

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Church Family.

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I also bring you greetings from Ghana where I was born and raised. My wife Bennie and I would like to express our deepest gratitude to Rev. Gunshik Shim, the church leaders and all those who made it possible for us to move into the parsonage weeks before my official starting date. This kind of radical hospitality tells me a lot about your spirituality and love of God. This welcoming experience reminds me of the scripture *"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."* Matt 10:40. We are blessed to be among you.

In a recent interview I had on the ZOOM video, the interviewer wanted to know about my family history, parents and siblings. The questions became very personal when he asked, "Why did you migrate to the United States of America?" What factors motivated your decision to leave your country?" I hesitated for a moment and reflected on the journey I started well over three decades ago. The primary motivation was to acquire the best education. God answered my prayer when I received an admission to study at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. You will hear more about my experiences in my sermons. In his final questions he asked, "As you look back over the years, would you say your journey to the United States has been successful, and are you happy at where you are now?" I said to myself, "What a loaded set of questions, and how do I answer that in a short space of time? I thought of the joyful hospitality I received from Farmingdale United Methodist Church family, I also remembered the lovely reception at the SPRC meeting, and the smiles, laughter, and hugs we shared. This recent experience of hope, joy, and love filled my heart and made my response quick and brief. And so with a gentle and calm demeanor, I said, "My journey to the United States of America has been a blessing to me, my family, and to everyone that I have met along the way, mainly because Christ has been my great shepherd and my friend." I almost started preaching to him, but I didn't. Do you know why? The interviewer who asked me all these questions is a P.K. (a Pastor's Kid). In fact, he is my son *Prof. Joseph Ewoodzie, Jr.* of the Sociology Department at Davidson College, North

Carolina. He wanted to include our family's experience in a document he is writing about "immigration."

May I ask you to share a little bit of your story with me? Why did you become a member of Farmingdale United Methodist Church? Why are you still a member of this church? What do you enjoy doing in the church? Has your faith journey at Farmingdale UMC been successful so far?

I am again grateful to God that our paths have crossed along this faith journey. I am happy to walk along this path with you, with Christ as our great shepherd and friend.

I end with this *"A path, unlike a road, does not move directly from point A to point B. Instead it adapts to the natural contours of the place in which it finds itself."* Michael Johns. The Soul of Place.

Blessings, Pastor Joseph Ewoodzie

SUNDAY, July 2nd will be the first Sunday with *Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie*, our new pastor. Please join us in welcoming *Pastor Ewoodzie* and his family into our church community with joy as we begin our journey together to serve and love God and proclaim the Good News of Christ Jesus our Lord!



LECTIONARY READINGS

June 25th Third Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

July 2nd Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Ushers

June 25th: *Dorli Retinger-9:30*

Karen Gierie Newman-11:30

July 2nd: *Dorli Retinger-9:30*

Karen Gierie Newman-11:30

Liturgists

June 25th: *Susan Chung Carle/July 2nd:* *Kathy Bush*

Communion Stewards

July 2nd: *Tom Sattler, Usha Singh*

Danny Gastelua, Myrna Loudon

SKIP NEWMAN AWARD: will be presented this **Sunday, June 25th** at the 9:30am service.

PASTOR'S VACATION: *Pastor Shim* will be on vacation through the end of June. For pastoral need during this time, contact *Rev. Bob Leibold* at 516-754-3691. Please call the FUMC Church Office first during office hours. *Faustina Gyedu* will preach on June 25th.

CHURCH 175th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE: Our anniversary journal is available on our website, and we are selling 175th Anniversary keepsake Christmas ornaments priced at \$5.00 each (plus shipping if necessary). See *Joan Ganz* or call 516-249-2119.



July & August:

Mondays/Tuesdays/Wednesdays

9:00am-1:00pm

Thursdays 9:00am-12:00pm

Closed Fridays

NEW ADDRESS: Debbie Gunther c/o Mr. & Mrs. Lee, 649 Shackleton Point Rd., Bridgeport, NY 13030 Phone: 631-521-6689.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS: Dorothy Paine, Frank Suwalski, Ken & Kim Bush, Emily Brown, Rose Marie Tiedemann, Barbara Middendorff, Muriel Knoell, Cynthia Hansen, Ruth Burkhardt, Laura Ohler, Ruth Mace and ALL our troops seeking to restore peace. **If you know of someone in the hospital, or someone who wishes a pastoral visit, please call the Church Office.*

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF JUNE 25th

- Sun. **9:30am Family Friendly Worship**
Graduate Recognition
Sunday School Teacher Recognition
Skip Newman Award Presentation
Faustina Gyedu preaching
11:30am Worship with Praise & Songs
 1:00pm Soup Group - F. Hall
- Mon. 7:00pm Church Council - F. Hall
- Tues. 7:15pm A.A. - Bike Room
 7:30pm Finance - Library
- Thurs. 8:00pm Chancel Choir
- Fri. 5:30pm A.A. - F. Hall
- Sat. 8:00am Men's Group
 8:30am Tai Chi

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF JULY 2nd

- Sun. **9:30am Family Friendly Worship**
Pastor Ewoodzie's First Sunday
11:30am Worship with Praise & Songs
 1:00pm Soup Group - F. Hall
- Mon. OFFICE CLOSED
- Tues. OFFICE CLOSED - Independence Day
 7:15pm A.A. - Bike Room
- Wed. 9:30am ADC Support Group - Library
- Fri. 5:30pm A.A. - F. Hall
- Sat. 8:00am Men's Group
 8:30am Tai Chi

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*“Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors”*

THE MESSENGER



Weeks of June 25 & July 2, 2017

FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

407 MAIN STREET

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Farmingdale, New York 11735

Rev. Gunshik Shim, Pastor

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