



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF FARMINGTON

*Church of the Open Hands*

26165 Farmington Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
(248) 474-6170

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## December 8, 2024 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of 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 "Midnight Clear-Silent Night Medley" arr. Jason Tonioli

Welcome / Greetings

*Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards*

Advent Reading & Lighting of the Second Candle (purple) Kelly Family

Short Promo for Shepherds and Kings Buford Shepherd

\*Call to Worship— Richard Spurgeon

We gather in preparation;

**For good news is about to be proclaimed.**

We gather in expectation;

**For joy is about to explode in our midst.**

We gather in celebration;

**For we are the Lord's people who have said:**

**yes to the manger,**

**yes to love enfleshed,**

**yes to the One incarnate for others,**

**yes to the wholeness of God.**

With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

**Let us worship the Lord our God. Amen!**

\*Opening Hymn # 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

**“Comfort, comfort, now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.**

**“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.**

**To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!**

**Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare is now over!”**

**For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,**

**Calling us to true repentance since the reign of God is here.**

**O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.**

**Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.**

**Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.**

**Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.**

**For the glory of the Lord now on Earth is shed abroad,**

**And all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.**

\*Prayer of Confession—from Isaiah 60

Arise, shine: for your light has come.

**O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.**

Arise, shine; the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.**

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and God’s glory will be seen upon you.

**We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for him in each moment in our waiting hearts.**

And nations shall come to your light, and kings and queens to the brightness of your rising.

**Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It’s time that we prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness—from Zephaniah 3

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

**The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, God has turned away your enemies.**

The Ruler of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

**Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.**

**The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a champion who gives victory;**

God will rejoice over you with gladness, The Lord will renew you in his love;

God will exult over you with loud singing.

**Give thanks! God has forgiven us. Amen.**

## **We Hear God's Word**

Scripture Reading

Malachi 3.1-4; Luke 1.68-79

### Malachi 3.1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

### Luke 1.68-79

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus, he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on

high will break<sup>c</sup> upon<sup>d</sup> us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Anthem                                      First Song of Isaiah                                      Jack Noble White

Sermon                                      Look! Over There! – It’s the Great Interrupter

## **Confessing the Names of Jesus**

### Names of Jesus for the Second Sunday in Advent

Jesus is our Savior, our Lord and the Bread of Life, Son of the Living God.

Christ is the Lion of Judah and Lamb of God. Jesus takes away the sin of the world.

Wonderful Counselor, King of Kings, Prince of Peace. The Good Shepherd.  
Jesus is our Judge and Master and yet our Advocate.

Christ is the Dayspring, the Dawn, come to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace; and Jesus is the Bright and Morning Star.

By grace we know Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.  
On earth he was born in Bethlehem. He was once a child.

## **We Respond to God’s Word**

Offertory & Doxology

*Collection of Prayer Cards*

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer                                      Richard Spurgeon

Remember your church, O Christ; send your Spirit of unity, courage, and holiness.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

By shedding your blood, you have purified us; keep us ready to welcome the Day of your coming.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Call from among us bearers of your presence; may they go to the far ends of the earth as tokens of your friendship and signs of your light.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Give joy to all your faithful servants; may they follow you all the days of their life.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Nurture within us your Spirit of love; may we never close our hearts to any of our sisters and brothers.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Bring to an end the divisions between Christians; gather us in one visible communion.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Have mercy on all who suffer persecution for your name's sake; uphold them by your strong Spirit, that they may remain true to you in all their trials.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Comfort all who are suffering in their hearts or in their bodies; give them health and peace to sing of your power.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

We pray for all who are leading the nations; give them a sense of what is right, that they may work toward peace and fullness of life for all.

**Come to us in power, O Christ.**

Give eternal rest to all who are dying; may the light that never sets shine upon them.

**Come to us in power, O Christ. Amen.**

**And now hears us, O Christ as 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 # 106

Prepare The Way O Zion

**Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!**

**Let every hill and valley a level way appear.**

**Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.**

**O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.**

**He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.**

**His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love.**

**Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy a bounding.**

**O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.**

**Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,**

**And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.**

**All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.  
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.**

Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

arr. Lani Smith

### **Worship Liturgist**

We welcome Richard Spurgeon as today's liturgist. Next week's liturgist will be Rob Kirsten. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

**Thank you to the generous Christmas elves who helped to make the season brighter for 7 FPS students. -From The Mission Team**

### **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 ([ttneal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttneal@sbcglobal.net))

## Freedom House – Urgent need for Winter Boots

Freedom House provides a comprehensive approach to assisting those who seek asylum in the U.S. and Canada. Most Freedom House residents have never experienced a winter like ours. All of them arrive with just what they can carry. A good pair of boots will help someone get through the winter safely and comfortably.

If you would like to provide a pair (or more) of boots this Christmas for those who have none, you can purchase pre-selected boots in the Amazon link below.

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- Be sure to select Barb Lovan as the delivery address; she will wrap all the boots for the holiday party before Christmas.
  - All boots must arrive before December 15 so don't delay! However, some boots may have a later delivery date. Please order anyway.
  - <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gi/guest-view/N49Y2KUP3HG9>
1. Select item/s
  2. Select "Proceed to Checkout"
  3. Select "Barb Lovan" under delivery address
  4. You can write a message under "gift options" and then "save gift options"
  5. Lastly, place your order.
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## 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!

From Sunday, November 24 through TODAY Sunday, December 8, 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 starting Sunday, November 24. 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.



### 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Presbyterian Men's Communion & Advent Breakfast

December 14<sup>th</sup> The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Presbyterian Men's Communion & Advent Breakfast will be hosted at Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Township. The breakfast will include breakout sessions discussing communication and stewardship! FPCF Men will meet in the church parking lot to carpool and will leave by 7am. if or RSVP to Tom Neal ([ttneal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ttneal@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.

### FPCF's Shopping List for CARES

Thank you for using your 2024 CARES shopping list each month to donate. Your neighbors, the guests at CARES, appreciate the availability of a variety of food from which to choose.

### 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).



### Christmas Gathering is Dec 11 at 10 A.M.

What happens when a city family, the Kings, gets hopelessly lost while cutting down a Christmas tree in the woods and is rescued by an extended back country family, the Shepherds? Find out by attending the Christmas comedy “Shepherds and Kings,” by Karen Jones, presented by Presbyterian Players on

Wed. Dec. 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. There will also be Christmas music performed by our First Pres musicians, and light refreshments after the program. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased at the welcome table or by contacting Sue Carlson. Your hosts, Presbyterian Women, invite men and women, including guests, to join us.

### 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 8: Last names beginning E-K
- December 15: Last names beginning L-R
- December 22: Last names beginning S-Z
- December 29: 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**

**Transitional Senior Pastor**

**Pastoral Care Parish Associate**

**Minister of Music**

**Office Administrator**

**Administrative Assistant**

**AV Tech Intern**

### **Members of the Congregation**

Rev. Bruce Mulder

Rev. Craig Aue

Peter Cartwright

Liz Labourdeth

Amanda May Schreiber

Lidia Neathamer



## 2024 Christmas Poinsettias

Deadline for ordering is Tuesday, December 10



**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.

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:**

\_\_\_\_\_