



SERMON SNIPPET:

Series: FASTING AND PRAYER – PART 5

Message: FASTING FOR PROTECTION

Scripture: Ezra 8:20-23 & Matthew 6:16-18 NRSV

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Anthony Hood

All of us who have driven or ridden in an automobile have used a seatbelt. The three-point seatbelt design, widely used today, was patented by Volvo safety engineer Nils Bohlin in 1959. Seatbelts have been one of the simplest tools used to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

Modern cars have added a layer of protection with the advent of airbags. All these safety measures are designed to protect driver and passengers in case of an accident. Indeed, we don't know what awaits us when travelling in our vehicles, which encourages our use of devices for protection.

As followers of Christ who strive to live faithful and faith-filled lives, we recognize that the journey is peppered with unforeseen hardships and trials. Although we do not have a physical safety belt like automobiles, we are not sent into the world unprotected. God offers us the guidance of the Holy Spirit, discernment, and wisdom to help us navigate the uncertainties of life.

Fasting for protection allows us to refine our perception to better attune our hearts and minds to God's guidance.

In our text from Ezra, we find the writer calling for a fast of protection. The Old Testament can be divided into The Law, The History, The Writings, and the Prophets. The book of Ezra is a part of the Old Testament History writings. Ezra's call for a fast for protection comes as they prepare to journey from Persia to Jerusalem. Ezra recognizes the journey will be arduous, but having neglected to secure an armed escort, Ezra turns toward a time of fasting. Fasting for protection, much like the poncho from our Children's message, seeks God's covering, provision, and nurturing despite our obstacles.

Our corporate fast is nearly upon us and preparations have been made; our fasting devotional guide is available on the website. There are three fasting options:

OPTION #1 – THE LIQUID FAST: You're asked to drink only water and tea during the fast.

OPTION #2 – THE RAW FRUIT & VEGETABLE FAST: You're asked to eat only fresh fruits, raw vegetables, and drink 100% fruit juice, or water.

OPTION #3 – THE PRAYER FAST: You're asked to fast from red meat, pork, complaining, or criticism and pray – prior to breakfast, lunch and dinner – for the duration of the fast.

I invite you to prayerfully consider participating in our Corporate Fast for God's guidance and forgiveness, as we seek God's favor for spiritually, numerically, and financially growth.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

33112 Grand River Avenue

Farmington, MI 48335



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Easter Cantata

April 13, 2025

PRELUDE Yaroslav Daniels

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Bea

HYMN Hosanna, Loud Hosanna #278 Yaroslav Daniels

OPENING PRAYER (In Unison) Edwin Arun

Almighty God, on this day we remember Christ's entry in to the Holy city of Jerusalem. He was proclaimed King by those who spread their garments and palm branches along his way. Let those branches be for us signs of his victory and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our Lord. In his name we pray. Amen

(United Methodist Book of Worship #340)

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Philippians 2:5-11 NRSV Edwin Arun

Liturgist: The word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

EASTER CANTATA: COME TO THE CROSS AND REMEMBER – PART 1

Arranged: Pepper Choplin

PROLOGUE: COME TO THE CROSS AND REMEMBER

THE MESSIAH HAS COME

BRING THE CUP AND THE BREAD

LOVE FILLED THE CUP

GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE

BRING THE THIRTY SILVER COINS

JUDAS

OFFERTORY INVITATION Edwin Arun

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

- **FOR THOSE WORSHIPPING VIRTUALLY:** Giving options will appear on your screen.
- **FOR THOSE WORSHIPPING IN-PERSON:** You may 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. Guests, please place your completed CONNECTION CARD in the collection plate.

OFFERTORY PRAYER OF DEDICATION Edwin Arun

OFFERTORY MUSIC Yaroslav Daniels

SUNG PRAISE Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow #94 Yaroslav Daniels

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER Pastor Anthony

LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

Pastor Anthony

Our Father, who is in heaven, Holy is your name. Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

EASTER CANTATA: COME TO THE CROSS AND REMEMBER – PART 2

Arranged: Pepper Choplin

BRING THE ROBE AND THE CROWN

SURELY, HE HAS BORN OUR GRIEFS

O SACRED HANDS, NOW WOUNDED

YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE
(Duet: Caels Hepworth/Beth Lackey)

HOLD THE SHROUD IN YOUR HANDS

WAITIN' FOR THE MORNIN'

