

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

WELCOMING ALL SHARING CHRIST SERVING OTHERS

In preparing our hearts for worship, we will be dimming the lights in the narthex, indicating a time to prepare ourselves for worship. Please enter the sanctuary quietly and in time to hear the welcome and announcements.



November 30, 2025

First Sunday in Advent

Prayer of Preparation

"Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth."

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr Brent Edstrom

Welcome / Greetings

MJ Floreno

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

*Call to Worship

One: Wake up; wake up! The day of God is near.

**All: We do not know the hour,
so we will live like the time is here and now.
God is here, now!**

One: Let us go to the house of our Living God.

All: We journey with all peoples of all creeds.

One: Let us go and bask in Holy Wisdom's warmth

**All: so that we can learn her ways
and choose her paths.**

One: To enter the house of God, we must wake up
to the nightmare of hate and violence;
all oppression must cease.

**All: We will beat our weapons into tools for love.
We will take the walls we raise against the stranger
and build a house where all can live in peace.**

Source: calltoworshipjournal.org

Advent Reading and Lighting of the purple first candle - HOPE

Draper Family

*Opening Hymn 157

I Danced in the Morning

*Prayer of Confession (standing)

Pastor Beckemeyer

Our prayer of confession is followed by a time for silent confession.

One: This is the time for us to wake from sleep;
salvation is near to us.

Let us then lay aside the tatters of sin,
and put on the armor of righteousness,
asking our Savior for forgiveness.

**All: O God, we are steeped in a world of violence. War is one of the first things we
learn,
and we let it work its way into our lives. Your promises of peace sound like
impossible dreams, and we become accustomed to cruelty.
Forgive us. Wrest our weapons from our hands, and show us how beautiful life can
be when you forge them into instruments of peace.**

Source: calltoworshipjournal.org

(Silent confession)

*Words of Assurance (standing)

Pastor Beckemeyer

One: Beloved, know this: the God of Presence, the God of Transformation, the God of
Peace, hears our prayers and gives us power to love.

All: Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*Passing of the Peace (standing)

Pastor Beckemeyer

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

MJ Floreno

All: Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source: calltoworshipjournal.org

Epistle Reading

Romans 13:11–14

MJ Floreno

Listen now to the Word of the Lord:

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off[a] the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Waiting For A King
Charlene Diehl (Flute)
(Choir)

Joseph Martin

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24:36-44 (NRSV)

Pastor Beckemeyer

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what

day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Sermon

“Hope at the Edge of Night”

Pastor Beckemeyer

Offertory & Collection of Prayer Cards

*Doxology #606

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

We Respond to God’s Word

Prayers of the People, Thanksgiving, & The Lord’s Prayer

MJ Floreno

To God we pray,

“Your kingdom come!”

Come bring your purpose near to make the force of evil fade, your goodness to appear as righteousness, a rolling stream to quench a thirsty land, the waiting season spent at last: your kingdom close at hand!

To God we pray,

“Your kingdom come!”

Come as a marriage feast in which the first and honored guests shall be the last and least; come lift the poorest of the poor up to your finest ranks, the hungry fed, the naked clothed, the downcast filled with thanks!

To God we pray,

“Your kingdom come!”

Come with your gift of growth; you scatter seed upon the ground, mix leaven in the loaf! What’s sown in secret, soon reveal to claim your harvest’s goal, till we attain your lasting aim: the leavening of the whole!

To God we pray,

“Your kingdom come!”

Come grant your unity. You seek and tend the wayward ones to form community, so that the lost may enter your good and holy place, and find their joy is centered in a heavenly embrace!

To God, we pray,

“Your kingdom come!”

Come claim creation wide; then shall the power of evil break, and sin no more divide. Your love shall launch a lasting reign as earth’s old ills are healed; by mercy, justice, peace anew, in perfect joy revealed!

To God we 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 384**

Soon and Very Soon

Benediction

Pastor Beckemeyer

Postlude

The Throne Room

arr. Titus Grenyer



Today’s flowers have been presented by Dwight Kish in loving memory of his father Andrew Kish



A Warm Welcome to Rochelle Beckemeyer!

Reverend Rochelle Beckemeyer is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God and has served as pastor of Echo Christian Fellowship in Lake Orion for 17 years. The ministry emphasis at Echo for the past 12 years has been toward special needs adults, including those living with various disabilities of body and mind. Pastor Rochelle has one adopted daughter, Sabrina (age 25), with whom she founded Safe & Sound Ministries, a nonprofit helping vulnerable adults. Pastor Rochelle has served as guardian for several adults, and, after retiring from Stellantis (aka Chrysler) in 2024, now works as a driver for North Oakland Transportation Authority (NOTA), transporting seniors and adults with various disabilities.

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.

