



FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Bulletin for
Second Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2023**

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.**

WELCOME TO FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023



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

GATHERING “A String of Musical Pearls for Advent” – arr Majoros
Alex Swerdlin, clarinetist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRELUDE** “Angels from the Realms of Glory” UMH #220 (VV 1 & 4)
+ Bringing the light of Christ into the sanctuary

THE ANGELS’ MESSAGE: HEAR (RESPONSIVE LITANY)

During Advent we recall God’s promises spoken to us long ago.

For You are great and do marvelous deeds, You alone are God.

During Advent we anticipate promises yet to unfold.

For You are great and do marvelous deeds, You alone are God.

During Advent we recall God’s mighty deeds from ages past.

For You are great and do marvelous deeds, You alone are God.

During Advent we anticipate mighty deeds yet to come.

For You are great and do marvelous deeds, You alone are God.

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE

The Overmiller Family

*(The second candle is lit while the congregation sings
the second stanza of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”)*

UMH #211 (V 2)

Today we light the **two candles**. The **first candle** reminds us that Advent is a time to hear again the message of hope offered through Jesus Christ. In a season when our lives abound with activity, Advent is a time to listen with faithful expectation. The **second candle** invites us to recall the mighty deeds God has performed throughout the ages, and to recognize the marvelous ways God is at work today. As we continue our Advent journey let us hear what God has spoken and believe what God has promised.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Gracious Lord, we thank You that Your word never changes and Your promises never fail. In faith we know that everything You have spoken about will come to pass. Yet like Your people of old, we often struggle during times of waiting. As we cast our faith in Your unfailing promises, enable us to also trust the timing of Your response. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** “There’s a Song in the Air”

UMH #249 (VV 1, 2, 4)

SHARING GOD’S BLESSINGS WITH EACH OTHER

***INVOCATION**

Righteous and holy God, your glory is revealed to us day by day as valleys of despair are lifted up and mountainous problems are leveled. In your presence, we see more than our immediate situation. We catch a glimpse of your eternal purposes. So come among us now and speak your word of peace. Feed us with your truth, and equip us to welcome Christ's coming. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

“Glory Be to the Father”

UMH #71

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God is patient with us, not wanting any to perish. Yet we have turned away from holiness and godliness. We have chosen to fit into society rather than give leadership for a new day. Let the church confess its failures.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God speaks tenderly to us and assures us that our debt has been paid, our sins forgiven, our paths made straight. God's glory is waiting to burst into the midst of all who accept the good news. Surely our salvation is at hand. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. Enjoy the baptism of the Holy Spirit!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

ANTHEM

“Come to the Manger” – German Carol/ arr Gresens
The Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 72:8-14

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 2:1-12

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“We Three Kings”

UMH #264 (VV 1 & 5)

SERMON

Pastor Claire Wu

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE

“Amen, Amen”

UMH #897

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY SONG “How Far is it to Bethlehem?” - Rowley
Barbara Grabowski, soprano

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)

While we are waiting and preparing for Christ to appear, we are seeking, O God, to act as faithful followers. May our offerings extend the promise of salvation to people whose lives are broken by neglect, abuse, bad choices, and sinful ways. May these gifts offer hope to all whose suffering and loss seem too heavy to bear. May our church be a listening, caring presence for all its members, and through us for all those we meet in our work and leisure. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

*HYMN	“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”	FWS #2098 (VV 1, 2, 4)
*BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”	FWS #2098 (Refrain)

Our worship has ended. Our service begins.

(* Please stand as you are able.

OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR MINISTRY:

UPCOMING LITURGISTS:

December 2023

17th – Faustina Geydu

24th – Christmas Eve

- 9:30 a.m. – Debbie Cala
- 7:30 p.m. – Karen Gierie Newman
- 10:30 p.m. – Danny Gastelua

31st – Sherry Tuscano

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

December 2023

17th – Jayme & Diane

24th – Rita & John

31st – UWF

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:

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

Trustee Meeting – Tuesday, December 12th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Food Outreach Ministry/Cooking Night** – Wednesday, December 13th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Please join our cooking night to support those in need. Please see Mary Ann Nataro for more information.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRIES

- FRIDAY LADIES SMALL GROUP MEETS AT 7:30 PM VIA ZOOM
- SATURDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY MEETS AT 8:00 AM-9:00AM VIA ZOOM
- WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY MEETS AT 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM

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.

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

The Spring 2024 Lay Servant Ministry Zoom Class Schedule is now available. Please refer to the flyer for more details.

GIVING TREE:

We may have faced challenges during this past year but we can consider ourselves blessed for making it through! Our Giving Tree once again bears ornaments with items for a local child or adult in need. Items should be unwrapped and must be under the tree by December 17th. Gift cards to general retailers (Target, Walmart, etc.) are also appreciated as they can be used for specific needs or emergencies. Should you prefer that we shop for you, checks can be made payable to FUWF and given to or mailed to Karen Gierie Newman at 1309 6th Street, West Babylon NY 11704. Thank you for making Christmas merrier for someone in need!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON:



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th - 9:30 AM

Our Annual Christmas Pageant is one of the most popular events of the year as we watch and learn from our children and adults. Please don't miss out!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th - 9:30 AM

This year, our chancel choir will offer their gifts in worship. Join us in worship for this creative and musical retelling of the Christmas story and Christ's miraculous birth.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th:

- 9:30 AM - Sunday Worship Service
- 7:00 PM – Family Service
- 10:30 PM - Candlelight Service (In person only)
- INVITE & BRING OTHERS TO WORSHIP CHRIST!

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