

Farmingdale United Methodist Church

407 Main Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735

516-694-3424



www.farmingdaleumc.org

Pastor Claire Wu

THE MESSENGER

December 2024

Volume: 8 Issue: 12

Dear Friends,

Winter came so quickly, it seems. Already, we're making holiday plans, the chancel choir is practicing the Advent cantata, and the local clergy are talking about the Advent service. This season reminded me that this is a good time to make a Thanksgiving list to reflect on the whole year of 2024.



A Thanksgiving List is a way of remembering what we have to be thankful for and how blessed we are. You can make yours as elaborate or as simple as you want. Someone I know draws a chalice and writes the words inside it until it is full. Then, he lets the words run down the page. The symbolism of a cup that runs over with blessings means as much to him as the words themselves. My list would begin with life itself - how wondrously God has created us, individually and in the community. It would move through family and friends, church, and community. It would also include the tragedies and traumas of my life - for the

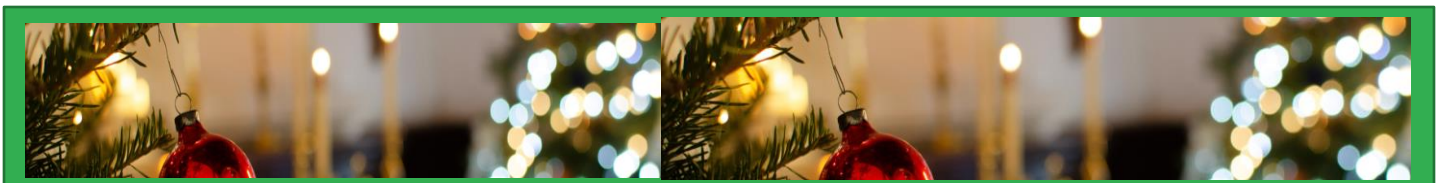
growth they brought but even more so for God's presence in those shadowed valleys.

Every day, the media reports on violence, disasters, and personal tragedies, both locally and globally. They threaten us in practical ways, but they also threaten us spiritually. We begin to focus more on the shadows than on God's blessed table prepared before us. We find ourselves

swallowed up by wanting and forgetting to dwell in God. We miss the goodness and the mercy that surround us every day. As you make your holiday plans this year, consider preparing a Thanksgiving List. Make it simple or elaborate, but make one. And remember that God is with you, here in the pastures and the valleys, and God will be with you forever.

With thankful hearts,

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.



Happenings at FUMC



**THANK YOU, CATHY
DINDA, FOR OUR
BEAUTIFUL
THANKSGIVING ALTAR!**



Christmas is Coming!

Advent begins December 1st and our **Giving Tree** will once again bear ornaments with items for a local child or adult in need. (Gift cards to general retailers [Target, Walmart, etc.] are also appreciated as they can be used for specific needs or emergencies.)

Please return gifts unwrapped by Sunday, December 15th.

Should you prefer that we shop for you, checks may be made payable to FUMW and given to Karen GN, Evelyn Laky or Jackie Suwalski.

Thank you for making Christmas merrier for someone in need! |



FUMC Nursery School celebrated Thanksgiving by collecting food for the community -
Good Job!



FARMINGDALE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UMW)

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!



Saturday, December 7, 2024 - 12:00PM

Rosemarie's Restaurant, Merritts Road, Farmingdale

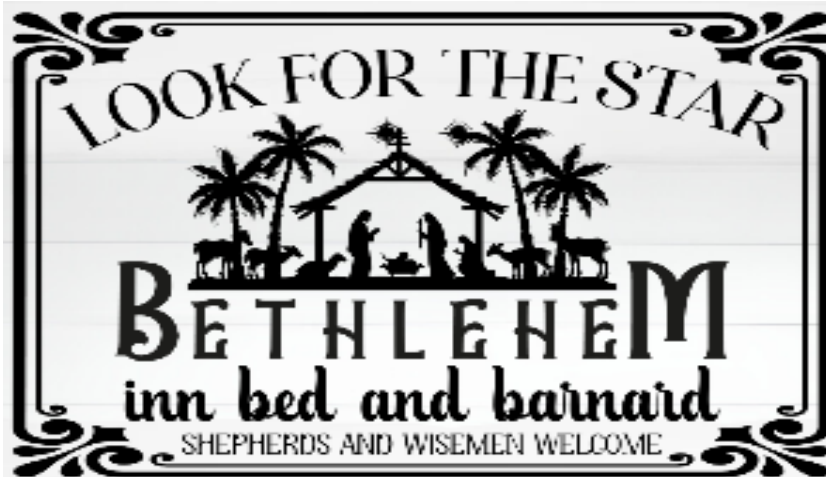


Cost is \$36 per person (includes tax & tip)*

*We will again have a gift exchange with spending limit of \$5.00
(be creative) & collect 2024 Pledges & Vote on Slate & Budget*

**Advance Payment Required*

See Karen GN, Evelyn Laky, Jackie Suwalski



THE BETHLEHEM INN – December 14, 2024 @4:00PM

An Interactive Evening & Potluck Supper (bring a dish to share)

**Bring the whole family and experience Joseph and Mary's
disappointment**

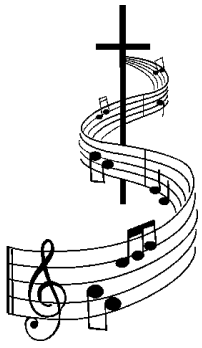
and excitement on that cold winter night when Jesus was born.

Crafts * Marketplace * Surprises

Please RSVP to office@farmingdaleumc.org



Notes From the Loft



LUKE 2:10-11 reads, "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.'"

Old Brother Luke rejoiced in bringing us this good news. It is also interesting to read how Dr. Luke began his gospel account:

LUKE 1:1-4 reads, "Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."

Thank God for our ancient Brothers in The Church, such as Dr. Luke, who believed that it was so absolutely vitally important to leave a carefully written record of the things that they themselves saw and understood from the Hebrew Scriptures about the coming of Christ Jesus into the world. He wrote these things, so that we might have "a certainty of the things we have been taught." Dr. Luke referred to himself and the others in his narrative as "eyewitnesses and servants of the word." The King James Version renders this phrase as, "eyewitnesses and ministers of the word."

In our day "old" Pastor Claire Wu preaches her heart out each week trying to make the gospel plain to us. And we on the music side of the ministry use hymns and "spiritual songs" to tell the story. We encourage you to pay close attention to the texts that we sing. We can learn a lot about our faith by considering and studying what so many hymn writers, such as Charles Wesley and Isaac Watts, penned. In fact, I recently read a comment from a religious writer who said that he wondered who had more influence on the

Methodist movement – John Wesley in his sermons or Charles Wesley in his hymns? These two brothers certainly influenced and inspired each other.

In this month of December, 2024, we hope, as we tell "the same old Christmas story" that many of us have literally heard over and over all of our lives, that, maybe, this year we will listen and read and sing and perceive of this great, miraculous, historically mysterious story with fresh, new ears and minds. For example, when the choir sings on Sunday, December 1st, the anthem with the title, "Will We Know Him?" can we imagine what it might have been like in Herod's palace and among the Jewish rabbis and scholars or with the shepherds in the open fields among the flocks of sheep to receive this highly unusual report from the mouths of angels and from "wise men" from foreign countries? These people had a difficult time wrapping their minds around this supposed "good news" and "glad tidings of great joy which shall be to all people" that angels declared. And we must ask ourselves the question, "Is this still good news for me? Or do the traditions of this holy-day season seem to get a little 'old?' Does the miraculous story of Christ's birth REALLY cause me to rejoice with 'joy unspeakable?'"

On Sunday, December 1st, you will also hear a special, gorgeously melodic carol, "Some Children See Him." Oh, what a message this song sings! You'd better have some tissues at hand when you hear this one. It tells us that people from different cultures and races may imagine His physical appearance differently from place to place, but, "Ah, they love Him too."

Throughout the month of December Pastor Claire will choose old and new songs to sing in the worship service to help us experience "the old, old story" that is ever, ever new. As it was with our "old" Brother in Christ, Dr. Luke, Pastor Claire's desire is for us to "know the certainty of the things [we] have been taught" and to prepare us to be "servants of the word," as we minister to the world.

On Sunday, December 15th, we will experience the joy of the internationally proclaimed, "FUMC Children's



Christmas Pageant!" – complete with the attendance of royal personages, as well as common, unwashed shepherds, several wooly sheep, and, to complete the holy-day picture, a young, humble, lovely, loving couple with their newborn baby! Incredible! This highly trained, theatrical entourage will lead us in singing a number of our favorite Christmas carols. You must not miss this! It is truly a once-in-a-lifetime, culturally rich opportunity!

And – talk about “a once-in-a-lifetime, culturally rich opportunity” – WOW! – Don’t miss hearing The Chancel Choir’s “cantata” presentation on Sunday, December 22nd. The Choir loves to sing special musical treats like this, as the congregation is often invited to sing along in some of the carols that are always part of the cantata. This is such a blessing for the congregation of FUMC! The Lord Jesus, Himself, and a number of His personally selected, finest singing angels are invited to join with us in the singing, and they never fail to join with us. What an honor this is for the FUMC family!

