



FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Bulletin for
Baptism of the Lord
January 12, 2025**

Service is In-Person or on Zoom

ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5166943424?pwd=TWtTVEIYWUHNXbjVnNcnNMaG9wTVJrZz09>

Meeting ID: 5166943424 Password 11735

WELCOME TO FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025



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

GATHERING “Walk in the Light” - Broughton

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRELUDE** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” UMH #139 (vv. 1, 5)
+ Bringing the light of Christ into the sanctuary

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gather from East and West, from North and South.

God is calling us; listen, for God is naming you.

The voice of God thunders through our midst.

The voice of God is powerful and full of majesty.

Bow in awe before the one who created you.

God knows you completely, yet accepts you.

The voice of God commands our attention.

The voice of God is like fire and tornado.

God reaches out to strengthen, not condemn us.

God brings us through terror to a place of peace.

Ascribe to God glory and strength.

Worship God in awe, wonder, and joy!

***HYMN** “’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” UMH #462 (vv. 1, 4)

SHARING GOD’S BLESSINGS WITH EACH OTHER

INVOCATION

God of cleansing waters and purifying fires, touch our lives today to recall us to the power of our baptism and reconfirm our commitment to Jesus Christ. Name us again as your own people: precious, gifted, created to glorify you in fullness of life, in peace with ourselves and one another. Send your Holy Spirit once more to energize our worship and enliven our witness in the world. Hear us as we pray for one another and for your church in every place. Amen.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, the waters of faithfulness run deep, and we have been afraid they will overwhelm us. The fires of your Spirit burn brightly, and we fear we may be consumed if we display too much enthusiasm. We retreat to safe places where we hope to avoid challenges, conflicts, and uncertainty. When we shrink from risks, we miss much that enriches life. We fail to notice your amazing activity among those who respond to your leading. Free us, we pray, for daring service. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has redeemed us, claimed us, called us by name. We are precious in God's sight. Surely our God will strengthen us to face times of difficulty. There are no safe hiding places in life, only the assurance of a relationship with a God whom we can trust in life and in death. Our God forgives and empowers. God blesses us with a peace that is more powerful than any outward circumstance. The assurances of God are eternal.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Micheal Mastrosimone

Hymnal 39

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Joseph Zeng

Amanda and Micheal Mastrosimone

ANTHEM

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" - Larson
The Chancel Choir

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 29:1-4, 11

***GOSPEL READING**

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION

"Baptized in Water"

FWS #2248 (vv. 1, 2)

SERMON

Pastor Claire Wu

REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM

RESPONSE TO THE WORD: SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL RENEWAL

INTRODUCTION

Sisters and brothers in Christ: through the sacrament of baptism
God's Spirit has been poured out upon water, water poured over and immersing us,
water that flows freely for all who will receive it, water from the streams of God's saving power and
justice, water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness,
water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.
Today we come to the waters, to renew our commitments in each other's presence
to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

And so, I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

**We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
Reject the evil powers of this world,
And repent of our sin!**

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?
**We accept the freedom and power God gives us
To resist evil, injustice, and oppression
In whatever forms they present themselves!**

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?
**We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior,
put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord,
in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races!**

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?
**We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church
And serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?
**We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty,
in Jesus Christ, his only Son. and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.
Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Let us pray.
Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die.
Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!

But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit,
or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream that we do not hear its sound,
and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!
Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Come upon these waters.
Come upon these waters.

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.
Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.
Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.
Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

Glory to you!

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

Glory to you!

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

Glory to you!

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

(All are invited to come to the font to use the water as a sign of refreshing.)

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

We renew our baptismal covenant with you, O God, praying for the strength to be faithful in all things, to your glory and for the service of your people. We pledge ourselves to be servants to others, to seek not our own good, but to care for the hungry and thirsty people of the world. We rejoice in your grace, given and received. We thank you that you have claimed us, that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us, that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling. Make us as water in a dry and thirsty world. Make us places of refreshment. Root us and establish us in love, that with all your people, we may rightly and justly serve you. Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY SONG

“There Is a Higher Throne”

W&S #3189

The verses will be sung by Diane Puchta, alto. The Chancel Choir will sing the Refrains. After the 2nd Refrain, we will sing the Refrain once more, and the Congregation is invited to sing with them.

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH #95

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)**

For bringing us safely to this hour, we give you thanks, O God of wind and fire. May our offerings honor you. May our lives reflect your mercy. May our hands bestow on others the blessings we have received. May our prayers unite us with one another and with Christ, in whose name we celebrate the privilege of giving. Amen.

RECOGNITION AND AFFIRMATION OF LAY LEADERSHIP

Minister: Dear friends, today we recognize the ministry of these leaders, and consecrate them to a special task in the service of Jesus Christ.
(Addressing those to be affirmed)

Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve, with the help of God, in Christ’s name?

Individuals: I am.

Minister: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Individuals: I do, relying on God’s grace.

Minister: *(Addressing congregation)*

Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promise of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God’s call to service. Let us affirm our intention to support them in the spirit of Christian love.

Congregation: We commend you to this work, and pledge to you our prayers, encouragement, and support. May the Holy Spirit strengthen you, that in this and all things you may do God's will in the service of Jesus Christ.

Minister: Almighty God, look with favor upon these persons who affirm commitment to follow Christ and serve in His name. Give them courage, patience and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN** "Here I Am, Lord" UMH #593 (vv 1, 3)

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** "Here I Am, Lord" UMH #593 (Refrain)

Our worship has ended. Our service begins.

(* Please stand as you are able.

OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR MINISTRY:

UPCOMING LITURGISTS:

January 2025

19th – Betty Gastelua

26th – Sherry Tuscano

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

January 2025

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:

- Finance Committee Meeting – Tuesday, January 14th at 7:30 p.m.
- Nursery School Board Meeting - Wednesday, January 15th at 7 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE

Committee chairs – The annual committee reports are due for inclusion in the church Annual Report. Please submit your reports to the office by Sunday, February 2nd, 2025.

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.

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!

FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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