

Pastor Brian
December 14, 2025

One of the original sins of our humanity is that we base human worth on zip code. The "good people" are from here. The "bad people" are from there. We have been programmed as humans to make complex human beings fit into our preconceived boxes. Thanks be to God that we have a savior from Nazareth who is here to deprogram us.

A little less than two thousand years ago a man named Nathaneal was walking through town when his friend Philip found him and said, "'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law and the Prophets: Jesus, Joseph's son, from Nazareth.'

Nathaneal replies, "Can anything from Nazareth be good?"

Nathaneal was from Cana. That was the proper place where the "good people" were. Nazareth was the small town that in the words of Rob Fuquay, "seems to have been a disrespected place." It was a place nobody would claim. Even the locals like Joseph worked elsewhere. Yet here we are in Advent with the angel Gabriel showing up in Nazareth proclaiming worthiness to a young woman who nobody would give the time of day to and then her baby years later proudly proclaiming his heritage as a Nazarene.

We cannot lose sight that we worship a King who would be raised in a place like Nazareth. And I am in awe at what Gabriel says to Mary. God is honoring you. God is honoring the disregarded. God is honoring the overlooked. God is honoring those people in the places that are looked down upon.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

33112 Grand River Avenue
Farmington, MI 48335



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

10:00 a.m. Cantata
December 21, 2025

PRELUDE	Yaroslav Daniels	
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rev. Brian Steele	
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING	The Baker Family	
HYMN	<i>Advent Song</i>	TFWS #2090 (Verses 1-4)
CHILDREN'S MOMENT	Pastor Bea Fraser-Soots	

CHRISTMAS CANTATA PART 1: FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

By John Leavitt

Once In Royal David's City		Chancel Choir
The Bidding Prayer		Rev. Carolyn Wik
First Lesson: Unto Us a Child is Born	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	Rev. Wik
Second Lesson: The Branch from Jesse	Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9	Rev. Wik
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming		Chancel Choir
Third Lesson: A Promised Ruler from Bethlehem	Micah 5:2-5a	Rev. Wik
O Little Town of Bethlehem		Chancel Choir
Fourth Lesson: The Birth of Jesus Foretold	Luke 1:26-35, 38	Rev. Wik
O How Joyfully		Chancel Choir
Fifth Lesson: The Birth of Jesus	Luke 2:1-7	Rev. Wik
Away in a Manger		Chancel Choir
CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY		Rev. Steele
OFFERTORY INVITATION		Barbara Walker
OFFERTORY PRAYER OF DEDICATION		Barbara Walker
OFFERTORY MUSIC		Yaroslav Daniels
SUNG PRAISE	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	UMH #94

CHRISTMAS CANTATA PART 2: FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

By John Leavitt

Sixth Lesson: The Shepherds and the Angels	Luke 2:8-16	Rev. Wik
Ding Dong! Merrily on High		Chancel Choir
Seventh Lesson: The Visit of the Magi	Matthew 2:1-11	Rev. Wik
As with Gladness Men of Old		Chancel Choir

Eighth Lesson: The Escape to Egypt

Rev. Wik

Coventry Carol

Chancel Choir

Ninth Lesson: The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-14

Rev. Wik

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!

Chancel Choir

CLOSING WORDS

Wesley Knust

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

Rev. Steele

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reader One: Today we enter the final days of waiting. Hope is almost here in the newborn king.

Reader Two: The Light of the World is upon us. Let us celebrate with joy through music.

Reader One: As we sing, may our hearts open so that we can marvel at the grace of the manger.

Reader Two: May we lower ourselves so that we can welcome the newborn king and may we find hope once again this Christmas. The light is coming and the darkness cannot overtake it.

