

Pastor Brian Steele

February 22, 2026

My brother is one of the smartest people I know. He missed one question on the math section of his SATs, and, according to our mother, he knew the answer. But there are two parts of the SAT. The math and then reading and writing. Now, my brother still did great at the reading and writing. He was one of the favorites of his AP English teacher, which she was sure to tell me that when I had her 10 years later in the same class. But he did miss more than one question in the reading portion. Because as he was practicing for the reading part of the SATs he was convinced he had the correct answer on certain questions, but the answer key disagreed with him. So he went to our father who told him, "Yes, you have a correct answer. But this other one is MORE correct."

More correct.

You don't tell somebody math oriented that something else is MORE correct. It's either right or wrong.

Friends, welcome to the atonement; a journey we are taking for the next five weeks that I'm anticipating to drive all the engineers around us absolutely batty. This is the study of how at one moment--that's the word atonement broken down--at one moment--where Christ saved us on the cross, and there is more than one correct answer.

For the past 2,000 years, the cross has become the chief symbol of our Christian faith. It's even a mainstream symbol you can find on just about every department store's jewelry section for all genders. We state that Jesus saved us on the cross. But what does that really mean? How does the cross save us? Why did Jesus have to die to save us? Those are all questions that people have had a lot of opinions on for the past 2,000 years. They call these opinions atonement theories. This is the study of how at that one moment when Jesus hung at the cross, how that saves us. Now, I appreciate that these are called theories. I am not here to give you sure-fire answers where you will be completely certain at the end of these next five weeks and will walk out of here with a complete theological understanding of the cross. That's not why we're here. You can breathe. But we're here to paint a picture, to put together a puzzle, using the different metaphors Scripture gives us of the cross and how those can give us a more fuller understanding of the cross. All of these images and theories have their merits, all of them have their shortcomings and all of them can teach us something about the cross.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

33112 Grand River Avenue

Farmington, MI 48335



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

10:00 a.m.

March 1, 2026

PRELUDE Yaroslav Daniels

WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Brian Steele

HYMN *Lift High the Cross* UMH #159 Yaroslav Daniels

CALL TO WORSHIP Barbara Walker

Leader: Come, all who carry the weight of sin and guilt.

People: Christ has taken up the sins of the world.

Leader: Come, all who long for mercy and grace.

People: God's love has nailed our debts to the cross.

Leader: Come, all who seek a new beginning.

People: By Christ's wounds, we are healed.

All: Let us worship the God of mercy, love, and forgiveness!

OPENING PRAYER Barbara Walker

God, your Word tells us that Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, and that proves God's love toward us. Our sin leads us to wander away from you. Our sin has caused us to harm ourselves, our neighbors and all of creation. Our sin led your Son to the cross. Yet your love never wavered. Today we thank you for the cross. The cross is dreadful, but it is a sign of your great love. May we never forget that.
Amen.

HYMN *O Love Divine What Thou Hast Done* UMH #287 Yaroslav Daniels

CHILDREN & YOUTH MOMENT Pastor Bea Fraser-Soots

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 Peter 2:21-25 Barbara Walker

Liturgist: The word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON *Why Did Jesus Have to Die: What We Have Done* Rev. Steele

OFFERTORY INVITATION Barbara Walker

(WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERFUL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THIS COMMUNITY OF FAITH.)

- Please place your tithes and offerings in the collection plate, or in one of our offering boxes. As the ushers come to receive our gifts, please sign the attendance pad, and pass it along to your neighbor.