GOODNESS OF GOD

by Jenn Johnson, Brian Johnson, David Ingram, Ed Cash, and Ben Fielding

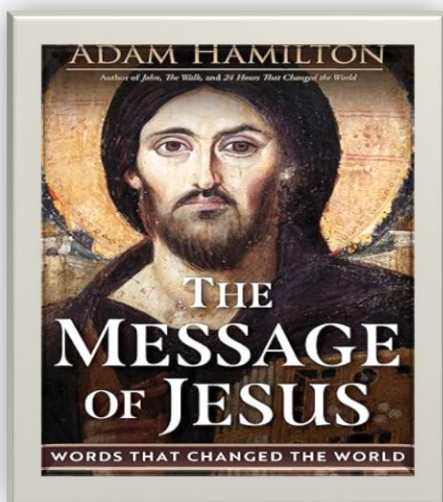
CLOSING WORDS

Debbie Tedrick

SENDING FORTH: **You Are A Blessing From God. Now Go Be A Blessing!**

POSTLUDE

Yaroslav Daniels



LENTEN STUDY OPTIONS:

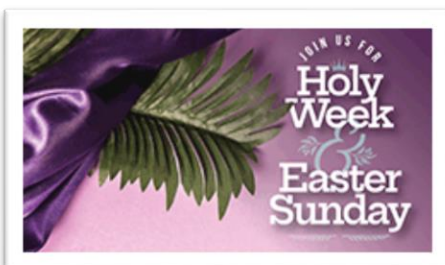
Tuesday Morning with Caroline Wik 10:00 am

Tuesday Evening with Barb Walker 7:00 pm

Sunday morning with Caroline Wik 11:30 am

The Bible Study groups will be studying *The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World* by [Adam Hamilton](#). The study explores six of the most important themes in Jesus' teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. The sessions *will include DVD presentations. All sessions start the week of March 2, 2025.*

Contact Barb Walker or Caroline Wik to obtain a book.



April 13th **PALM SUNDAY * EASTER CANTATA @ 10:00 a.m.**

April 17th **MAUNDY THURSDAY @ West Bloomfield UMC @ 7:00 p.m.**

April 18th **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @ F First @ 7:00 p.m.**

Sunday, April 20th **EASTER SUNDAY @ 10:00 a.m.**

SHROVE TUESDAY

MARCH 4TH @ 6 P.M. — "PIZZA AND PACZKIS"

THURSDAY NIGHTS TOGETHER



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON
33112 GRAND RIVER AVENUE † 48335
PHONE: (248) 474-6573 † FAX: (248) 474-2624
WEBSITE: WWW.FARMINGTONFUMC.ORG

DINNER @ 6 P.M. THURSDAYS
MARCH 13TH, 20TH, 27TH,
APRIL 3RD & 10TH

AFTER DINNER BIBLE STUDY
The Final Days by Matt Rawley
BY PASTOR ANTHONY & PASTOR BEA

Dinner Together
Book Study
Children's Fun
Choir Practice
RSVP

office@farmingtonfumc.org

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Sunday, May 4th

2025

CROP HUNGER WALKS
12 noon - 3:30 p.m.

ENDING HUNGER
ONE STEP AT A TIME



Meeting on Monday, May 5th @ 6:30 p.m.



APS \$820.00
Noah at Central \$165.00 + \$220
Holton Community Center
Global Ministries \$398.00
Lighthouse \$190.00

**FEED
CLOTHE
EDUCATE
EMPOWER**

BALDWIN CENTER
is our **PAY IT FORWARD**
choice for APRIL **2025**

We appreciate your generosity and ask you to please indicate **BALDWIN CENTER CCMM3036** on your check/envelope.



**CARING MINISTRY LIST
STRENGTH & WISDOM IN
HEALTH & LIFE CHALLENGES:**

Pat Bradley, Maggie Clewley, Janis Creswell, Bev Ellis, John Hopeck, Bonnie Kennedy, Paul King, Denise Rogers, Sandy Welling, Ruth Yuill

Condolences to the families of Robert Cook & Jane Hopper

HEALING AT HOME:

Pat Dyert, Dave Kennedy, Dean Koppin, Peter Kalakailo, Bob & Judy Rehn, Oliver Schultz, Sharon Scott, Bernie Shaw, *Darrell Simmons*, Bill & Suzanne White,



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. Contact Pastor Bea, Parish Visitor email: office@[farmingtonfumc.org](mailto:office@farmingtonfumc.org) or call the church office for further information.

If you have prayer concerns, please contact Pastor Anthony (313) 283-9919



APRIL 6th
APRIL 13th PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 20TH LILIES ON RESURRECTION SUNDAY
APRIL 27TH **Marion Ringe**

2025 DATES REMAINING for sign ups
AUGUST 24TH
NOVEMBER 30TH



to take over the RUMMAGE SALE

Virtual Rummage Sale Update 2024 eBay sales for 2024 totaled about \$4,976. with 166 transactions and 3 returned items. This was the highest eBay sales year since I began selling for the church in 2020 (remember that crazy pandemic situation?) 2024 proceeds were used to help fund improvements at the parsonage such as flooring, carpeting and landscaping work. As of December 31, our 5-year grand total is 643 transactions totaling \$16,485.24.



