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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.

December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday in Advent



Prayer of Preparation

Blessed are you, Lord our God, ruler of the universe, for you have kept us in life, sustained us, and brought us to this holy season. Amen.

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

O Come All Ye Faithful

arr Melody Bober

Welcome / Greetings

Sue Carlson

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Minute for Mission

Rick Fuller

*Call to Worship from Psalm 80

One: Listen, Shepherd of Israel, Who leads Joseph like a flock;

All: You who are enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth!

One: Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, awaken Your power,

All: We journey with all peoples of all creeds.

One: God, restore us And make Your face shine upon us,

All: and we will be saved.

Advent Reading and Lighting of the fourth candle – *purple*

Deb and Marc Hemmye

***Opening Hymn 132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

***Prayer of Confession (standing)**

Pastor Beckemeyer

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

One: God comes to us just as we are, with all our triumphs, our worries, our gratitude, and our failures. We deepen our relationship with God now by drawing close and confessing our sins.

All: Shepherd of our souls, we anticipate your coming but do not feel ready.

We have done too much, and not done enough.

We have focused too much on ourselves, and not enough on others.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we might be saved.

Source: calltoworshipjournal.org

(Silent confession)

***Words of Assurance (standing)**

Pastor Beckemeyer

One: Emmanuel did not come into this world to condemn, but to save.

All: God does not come to imprison us, but to set us free.

One: Through this abundant love, we are forgiven.

All: 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

**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.**

Source: calltoworshipjournal.org

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

Sue Carlson

Listen now to the Word of the Lord:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

**Advent Hymn
(Choir)**

Don Besig

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)

Pastor Beckemeyer

Sermon

“The Sign You Didn’t Ask For”

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

Sue Carlson

Gathered here, in the house of the Lord, let us pray for the coming of Christ’s realm.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peace of the church . . . Bring peace, O God, to sinners and saints;
keep us faithful in your mission and generous in sharing your grace.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peace of the earth . . . Bring peace, O God, to all people;
let new neighbors love one another and old enemies be reconciled.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peace of all nations . . . Bring peace, O God, to every land;
give wisdom to our leaders and freedom to all people.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peace of this community . . . Bring peace, O God, to our city;
hold us in your hand and lead us; shepherd the lost and feed the hungry.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peace of loved ones . . . Bring peace, O God, to family and friends;
protect those who are in trouble and save us from all harm.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peace of Jerusalem . . . Bring peace, O God, to the world you have made:
the peace that passes understanding and the promise of your new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is coming in glory to reign. **Amen.**

Source: calltoworshipjournal.org

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 136**

Go, Tell It On The Mountain

Benediction

Pastor Beckemeyer

Postlude

Postlude on St Denio

arr. Jason Payne

A Warm Welcome back 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.

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. 29th. *“Let’s keep the children fed over winter break”*

EUCHRE! The New Season Begins January 2!

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: Jan. 2, 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!

Christmas Joy Offering

The Mission Ministry is honored to sponsor the annual Christmas Joy Offering. This special offering supports retired clergy and invests in leadership development for the future—an important cause we wholeheartedly embrace. Christmas Joy envelopes are available in the pews, or you may mail your gift to the church office. Please mark your donation specifically for Christmas Joy. Thank you for your generosity and faithful support.

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.

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!

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 28: Last names beginning A-D

January 4 Last names beginning E-K

January 11: Last names beginning L-R

January 18: 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 just scan the QR code and follow

First Presbyterian Church Staff

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Pastoral Care Parish Associate	Rev. Craig S. Aue
Minister of Music	Peter Cartwright
Office Administrator	Liz Labourdeth
Administrative Assistant	Amanda May Schreiber
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