



Farmingdale United Methodist Church
407 Main Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735
516-694-3424



www.farmingdaleumc.org
Pastor Cathy Schuyler

THE MESSENGER
February 2026

Volume: 10 Issue: 2

Minister's Musings

February is Black History Month. Five years ago, Bishop Bickerton launched an initiative to dismantle racism in the New York Annual Conference. He asked churches across the conference to address the issue of racism in small group discussions, in book studies together, in sermons and in active witness against racism in our world. This doesn't mean that we all agree about what racism is, where it emerges in our society, nor what we can do about it. We can talk and think and discuss together about all of that. A commitment to dismantling racism does mean that we are willing to declare unequivocally that we are all God's children in this world, created in God's image, and equally loved by God through Jesus Christ. It means we take seriously the declaration in the old United Methodist Social Principles that, "*Racism, manifested as sin, plagues and hinders our relationship with Christ, inasmuch as it is antithetical to the gospel itself. ... We commit as the Church to move beyond symbolic expressions and representative models that do not challenge unjust systems of power and access.*" The Long Island East District has made a commitment together to experience *The Long Talk*, an antiracism activation training. There will be an opportunity soon to engage with the training in connection with the



Central Nassau Cooperative Parish. I promise to keep you informed.

For this month, I encourage you to expand your knowledge of Black history somehow. Spend some time exploring the history of Black Methodists over the centuries – Richard Allen, Mary McCleod Bethune, James Varick, Ida B. Wells. Sojourner Truth decided to become a Christian when she heard the gospel preached through the window of the New Paltz Methodist Church. Harry Hosier preached with Francis Asbury here in New York in 1786. More recent well-known Black Methodists have stories to share, too – Joseph Lowery, Cain Hope Felder, James Lawson, Jr., Teresa Hoover, Woodie White, Leontine Kelly, Clara Ester. Check these Methodists out on Wikipedia, or find a biography at the library. A suggestion: Biographies written for children are great places to start, because they're easy and quick to read and give you an idea of who people were.

If you'd like to delve deeper into Black history or into current thoughts on confronting and dismantling racism, check out one of these books:

Passionate for Justice: Ida B. Wells, by Catherine Meeks and Nibs Stroupe, 2019



God's Long Summer: Stories of Faith and Civil Rights, by Charles Marsh, 2008

I'm Black. I'm Christian. I'm Methodist., edited by Rudy Rasmus, 2020

Dear Church, by Lenny Duncan, 2019

Racial Healing by Harlon L. Dalton, 1995

Tears We Cannot Stop, 2017, and *Long Time Coming*, 2020, by Michael Eric Dyson

The Cross and the Lynching Tree, by James H. Cone, 2013

I Bring the Voices of My People, by Chanequa Walker-Barnes, 2019

Beyond the White Church, by Doug Cunningham, 2025

Let me know what you find, what you think, how we can talk about this together. Let me know if you need help finding these, or other books that might be helpful or interesting. Together we can move forward toward the kingdom of God, where all of God's children dwell together, in love and in freedom.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Cathy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a Lenten Study Series on Sunday afternoons, beginning February 22. We'll gather after coffee hour for continuing coffee and discussion. Details about the study materials will be forthcoming.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Pastor Cathy will offer Ashes to Go in the morning and in the afternoon in front of the

church. The Ash Wednesday worship service will be at 7 pm in the sanctuary, including the imposition of ashes.

A Lenten devotional based on the poetry of Emily Dickinson will be available by mid-month for your personal prayer time during Lent. May it enhance your experience of this holy season.

Supporting Neighbors in Need

The Long Island Coalition for the Homeless provides food and other household needs to anyone in need across Long Island. We support them with our donations. A basket is in the back of the sanctuary, or you can access their wish list on Amazon. They are

especially in need of shelf-stable protein, e.g., peanut butter, canned tuna, canned beans, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Bing. Thank you for helping to share God's love through your generosity and compassion.



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](#).



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 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.



January Events



We began 2026 by welcoming Rev. Catherine Schuyler. We hope Pastor Cathy and her husband, Rick, have settled in, and we look forward to working and worshipping with her!



We enjoyed a beautiful solo on Sunday, January 18, by Pastor's daughter, Charis Edwards

Snow Blizzard!



Thank you, Danny and Garry, for helping us survive the blizzard of 2026!



Notes From the Loft



PSALMS 89:1 reads, “I will sing of the LORD’s great love forever. With my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known through all generations.”

I often hear my wife, Jayme, singing in the house, whether it’s in the kitchen while she is cooking or in the bedroom in the morning, when she is getting ready for the day, or when we get in the car ... she sings. Oh, how I love to hear her sing. She has such a beautiful voice. I’ll bet that God loves her singing too, because she is always singing songs of praise – hymns and spiritual songs.

Within the first few pages of the UM Hymnal there is a listing of John Wesley’s “Directions for Singing.” His very first direction reads: “Learn these tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please.” I think that our old Brother John Wesley was directing his congregants to make the singing of hymns their very first priority in enjoying music. Granted, in

today’s world there are so many interesting and entertaining songs to occupy our minds and our time. But our singing to God should take priority over all other musical pursuits.

I know. The weather has been bad. But please do your very best to come to church and sing UMC’s truly great hymns and spiritual songs. If you have not heard Pastor Cathy and her truly magnificent voice, then you are really missing something. Her singing soars over the congregation, and she inspires the choir in all of our singing.

Do yourself a favor. In spite of the cold and snow or sleet, make your very best efforts to get to church. Worship with us. Listen to the reading and preaching of God’s Word with us. With the psalmist, make it your goal to “sing of the LORD’s great love forever.” Let our praises of God’s faithfulness be manifested to our Brothers and Sisters in Christ, to our children and grandchildren and “through all generations.”



Sunday February 8th Fellowship Hall

Sunday February 8th Fellowship Hall



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – FEBRUARY 18, 2026 – 7:00PM

Ash Wednesday begins Lent, a period of time when we focus on growing closer to God through prayer, sacrifices, and almsgiving. It may mean giving up alcohol, sweets, or social media as a form of spiritual housecleaning. With children, it's more helpful in the early years to emphasize unconditional love and forgiveness.

Get your ashes: Children respond strongly to sensible forms of spirituality. They love incense and beautiful artwork in churches. Nothing will impress a child that the season of Lent is special more than receiving ashes on their forehead.

One way Christians observe Lent is by giving something up: chocolate, soda, dessert, etc. Giving

something up is a form of fasting, of making a sacrifice and letting that remind us of God's goodness. We can do without treats because God holds us always in love. If you choose to give something up for Lent, consider saving the money, and donating it to work that is important to you. If the kids decide to give up soda, sweets, or snacking, it's helpful to show that the experience has direct, positive results.

Another option for Lenten observance is to add something positive: Lent is a great time to take up a new, good habit. Write encouraging notes to each other, read a spiritually uplifting story, or make a prayer poster and pray for someone each day.

Suggested Activities for Each Day of Lent



Dedicate time each day for personal or family prayer.

Read a passage from the Bible focusing on themes of repentance and renewal.

Perform a random act of kindness, such as helping a neighbor or volunteering.

Choose what to give up, whether it's a favorite food, social media, or a bad habit.

Set aside a small amount of money each day to donate to a charity or your church.

Create a paper chain with activities for each day, such as prayers, good deeds or reflections.

Keep a journal to write down thoughts, prayers, and reflections throughout Lent.

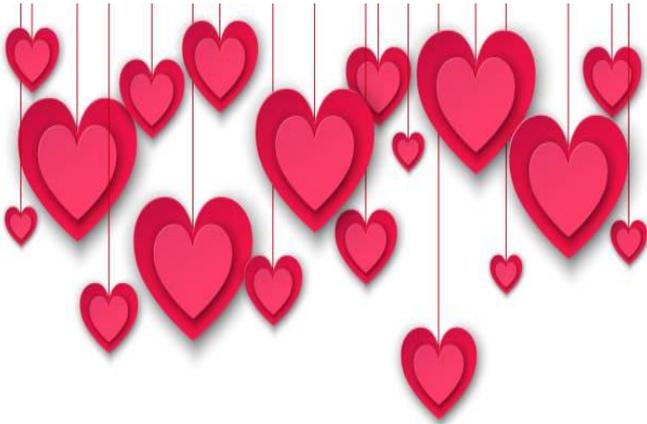
Organize or participate in community service projects, such as food drives or helping at shelters.

Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, is the day before Lent begins. In many countries, Mardi Gras, is a day of celebration, where people eat up all the meat and fat and sweets they have in order to be ready for a Lenten fast. Carnival, which comes from the Latin, *carne vale*, or 'good-bye meat,' is a huge public

celebration of parades and dancing in the streets for the weeks before Lent, celebrated in many Christian countries. Families and churches often have pancake suppers on Mardi Gras, traditionally using up the butter and syrup they might be giving up for Lent.



Happy Valentine's Day



Happy Valentine's Day

⁴Love is patient; love is kind;
love is not envious or boastful or
arrogant ⁵or rude.

It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable; it keeps no record of
wrongs;

⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but
rejoices in the truth.

⁷ It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Meetings in February

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| * Confirmation Class | Sundays, February 1 and 22, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm |
| * Choir | Thursdays, 7:30 pm |
| * Trustees Meeting | Wednesday, February 4, 7 pm |
| * Finance Committee | Tuesday, February 10, 7:30 pm |
| * Cooking Ministry | Wednesday, February 11, 5:30 pm |
| * Church Council | Monday, February 23, 7 pm |

Prayer groups and Bible studies

- Friday Ladies' Small Group Meets at 7:30 pm via Zoom
- Saturday Men's Bible Study Meets at 8:00 am-9:00 am via Zoom



Word and Worship

February 2026

Sunday, February 1

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, February 8

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-16; **Matthew 5:13-20**

Sunday, February 15

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-21; **Matthew 17:1-9**

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 22

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19; **Matthew 4:1-11**

Bolded texts are sermon texts



Upcoming Events

Zoom Meetings

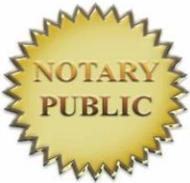
Saturdays weekly Men's Bible Study, 8 AM
Fridays weekly Ladies Small Group 7:30PM

Regular Meetings

Sunday 2/18 Ash Wednesday service, 7 pm:
Regular Church Services: every
Sunday at 9 AM

Village Events

No Scheduled Village Events for this month....



In need of a
Notary
Public?

Contact Joan
Ganz or Karen
Gierie
Newman.

Liturgists for February

- 1 Betty Gastelua
- 8 Amanda Urban
- 15 Diane Puchta
- 18 Rev. Rick Edwards
- 22 Faustina Gyedu

Coffee Hour Hosts for February

- 1 Vicki & Annemarie
- 8 Lois & Kimberly S
- 15 Kathy V & Amanda
- 22 Rita & John

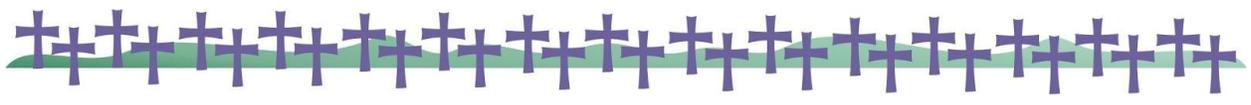


*Please
note : Thrift Shop*

hours

*Tuesday &
Wednesday 10AM-
1PM*

*Thursday 6PM-8PM
Fourth Saturday of
month
10AM-1PM*



FUMC's Calendar of the Month

FEBRUARY 2026

Worship Service is available on Zoom.
Click the link below:

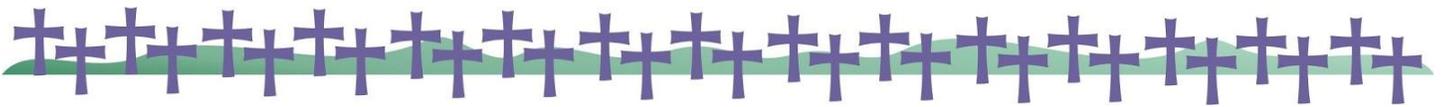
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5166943424?pwd=TWTVEiWUHNXbVlVNCnNMGMaG9wTVJrZz09>

Meeting ID: 366 885 6897 password 981708 OR

	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 9:30 Worship Service <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 11:00 am Confirmation Class	2	3	4 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	5	6 5:30 A.A.	7	
8 9:30 Worship Service <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i>	9	10 Finance Committee 7:30pm	11 Cooking Ministry 5:30 pm	12	13 5:30 A.A.	14	
15 9:30 Worship Service <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i>	16	17	18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	19	20 5:30 A.A.	21	
22 9:30 Worship Service <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 11:00 am Confirmation Class	23 Church Council 7:00 pm	24	25 7	26	27 5:30 A.A.	28	

**Farmingdale United
Methodist Church**
(516) 694-3424
Email: office@farmingdaleumc.org

Church Office
Mon thru Thurs 10:00am-2:00pm
closed Fridays



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407 Main Street

Farmingdale, NY 11735

[address label here]