Light Four Candles

Christmas Cantata Performers 2025

Music Director & Conductor: Wesley Knust

Pianist: Yaroslav Daniels

Narrator: Rev. Carolyn Wik

Chancel Choir Sopranos

Geri Doolin * Carolyn Glennie

Ann St. John * Esther Weddell

Altos

Cindy Palmer * Marion Ringe

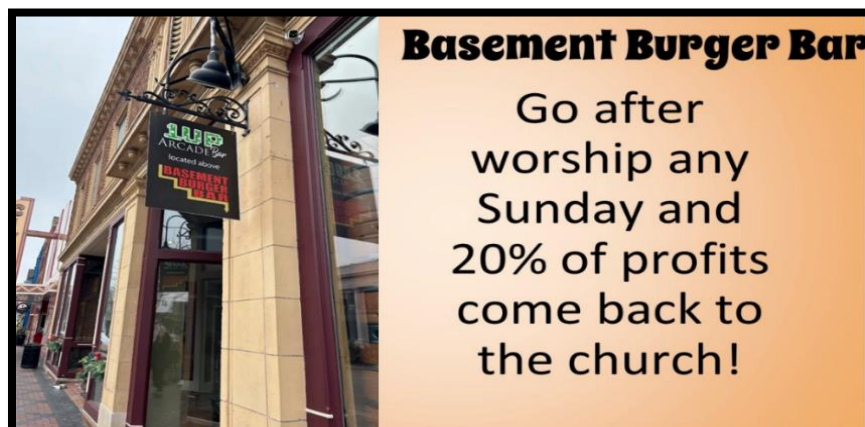
Tenors

Tim King * Michael Weddell

Basses

Bruce Baker * Jim Glennie

Dave Kennedy * Bob Rodibaugh





2025 Poinsettias adorning the Altar have been given by:

Jim & Carolyn Aymer in loving honor of our
granddaughter, Liliana Meadow Wojt
Pastor Bea

Leon & Geri Doolin in loving memory of Leon's parents Oscar & Hettie
Doolin

Connie Lynn in loving memory of Bob Lynn and Nancy Ferry

Dan & Diane, Amy & Evan Portner in loving memory of Jack & Betty Crane,
Fred & Helen Portner, Daniel Petersen

Scott & Carol Riley in loving memory of our parents:

Jim & Betty Kitson, Randy & Joyce Riley

Susan Sackett in loving memory of Gary Sackett, Erwin & Madeline Riley

Douglas Tonkovich in loving memory of Dorothy & Andy Tonkovich

Cathy Jackson & John Tuba

in loving honor of Robert, Evangeline, Tanya Butts & Sara Wells

Marion Ringe in loving memory of Gladys & Norman Ringe

Ann St. John in loving honor of FFUMC

Sandy & Steve Roth in loving honor of David, Haley & Julie Carter, Jared, Lisa, Landon & Maddison Roth,
Trevor, Becca & Charlie Roth, Becky Roth, Zoe & Elliot Carter, Matthew Carter, Jon and Sharon Carter, Stephanie and
Matthew Horne, Ashley, Rori, Abbi & Axel Beaubien, Mike, Brooke and Charlotte Roth, Krissy, Trevor, Marguerite & Leyla
Mullins, Adam Roth, Jim & Kathy Horne, Kristie & Jon Fischer, Rohn & Marcia Roth, & Ric & Joyce Roth.

MINISTRY SHARES

Karen Brichford in loving honor of Meredy & Jake Roorda

Karen Brichford in loving memory of Mary Petersen, Don Petersen, Dave Brichford, Tom Brichford

Suzanne Lanstra in loving memory of James & Ethel Lanstra

Patty Tschudi in loving honor of Kane Tschudi US Navy serving overseas
in loving memory of my parents John & Catherine Downing

Sandy & Steve David & Della Horne, Dick, Kris & Andrew Roth, Joe & Marge Carter, Larry & Marge LaVictoire, Dave
& Marion LaVictoire, Patty Jackson, James Paull, James Meloche, Janet Piper, Ralph & Sally Mattmueller, Tom & Lou
Stewart, Ed C Flo Hoffman, Ellen & Wilfrid LaVictoire, Arnold & Davina Meitz, Dominique Roth, Helene & Mike Tinn, Ron
& Rusty Krist, Gen & James Gehringer, Martha and Larry Amprim, Dave & Margaret Trombley, Henry, Selma & Herbert
Rich, Julius and Marion Schulman, Al & Bertha Swerdlow, Abraham & Margaret Alpert, John & Marion Horne, and Paul
Koenig.



