



Second Sunday after Epiphany January 18, 2026



Prayer of Preparation

God of endless light, you sent a star— rising from darkness, guiding seekers and sages, overwhelming us with joy. Let the splendor of your dawning light grow in us and in all the world until the whole creation shines with your glory; through Jesus Christ our light. ~Matthew 2:1-12

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

Praise to The Lord, The Almighty

arr. Brent Edstrom

Welcome / Greetings

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

MJ Floreno

Call to Worship

One: The voice of God resounds upon the water.

All: **The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.**

One: The Son of God is named, "Beloved."

All: **And all who worship shout out, "Glory!"**

One: Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.

All: **Let us worship God in holy splendor.**

MJ Floreno

Opening Hymn # 691

Lord, When I Came into This Life

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Penny Pitts

Holy God, we confess that we are a distracted people and forgetful of your love. We make selfish choices, hurt each other, and perpetuate injustice in your world. We have sinned against you and are deeply sorry; we repent of our disregard of you, each other, and your creation. By the power of your Spirit, forgive, restore, and strengthen us to live in your light and walk in your truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(Silent Confession)

Words of Assurance

Rev. Penny Pitts

As children of the Holy One, God forgives you and loves you eternally. By the power of God's Spirit, forgive yourself and forgive others as God in Christ has forgiven you.

We Hear God's Word

Old Testament Reading	Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24 (page 577)	MJ Floreno
Anthem	<i>The Lord Is My Shepherd</i> Chancel Choir	Allen Pote
Gospel Lesson	John 1:43-51 (page 92)	MJ Floreno
Sermon	Selling Ice to Eskimos	Rev. Penny Pitts

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Collection of Prayer Cards Rev. Penny Pitts

*Doxology #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayers of the People, Prayers of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer MJ Floreno

Gracious God, eternal and unchanging, you call us to discipleship, and we seek to follow. Sleeping or waking, we cannot hide from your presence. You are around us and within us; you direct us and watch over us. We give you thanks for your incarnate grace.

Soften those who resist your truth. Surprise them with the message of new life that awaits their response. Turn them from making themselves their only source of value, and show them how your mercy can transform their worth.

Surround and nourish the young in faith, the newly baptized, whose commitment has not been tested. Build up their confidence through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Enable us in the family of faith to be a source of assurance and support to them. Keep us from seeking comforts above discipleship, and make us faithful witnesses to your eternal and incarnate Word.

Hear these prayers, O God and those we store in our hearts knowing that your Spirit prays for us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord who teaches us to pray—

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”

We Follow God’s Word into the World

***Hymn of Sending #853** *We Are Marching in The Light of God*

Benediction

Rev. Penny Pitts

Postlude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Stanley Saxton

Please give a warm welcome to our guest Paster Rev. Penny Pitts

Rev. Penny Pitts has been serving Presbyterian churches in Michigan, Maryland, and Florida for thirteen years until her retirement in December 2023. She earned her Master’s in Divinity from Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, and McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. She has three children in Pleasant Ridge, Michigan, Clarkston, Michigan, and Brussels, Belgium, and five grandchildren. Pastor Pitts was raised in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Michigan in Dental Hygiene, which she practiced part-time for many years while raising children. She is active at her home church, Grosse Pointe Memorial. She is a member of the Presbytery of Detroit and enjoys serving as pulpit supply.

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2026

This meeting will be held in Knox Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 8, at 11:15 a.m. following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to review the 2025 annual reports of the boards, ministries, committees and staff of the church, financial reports and the 2026 budget. The 2025 Annual Report will be emailed to members who have signed up through the church website to receive the Communications Connections/FYI newsletter, the annual report and other important church information via email (to sign up for the newsletter and electronic communications, please go to www.farmington-pres.org). There will be a limited supply of printed copies available at the Welcome Center by Sunday, February 1, 2026, or you may contact the church office to arrange for a copy to be provided to you.

Welcome New Administrative Assistant Jennifer Taub!



We are delighted to announce the appointment of Jennifer Taub as our new Office Administrative Assistant, effective January 6. Jennifer has more than 20 years of experience working in a variety of administrative positions with faith-based and nonprofit organizations including with several local Presbyterian churches – First Pres of Dearborn, Orchard Lake Community Church and Starr Presbyterian. She will be working Mondays-Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Her email is Jennifer.Taub@farmington-pres.org. Please extend a warm First Pres Farmington welcome to our newest employee who reports to Pastor Craig Aue, our Temporary Acting Head of Staff.

New Office Hours

Effective immediately, the new church office hours are Mondays-Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The office remains closed on Fridays.

Upcoming Office Closure

The office will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. A reminder that the church office is closed for adverse weather when the Farmington Public Schools System closes its schools.

JOY Study discussing new books.

On Tuesday, January 20, the JOY study will start discussing *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. You are invited to join us for this lively discussion via Zoom at 7:15 p.m. Participants should secure their own copy of the book.

