



**FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Bulletin for the  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 3, 2023**

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**Service is In-Person or on Zoom**

**ZOOM:**

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

**Meeting ID: 5166943424 Password 11735**

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

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# WELCOME TO FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2023



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

**GATHERING**      “Communion Meditations” – L. Smith

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*PRELUDE**      “We Will Glorify the King of Kings”  
+ Bringing the light of Christ into the sanctuary

FWS #2087 (VV 1, 2 & 4)

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Why have we gathered on this holy day?  
What has drawn us to this time and place?

**We have been drawn to a flame burning here.**

**We sense the glory of God in this place.**

God calls us to this time of worship.

The place where we are standing is holy ground.

**Give thanks to God; sing praises.**

**Give attention to the voice of God.**

Out of the burning bush, God spoke to Moses.

In the rhythm of worship, God speaks to us.

**We will listen for God’s message to us.**

**Surely God’s strength will supply our needs.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**      “This is My Father’s World”

UMH # 144 (VV 1 & 3)

## SHARING GOD’S BLESSINGS WITH EACH OTHER

### INVOCATION

We tremble to think that the Source of all life, the Creator of all worlds, is in this place, observing our worship, knowing our innermost secrets, calling us by name. O God, we dare to call on you, to bow before you, to welcome your Word. We tremble to think what you might expect of us, for we remember what you expected of Moses. You sent him against the rulers of his people to win release from oppression. You sent him from the comfortable places he knew to plead for freedom amid threatening conditions. We dare to worship you, O God, knowing that you expect much of us. Amen.

### \*GLORIA PATRI

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### PASTORAL PRAYER

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we have wavered in our faith in the midst of suffering, and we have not persevered in prayer. We have claimed to be wiser than we are, and have even tried to correct you. We make excuses for ourselves rather than listening, for your direction and heeding your call. Our days are so filled with the busyness of this world that we cannot see your reign among us. We are so weighed down by our own concerns that we have no energy to serve in your realm. Send your cleansing fire among us, forgiving God. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is willing to grant us forgiveness, but we cannot receive it if we are unable to be changed by it. As long as we focus on preserving our own lives, protecting our advantages, we will be lost. If we want to be Christ's followers, we will deny ourselves and take up the cross, not as a burden, but as the joyous symbol of loving and giving for all the right reasons. We will overcome evil with good.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

#### A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

Hymnal 13

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

#### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

#### PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING (UNISON)

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**      Psalm 26:1-8

**\*GOSPEL READING**              Matthew 16:21-28

Leader: This is the Word of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION**    "His Eye is On the Sparrow"

FWS # 2146 (V 1)

**SERMON**

Pastor Claire Wu

**PRAYER RESPONSE**              "Amen, Amen"

UMH #897

### OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

**OFFERTORY SONG**      "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place"

W&S #3148

**\*DOXOLOGY**

UMH #95

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)**

**May our offerings be an expression of genuine love that reflects your love for us, O God. We seek to honor you as we serve one another in Christ's name. We reach out to overcome evil with good. Direct our use of the resources you entrust to us that we may not only contribute to the needs of the saints but also devote our lives to the building of a peaceable worldwide community in which all are valued. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**                      "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

FWS #2129

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

FWS #2129 (V. 1)

*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

10<sup>th</sup> – Debbie Cala

17<sup>th</sup> – Sherry Tuscano

24<sup>th</sup> – Betty Gastelua

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:**

September 2023

3<sup>rd</sup> – Faustina & Vicki

10<sup>th</sup> – Smith/Muller (1<sup>st</sup> Hot Coffee)

17<sup>th</sup> – Jayme & Diane

24<sup>th</sup> – 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](mailto:office@farmingdaleumc.org) and visit our website [farmingdaleumc.org](http://farmingdaleumc.org).

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Trustees Meeting – Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Finance Committee Meeting – Monday, September 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

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](mailto: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!

**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.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **September 10** – 9/11 Remembrance Service
- **September 16** – Men’s Prayer Group Breakfast
- **September 17** – Rally Sunday and Blessing of Backpacks, 11 AM, with ice cream social to follow.

## **FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**407 Main Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735**

**(516) 694-3424 • Website: [www.farmingdaleumc.org](http://www.farmingdaleumc.org) Email: [office@farmingdaleumc.org](mailto: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](http://www.farmingdaleumc.org)**