Mission Committee Donations

SNAP benefits have been in the news a lot lately. SNAP is the current name for food stamps. Our congregation along with COOS and Covenant, have always generously supported agencies that alleviate hunger, especially in our local community. The Mission Committee has used our 2025 budgeted money that was not already earmarked and sent a \$250 check to the three local agencies that provide hunger relief: C.A.R.E.S., Neighborhood House and Salvation Army. Additional information is provided on the board. If this is an issue you personally feel passionate about, you can make an individual donation. QR codes and envelopes are provided for your convenience. They are located on the project board that has been set up in the middle of the church narthex. Donations will not go through the church books. Donations are entirely individual.

JOY! Advent Study (Dec 2, 9, 16)

The JOY Study group invites all of you to join us! Beginning November 18, the JOY Book Study will be reading *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachal Billups (the book costs about \$10.50). This four-week Advent study focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story. Contact Sharon Cressman if you would like Zoom details (and Zoom coaching if needed).

Reminder to send in pledge form

If you haven't done so already, please mail in your pledge form to the office or drop them off in the collection basket when you attend the Sunday service. We are putting together our 2026 budget and need your pledge. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the programs and ministries of First Presbyterian Church of Farmington. We couldn't do what we do without you!

Adopt-A-Teen for the Holidays

The Mission Ministry is hosting an Adopt-A-Teen for Christmas for six teens from the Farmington Public Schools. Today (November 30th) please select your gift choices from our tree in the Narthex. All the gifts must be delivered to the church by Sunday, December 7th. Please leave all gifts unwrapped; just attach the "bulb" tag to your gift. Wrapping paper, tape and gift bags may be donated separately. Merry, merry!

GIFT BAGS FOR SECOND MILE CHILDREN

Presbyterian Women is organizing Christmas gift bags for the children who attend the Second Mile Center in Detroit. The gift bags are large bags that will include items like shirts & pants, socks & underwear, hats & gloves, a toy from the child's wish list, and a book. The cost per gift bag is on average \$100. This is a great opportunity for friends or a small group to contribute together and put together a gift bag. The names of the children and their requests are usually

received from Ruth Azar, the director of SMC, at Thanksgiving, and the bags need to be received by the second week of December.

If you or a group would like to sponsor a Second Mile child by providing a gift bag or help by donating money in any amount (ex: \$25 gift card to Target or Amazon) to be included in a bag, please contact Sue Carlson.



First Presbyterian Mitten Tree

Cold weather is here, and the forecast says it will be an “arctic winter.” Hats and mittens are going to be a must for school children. Therefore, it is time for Presbyterian Women’s annual Hat and Mitten Tree collection!

Through December 14 we will be collecting hats, mittens, underwear, and socks for needy families right here in our own community. These items will be donated to Heartfelt Families of Farmington and Second Mile Center of Detroit.

Your new items should be placed on or below the tree in the Narthex Please leave the price tags on the items. Thank you in advance for your generosity. If you have questions, feel free to contact Dale Hawkins at (248) 478-6283.

PW CHRISTMAS GATHERING IS DEC. 10



Everyone is invited to join us for the PW Christmas Gathering on Wednesday, December 10 at 1:00 p.m. (Please note the new time for this event.) The afternoon begins with a musical program featuring many of your favorite First Pres musicians. Next is a stage play presented by Presbyterian Players. This is a comedy, “Operation Whispering Pines.” After the play, there

will be light refreshments in Knox Hall. The play is about a small, homey retirement facility that is in danger of being sold and turned into a golf course by its unscrupulous owner. The resourceful residents hatch a clever plan in hopes of saving their home and avoiding eviction. The playwright, Karen Jones, summarized the play’s message as “don’t mess with old people!” Tickets (\$5.00) will be available at the welcome table beginning Nov. 16 or by contacting Sue Carlson.

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:

December 7: Last names beginning E-K

December 14: Last names beginning L-R

December 21: Last names beginning S-Z

December 28: Last names beginning A-D



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

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers of the Church

Pastoral Care Parish Associate

Minister of Music

Office Administrator

Administrative Assistant

AV Tech Intern

Members of the Congregation

Rev. Craig S. Aue

Peter Cartwright

Liz Labourdeth

Amanda May Schreiber

Lidia Neathamer



2025 Christmas Poinsettias



Deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 14

Please complete and return this form to the church office along with your payment. The cost for a red or white eight-inch double Poinsettia plant with gold foil cover is \$18.50 each. Poinsettias are available for you to take home after the Christmas Eve service. Contact Eddie Matteson or the church office to arrange to pick up your poinsettia at another time, have it delivered to your home or to donate it to one of our homebound members. The poinsettias can be picked up on Sunday, December 21, 2025 or after.

Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and mark it for poinsettias or Christmas flowers. For last-minute orders, please contact the office at 248 474-6170 and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

Please PRINT the following information so that it will be published accurately.

NAME: _____ PHONE No: (_____) _____

Number of red poinsettias: _____ Number of white poinsettias: _____

Amount due to First Presbyterian Church: \$ _____ Payment Enclosed: Yes ____ No ____

From:

In honor of:

In memory of:
