



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF FARMINGTON

*Church of the Open Hands*

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



December 28, 2025

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas Carol Sing & Ugly Sweater Day



**Meditative Thought:** “Wisdom does not make me full. It fills me with hunger.”  
— Noah Benshea

## Prayer of Preparation

*God of hope and light, your good news has been emblazoned across the skies, the great starry night of Jesus’ birth, sung by angels, celebrated by shepherds, witnessed by animals. You have given to us, a new chance, a reminder of your continual love for us. Be with us in this worship, we pray. Guide our thoughts, our lives, our spirits. Heal and restore us. For we ask this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.*

## Coming into the Presence of God

*\*please stand in body or in spirit*

**Prelude**

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

arr. Brent Edstrom

**Welcome**

Pastor Craig

*Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards*

## \*Call to Worship

Beloved, we have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child. As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask, “What now?”

**We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.**

In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us, the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned to the disempowered does not reign in so many places.

**We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.**

With Mary and Joseph, we listen for God to show us how to protect and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

**We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.**

As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us to live as followers of the Christ child who declare good news wherever we go.

**We gather today as people who wait, watch, and work for the day that all the earth awaits. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise #**

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

### **Call to Reconciliation**

Before we put away the ornaments and put the tree out by the curb, before we toss the cards and wrapping paper into the recycling bin, before we store the movies and music back in the closet, let us confess how quickly we forget the true meaning of this holy season, as we offer our prayers to our God, in joining in our responsive prayer of confession.

### **Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Gracious God,  
we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child,  
those who dropped all that they were doing  
and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world.  
We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability,  
who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child,  
that he might know love and safety.

And yet, merciful God,  
we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod.  
Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions,  
find our own need for control more compelling  
than the needs of others for health and safety.  
Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege,  
rather than advocating for the rights of the oppressed.

Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents  
for the sake of profit, or power,  
or because we fear to know, and to change,  
the injustices of this world.

Loving God,  
we confess our sins against you and one another,  
and pray that you will fill us with your light,  
that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name,  
without counting the cost.  
In the name of Christ,  
the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayers

### **Assurance of Pardon**

**Old Testament Lesson**                      Isaiah 63:7-9

**Carol Sing** (*limit 2 verses each*)

**Gospel Lesson**                                      Matthew 2:13-23

**Reflection**                                      **Christmas Whiplash**                                      Pastor Craig

Offering/Doxology  
*Collection of Prayer Cards*

### **Prayers of the People**

**Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**                                      Pastor Craig

God of life, we pray to you for all people: for all women who have been excluded from a full-fledged life for the only reason that it has always been like that.

**Empower us to take all iniquity away.**

for all people who are oppressed and abused.

**Empower us to take all iniquity away.**

for all people whose freedom and dignity are denied by systems and authorities.

**Empower us to take all iniquity away.**

for all those who are driven away from their houses and their homes because of their conscience and their convictions.

**Empower us to take all iniquity away.**

for all those who are in search of the meaning of their life within their own culture and religion.

**Empower us to take all iniquity away.**

for all those who have to labor too hard for too small a salary.

**Empower us to take all iniquity away.**

for those many desperate women and men who are at the mercy of the rich and the powerful.

**Empower us to take all iniquity away.**

for all those who suffer, we pray to you.

**Empower us to take all iniquity away.**

Hear our prayers as we raise our voices proclaiming the prayer our Lord taught us...

**“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.”**

**\*Hymn of Sending #2095**

**Star Child**

**Shirley Erena Murray**

1 Star child, earth Child, go between of God, love Child, Christ Child, heaven’s lightening rod  
[REFRAIN]

**[REFRAIN] This year, this year, let the day arrive when  
Christmas comes for ev’ryone, ev’ryone alive!**

2 Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child, used child, no one wants to know  
[REFRAIN]

3 Grown child, old child, mem’ry full of years, sad child, lost child, story told in tears [REFRAIN]

4 Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more, wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store  
[REFRAIN]

5 Hope-for-peace Child, God’s stupendous sign, down to earth Child, Star of stars that shine  
[REFRAIN]

**Benediction**

**Pastor Craig**

**Postlude**

**Paeon**

**Dale Wood**

**The Annual Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington  
will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2025**

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](http://www.farmington-pres.org)). There will be a limited supply of printed copies available at the Welcome Center by Sunday, February 1, 2025, or you may contact the church office to arrange for a copy to be provided to you.

### **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](mailto: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](http://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 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.

**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 4 Last names beginning E-K
- January 11: Last names beginning L-R
- January 18: Last names beginning S-Z
- January 25: 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

<b>First Presbyterian Church Staff</b>	
<b>Ministers of the Church</b>	<b>Members of the Congregation</b>
<b>Pastoral Care Parish Associate</b>	Rev. Craig S. Aue
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Peter Cartwright
<b>Office Administrator</b>	Liz Labourdeth
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Amanda May Schreiber
<b>AV Tech Intern</b>	Lidia Neathamer