



FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Bulletin for
Epiphany
January 5, 2025**

Service is In-Person or on Zoom

ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5166943424?pwd=TWtTVEIYWUHNXbjVNcnNMaG9wTVJrZz09>

Meeting ID: 5166943424 Password 11735

WELCOME TO FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Epiphany
January 5, 2025



Rev. Claire Hojung Wu, Pastor
David Majoros, D.M.A., Director of Music
Diane Puchta, Liturgist

GATHERING “Thy Table I Approach” – Bender

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRELUDE** “Alleluia” UMH #186 (vv. 1, 2, 3)
+ Bringing the light of Christ into the sanctuary

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine: for your light has come.
The glory of God has risen among us.
We are awake; we are alive!
Praise God, for deliverance and blessings.
Lift up your eyes to see all around you.
Let your hearts rejoice, and be radiant with hope.
May justice water the earth like a shower;
Let righteousness and peace abound.
Receive again the promises of the gospel.
Participate in the mystery of Jesus Christ.
God’s ways are being revealed to us today.
Our church proclaims the unsearchable riches of Christ.

***HYMN** “The First Noel” UMH #245 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

SHARING GOD’S BLESSINGS WITH EACH OTHER

INVOCATION

Eternal God, because your purposes become clear to us in Jesus Christ, we come with boldness to claim our relationship with you. We are grateful for pioneers in the faith whose stewardship has salvaged for us a way of life rooted in the gospel. The flames you ignited in them have not gone out, in spite of our faithlessness. Your wisdom is still proclaimed in the church, challenging centers of earthly power with the claims of heaven. Today our search for meaning has led us to this place of worship. You are here; we rejoice! Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** “Glory Be to the Father” UMH #71

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light, we admit our retreat into the shadows of pretension and exclusion. How often we choose to associate with people who are like us and then look down on others who differ from us. It is easier to discover their sins than to admit our own. We judge the poor and join their oppressors, while you call us to identify with those in need, that all may prosper together. We imagine that we alone are faithful stewards of your grace, while you welcome, as fellow saints with us, many whom we ignore. Save us from our earthbound judgements, that we may look up and be guided by the star that draws all people to yourself. Awed by your forgiving presence, we fall down to worship you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we can come to Almighty God in boldness and confidence, assured of the gift of grace and empowerment of the Spirit. Lift up your eyes to see the glory of God. Receive light and healing, for God has come to dwell in us and among us. Let your hearts rejoice and your faces be radiant as we share the abundance of God's love.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

Hymnal 13

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING (UNISON)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

ANTHEM

“From a Distant Home” – Traditional Puerto Rican Carol/arr Hopson
The Chancel Choir

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 3:5-12

***GOSPEL READING**

Luke 2:25-40

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“What Child is This”

UMH #219 (vv. 1, 2)

SERMON

Pastor Claire Wu

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE

“Amen” – Ringwald
The Chancel Choir

AN ORDER OF FAREWELL TO CHURCH MEMBER

Pastor:

The church is a family.

United by the common recognition of Jesus Christ as our Savior,
we are all brothers and sisters.

And, for a time, *Farmingdale UMC* is our home.

Like every human family,

our church family is formed and reformed over time:

as members are born, as they die,

OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR MINISTRY:

UPCOMING LITURGISTS:

January 2025

- 12th – John Muller
- 19th – Betty Gastelua
- 26th – Sherry Tuscano

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

January 2025

- 12th – Smith/Muller
- 19th – Jayme & Diane
- 26th – Rita & John

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME, VISITORS!

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us today! If this is your first time with us, be sure to stop by the Visitor Center, located next to the Sanctuary, to pick up a welcome packet and a gift! If you would like to leave your contact information or subscribe to our newsletter, simply scan the QR code below or stop by the Visitor Center to sign the guest book.



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Trustees Meeting – Tuesday, January 7th at 7:30 p.m.
- Finance Committee – Tuesday, January 14th at 7:30 p.m.
- Cooking Ministry – Wednesday, January 15th at 6:30 p.m.
- Church Council Meeting – Monday, January 27th at 7 p.m.
- Worship Committee Meeting – Thursday, January 30th at 6:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FUMC WINTER FUN FESTIVAL – Join us 4 – 7 p.m., **Saturday, January 18th**, for a variety of games, activities and refreshments. Please email the office at office@farmingdaleumc.org if you'd like to participate.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRIES

- FRIDAY LADIES SMALL GROUP MEETS AT 7:30 PM VIA ZOOM
- SATURDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY MEETS AT 8:00 AM-9:00AM VIA ZOOM
- WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY MEETS AT 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM

CONCERNS & COMMITMENTS:

Whenever the gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed, the Spirit of God is at work. If you have been touched by God and desire to make a commitment to Christ and to His Church or you would like to have the pastor pray with/for you, please *come to the Altar after worship*, the pastor will meet with you for prayer.

PRAYER CONCERNS AND JOYS

We share prayer requests as part of our regular service. Please raise your hand for the microphone to share your prayer concerns and joys with the congregation. If you have private prayer requests, please write your prayer request upon your arrival at the sanctuary, and then pass it to the offering basket during the offertory time. Thank you!

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2025

You may pick up your offering envelopes for 2025 in the back of the sanctuary. If you don't see your envelopes or if you would like to get a set of offering envelopes, please let Shanna Wurth or Pastor know.

FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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For a link to view the service via on-line please visit www.farmingdaleumc.org