning staff and encouraging current staff members. We have 8 weeks of fun summer camp weeks planned and a full roster of kids to enjoy the fun.

Whether you are going on vacation, going to summer camp or enjoying time in the pool we wish you all a cool and fun summer!

Enjoy!

Ms. Gretchen & Ms. Andrea

# \$11,832

Our grand total donation to St. Jude from the 2023 Trike-a-thon event. Thank you to all who donated and cheered us on!



# SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

Farmington Day School will be closed May 29- June 2 to prepare for an incredible summer schedule of events.

Sign up now for any of our weeks below:

**Week 1** - June 5- 9  
Floating Into Summer

**Week 2** - June 12- 16  
V.B.S. Super Heroes

**Week 3** - June 19- 23  
Creative Creations

**Week 4** - June 26- 30  
Splashtastic

**Week 5** - July 5- 7  
Red, White & Boom (Closed- July 3 & 4)

**Week 6** - July 10- 14  
Disney Mania

**Week 7** - July 17- 21  
Out of this World

**Week 8** - July 24- 28  
Made in Memphis

CLOSED - July 31- August 4  
Teacher In-Service

**First Day of Preschool Classes**  
August 7

**Holiday Care**  
August 7 & 8





## POTLUCK SUNDAY MAY 7TH

Bring a dish or simply gather for food and fellowship after worship on May 7th.



Farmington Presbyterian Day School recently donated children's toys and books along with sheets and blankets to Room in the Inn.



**New  
Date!!**

**July 9-15  
Summer Retreat  
Rising 9th-High School  
Student Cost: \$375**

It can be difficult to see what God is doing in the hustle of day to day life. Why not seek a meaningful retreat away from all of that to rest, reset, and renew your faith while in the mountains of North Carolina?

Join Doug Barr and Mo Smithers as they chaperone an incredible week at Montreat.

Staying home? You can still help get us there! Purchase Stock in the retreat for any amount and receive daily updates from Doug Barr in your email and a personal postcard from a youth attending the retreat!



Vacation Bible School is **June 12 - 16**.

We would love to fill our classes with children from the neighborhood as well as Summer Camp. Invite your friends and neighbors to a week of fun at Farmington.

If you would like to help out, volunteer as a station leader or crew leader by contacting [doug@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:doug@farmingtonpres.org).

Registration is on our website.

Participants in FPDS Day school will automatically attend. They do not need to register.



Rev. Luter will begin her sabbatical leave on Friday, May 26, 2023. A sabbatical, according to the Office of the General Assembly (OGA), is a "planned time of intensive enhancement for ministry and mission." Different from a vacation, it is meant to be an opportunity for the pastor to strategically disengage from normal tasks so that mission and ministry might be viewed from a new perspective. During this time, Rev. Luter is not to engage in the ministry of Farmington or be in contact with the members of Farmington.

Rev. Luter will return on Tuesday, September 4, 2023. Please support her with your prayers as she embarks on this spiritual retreat for renewal and development of relationships with God and others. Pray that this time will provide her much needed rest for her body, mind, and soul as well as time to focus on her pursuit of advanced studies in the Doctor of Ministry program at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.

Tom Sauer, who was commissioned on April 30, 2023 to serve as the temporary pastor during Rev. Luter's sabbatical leave, will preach and lead worship. Tom will also be available to contact if you have prayer requests or experience a family or personal crisis. He will be working approximately 20 hours per week. You can reach Tom through the church office at (901) 754-2794 or at (901) 651-7133. He is also available through email, [germantowntom@gmail.com](mailto:germantowntom@gmail.com). In addition, please feel free to contact Session members with any questions or concerns.

We look forward to Rev. Luter's return as our pastor following this time of respite.



The Presbyterian Women of the Mid-South commissioned and presented a Moderator's Stole for our Presbytery Moderators. Rev. Luter is currently serving as Moderator of the Presbytery of the Mid-South and was present to receive the gift.

The design incorporates a tree that grows here and in the Holy Land, a Celtic cross formed of two nails, and a river of Living Waters by which the tree is planted. Our Presbytery is part of the Synod of Living Waters. Like the tree planted by streams of water, our branches grow and reach out and our leaves do not wither. The Celtic Cross reminds us that Christ died once and is alive for all eternity.



## **After Worship in the Youth Room May 21, 2023**

All members and friends of the Farmington family are invited to a send-off event to offer Rev. Luter our prayers and good wishes as she begins her sabbatical leave. She will be on leave from May 26, 2023, through September 4, 2023. Please join us in the Youth Room after church on May 21, 2023, for a light informal lunch followed by packing of meals for Rise Against Hunger



# PRESBYTERIAN *Women*

Farmington Presbyterian celebrated Gifts of Women Sunday, April 16. Ann Erickson delivered the message to the congregation reminding us that we have learned lessons from Mary Mother of Jesus:

- Community is important. Everyone needs a friend always, but especially in time of need. Thank goodness Mary had Elizabeth.
- Recognize the blessings God has given you and trust God's promises will be fulfilled, "For no word of God will ever fail."
- Listen for what God is asking you to do and faithfully say "yes" like Mary did, "I am your servant, Lord. May your word to me be fulfilled."

