

Farmingdale United Methodist Church

407 Main Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735

516-694-3424



www.farmingdaleumc.org

Pastor Claire Wu

THE MESSENGER

January 2025

Volume: 9 Issue: 1

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you refreshed, hopeful, and maybe even enjoying some leftover holiday treats. As we step into the gift of a brand-new year, I wanted to take a moment to connect with you and share some thoughts from my heart. The New Year is a time for fresh starts, meaningful resolutions, and—if you're anything like me—a little self-reflection sprinkled with good intentions.

Let me start with a confession: my resolutions don't always stick. One year, I resolved to drink more water, and by January 10th, I was back to sipping coffee and wondering if it counted as "hydration." Another year, I resolved to get organized, only to lose the notebook where I'd written my goals. Sound familiar?

Here's the thing: the beauty of a new year isn't about perfection. It's about embracing the journey, trying again, and trusting that God is with us every step of the way. It's okay if our plans change or if we have to laugh at our own missteps (and yes, sometimes those are the best stories). As we walk into this year together, let's



focus on what matters most—our relationships, our faith, and the simple joys of life. Let's commit to showing kindness, to leaning on God in times of uncertainty, and to finding reasons to laugh every chance we get.

This is also a time to dream about what God might do through us. What new ways can we grow in love? How can we serve one another and our community more fully? What

gifts has God given you that are ready to shine in this season? No matter where this year takes us, I'm so grateful to share it with you. As a church family, we're in this together—celebrating, learning, and supporting each other along the way. Whether you've had a bumpy start to the year or you're still riding high on your resolutions, you belong here, just as you are.

So here's to a year filled with faith, laughter, and hope. Let's embrace it with open hearts, and open spirits and trust that God's plans are even better than the ones we write down.

With prayers for a joyful and fruitful New Year,
Pastor Claire Wu





Sunday Church Service 9:30AM

Church will be open for in-person worship at 9:30am.

We will continue to hold our worship service on ZOOM as well.

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

(Meeting ID: 516 694 3424, Password 11735)



Alternate Giving may be done through [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly).

There are three methods of giving - pick what works best for you.



1 - Farmingdale UMC website: From the home page, go to the Donate tab, then Online & General Giving, then click on the "Donate" button. This will direct you to the giving page for our church.

2 - Or use the direct URL link to the giving page for our church. <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1697513>

3 - You can also download the App onto your mobile phone. Download the "[Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) Finance" app with green logo. It will next prompt you to look for our church - enter Farmingdale United Methodist Church. You will be directed to the giving page for our church.

FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mission Statement

Our mission is sharing God's unconditional love by serving our neighbors, connecting with all God's children in Christian fellowship and providing safe spaces for everyone to grow in faith and love.

FUMC Code of Conduct Statement

In alignment with our Mission Statement to provide safe spaces to grow in faith and love, Farmingdale United Methodist Church expects appropriate and respectful behavior at all church meetings and functions. Behavior that is hurtful, divisive and destructive will not be condoned.



Availability of Space and Rooms



Our Fellowship Hall is now available for ongoing programs, meetings, parties, etc., and we have several other rooms that can be used for smaller groups or private worship. If you know anyone who may be interested in utilizing space, please have them call the office at 516 694-3424.



Christmas Happenings at FUMC



*Thank you to all who
beautified our altar
and sanctuary!*



*The Orofino
family lights the
Advent candle*



Thank you to our members for so
generously supporting our Giving
Tree,
sponsored by our UWF. It took two
cars to deliver the goods to
the Long Island Coalition for the
Homeless!
(special thanks to Jenn Lee for the
beautiful angel ornaments)



FUMC United Women in Faith



FUMC United Women in Faith enjoyed their Christmas Luncheon at Rosemarie's Restaurant –
They ate, they laughed, they ate, they shared memories, they ate, they exchanged gifts and officers were elected:
Karen Gierie Newman, President
Diane Puchta, Vice President & Cheer & Sympathy



**Another wonderful
pageant by our
church school youth
and friends.
Thank you all for
this lovely
Christmas tradition!**





FUMC Choral Celebration



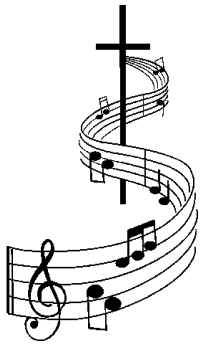
OUR CHOIR PERFORMED
A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS CANTATA
Retelling the story of Christ's miraculous birth
Under the Direction of David Majoros, Music Director



**Bravo to all involved in The Bethlehem Inn,
a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and
theater!**



Notes From the Loft



JOB 36:24 reads, “Remember to magnify His work, of which men have sung.”

