



FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Bulletin for the
Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024**

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024



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

GATHERING “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word” – L. Leatherman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRELUDE** “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” FWS #2088 (2X)
+ Bringing the light of Christ into the sanctuary

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The days are surely coming, says our God;
The day is here to affirm a new covenant.

We call on God’s steadfast love and mercy.

We seek a strong and vital relationship with our God.

God’s law will be written on our hearts.

Our Creator claims us and forgives our faithlessness.

We are eager to know the God who loves us.

We are ready to learn God’s intention for us.

God offers us the joy of salvation.

Our brokenness can be healed and wholeness restored.

We are open to the new and right spirit God offers.

We seek guidance for our daily living.

Amen. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** “O Jesus, I Have Promised” UMH #396 (vv. 1, 4)

SHARING GOD’S BLESSINGS WITH EACH OTHER

INVOCATION

As Jesus offered up prayers and supplications to you, O God, we cry out to you today. You know our losses and our fears. You understand our suffering and pain. We wish to see Jesus, to know the healing touch felt by so many. We want to hear a reassuring voice. We long to see a new day when evil is overcome and wrong cannot prevail. Lift us up and draw us to yourself as we worship in this hour. Equip us for our daily living as we seek to be true to your covenant with us. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. We know more of our own transgression than we have been willing to admit, even to ourselves. We cannot escape from the sin that clings so closely. By our actions and our neglect, we have done what is evil in your

sight. May your judgement help us to face the truth about ourselves. Then wash away the stain of our iniquity. Create in us clean, hearts and renew our spirits. We are ready for a new life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We are welcomed into God's redeeming presence. We are children of our Creator who loves us. We are brothers and sisters of Jesus, who was obedient to God and faithful to the law of love, even in the face of the cross. Through suffering, Christ became the source of eternal salvation for us, realized when we embrace the covenant in truth and faithfulness. The burden of our sin is lifted from us. New life is ours to enjoy.

CHANGE THE WORLD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

ANTHEM "Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow" – arr. K. L. Scott
The Chancel Choir

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 27:19, Matthew 27:11-26

HYMN OF PREPARATION "Change My Heart, O God" FWS #2152

DRAMATIC READING OF *THE WIFE OF PILATE*

The Brief Story of the Play:

Today, a segment of the play 'The Wife of Pilate' will be read. The play is set at the Governor's Palace of Judea, where Pontius Pilate, the governor, is present after Jesus is released to the Jews to be crucified.

Although the New Testament doesn't mention the name of Pontius Pilate's wife, in the third-century church traditions, she is referred to as Procula.¹ Later, she was identified as Claudia or Claudia Procula.

Claudia Procula was, indeed, Pilate's wife and the only person who defended Jesus during his trial. Even though Jesus didn't defend himself, Claudia had a dream about him, which troubled her. She knew he was not guilty and sent a message to her husband to have nothing to do with him. Her interference in the official trial was remarkable and required a lot of courage on her part.

Claudia, Pilate's wife, pleaded on behalf of Jesus, but to no avail. Despite her plea, Pilate did not listen to her and sentenced Jesus to crucifixion. Claudia left Pilate and joined Jesus' followers.

Casting:

Pontius Pilate	David Majoros
Sergius, Pilate's Confidant	Tom Sattler
Marcus, Gatekeeper	Danny Gastelua
Mary Magdalene	Karen G. Newman
Martha	Pastor Claire Wu

¹ Ministry matters, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4871/the-conscience-of-a-spouse>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **LIE Youth Retreat at Camp Quinipet – April 5th-7th** – Grades 6-12. See the flyer for more details
- **Church Fundraiser – Sunday, May 19th** - Mark your calendars and tell your friends and neighbors! Twin County chorus, a division of Sweet Adeline's, will be performing on **Sunday, May 19th, 2024**. There will be a silent auction and refreshments served. Tickets are \$20 pp; seniors and students are \$15. We need your help to donate new items for the silent auction and/or seek donations from merchants. Any questions please see Jackie Suwalski.

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.

WRITE PRAYER CONCERN AND JOY

If you want to submit your prayer requests, we suggest you to write your prayer request upon your arrival at the sanctuary, and then pass it to the prayer basket during the prayer time. Thank you!

LENT 2024 SERVICES: HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and Easter is on Sunday, March 31. This Lenten season, may we let go of everything that has discouraged us and held us back, and pray that God will guide us as we reclaim, revive, and renew our faith. Please join us for our Holy Week and Easter services.

- Palm Sunday: Easter Cantata: Sunday, March 24th at 9:30 am
- The Central Nassau Cooperative Parish Lenten Meditation Service: Tuesday, March 26th at Risen Rock Bansuk Korean UMC at 7:30 pm.
- Maundy Thursday Service: Thursday, March 28th at 7 pm
- Good Friday Service: Friday, March 29th at 7 pm
- Easter Worship Service: Sunday, March 31st at 9:30 am

2024 LENTEN STUDY

Our 2024 Lenten Study will take place on the six Sundays in Lent, **February 18th through March 24th**, with a potluck supper at 5:00PM and the program at 6:00PM. This year we will be studying the book, *Revival*, a six-week journey through England as we study together following the life of John Wesley and exploring his defining characteristics of a Wesleyan Christian. As we study, Pastor Claire will share the experience of the trip to John Wesley's England.

There is a sign-up at the Visitors' Desk in the transept for the supper and program OR just the program. Any questions, please contact Karen Gierie Newman, newman1309@aol.com.

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