

Pastor Brian Steele
Sunday, January 25, 2025

Whenever you look at any Biblical passage, the first task to understand what the author is trying to communicate is to discern the genre of the passage you're reading. The Bible has multiple genres. Poetry. Historical narratives. Epistles and letters. All of that impacts how you are going to understand a passage.

And Daniel has passages--like the one that we read today--that can be classified as apocalyptic literature. Let's break that down because those are two words that have cultural connotations that can lead us to misunderstanding what's going on here.

Apocalyptic makes us think of apocalypse and then we start thinking of the end of the world. In the case of the Bible, apocalypse does not mean the end of the world, it means an unveiling of the current reality. Bible teacher Tim Mackie says apocalyptic literature gives "a heavenly perspective on an earthly situation." Apocalyptic literature has more to do with the present than with the distant future. And that second word literature doesn't mean we're talking about fiction. This is not make believe. But it is using symbolic language that would have been clear to the original audience for them to understand how God views the present reality. Daniel's vision is him describing a spiritual experience and what he sees. It's like he's standing in a circular room that has different images as he turns from image to image. It's Daniel saying, "I see this. Then I see this. Then this came into view."

For us here today, apocalyptic literature is like going through a time capsule. In order for us to understand what we're looking at, we have to see it how the original audience would have seen it.

And here's how the original audience would have understood it. Each of those gruesome animals that Daniel sees represents an ancient empire. From Babylon--which Daniel was currently living amidst--to Medo-Persia, to the later Greek empire and finally potentially Rome. And what Daniel is communicating is that as powerful as these empires look--and they are powerful and frightening when you are living amidst them--they don't last. Every empire has an expiration date. And that's why we stay focused on the Kingdom of God. Because that does not have an expiration date.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

33112 Grand River Avenue

Farmington, MI 48335



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

10:00 a.m.

February 1, 2026

PRELUDE

Yaroslav Daniels

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Brian Steele

CHORAL INTROIT

Come and See

Chancel Choir

HYMN

Welcome (See Insert)

Yaroslav Daniels

CALL TO WORSHIP

Barbara Walker

Leader: We come to worship carrying burdens. Some seen. Some unseen.

People: All burdens are welcome in the heart of God.

Leader: God welcomes the truth of our human condition.

People: The beauty and the scars. The faith and the anxiety.

Leader: As we worship may we bring the truth of our humanity before God and know that all of it is welcome in this place.

ALL: Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Barbara Walker

God, there is nothing we need to hide from you. You receive all of our messy humanity and come to be with us amidst it. Some of us look different. Some of us think differently. Some of us have extra chemicals in our brain that make us process information differently. We are all made in your image. We are all part of the community of faith. And any stigma the world puts on it, has been nailed to the cross and dies when it enters the church doors.

Amen.

ANTHEM

In Remembrance
by Ragan Courtney and Buryl Red

Chancel Choir

HYMN

It's Me It's Me O Lord UMH #352

Yaroslav Daniels

CHILDREN & YOUTH MOMENT

Pastor Bea Fraser-Soots

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Philippians 4:6-13

Barbara Walker

Liturgist: The word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

Church Pick Sunday: New Testament

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

Rev. Steele and Pastor Bea

WAYS TO CONNECT

Rev. Steele

HYMN

It Is Well UMH #377

Yaroslav Daniels

SENDING FORTH: **You Are A Blessing From God. Now Go Be A Blessing!** Rev. Steele
BENEDICTION God Be with You Till We Meet Again Chancel Choir
POSTLUDE Yaroslav Daniels

The Invitation:

Rev. Steele: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

ALL: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Rev Steele: Hear the Good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

ALL: Glory to God. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor Bea: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor Bea: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor Bea: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor Bea: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image

and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor Bea:

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples,
and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Pastor Bea: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Prayer of Consecration:

Rev. Steele: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread
and cup.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the
body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all
the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.



2026 Offering Envelopes are out on the table.
2025 Giving Statements have been sent out via email, if you have one.

Did you know: Our finance team and pastor are currently working on a budget and strategic plan for 2026. The budget has everything from office supplies to new doors and our pastor's strategic plan will forecast what we have coming up inside and outside our walls. We hope to have these ready to share by the end of the month. Stay tuned!

Did you know: We had a great training about the Simplified and Accountable Structure last Saturday. Our Administrative Council has voted to develop an exploratory team to discern whether this would be a helpful structure for our church. Are you interested in serving on this team? Let Brian know!

Virtual Rummage Sale Update for 2025

Sales for 2025 totaled 1,701.81. This is down significantly from prior years because I have not had as much time to list items for sale. The economy may also be a factor. As of January, 2026 eBay sales since 2020 (when I started selling items on eBay for the church) sales total \$18,358.03 with 719 items sold.

Below is a list of the most interesting items sold in 2025. Were any of them yours?

| | |
|---|--|
| Kate Spade Owl Watch \$65 | Faux Turquoise Squash Blossom Necklace \$22 |
| LeCreuset 4 qt brown Dutch oven \$66 | Vtg women's brown suede vest with long fringe \$29 |
| Vtg men's Frye Leather loafer shoes \$56 | Olive green Army tool canvas bag \$66 |
| 5 Blue & White Currier & Ives drinking glasses \$36 | |
| Lg Fragonard Blue Oval Courting Couple porcelain platter \$33 | |
| Women's green leather Ferragamo pumps \$68 | |
| Nike Air Jordan Martin the Martian High-top shoes \$35 | |

No monies were expended from eBay sales in 2025. However, I am currently in discussion with the Trustees about funding some landscaping work in the courtyard.

Joy Wilson



Basement Burger Bar

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



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



Fighting Poverty • Creating Opportunity • Building Community

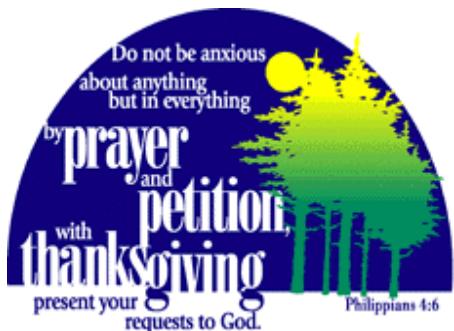
is our

PAY IT FORWARD

choice for February CCMM3005



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, 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."



8th In loving honor of the Aiyesimoju family



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.



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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

33112 Grand River Avenue † Farmington, MI 48336

News & Notes January 25, 2026

248 474-6573 or 248 474-6595

Tuesday, January 27th

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

Wednesday, January 28th

| | |
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| 5:00 p.m. | Worship |
| 7:15 p.m. | Boy Scouts |

Thursday, January 29th

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

Friday, January 30th

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| 5:00 p.m. | Detroit Baptist Chin |
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Saturday, January 31st

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| 2:00 p.m. | Liturgical Dance Rehearsal |
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Sunday, February 1st

| | |
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| 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
February 11, 2026 @ 12 noon
BRING YOUR SANDWICH & BEVERAGE



LYDIA CIRCLE FELLOWSHIP
February

Church Office Hours

I'm working from home on
Mondays and Fridays
Tuesday - Thursday
11:00 am to 3:30 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.

CRAFTER'S FELLOWSHIP

3rd Saturday's of the month

February 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



7 Jill Burress, 8 James Totten,
11 Gary Shier, 13 Phyllis Paske
15 Mike Mohr, 18 Carol Riley,
20 James Paske, 21 Bernie Shaw
23 Carolyn Wik, 28 Ed Eidt

11 Ken & Amy Berry