



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



## December 24, 2024 Worship for Christmas Eve

### Prayer of Preparation

*Lord, I don't know what today holds. But I know you hold it. I come to church today expecting to meet you, to speak with you, and to be filled by you. Amen.*

### Preparing to Receive the Light

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

*On Wings of Song*  
Calvin Malisow, French Horn

Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome/Greetings

*Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards*

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

Malisow Family

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

**Jesus Christ is the brightest revelation of God's love. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.**

Christ Jesus, who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

**But made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.**

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory,

**The glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Opening Hymn #133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!  
O come let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!  
True God from true God, Light from light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Very God, begotten, not created!  
O come let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!  
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O come let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

*Scripture Reading*

Luke 2.8-14

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,<sup>[b]</sup> praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

# The Coming of the Light

Anthem

*Still, Still, Still*

arr. Norman Luboff

*Children's Storytime (Meditation)*

## Responding to the Light

**Christmas Joy Offering**

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Tonight's Christmas Joy Offering is designated for several purposes: scholarships for Presbyterian racial/ethnic colleges; supplements to the pension of retired missionaries and pastors who served in low salaried positions; (and this congregation's discretionary fund to assist those in need.)

Candle Lighting

Silent Night

*Closing #134*

*Joy to the World*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow. Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love**

Blessing

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

*Hornkonzert*

Calvin Malisow, French horn  
R. Strauss



**2024 Christmas Poinsettias**



Rob & Sally Kirsten in memory of Mary Larson, Mary Kinney and Marjorie Perkins

Jim Tubbs in memory of Lee and Jim Tubbs

Dot Basmaji in honor of Mary Jo Ellens and memory of Neil Basmaji

Eddie & Becky Matteson in honor of Peace on Earth

Marcia & Bob VanHamme in loving memory of our daughter Leslie

Jerry & Marcia Howe in memory of our parents

Rick & Anne Fuller in memory of Yvonne Sawyer Fuller

Ron & Nancy Prieskorn in honor of a young family, who 2000 years ago traveled to a new country seeking refuge from persecution and those of who do so today

Tom & Cathy Neal in honor of our grandchildren

Dale Hawkins in honor of the Hawkins Family

Randy & Tracy Edwards in memory of loved ones

Karen Spica in honor and memory of family and friends

Shiloh Vick and Ludy Dodson in honor of Shirley Morse

### **Pastor Nominating Committee**

During the month of December, we will be searching for members to join the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC is the committee elected by the congregation to conduct the process of finding candidates and eventually selecting our new pastor. If you are interested in serving on the PNC, please contact Session member, Martha Countegan, by email at [dcountegan@aol.com](mailto:dcountegan@aol.com).

### **Reminder to send in pledge form or letter of intent**

If you haven't done so already, please mail in your pledge form or letter of intent to the office or drop them off in the collection basket when you attend the Sunday service. We are putting together our 2025 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!

### **Recycle Your Old Toothbrushes, etc.**

Please start saving your old toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes and caps, toothbrush outer packaging and empty floss containers, any brand. Place them in the marked bin in the foyer. Colgate has started a program to recycle these hard-to-recycle items. Let's keep more items out of the landfill! Thanks for your care for planet Earth. Questions? See Sharon Cressman.

### **Custodian Needed!**

Your First Presbyterian Church of Farmington is actively seeking a part time custodian. The candidate should have a good background in building maintenance. The job is 20 hours per week. The pay for it position is \$20 per hour. Please refer any candidates to Bob Van Hamme [@mvanhamme@twmi.rr.com](mailto:mvanhamme@twmi.rr.com)

### **Join the new Hospitality Team**

The Membership Committee encourages you to join our Hospitality Team. Help us welcome guests each Sunday. Pastor Bruce will be leading a Hospitality training session. If interested reach out to Collee Tavor ([CMTcounseling@gmail.com](mailto:CMTcounseling@gmail.com)) or Tom Neal ([tneal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tneal@sbcglobal.net))

## Stewardship 2025 – What does following Jesus mean to you?

As we move through our process of change and transition toward a permanent pastor, what better way to move forward than by “following Jesus?” Last year we committed to being a “sailboat church,” depending on God’s provision as the Holy Spirit guides us forward. May we all draw closer to Jesus as we explore what it truly means to follow him. Please feel free to share what “following Jesus” means to you on the Stewardship bulletin board in the foyer.

### Adult Bible Discussion – The Wired Word

Join our Bible discussion **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in 208/210**. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. To get on the email list, please contact Tom Neal at [ttneal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttneal@sbcglobal.net).

### 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 22: Last names beginning S-Z

December 29: Last names beginning A-D

January 5: Last names beginning E-K

January 12: Last names beginning L-R

January 19: Last names beginning S-Z

January 26: 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 prompts!

### First Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers of the Church	Members of the Congregation
Transitional Senior Pastor	Rev. Bruce Mulder
Pastoral Care Parish Associate	Rev. Craig Aue
Minister of Music	Peter Cartwright
Office Administrator	Liz Labourdeth
Administrative Assistant	Amanda May Schreiber
AV Tech Intern	Lidia Neathamer