OFFERTORY PRAYER OF DEDICATION Barbara Walker

OFFERTORY MUSIC Yaroslav Daniels

*SUNG PRAISE *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH #94

COMMUNITY PRAYER Rev. Steele

LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison) Rev. Steele

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

COMMUNION:	All are welcome at God's Table	Rev. Steele and Pastor Bea
WAYS TO CONNECT		Rev. Steele
HYMN	<i>The Old Rugged Cross</i> UMH #504	Yaroslav Daniels
SENDING FORTH:	You Are A Blessing From God. Now Go Be A Blessing!	Rev. Steele
POSTLUDE		Yaroslav Daniels



Vacation Bible School Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God Save the date: August 9-13, 2026

Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They will discover what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2026
CROP HUNGER WALKS

ENDING HUNGER
ONE STEP AT A TIME

It's that time of year again -- the CROP Walk is coming -- and as usual, Farmington First will host the Walk. The Walk will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2026. There will be two options for the Walk: a one mile course and a 3.5 mile course. Check in and t-shirt distribution will start at 12:30. Team pictures at 1:00. At 1:15 we will enter the Sanctuary for our kick-off meeting and then cross Grand River promptly at 1:30 to begin.

The preferred method of donating is online giving. To donate online click on this link [2026 CROP Hunger Walk - Farmington MI FUMC](#) and then click on the "Donation" box. If you do not want to make an online donation, make your checks payable to "CWS/CROP" and drop off in the office for John Sheppard. DO NOT make checks payable to the church. NO CASH will be accepted.

If you want to participate in the Walk, click on this link [2026 CROP Hunger Walk - Farmington MI FUMC](#) scroll down and click on the "Join The Team" box. It is very important that you register online if you want to participate because that also includes the waiver.

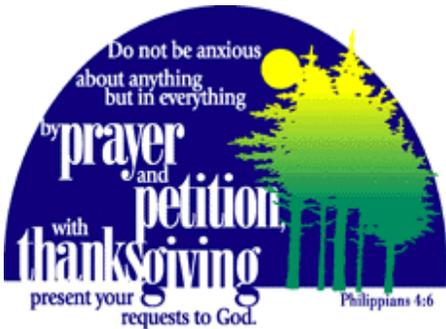
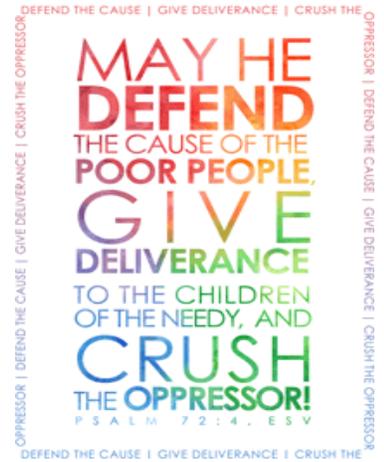
If you have any questions, please contact John Sheppard. See you at the Walk!!



MEETING ON Monday, March 2nd @ 6:30 P.M.



UNITED METHODIST MINISTRIES **is our**
PAY IT FORWARD
choice for March 2026



CARING MINISTRY LIST
STRENGTH & WISDOM DEALING WITH
HEALTH & LIFE CHALLENGES:

Claudette Howell, Maggie Clewley, Pat Dyert, John Hopeck, Bonnie Kennedy, Paul King, Dean Koppin, Cathy Kwasky, Scott Lodge, Denise Rogers, Denise Ruff, Oliver Schultz, Sharon Scott, Bernie Shaw, *Darrell Simmons*, Bill & Suzanne White, Sandy Welling, Ruth Yuill

The Caring Ministry keeps those who are shut in, hospitalized or sick and unable to attend church connected to the church through visits, cards, and phone calls. "Please notify our office via call or email: office@farmingtonfumc.org or pastor of any requests by Monday to be included in the bulletin and by Thursday for verbal announcements. Names will be removed after 60 days unless otherwise requested."



1st Judy Smith
15th Connie Haase
22nd Happy St. Patrick's Day from Patty Tschudi
28th Tanner Tulgetske



Basement Burger Bar

Go after worship any Sunday and 20% of profits come back to the church!





The following committees are looking for additional members:
Methodist Men, Finance, Outreach, Trustees, The Streaming Team, and Website Team.



If you are interested in any of these committees, please contact Pastor Brian at (269) 274-0029.

Our teller team could use your help. Looking for 3 or 4 more volunteers that are willing to help count the offering after Sunday service. It takes about 30-60 minutes to complete depending on the Sunday. We schedule 2 tellers per Sunday. Commitment would be for no more than 2 Sundays a month depending on the scheduling. There may be a month that you may not be required to count. Scheduling is flexible.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A LITURGIST?