Kay Patterson received the Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership Award for her faithful service to the women's organization and to the church and community. Kay and her family are always willing to volunteer to help with service projects and contribute to our church's needs. It was a special day for all!



Farmington PW Lifetime Honorary Award recipients





# Bonnie Blair

## A Profile in Christian Service

Bonnie Blair lives her faith as a steadfast foot soldier of God. She works untiringly to make important things happen while bringing out the best in others. She has a way of connecting with people and seeing their talents. She has left huge footprints in her work with Presbyterian Women as well as in many other areas.

Bonnie's life changed when St. Joseph Hospital was bought out by Baptist Hospital in 2000, and she was "downsized" out of a job. Being a "mover and shaker" with very high energy, Bonnie was not content to sit at home. At this time, she was an active member at Whitehaven Presbyterian Church which had a Presbyterian Women's group with three day circles and a night circle. The three day circles met together on the first Tuesday for a monthly gathering with speakers. On a Tuesday after being "downsized," Bonnie decided that the circle meeting was where she needed to be. A month later, she was the PW Moderator at Whitehaven Presbyterian Church.

During her service as PW Moderator at Whitehaven Presbyterian Church, Bonnie discovered on the national PW website that any Presbyterian Woman could apply to be on the PW National Board of Directors. At this time, there was a Moderator, known as the Churchwide Moderator.

There was also a Moderator for Missions, and a Moderator for Justice and Peace. Bonnie applied for the Missions Moderator. While waiting to hear from the national group, Bonnie was contacted by Martha Knichel, Synod of Living Waters, PW Moderator, who asked her to be the Synod of Living Waters Representative on the PW National Board of Directors. Bonnie served from 2005 to 2008.

During her time on the PW National Board of Directors, Bonnie was appointed Chair of the Leadership Enhancement Committee. In 2007, she chaired a national leadership training program in Albuquerque, New Mexico that included six PW representatives from each of the sixteen Synods across the United States plus the Churchwide Coordinating Team and national staff - 150 women. Because of her work with this conference, Bonnie was invited to speak at PW Presbytery gatherings across the country. The highlight of her speaking engagements was a presentation on "How to Revitalize PW" at the 2009 Churchwide Gathering where she addressed over 500 women.

Bonnie has also served as Leadership Training Coordinator (2016-2022) for PW Synod of Living Waters, Search Committee Chair (2017-2023) for PW Presbytery of the Mid-South, and Presbytery of the Mid-South Moderator (2011).

While on the Presbytery Coordinating Team, Bonnie introduced the idea of a Clergywomen's retreat to support the clergywomen in our Presbytery. The initial retreat was held at Barbara Denley's home on February 27, 2020.



# Bonnie Blair

Ten clergywomen attended and participated openly in the discussion based on the theme, "Have Women Broken the Glass Ceiling in the PC(USA)?" A follow-up session was requested. After two years of COVID delays, the long-awaited retreat was held on March 5, 2022, at Pinecrest. Bonnie served as chair of the retreat committee. Thirteen clergywomen and four members of the coordinating team of the PW of the Mid-South attended. As hoped, Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, author of "Have Women Broken the Glass Ceiling in the PC(USA)?" was the speaker.

Among the achievements in her life, Bonnie will tell you the one that means the most to her was having a role in establishing a chapel at the City of Memphis Hospital (now Regional One) as one of the eleven founding members of the Johnson Auxiliary. It took 8 years, from 1973 to 1981, of requesting space to be used for a chapel before the request was finally granted. The tipping point seemed to be when a distraught mother asked for a quiet place to cry and to pray for her badly injured son and there was none. The effort to build a chapel continued until it was finally completed on November 6, 1981. It was relocated to a better space on September 11, 1984.

God has truly blessed us with Bonnie Blair.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Farmington Presbyterian Women will be concluding their Horizon's Bible Study of Celebrating Sabbath Tuesday, May 30 at 5:00 PM by zoom. All women are invited. This meeting will be bitter-sweet as we will be saying farewell to our Bible Study Leader, Kirsten King, as she embarks on her new life journey in becoming minister of First Presbyterian Church in Kennett, MO. Kirsten (or KK as she is fondly called) has lead the women of Farmington Presbyterian Church in over 6 years of our Horizons Bible study. She has been able to guide us in person and on Zoom so that our discipleship, fellowship, and Bible study were not interrupted. She led us in a variety of interactive lessons as we learned how to lament (which happened to coincide with COVID). She encouraged us to reflect inwardly and express our thoughts through Lecto Divina and Visio Divina by implementing imagery in a variety of ways to explore our roles historically and Biblically. Kirsten's artistic talents and her knowledge of scripture helped create a unique bond among those who attended. Her energy and support for human rights is contagious! We will miss her so much, but pray God watches over her as she carries the love of Christ to others!