In his commentary on the book of JOB Dr. David McKenna wrote: “God’s work is magnified in the hymns of praise that people sing, in the created universe that they see, and in the history records that they read or hear. ... Hymns of praise are first and foremost in our witness to the work of God.”

My earliest memories are of singing – especially with my Dad at church and my Mom at the piano. I sang while I rode in the car or walked along the street. The principal of my elementary school would take me around to all of the other classes in the school, so that I could sing for them. In fact, I have met many people like me who just love to sing – everywhere they go. I became acquainted with one of the world’s great sopranos, Ruth Welting, who grew up singing in a church in Tennessee. She told me that if she were kidnapped, with her mouth duct-taped shut, and tied up in a closet somewhere, after a couple of days she would break through the tape over her mouth and just start singing. I think that our choir members are like that too. We all just love to get together to sing – and especially songs of praise to our God. We just can’t

help ourselves. Someone has said, “He who sings, prays twice.”

Singing is certainly an outlet for joy and for expressing heartfelt love. Singing also is a vent for frustration and sorrow and loss. Country-Western music, it seems, owns a special niche in song-writing for broken-hearted love.

Elihu, the speaker of the text from JOB, printed at the top of this article, wanted Job and others listening to him to “remember” to “magnify” or praise God for His goodness and mercy and providential care. Our God is a Savior-God. There is no other god in the universe like our God. He is worthy of all our thanks and praise and worship.

Pastor Claire and I and all of the choir hope that everyone who comes to worship at FUMC throughout the year 2025 will find great pleasure and release and relief and peace and joy in singing during our worship services. You are invited to come to church every Sunday and to join us in singing LOUDLY(!) to our God. I’ll say it again!: He is WORTHY! He is WORTHY of all our thanks, praise, and worship.

God bless all of us at FUMC in the year 2025.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.





Upcoming Events

Zoom Meetings:

Saturdays weekly Men's Bible Study, 8 AM
 Wednesday weekly Bible Class 10:30AM
 Fridays weekly Ladies Small Group 7:30PM



In need of a
 Notary
 Public?
 Contact
 Joan Ganz
 or Karen
 Gierie
 Newman.



*Special Thank You to our
 coffee hour hosts
 for your faithful service!*

JANUARY SCRIPTURE QUOTE! CAN YOU SOLVE IT?
 ONE LETTER SIMPLY STANDS FOR ANOTHER. THIS MONTH'S
 QUOTE COMES FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 5
 HINT: Z = E

SNZKZIMKZ, AI ETFMTZ AX AT BNKAXS, NZ AX E TZV BKZESAMT.
 SNZ MQC NEX JEXXZC EVEF; OZNMQC, SNZ TZV NEX BMGZ.



If you know of
 anyone who
 could use a
 card of cheer or
 sympathy,
 contact Diane
 Puchta

NOTICE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Please, please do not tape anything to any wood surface
 – door, pew, whatever.
 Thank you!

REMEMBER:

Confirmation classes will begin in
 January 2025

Family Game Night

Saturday January 18th - 4-7PM
 Join us for FUN at FUMC !!

Duck Races, Cornhole Games, Board
 Games, Life-Size Jenga, Connect Four,
 Food & More!

Please call the office at 516-694-3424
 to let them know that you will be there!





FUMC's Calendar of the Month

January 2025

Worship Service is available on Zoom.

Click the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5166943424?pwd=TWt1VElWUHNXbjVNcnNMaG9wTVJrZz09>

Meeting ID: 366 885 6897 password 981708 OR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Farmingdale United Methodist Church (516) 694-3424 Email: office@farmingdaleumc.org Website: www.farmingdaleumc.org			1 New Year's Day	2	3 5:30 A.A. 7:30 Ladies' Covenant Grp.	4 8:00 Men's Bible Study
5 9:30 Worship Service <i>Epiphany Sunday</i>	6	7 7:30 pm Trustees Meeting	8 NO Bible Study	9	10 5:30 A.A. 7:30 Ladies' Covenant Grp.	11 8:00 Men's Bible Study
12 9:30 Worship Service <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	13	14 7:30 pm Finance Committee	15 10:30 am Bible Study Resumes 6:30 Food Outreach Ministry/Cooking Night	16	17 5:30 A.A. 7:30 Ladies' Covenant Grp.	18 8:00 Men's Bible Study
19 9:30 Worship Service <i>Second Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	20	21	22 10:30 am Bible Study	23	24 5:30 A.A. 7:30 Ladies' Covenant Grp.	25 8:00 Men's Bible Study
26 9:30 Worship Service <i>Third Sunday After the Epiphany/Ecumenical Sunday</i>	27 7:00 pm Church Council	28	29 10:30 am Bible Study	30 6:30 pm Worship Committee	31 5:30 A.A. 7:30 Ladies' Covenant Grp.	



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