One more thing: The Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. Family Service and 10:30 Candlelight Service always provide opportunities of family togetherness that live on in our memories for generations. Come to Church on Christmas Eve in order to hear Pastor Claire’s inspired preaching, as well as to join with other Christians in singing holiday songs we have loved singing all of our lives.

How good it is to go with the family each week to church, and this is especially true in the month of December.

From my precious wife, Jayme, and from me, and from The Chancel Choir:

“Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Praise the Lord!”
Rejoice and sing with all your hearts!



Don't miss our
Christmas
Pageant -
Sunday 12/15
@9:30AM

CHRISTMAS CANTATA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024 at
 **9:30AM** 

Our Chancel Choir will offer their gifts in worship. Please join us for this creative and musical retelling of the Christmas story and Christ's miraculous birth.



*May God's blessings float
down like soft snowflakes*

**Christmas Eve Services - Tuesday,
12/24/24**
7:00PM Family Service
10:30PM Candlelight Service
All are Welcome!



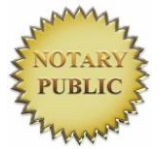
Upcoming Events

Zoom Meetings:

Saturdays	weekly	Men's Bible Study, 8 AM	Saturday	12/7	UWF Luncheon, Rosemarie's, 12PM
Wednesday	weekly	Bible Class 10:30AM	Saturday	12/14	Bethlehem Inn Theater & Potluck Dinner, 4PM
Fridays	weekly	Ladies Small Group 7:30PM	Sunday	12/15	Christmas Pageant, 9:30AM
			Sunday	12/22	Christmas Cantata, 9:30AM
			Tuesday	12/24	Christmas Eve Family Service, 7PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 10:30PM

Village Events

Saturday	12/3	Village Green Tree Lighting, 361 Main Street, 6:00PM
Friday	12/6	Gergras Park Tree Lighting, Staples & Hudson, 7:00PM
Saturday	12/7	Gingerbread/Chocolate House Competition, Chocolate Duck, 12:00-4:00PM
Tuesday	12/31	NYE Family Friendly Ball Drop, Village Green, 7:30PM-9:00PM



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

DECEMBER SCRIPTURE QUOTE! CAN YOU SOLVE IT?

*One letter simply stands for another. This month's quote comes from
Matthew 2
Hint: C = E*

FBCHC JT ZBC NLC FBN BST VCCL VNHL PJLW ND ZBC QCFT? FC

TSF BJT TZSH FBCL JZ HNTC SLX BSGC INEC ZN FNHTBJU BJE

CONFIRMATION CLASSES WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY 2025



If you are in 7th grade, or higher,
and would like to
Know your story, Confirm your faith,
& Live your commitment,
Please contact the church office at
516-694-3424 by December 15th

Advent begins December 1st and our Giving
Tree will once again be in the sanctuary with
ornaments bearing a need for a local child or
adult in need.



Gift cards to local retailers are also appreciated.
Should you prefer that we shop for you, checks can
be made payable to **FUWF** (formerly United
Methodist Women) and mailed to Karen Gierie
Newman, 1309 6th Street, West Babylon NY 11704.

DECEMBER 2024

*Worship Service will also be on Zoom.
Click the link below:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5166943424?pwd=TWtVElWUHNXbjVNCnNMdG9wTVJrZz09>
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 Office hours: Tues. - Thurs. 9am-1pm						
1 9:30 Worship Service <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> Communion	2	3 7:30 pm Trustee Meeting	4 10:30 am Bible Study 7 pm Nursery School Board Meeting	5	6 5:30 A.A. 7:30 Ladies' Covenant Grp.	7 8:00 Men's Bible Study 12 pm UWF Christmas Luncheon
8 9:30 Worship Service <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	9	10 7:30 pm Finance Meeting	11 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Food Outreach Ministry/Cooking	12	13 5:30 A.A. 7:30 Ladies' Covenant Grp.	14 8:00 Men's Bible Study 4 pm Bethlehem Inn Pot Luck
15 9:30 Worship Service <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> Christmas Pageant	16	17	18 10:30 am Bible Study	19	20 5:30 A.A. 7:30 Ladies' Covenant Grp.	21 8:00 Men's Bible Study
22 9:30 Worship Service <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> Christmas Cantata	23 NO Church Council Mtg for December	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 7 pm - Family Svc. 10:30 pm - Candlelight Svc.	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27 5:30 A.A. 7:30 Ladies' Covenant Grp.	28 8:00 Men's Bible Study
29 9:30 Worship Service <i>1st Sunday After Christmas</i> Day	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>				

FUMC's Calendar of the Month



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407 Main Street

Farmingdale, NY 11735

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