Liturgists are responsible for leading the opening prayer, reading the scripture lesson, leading the offering prayer, and reading the explanation of offering options. If you are interested in joining the liturgist team, please contact Jill Burress at jillb69@aol.com.

“HOW TO LIVESTREAM OUR WORSHIP SERVICE”

You can view our worship services live each Sunday morning, even if you don't have a Facebook page/account. Here is how to connect:

1. Go to: www.farmingtonfumc.org/watch or
2. Access the church's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/farmingtonfumc/
3. Once on the church's Facebook page, select the video marked **Live** in red.
4. You can now view the livestream of our worship service.



DID YOU MISS THE WORSHIP SERVICE?

You can view all previous worship services and sermons on our YouTube Channel, Facebook Page, or Website:

- Youtube: www.youtube.com/@farmingtonfumc1829/videos
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/farmingtonfumc/videos.
- Website: www.farmingtonfumc.org/watch-live

YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

Thank you for continued prayerful and financial support of the church. If you would like to make a gift to the church, please use one of the following methods:

1) Drop-off or Mail-in your gift to:

First United Methodist Church of Farmington - 33112 Grand River Ave
Farmington, MI 48336

2) Use PayPal, and select: First United Methodist Church of Farmington

3) Scan the QR code and follow the prompts.



GIVE TODAY



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @farmingtonfumc



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

33112 Grand River Avenue † Farmington, MI 48336

News & Notes February 22, 2026

248 474-6573 or 248 474-6595

Tuesday, February 24th

10:00 a.m. Bible Study
6:00 p.m. **Fat Tuesday Dinner**
7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, February 25th

5:00 p.m. **Worship Committee Meeting**
7:15 p.m. Boy Scouts

Thursday, February 26th

5:30 p.m. **Thursday Nights Together**
6:00 p.m. Hand Bell Rehearsal in the bell room
7:00 p.m. Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 27th

5:00 p.m. **Detroit Baptist Chin**

Saturday, February 28th

10:30 a.m. **Bev Ellis' Memorial Service**

Sunday, March 1st

10:00 a.m. Worship/SS Coffee Hour follows
11:30 a.m. Bible Study
12 noon Classical Indian Dance
5:00 p.m. Detroit Chin Baptist Church

Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday
11:00 am to 3:30 pm
Currently, I work from home on
Mondays and Fridays

Pastor Bea

Tuesday-Thursday
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Pastor Brian

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10-3
Please call/text 269-274-0029 to make
certain I am available.
Rest & REfreshME happens on Fridays!



ANNA COOK CIRCLE FELLOWSHIP

March 11, 2026 @ 12 noon

BRING YOUR SANDWICH & BEVERAGE

LYDIA CIRCLE FELLOWSHIP Friday, March 20th

Thursday Nights Together

Lenten Bible Study
Dinner 5:30 p.m. Study 6:30 p.m.
February 26th – March 26th



March 8th

SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

Announcements/information to be
shared in the order of worship/weekly
News & Notes, please email your
information to Phyllis Anderson
(phyllisa@farmingtonfumc.org) no later
than 11:00 a.m. on Monday mornings.

CRAFTER'S FELLOWSHIP

3rd Saturday's of the month
March 21, 2026

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Bring a project to work on
and a sandwich and see what
we are creating.

Susan Cook, Coordinator



FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, March 7th
5 p.m. – 8 p.m.



18th Don & Connie Haase

29th Tanner & Susanna Tulquetske

1st Claudette Howell, Linda Peckham

8th Michael Weddell

13th Denise Ruff

14th Ben Niemiec

15th Ella Hanson

16th Scott Riley

20th Don Haase

22nd Jodi Imus, John Welling

24th Sandra Welling

26th Doug Tonkovich

27th Brenna Drake

28th Maggie Clewley

31st Rachel Burress, Emily Carnell

John Sheppard

24th John & Sandra Welling