We will discuss *The Book of Joy* for four weeks, then on February 17 as Lent begins, we will start discussing *Meeting Jesus on the Road: A Lenten Study* by Cynthia Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. After Lent, we will resume *The Book of Joy*. If you would like me to order a *Lenten Study* for you, please let me know by Friday, January 23. The cost will be about \$13.00. If you have any questions, see Sharon Cressman.

Social Justice Book Club Starts New Book on January 26

The Social Justice Book Club will begin our next book on Monday, January 26, at 7:00 p.m. We'll be reading ***There is No Place for Us: Working and Homeless in America*** by **Brian Goldstone**. Through the gut-wrenching stories of five Atlanta families, this landmark work of journalism exposes a new and troubling trend—the dramatic rise of the working homeless in cities across America.

We meet once per month on the last Monday evening via Zoom, and we work toward completing the book by May. If you've thought about joining but have not yet, we encourage you to do so. It's a safe place to talk about the tough issues of our day. Contact Colleen Tavor (cmtcounseling@gmail.com) to get on the email list.

Family Game Night (and Foosball Tournament!)

When: Friday, January 30

Where: Knox Hall, First Presbyterian Church Farmington

5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Pizza, Salad, Dessert

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Time for Game and Snacks!

Let's play some games together! Card games, board games, bingo, strategy games, active games! We have games at church or bring your own! Please join us and bring your family and friends! Sign up at the kiosk in the foyer or online: <https://tinyurl.com/FPCF-Games>

“Getting to Know You” Class on February 1 (a first step toward membership)

Several of you have expressed an interest in joining First Presbyterian Church of Farmington (FPCF) as a member or maybe you just want to know more about us. This is the class for you! We're pleased that you are here and interested in becoming a part of living our vision: Welcoming All, Sharing Christ, Serving Others!

We are excited to announce that a **“Getting to Know You” class will be held after the service on Sunday, February 1, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. in Room 208/210.** You'll have an opportunity to hear the FPCF story and tell us yours. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend (248-474-6170 or info@farmington-pres.org).

Celebrate “SouperBowl Sunday” on February 8

As a prelude to the annual congregational meeting, please plan to join the Nurture Committee on February 8 after worship to celebrate our annual “SouperBowl Sunday” fellowship event. You're invited to bring a favorite soup or chili to share and enjoy sampling from the many assembled crocks and kettles. We also will be collecting donations to support Neighborhood House's work in our community.

Church-wide Day of Prayer: Wednesday, February 11, 8:00 am – 5:30 pm

What is a Day of Prayer? Continuous prayer throughout the day offered by members and friends. We would like to cover every half-hour of the day with prayers.

Why have a Day of Prayer? A Day of Prayer brings together those of faith in a communal atmosphere. It is uplifting and empowering to pray in the company of others. As Jesus said, “Where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, I am with them” (Matthew 18:20). We have many things to pray for in support of FPCF – our next pastor, church growth, church leadership, thanksgiving for prayers already answered. Come lift your voice to God!

How will the Day of Prayer Work? The First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary will be open throughout the day for anyone to come and go and come back as they please. The sanctuary will be candlelit with soft music to encourage a quiet spirit within. You are encouraged to sign up for a half-hour time that fits into your schedule. As in the past, a chime will be sounded on the hour and half-hour so that you don't need to keep track of time. If you can't make it to the church, you are encouraged to participate where you are.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Cressman or Colleen Tavor. Sign up for a half-hour time slot here: <https://tinyurl.com/FEB11Prayer>

Ushers Needed

We are looking for ushers to serve once a month, even or odd. If you are interested, please see Deborah Draper.

Individual Offering Envelopes Will No Longer Be Supplied

As the demand for individual offering envelopes no longer meets the minimum order requirement, envelopes were not ordered for 2026-saving \$250. Leftover boxes of envelopes from previous years are available; please contact the office if interested. The use of monthly electronic withdrawals (ACH) is also encouraged, which is easy to use.

Hospitality Time Schedule

You are invited to bring ONE food item on ONE Sunday each month. Your Sunday depends on the first letter of your last name. It would be greatly appreciated if you are also able to help with set-up or clean-up. Please note healthy options are welcome as well such as fruit, eggs, cheese & crackers, veggies etc. Here's the upcoming schedule:

January 25: Last names beginning A-D

February 1: Last names beginning E-K

February 8: Last names beginning L-R

February 15: Last names beginning S-Z

QR Code for Donations!

If you ever forget to go to the ATM, or simply don't carry cash on you, we've decided to include the church QR code for a more streamlined donation process. To donate, just scan the QR code and follow the prompt.



First Presbyterian Church Staff	
Ministers of the Church	Members of the Congregation
Pastoral Care Parish Associate	Rev. Craig S. Aue
Minister of Music	Peter Cartwright
Office Administrator	Liz Labourdeth
Administrative Assistant	Amanda May Schreiber
AV Tech Intern	Lidia Neathamer