



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

WELCOMING ALL; SHARING CHRIST; SERVING OTHERS

26165 Farmington Road,
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
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December 29, 2024

1st 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

O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. Melody Bober

Welcome

Pastor Craig

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

*Call to Worship

Children of God, Jesus Christ is born!

God has come to make a home among us!

Yet the story is not over. After birth comes the ordinary and mundane growing, maturing, and discovering, even for the Christ Child.

In the ordinary and mundane, God has come to make a home among us.

And sometimes, in the midst of the everyday, something surprising happens, and we discover anew just what God is up to in our midst.

In the surprising and spectacular, God has come to make a home among us.

Children of God, let us worship the God who dwells with us in all things and all seasons.

We come to make our home with God who makes a home among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise #110**

Love Has Come

**Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See, the glow in the eyes of his mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.**

**Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

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 (Responsive)

Most Loving God, because you knew how twisted and corrupted our humanity had become, you sent us your Holy Son—

We name him Jesus, our Savior, for he has saved us from our sins.

Because you have stood in our shoes and understand how difficult it is to live by the rule of law in an often cold, unfeeling, and ruthless world—

We name him Jesus, our Savior, for he is this very day saving us from all our sins.

Because you have given us a gracious spirit, forgiving those who sin against us, and you call us to a ministry of reconciliation in a fractured world—

We proclaim him Jesus, our Savior, for he will save our world from its many sins

Silent Prayers

Response

God of Christmas, God of unspeakable grace, forgive and renew us all, that our lives may declare the wonders of that Holy Love that has called us out of darkness into glorious light.

Assurance of Pardon

In these moments, let God's peace dwell in your hearts. For God gives us hope, gives us peace, and gives us new life in the forgiveness of God's grace.

Thanks be to God, for in receiving **God's forgiveness, we are enabled to live as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.** Amen!

Carol Sing (limit 2 verses each)

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2: 41 - 52

Deb Hemmye

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Reflection

Going Home

Pastor Craig

Offering/Doxology

Collection of Prayer Cards

Prayers of the People

Deb Hemmye

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Craig

Loving God may we be found and may we find a place called home, a place where faith holds us, and grace renews us, where forgiveness longs for us to be who you will us to be. May we find a place called home where we are accepted as we are where we are taken in, and loved unconditionally. A place called home where we belong, and our souls fit and our questions are allowed and our anger is heard and our needs are recognized, and our pain is held, and our names are known. May this be that place, O God, this community, this group of travelers and doubters and companions on the way, this home where your place is our place. A place that isn't a building, but a way of being together in relationship, held together by love. Loving God, Homecoming God, may we make this a home to all who still yet seek a place of grace-filled sanctuary and gracious welcome. May it be so, even as we raise now our voices in 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 #113 Angels We Have Heard On High*

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?**

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Benediction

Pastor Craig

Postlude

The Holly and The Ivy

arr. Robert Thygerson

Today's flowers are presented by Karen and Paul Spica in memory of Don & Margot Stewart on their wedding anniversary.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Deb Hemmye as today's liturgist. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

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

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 (CMT Counseling@gmail.com) or Tom Neal (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.

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.

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 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