



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

WELCOMING ALL; SHARING CHRIST; SERVING OTHERS

26165 Farmington Road,
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 474-6170
www.farmington-pres.org

January 4, 2026

The Second Sunday of Christmas With Holy Communion



Prayer of Preparation

God of every age, our source of insight upon the past, our source of steadiness around the present, our source of hopefulness into the future, we praise You!
Into the desert places of our lives, refresh each parched heart that we might blossom in Your kindness in all the days that lie ahead. Where lives grow tired, and energy is low, may Your nearness enable us to renew our strength, and in Your light, reflect Your glory. Amen

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

Good Christian Men Rejoice

arr. Brent Edstrom

Welcome / Greetings

Liturgist

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

***Call to Worship** (Responsive)

Liturgist

We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

God, help us find your glory.

We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

God, help us notice your glory.

We gather as people yearning for Love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.

God, help us encounter your glory.

On this Epiphany Sunday, may the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.

**Opening Hymn #150 As with Gladness Men of Old*

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

Pastor Craig Aue

Call to Reconciliation

Why do we huddle in the shadowed corners of life, rather than running to the Light of life? Why do we love the wrong we do rather than grasping the good news offered to us? As we struggle with such questions, let us speak to God of all we have failed to do, seeking hope and grace as we pray,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Up, on your feet! Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-18 (selected verses)

Liturgist

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Rise Up Shepherds

arr. Gerald Custer

Sermon

Are You a 'Good Looker?'

Pastor Craig Aue

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology

Collection of Prayer Cards

Pastor Craig Aue

**Direct, control, suggest, this day,
in all I design, do, or say,
that all my powers, with all of their might,
might serve you both day and night.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Song of Invitation 701

Sanctuary

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Craig Aue

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of newness be with you.

And also with you.

People of Christmas, offer your hearts to God.

**We lift them to the One who comes,
new hope and life cradled in loving hands.**

People of the Holy One of Bethlehem, sing glad praises to our God.

**We come, for we have received the good news,
we have believed the Word, we are given joyful songs to sing.**

When chaos thought there was no end,
you began,....

...So, with those in every place,
and with those from every time,
we join our voices, singing to you:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of every blessing.
All creation lavishes praise on you.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed is the One who comes to live among us.

Hosanna in the highest!

You could have kept us scattered
to the limits of loneliness,...(Pastor continues)

...we will gather around your Table in heaven,
comfort and gladness our eternal inheritance from you,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

(c) Thom M. Shuman

The Words of Institution

Sharing of the Gifts of Bread & Cup

Pastor Craig Aue

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Liturgist

God of redemption and new life, we focus once more this day on the greatest gift ever given -- Jesus, our Savior. As he was baptized by John in the Jordan, we were able to share in his baptism and receive the promise of sharing in Jesus' resurrection. As we leave one year behind and look with hope to the new year ahead, help us to live and give of ourselves as those who know every day what a great gift we have been given. May it move us to give our whole selves more freely! In the name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, who teaches us to pray together ...

“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 # 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Benediction

Pastor Craig Aue

Postlude

Joy to the World

arr Robert Thygerson

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

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. Reports to be included in the 2025 Annual Report should be emailed to the church office by no later than Friday, January 16, 2025. 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.

Thank You Food Warriors!

A hasty call-out during a busy holiday season brought a generous response from our Presbyterian food warriors. Concern about FPS students going without 2 weeks of breakfasts and lunches over the holiday break led to a coalition of people from the community to pack and distribute boxes of food on Dec. 29th.

Thank you to those of you who brought in donations!



Phishing Scam Alert

We received a report on a scammer sending emails impersonating our own Rev. Craig Aue. Instead of Pastor Aue's email address of Craig.Aue@Farmington-Pres.org, this scammer is using a Gmail account beginning with "OfficeMailPastor..." Please remember that requests for gift cards are a common scam. First Pres will never ask you to purchase gift cards for us (especially secretly). FPCF staff emails should come from the Farmington-pres.org domain.

Help Needed: "De-greening" the Church on Saturday, January 10

The Worship Team will be taking down the Christmas decorations that we have enjoyed for the past month and they need help taking everything down and packing them away until next year. Please join us!

WHEN: Saturday, January 10, starting at 9:00 a.m.!

Farmington Hills Hunger Task Force:

Local houses of worship and community leaders are coming together to help families with children who are facing food insecurity to bridge the gap over the school break. Please help in this effort with a check, food items or your hands on December 29. Please find details at the Welcome Table or on the Kiosk. Or contact Rick Fuller or Nancy Prieskorn for details about where your check goes, what food items are needed, or how you can help on Dec. 29 "Let's keep the children fed over winter break"

EUCHRE! The New Season Begins

Join us! We are playing euchre on the *first* Friday of each month from 2-4pm in the church library. Add these dates on your calendar: Feb. 6, March 6, April 10, May 1, and June 5. All are welcome - and bring a friend! Sign up on the Kiosk or see Nancy Prieskorn if you have any questions. We will teach you!

Individual Offering Envelopes Will No Longer Be Supplied

As the demand for individual offering envelopes no longer meets the minimum order requirement, envelopes will not be 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.

KIDS' WORSHIP BAGS

The kids' worship bags are available at the welcome desk (on the wooden tree hanger). The activities in the bags are updated each week to reflect the lectionary readings for that Sunday as well as some other fun items. The yellow bags are for kids aged preschool to 8 years old; and the white bags are for kids aged 8+ years. Kids are welcome to take a bag each Sunday to use during worship and/or to take home to enjoy. If your child forgot to pick up a worship bag before service, please let an usher know and they will get one for your child.

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 11: Last names beginning L-R

January 18: Last names beginning S-Z

January 25: Last names beginning A-D

February 1: Last names beginning E-K



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 just scan the QR code and follow