



FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 14, 2025**

Service is In-Person or on Zoom

ZOOM:

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

Meeting ID: 5166943424 Password 11735

WELCOME TO FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025



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

GATHERING

“Be Thou My Vision” – Trad. Irish Melody/arr. Young

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PRELUDE

“Lift High the Cross”

UMH #159 (vv. 1, 3, 4)

+ Bringing the light of Christ into the sanctuary

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God looks on humankind to see if any are wise.

Who is seeking after God above all else?

We look to Jesus Christ for wisdom and truth;

We reach out to be strengthened for service.

The winds of God blow among us to winnow and cleanse.

They sweep through our midst in judgment.

Have mercy on us, O God, and wash away our sin.

Do not let your wrath burn against us.

Remember your promises to us, O God.

Create in us clean hearts and renewed spirits.

We seek to know you and to grow in understanding.

Confront us here and light our way out of the void.

*OPENING HYMN

“Jesus Paid It All”

W&S #3100 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

SHARING GOD’S BLESSINGS WITH EACH OTHER

INVOCATION

Hear our cries, O God, for we recognize our need for your mercy. We are fearful to encounter you, yet we cannot live without you. We are like lost sheep who have wandered away from the best we know, and cannot find our way back. We want you to find us, but we fear your punishment. Come, Good Shepherd, to rescue us from ourselves. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

UMH #71

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have been fools. We have said in our hearts, “There is no God.” Our deeds deny you. Our plans do not include you. We grumble and complain, criticizing those who embody your love for all people. We have turned aside from the way you commanded. Our greed is robbing this fruitful land, and creating a desert. The world is full of suffering people whom we ignore. O God, is there any hope for us? Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is not offered lightly or superficially. Yet it is always available to those who recognize their spiritual poverty and seek new life in Christ. God is a refuge for those who are truly repentant. God delivers us and restores us with mercy and grace. There is great rejoicing when sinners seek forgiveness and turn to serve God in love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 14

***GOSPEL READING**

Luke 15:1-10

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Something Beautiful”

UMH #394 (sing 2 times)

SERMON

Pastor Claire Wu

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”
Congregational Hymn

FWS #2128 (vv. 1,3)

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH #95

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Because we have been blessed by you, O God, we are delighted to share. Because there are many who do not enjoy your bounty, we search for ways to help them. Thank you for showing us the way of mercy and patient example, the way of generosity and self-forgetful service, the way of faithfulness and joyous celebration. Bless us and our offerings, we pray. Amen.

A BACK-TO-SCHOOL LITANY

Leader: As we begin this new school year, we give thanks that God has given us the ability to learn many things in many ways.

All: We learn in school, but we also learn in church, in our family, in our community, and in the world.

All: Learning is a gift from God.

Leader: The Bible tells us that Jesus learned and studied, just as we do.

All: And Jesus grew in wisdom.

Leader: We ask God's blessing on this new school year, that it may be a time when we appreciate and fully use God's gift of learning.

All: We ask God to bless our schools and teachers.

Leader: We ask God to bless our classmates and friends.

All: We ask God to bless our principals, counselors, and librarians.

Leader: We ask God to bless those who prepare our lunches, those who drive us to school, and those who keep our schools clean and safe.

All: We give thanks to God for books and computers and all the things that help us learn.

Leader: We give thanks to God for the gift of learning!

Pastor's Prayer: Loving God, sometimes a new school year seems exciting or scary or both. Sometimes school is great, and sometimes it is hard. But we know that whether we are excited or scared, You are with us. We

know that whether school is great or hard, You are with us. We thank You for always being with us. Help us to remember to show our thanks for Your gift of learning by doing our best every day. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND THE SCHOOL YEAR

***HYMN** "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" W&S #3104

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" W&S #3104 (Refrain)

Our worship has ended. Our service begins.

(*) Please stand as you are able.

UPCOMING LITURGISTS:

September

14th – Danny Gastelua
21st – Jeff Smith
28th – Diane Pucha

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

September

14th – Smith & Muller
21st – Kathy V & Jayme
28th – 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:

- **SPRC Meeting:** Thursday the 18th at 7pm in the library.
- **Church Council Meeting:** Monday, September 22 at 7 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENT:

- **Blessing of Backpacks:** September 14 at 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the front yard of the church. All students are welcome.
- **Rally Sunday and Church Barbeque:** September 21. Please join us for our 9:30 service. All are welcome.

JOIN US FOR THE FUMC MINISTRY FAIR - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

You're invited to an exciting day of connection, discovery, and service! On Sunday, September 28, each Committee Chair at FUMC will host a Ministry Fair where you can explore the many committees and ministries that help our church family thrive. Come meet ministry leaders, ask questions, and find opportunities to share the gifts God has given you. Whether you're curious about getting involved in a new way or just want to learn

more about what's happening in our church, this Ministry Fair is a great place to start. We look forward to seeing you there and walking together in service, fellowship, and faith.

2025 ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

- **Church Conference** - Sunday, October 5th at 3:30 P.M.
- **Parish Celebrations and Worship** - Date and Time to Be Announced
- **Church Conference Reports** – Committee Chairs of Nomination, SPRC, Finance, Trustees, Membership, Pastor, and Lay Servants, kindly submit your reports to the office by Sunday, September 21st. If you have trouble finding your conference forms to report, please ask the Church Office.

DISTRICT EVENT:

Mission Committee Sleeping Bag Project: The L.I.E. district collects sleeping bags in August and September to assist the homeless. Please review the details on the flyer. Questions? Contact Barbara Flores.

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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Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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