MEETING ON January 6th @ 6:30 P.M.



**is our
PAY IT FORWARD
choice for December**



Noah Central grateful for the \$352 October contribution.



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

Maggie Clewley, Pat Dyert, Bev Ellis, 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."

DEDICATION OF



7th In loving memory of our nieces: Ola Igwe, Phyllis Walter & Verlinda Powell who made their transition in 2025 and are forever in our hearts- Igwes
14th In loving memory of my husband Bob and my son, Jeremy - Susan Cook
28th Geri Doolin

2026 Altar Flower Calendar is up.

January 4th

11th In loving memory of my husband Bob and my son, Jeremy - Susan Cook

The Education Committee: Karen Brichford, Joan Pence, Pastor Bea, Stephanie Oyer, and Esther Weddell are excited to implement a playground, an area in our sanctuary specifically dedicated to young children and their families. Thank you, Trustees and Church Council for trusting us with this project, we plan to have completed by December 21 - just in time for Christmas!

Our wish list includes:

- a glider rocking chair
- like-new quiet sensory toys appropriate for toddlers busy books, soft blocks, floor puzzles, books, fidget toys or small flannel board sets, the space theme will be woodland animals with an effort to keep little fingers busy but not distract from service - see Joan Pence for specifics

We want this space to teach as well as be enjoyable to the children.

Seek items with religious themes: Communion, Creation, Thanksgiving, Baptism, Teachings of Jesus, Sermon on the Mount, Palm Sunday, Easter, Peaceable Kingdom, Ascension, and Pentecost.

We want to hear your thoughts or ideas about this initiative or any other education programming.



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 December 14, 2025

248 474-6573 or 248 474-6595

Monday, December 15th

7:00 p.m.

Advent Bible Study

Tuesday, December 16th

10:00 a.m.

Bible Study

7:00 p.m.

Women's Bible Study

7:00 p.m.

Chin Church

Wednesday, December 17th

7:00 p.m.

Longest Night @West Bloomfield

7:15 p.m.

Boy Scouts

Thursday, December 18th

6:00 p.m.

Bell Rehearsal in the bell room

7:00 p.m.

Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 19th

5:00 p.m.

Detroit Baptist Chin

Saturday, December 20th

2:00 p.m.

Liturgical Dance Rehearsal

Sunday, December 21st Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m.

Cantata /SS Coffee Hour follows

11:30 a.m.

Bible Study

12 noon

Classical Indian Dance

5:00 p.m.

Detroit Chin Baptist Church



Advent Bible Study:

On the Way to Bethlehem Dec. Mondays 7 p.m.

Longest Night Service at West Bloomfield 17th @ 7p.m.

Christmas Cantata 21st @ 10 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship 24th Jesus' Birthday Party @ 4 p.m.

Traditional Candlelight with Communion @ 8 p.m.



ANNA COOK CIRCLE FELLOWSHIP

January 14, 2026 @ 12 noon

BRING YOUR SANDWICH & BEVERAGE

CRAFTER'S FELLOWSHIP

3rd Saturday's of the month

NO DECEMBER GATHERING

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



Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

10:00 am to 2:30 pm

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!

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.



4th Carrie Igwe
William Morrison,
5th Judy Hanson
Robin Thomas
6th Oliver Schultz's 103
8th Doug Wilson
11th Michael Kwasky
15th Connie Haase
Brenda King
17th Madilen Gesse
18th Bob Rodibaugh
19th Karen Brichford
20th Beth Patton
21st Sharon Gesse
23rd Marianna Barrons
27th Amy Berry
28th Barbara Walker
30th Linda McDaniel
31st Tanner Tulgeske

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11th Paul & Brenda King
26th Jerry & Sharon Thomas
29th Bob & Debbie Muncey
31st Ben & Maggie Niemiec