



FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Bulletin for the
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023**

Service is In-Person or on Zoom

ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5166943424?pwd=TWtTVEIWUHNXbjVnNcnNMaG9wTVJrZz09>

Meeting ID: 5166943424 Password 11735

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

WELCOME TO FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023



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

GATHERING “O God of God, O Light of Light” - Schalk

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRELUDE** “He Has Made Me Glad” FWS #2088 (2x)
+ Bringing the light of Christ into the sanctuary

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tremble, o earth, at the presence of God.
Let us remember God’s marvelous works.

Surely God has saved us in difficult times.

How can we forget God’s guiding hand?

When evil surrounds us and we have been wronged,
God helps us turn the evil to good.

We need not be afraid of whatever happens.

We are in God’s care wherever we go.

Sing the praises of God, our strength.
Know that God is majestic and holy.

How great is God’s mercy for all who worship!

We sense among us God’s kindness and patience.

***OPENING HYMN** “Guide Me, Thou Great Jehovah” UMH # 127

SHARING GOD’S BLESSINGS WITH EACH OTHER

INVOCATION

Majestic God, who led our spiritual ancestors with a pillar of cloud that hid them by day and protected them by night, lead us through the threatening times in which we live. Save us from the floods of our own misplaced trust, as you saved them from the waters of the sea and the weapons of their pursuers. On this day, grant strength to those who are weak and support for all who are stumbling. Let every tongue praise you as we give account to you of our deeds. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We bow before your judgement seat, O God. We have ranked our sisters and brothers by the faulty standards of our society to decide who is worthy of our attention. We have rejected those whom we dislike and have been harsh with those we think do not measure up. We have been quite willing to overlook our

own faults as we look down on other people. O God, you have shown us a better way. Save us from the pain we inflict and help us to discover the blessing of forgiveness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has pity on us and releases us from the debts we have accumulated. In the great design of the universe, we are equipped to receive this forgiveness only when we extend it to others. Jesus points us to unlimited willingness to forgive – seven times seven. How amazing is God’s love for us, and God’s expectation of us!

CHANGE THE WORLD

(After Change the World, children will be dismissed to Sunday school.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (UNISON)

ANTHEM “I’ve Got Peace Like a River” – arr D. E. Wagner
The Chancel Choir

OLD TESTAMENT READING Daniel 10:7-19

***GOSPEL READING** Luke 19:1-10

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PREPARATION “We are the Church” UMH # 558 (VV 1 & 2)

SERMON Pastor Claire Wu

PRAYER RESPONSE “Amen, Amen” UMH #897

HARVEST FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY “Grace Alone” FWS #2162

***DOXOLOGY** UMH #95

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)**

We honor you, O God, as we give. We know we do not live or die to ourselves but are a part of a large community, linked in ways beyond our knowing with you and all generations of your children. We are accountable to you and share in responsibility for one another and for the care of this planet. Thus, we dedicate our resources and our lives to you for the work of your realm. Receive our gifts and draw us to yourself. 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** "Sent Out in Jesus' Name" FWS #2184 (2X)

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** "Sent Out in Jesus' Name" REFRAIN (2X)

Our worship has ended. Our service begins.

(* Please stand as you are able.

OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR MINISTRY:

UPCOMING LITURGISTS:

September 2023

17th – Sherry Tuscano

24th – Betty Gastelua

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

September 2023

10th – Smith/Muller

17th – Jayme & Diane

24th – 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, 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 Meeting – Monday, September 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

SUMMER (HARVEST) FUNDRAISER

You can find a beautiful apple tree in the transept area. Please pick an apple (or apples) on the Apple tree to help the church's finance challenges. To online community, please email to office@farmingdaleumc.org for your apple if you want to participate in summer (harvest) fundraiser. Apples are available from \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$200, \$250, \$300, \$500, \$750, \$1,000, and \$2,500. Pick any amount and email to the office. Thank you all for your participation!

LIE DISTRICT FUNDRAISER / BIPIMBAP SALE

The LIE District is holding a Bibimbap sale on Saturday, September 23, 2023, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Dix Hills UMC to raise funds for disaster relief for Hawaii, Highland Falls, NY, and the Ukraine. Please see the flyer for details.

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 are changing our prayer request format. We will 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

If you need offering envelopes, please contact the church office.

FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

407 Main Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735

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

Church Office Hours: Tuesdays- Thursdays 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

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