



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

WELCOMING ALL; SHARING CHRIST; SERVING OTHERS

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December 24, 2025 Worship for Christmas Eve

Prayer of Preparation

Lord, remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Preparing to Receive the Light

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

Ave Maria
Erika Thompson- soprano

Bach-Gounod

Welcome/Greetings

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Pastor Craig Aue

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

Pat & Mark Plamondon

First Reader: Tonight, we gather to remember with the prophet Isaiah: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this (Isaiah 9:6-7).

All: We gather to once again bask in the glory that visited a stable and a manger, shepherds watching their flocks, and a young couple cradling the newborn Messiah.

Second Reader: We light the Christ candle as a sign of the glory that came among us in unexpected places and to unexpected people, that we may be people who seek and follow the glory of the Christ child here and now.

(Light the center candle of the Advent wreath.)

Let us Pray

Come, Jesus Christ, our savior— teach us your way, lead us to freedom, Lord grow in our lives, open our minds, shine in our actions, rule in our hearts, be with us here, now, always. Be born in us today. Amen

Opening Hymn #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Children's Moment

Mary Carson

Scripture Reading

Luke 2.8-14

The Coming of the Light

Anthem

Ding Dong! Merrily On High

arr. David Wilcocks

Mediation

A Shepherd's Story

Responding to the Light

Hymn #143

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Christmas Joy Offering

Pastor Craig

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

Hymn #122

Silent Night

Christmas Litany

Mitchell Cressman

L: We thought we lived in the light, but the darkness of fear, anger, and alienation had taken over.

P: We wondered where God was.

L: God banished the darkness away in the light of the Christmas Star

P: God's light was found around a manger, a place where the Holy Child was given to sleep.

L: God called to the shepherds through the voices of the angels whose first words were "Do not be afraid. There is Good News for you!"

P: And in that instance, all the people who felt that God didn't care about them, had Hope.

L: The star shone brightly and shines brightly in our lives.

P: Now no darkness can shut it out.

L: Go, Tell the Good News. Christ is Born!

P: Praise be to God who has poured God's Light and Love into our lives once again. Now and forever. AMEN.

Closing Hymn #134

Joy to the World

Blessing

Pastor Craig

Postlude

O, Holy Night

Placide Capeau

Erika Thompson- soprano



2025 Christmas Poinsettias

Jim Tubbs in memory of James and Leondra Tubbs

Eddie and Becky Matteson in honor of peace in Gaza.

Dot Basmaji In loving memory of her husband Neil, and in loving memory of Harold and Mary Jo Ellens.

Rick and Anne Fuller in honor of Sue and Ken Cooper.

Emanuela and Michael DeCenso in memory of both of their mothers, Joyce and Margarita.

Luna and Dwight Kish from Frida Kapatais in memory of Constantine Kapatais.

Leslie Black and Mike Rogers in honor of family near and far.

Dave and Mary Carson in honor of their church family, who shares God's love!

Mitchell Cressman in honor of his mother, girlfriend and Pastor Rochelle and her ministries.

Mark and Pat Plamondon in memory of their parents and grandparents.

Dale Hawkins in honor of the Hawkins family.

Lisa Hayes in honor of Leah Moir.

Craig and Pam Aue in honor of all members and leaders at First Presbyterian Church also in memory of the saints who faithfully served Christ.

Reeveila Kelly in honor of Freedom Villa Group Home.

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 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

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	
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