The Farmington Women will continue to remain active in the summer and are investigating opportunities to gather and have fellowship with one another. Watch your emails and church bulletin for announcements.

# ONE STEP CLOSER TO A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER



**SUNDAY, MAY 21ST AT 1PM**



HAPPY  
**Mother's Day**

May we bloom as the flowers and be an  
example of God's grace to the world!



Rise Against Hunger Packaging is Sunday, May 21st at 1pm. All who are 5+ are encouraged to stay and help package 20,000 meals. For childcare, please RSVP to [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org).

A light lunch will be served prior to the Rise Against Hunger packaging event. All are encouraged to stay and wish Rev. Rebecca Luter well as she embarks on her time of Sabbatical. She will be on Sabbatical from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

During Fellowship Coffee on Sundays, the Service Committee will be selling Mother's Day cards and "In Honor Of" cards for \$10. All proceeds go to Rise Against Hunger.

**Join the effort to Rise Against Hunger -  
order your beautiful, personalized, handmade breadboard today!**

All orders must be received by May 17th.  
Delivery will be on a first-come, first-served basis.  
Every effort will be made to fill orders within 90 days.

Jerry Hosier and Cooper Patterson are donating their time and the materials.  
Cost is a minimum \$60 donation which is due with your order.  
All donations support Rise Against Hunger.





# SPRING CHURCH PICNIC

When: May 17th, 6:00pm

Where: Johnson Road Park (Croquet Pavilion)

What: Hamburgers & Hot Dogs with sides and dessert

- If you have a food allergy, please let the church office know by May 15th.

How much: \$8 for adults, \$4 for children (12 & under), \$25 family max

All are encouraged to come and enjoy burgers & hotdogs from the grill with sides & dessert! In addition to a wonderful time of fellowship, we will have our Second Annual Raffle for Rise Against Hunger and old-fashioned picnic games to play for a quarter, so bring your checkbooks and your change!

## EASTER 2023







April 29, 2023 at Farmington, the Presbytery of the Mid-South ordained Kirsten King as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. Rev. Kirsten King was installed on April 30th as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Kennett, MO. We continue to pray for and rejoice with Kirsten and the Kennett community as they join in ministry together.



## SESSION REPORT

Session welcomed to the Farmington family Carly Rye with her children, Delilah Davis and Charlie Rider. Charlie was baptized on April 23rd in worship. Session approved the motion of Memorials and Gifts to proceed with investigating lighting the church steeple. Session received updates on finances and ensuing the diversity of our investments, the plans for Rev. Luter's sabbatical and Tom Sauer's commissioning as Sabbatical Pastor, and discussed next steps identified during our Visioning Retreat.



## Adult Sunday School

### Philippians

Following along with our focus in worship during Eastertide on Paul's letter to the church at Philippi, Rev. Rebecca will guide a study of Philippians each Sunday in the East Room, April 16-May 21, at 10am. All are encouraged to attend.

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

## SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

**May 21, 2023 during worship**

Senior Recognition Sunday is May 21st. All seniors will be recognized in worship at 11am. Please let us know if you have a senior in your family. Email their name and school from which they are graduating by May 8th to [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org).

## Farmington Adult Ministries

### Thursday, May 25

### 12:00pm

The Adult Ministries Group will host a luncheon on Thursday, May 25th at noon. The speaker will be Bonnie Blair. She will talk about several aspects of her life such as her work in Presbyterian Women, Civil Rights, Johnson Auxiliary, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and her career as a Hospital Director.

Please mark your calendar to attend this event. The cost is \$13. Please contact Sandy Wann to make a reservation by Monday, May 22nd by noon that day.

This will be the last luncheon until September. The Ministries Group is planning some Day Trips in and around Memphis for June, July and August.

## 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](http://www.farmingtonpres.org/sign-up)



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 10 Olivia Mittag
- 10 Duke Lively
- 11 Gerrie Wilder
- 11 Billy Wann
- 12 Jayme White
- 13 John Ingram
- 13 Carol Jameson
- 13 Jack Williams
- 14 Autumn Colley
- 14 Camille (Young) Brown
- 16 Christian Barlow
- 23 Jamie Jameson
- 23 Doug Sweet
- 24 Jo Anne Simpkins
- 25 John Bivens
- 27 Abigail Palmer



## Sunday Worship Online

Join us, Sunday mornings for worship on YouTube. You can find us through our website, [www.Farmingtonpres.org](http://www.Farmingtonpres.org), or on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/c/farmingtonpresbyterian](http://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, 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 June New Vision newsletter is due Tuesday, May 23rd.  
Email articles and event information to Doug Barr at [doug@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:doug@farmingtonpres.org)



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