



FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Bulletin for
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025**

Service is In-Person or on Zoom

ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5166943424?pwd=TWtTVElWUHNXbjVNcnNMaG9wTVJrZz09>

Meeting ID: 5166943424 Password 11735

***The YouTube option is no longer available. Please use Zoom instead.**

WELCOME TO FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025



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

GATHERING

“Brightest And Best” – United States Folk Hymn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PRELUDE

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”
+ Bringing the light of Christ into the sanctuary

UMH #218 (vv. 1, 4)

THE ANGELS’ MESSAGE: OBEY (RESPONSIVE LITANY)

During Advent we remember God’s faithfulness shown to us.

Help our lives to reflect Your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God’s humility set before us.

Help our lives to reflect Your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God’s commands spoken to us.

Help our lives to reflect Your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God’s incredible love shared with us.

Help our lives to reflect Your ways, O Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

The Dass Family

*(The fourth candle is lit while the congregation sings
the fourth stanza of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”)*

UMH #211 (v. 4)

Today we light four candles. The **first candle** reminds us that during Advent we hear again the good news of ultimate hope offered through the Savior’s birth. The **second candle** calls us to believe that just as God worked mighty deeds in ages past, God is still actively at work today. The **third candle** calls us to draw closer to God in faithful acceptance. We light the **fourth candle** as a call to faithful obedience to the ways of God. As we continue our Advent journey, let us hear what God has spoken, believe what God has promised, accept what God has revealed, and obey what God has commanded.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Gracious Lord, open our eyes to the wonders You have done, open our ears to the promises You have spoken, and open our hearts that we might become the people You have called us to be. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“To a Maid Engaged to Joseph”

UMH #215 (vv. 1, 5, 6)

SHARING GOD’S BLESSINGS WITH EACH OTHER

INVOCATION

Shepherding God, whose signs are everywhere, restore in us your light, that we may discern what you are about. Shine upon this assembly to give life to our tired routines. Fill our longing hearts with quiet confidence. Awaken the child in us to experience your revelation. By your presence with us, deepen the prayers we utter, and turn our fears to eager anticipation. Touch us to lend strength and confidence, as we reach out for one another for help and healing. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Righteous God, whose gifts of grace and peace are delivered in strange and unexpected places, let your promise of Emmanuel be a sign to us of salvation near at hand. Restore us to that quality of life and relationship, which has been your intention for humanity since the beginning of time, that we may be saints who serve, for the sake of all your hurting children. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God’s promises are fulfilled. We awaken from the nightmare of our neglect to a vision of what may yet be. We arise from our preoccupation with immediate problems, to catch the larger vision and purpose God sets before us. Jesus is coming to save us from our sins. Emmanuel is God with us.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (UNISON)

ANTHEM

“The Glory of Christmas!” – Larson

The Chancel Choir

***GOSPEL READING**

Luke 2:8-20

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

UMH #230 (v. 1)

SERMON

Pastor Claire Wu

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE

“Amen” - Ringwald

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

“And the Stars Sang” – J. M. Martin
Erica Hamill, mezzo-soprano

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)

Loving God, we would not weary you with empty words, or with routine tips of obligation. You have granted us life, with such abundant possibilities that we can never do enough to express our gratitude. You have honored us by calling us saints and apostles. Therefore, we offer ourselves and our abundance, in the confidence that you will continue to provide for us, in whatever circumstances we face. Use us as ministers of your grace. Amen.

FAREWELL LITURGY

Leaders:

We thank you for your ministry, Your guidance and your care (Karen Gierie Newman)

Your joy and faith has strengthened us and eased the woes we bear (Joan Ganz)

We humbly pray God blesses you as you journey on your way (Danny Gastelua)

And hope you know the love you take along with you today. (Lois Muller)

Presentations

Pastor:

I thank you, the members and friends of the Farmingdale United Methodist Church, for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

Congregation:

We receive your thankfulness and express our gratitude for your time among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave with your departure.

Pastor:

I accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. I release you from turning to me and depending on me. I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you and for your new pastor.

Congregation: (Prayer)

Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting, we give you thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN

“Lord of the Dance”

UMH #261 (vv. 1, 4, 5)

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas" - Traditional

Our worship has ended. Our service begins.

(*) Please stand as you are able.

OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR MINISTRY:

UPCOMING LITURGISTS:

December 2025

21st Danny Gastelua

24th Early ~ Karen G N

Late ~ Lois

28th Sharon

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

December 2025

21st Kathy V & Amanda

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, in the room to the side of the Sanctuary, for a welcome packet and a gift! If you wish to receive our newsletter, please send us your contact information to office@farmingdaleumc.org and visit our website farmingdaleumc.org.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Church Council** – Monday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m.

SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The Long Island Coalition for the Homeless is seeking our support. Despite their name, the organization provides essential assistance—including food, toiletries, and cleaning supplies—to anyone in need across Long Island, not only individuals experiencing homelessness.

Their current greatest need is for shelf-stable protein items, including: Canned tuna and chicken, Pasta, Rice and beans, and Peanut butter. For your convenience, you are welcome to bring items to the church **OR** donations can be made directly through their **Amazon Wishlist** - https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/2CXXJFQN0RC4V?ref=cm_sw_r_apin_ggr-subnav-share_TE750X4AKKH2WKCT6MSA&language=en-US

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Bing. Thank you for helping to share God's love through your generosity and compassion.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON:

(Flyers are available at the south transept bulletin board for detailed information)

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT RESCHEDULED: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21st at 9:30 AM

The Christmas pageant has been rescheduled to Sunday, December 21, due to last Sunday's snowstorm. Our Annual Christmas Pageant is one of the most popular events of the year as we watch and learn from our children and adults. Please don't miss out!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th:

- 7:00 PM – Family Service
- 10:30 PM - Candlelight Service (In person only)
- INVITE & BRING OTHERS TO WORSHIP CHRIST!

ADVENT STUDY - "ADVENT: THE BIRTH OF JESUS":

SUNDAY, DEC. 21, 11 AM in FELLOWSHIP HALL

A journey through Advent with a focused, three-week study on the coming of Jesus, centered on the opening chapters of Matthew, Luke, and John. Together we'll explore Matthew's genealogy and nativity, Luke's annunciation and manger scenes, and John's profound reframing of the Christmas story as both cosmic and intimate. Each session weaves together Scripture reading, historical insight, and prayerful questions that invite both personal reflection and shared conversation.

L.I.E. ADVANCED LAY SERVANT COURSES are available: registration deadline is **December 30, 2025**.

Registration link: <https://ny-reg.brtaapp.com/LIEJanuaryLSMAdvancedCourses> Please find the flyer with detailed information at the south transept. If you have any questions, please contact Lay Servant Ministries Co Director Elaine Short at eshorts@optonline.net or Rev. Wayne Redman at wayne.redman@nyac-umc.com.

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

407 Main Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735

Phone: (516) 694-3424 • Website: www.farmingdaleumc.org • Email: office@farmingdaleumc.org

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

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