

Pastor Brian Steele
Sunday, January 11, 2025

Why did Jesus choose to be baptized? He could have just started healing people. He could have just started preaching. But he chose to be baptized by another person just like us. Okay John the Baptist had a gnarly beard and ate bugs so he wasn't just like us, but he was allegedly human. And the man who had divinity coursing through his body, chose to be baptized by him. Why?

People have had a lot of thoughts about this over the years. Here's where I currently stand. First, I find it fascinating the location of this baptism. The Jordan River empties into the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth. Let's not overlook this. Jesus was baptized in a River that empties into the lowest place on earth. Jesus starts His ministry by lowering Himself into the lowest place He possibly could. When Jesus lowers Himself, He's not denigrating His self-worth. He comes up out of the water with an assurance of being God's beloved. Lowering ourselves is not about self-denigration. Jesus lowering Himself puts Him in a position of the suffering servant.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON
33112 Grand River Avenue
Farmington, MI 48335



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

10:00 a.m.

January 18, 2026

PRELUDE

Yaroslav Daniels

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Brian Steele

HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing UMH #519

Yaroslav Daniels

CALL TO WORSHIP from the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Edwin Arun

Leader: Siblings, rejoice! We live sustained by God's presence and love.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: As we mourn the wounds of God's children,

People: God weeps with us.

Leader: As we give thanks for siblings who have lived in faith,

People: God gives thanks with us.

Leader: As we struggle for justice,

People: God struggles with us.

Leader: As we strive for peace,

People: God strives with us.

Leader.: As we work together to build the beloved community,

People: God works with us.

Leader: As we offer our gifts to all,

People: God blesses us.

Leader: Siblings, rejoice! As we are sustained by God's presence and love,

People: Let us worship God. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Edwin Arun

God of justice, we mourn our violent world. The biggest stumbling block to building beloved community is our inability to see the image of God in each other. Forgive us, Lord. May the shackles fall from our hearts and may we walk together toward building beloved community through peacemaking so that your Kingdom can come on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.

ANTHEM

Carillon Symphony

Carillion Choir

Arr. By Douglas E. Wagner

HYMN

Marching to Zion UMH #733

Yaroslav Daniels

CHILDREN & YOUTH MOMENT

Pastor Bea Fraser-Soots

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Exodus 1:15-20

Edwin Arun

Liturgist: The word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

MLK Sunday: Bold and Effective Non-Violence

Rev. Steele

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Edwin Arun

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

- **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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Edwin Arun

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.		
WAYS TO CONNECT		Rev. Steele
HYMN	We Shall Overcome UMH #533	Yaroslav Daniels
SENDING FORTH: You Are A Blessing From God. Now Go Be A Blessing!		Rev. Steele
POSTLUDE		Yaroslav Daniels

FARMINGTON FIRST UMC

Current Structure

CHURCH COUNCIL: The main governing body of the church.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE: The SPRC serves as the go-between of the congregation, the staff and appointed clergy. They handle personnel decisions and provide support and accountability for clergy and staff.

TRUSTEES: The stewards of property God has entrusted to the congregation. This includes supervising and maintaining both the physical property of the congregation and gifts made to the congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective and all legal requirements related to the property are satisfied.

FINANCE: The committee on finance shall be charged with responsibility for developing and implementing plans that will raise sufficient income to meet the budget adopted by the church council. It shall administer the funds received according to instructions from the church council.

NOMINATIONS: Chaired by the appointed clergy, this team helps discern and nominate individuals for committees. However, they are not able to self-nominate unless the pastor and team agree.

MINISTRY TEAMS: These are the teams that make our church go. They are the boots on the ground who do the ministry of the church.

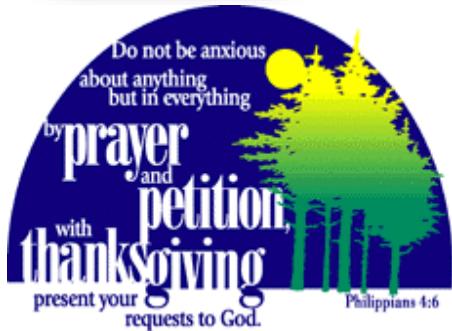


MEETING ON Monday, February 2nd @ 6:30 P.M.



is our
PAY IT FORWARD
choice for JANUARY

Noah Central grateful for the \$352 October contribution.



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

Scott Edggs, 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."



4th In loving memory of Pat Shuffler - Susan Lanstra
11th In loving memory of my husband Bob and my son, Jeremy - Susan Cook
18th Honoring the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. - Ann St. John

Church Pick Sunday Next Week!

Please write Any Old Testament Passage or Story Below and your choice
could be the Scripture passage next Sunday!

Please share your choice via a voice message or email
office@farmingtonfumc.org.

My Choice: _____



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.



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @farmingtonfumc



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

33112 Grand River Avenue † Farmington, MI 48336

News & Notes January 11, 2026

248 474-6573 or 248 474-6595

Tuesday, January 13th

10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, January 14th

12:00 p.m.	Anna Circle
7:15 p.m.	Boy Scouts

Thursday, January 15th

6:00 p.m.	Bell Rehearsal in the bell room
7:00 p.m.	Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 16th

7:00 p.m.	Lydia Circle @ Wiks
5:00 p.m.	Detroit Baptist Chin

Saturday, January 17th

9:30 a.m.	Crafter's Gathering
2:00 p.m.	Liturgical Dance Rehearsal

Sunday, January 18th

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



ANNA COOK CIRCLE FELLOWSHIP

January 14, 2026 @ 12 noon

BRING YOUR SANDWICH & BEVERAGE



LYDIA CIRCLE FELLOWSHIP

At Carolyn Wik's Friday, January 16th
@ 7 noon



2026 Offering Envelopes are out on the table.
2025 Giving Statements will be sent out by the
end of the month.



CRAFTER'S FELLOWSHIP

3rd Saturday's of the month
January 17, 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

2 nd Dave Drake,	3 rd Megan Gesse
5 th Cathy Jackson	11 th Emma Baker
14 th Glenn Morrison	15 th Ann St. John
17 th Denise Rogers	18 th Dave Kennedy
23 rd Julia Hanson	25 th Sandy Roth
31 st Ginda Gruse	

5th Harrison & Carrie Igwe