GUIDING FORCE YOUTH GROUP (GFYG)

"Serve with Detroit", a special mission opportunity for youth will be the week of July 6 through 11. More details to follow.



are available to Children in Kindergarten through Fifth Grades throughout the school year.

At this time, we are not able to provide Nursery Care for our youngest participants. Please know that children of all ages are welcome in worship, especially when they are making "joyful noises to the Lord". Our future plans include developing a "Family Center" where parents will have a comfortable space to experience worship service via live stream in a space that is hospitable for them.



MISSION OPPORTUNITY

On **Saturday May 3**, we will be serving with "Hands with Detroit" at Cass Community Social Services. We will meet at FUMC, carpool to Cass, and return home each evening.

This incredible day of mission and service is a chance to make a meaningful impact in the city of Detroit. Gather your youth groups, family, and friends and mark your calendars now! Registration will open soon—don't miss this opportunity to serve, connect, and change lives together. Let's put our faith into action and make a difference!



2025 Free Narcan Training

RESCHEDULED AGAIN TO SATURDAY APRIL 19, 2025

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

First United Methodist Church

33112 Grand River Ave, Farmington MI 48336, USA

Join us for this free training and learn how to administer a lifesaving dosage of Narcan to stop an Opioid overdose.

A simple spray could save a life.



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 Anthony

at: pastoranthony@farmingtonfumc.org.



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.



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @farmingtonfumc



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

33112 Grand River Avenue † Farmington, MI 48336
248 474-6573 or 248 474-6595



News & Notes April 6, 2025

Monday, April 7th
6:30 p.m. Outreach

Tuesday, April 8th
10:00 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study
1:00 p.m. Piano Tuner
7:00 p.m. Tuesday Evening Bible Study

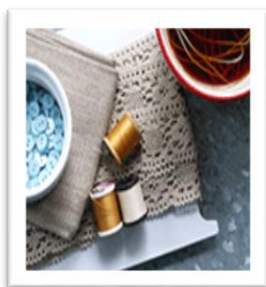
Wednesday, April 9th
12 noon Anna Cook
7:15 p.m. Boy Scouts

Thursday, April 10th
6:00 p.m. Thursday Nights Together Meal & Bible Study
7:30 p.m. Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 11th
5:00 p.m. Detroit Chin Baptist Church

Saturday, April 12th
2:00 p.m. Dance Ensemble

Sunday, April 13th
10:00 a.m. PALM Worship Service/ Sunday School
Coffee Hour following
11:30 a.m. Bible Study
12:00 p.m. Indian Classical Dance
5:00 p.m. Detroit Chin Baptist Church



CRAFTER'S FELLOWSHIP

CHANGED to

3rd Saturday's of the month
April 19th & May 17th
9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Bring a project to work on
and a dish to share.
Susan Cook, Coordinator



ANNA COOK CIRCLE FELLOWSHIP

2nd Wednesday's of the month
April 9TH 2025 12 noon

BRING YOUR SANDWICH & BEVERAGE
DESSERT: NANCY IMUS
(Contributions to Nancy's dessert fund welcomed.)

Church Office Hours:
Monday- Friday
10:00 am to 2:30 pm

Pastor Bea's Office Hours:
Tues. Wed. Thurs. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Pastor Anthony's Office Hours:
Tuesday 9:00am-1:00pm
Wednesday 4:00pm-8:00pm
Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm and 5:00pm-8:00pm

SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

If you have information to include in the weekly News & Notes, please email your information to Phyllis Anderson (phyllisa@farmingtonfumc.org) no later than 11:00 a.m. on Monday mornings. Announcements or information to be shared in the order of worship, must be submitted to Pastor Anthony no later than 12:00 noon on Monday.



- 1st Denise Gress
- 4th Ray Barry, Pat Fleming
- 7th Ryan Berry
- 12th Evan Portner
- 14th Tom Hanson, Debbie Harbison
- 15th Dan Gertiser
- 17th Cheryl Jacobi
- 19th Elijah Greene
- 20th Geri Doolin
- 23rd Marion Ringe
- 24th Lois Holmes, Aidan Riley
Jon Schroeder
- 26th Diane Kreimes, Joy Baum
- 28th Elaine Malafouris
- 29th Lucas England, Janine Shymanski
- 30th Mark Keach

Wedding Anniversary
10th Rick & Margie Shaul
17th James & Marilyn Totten TX