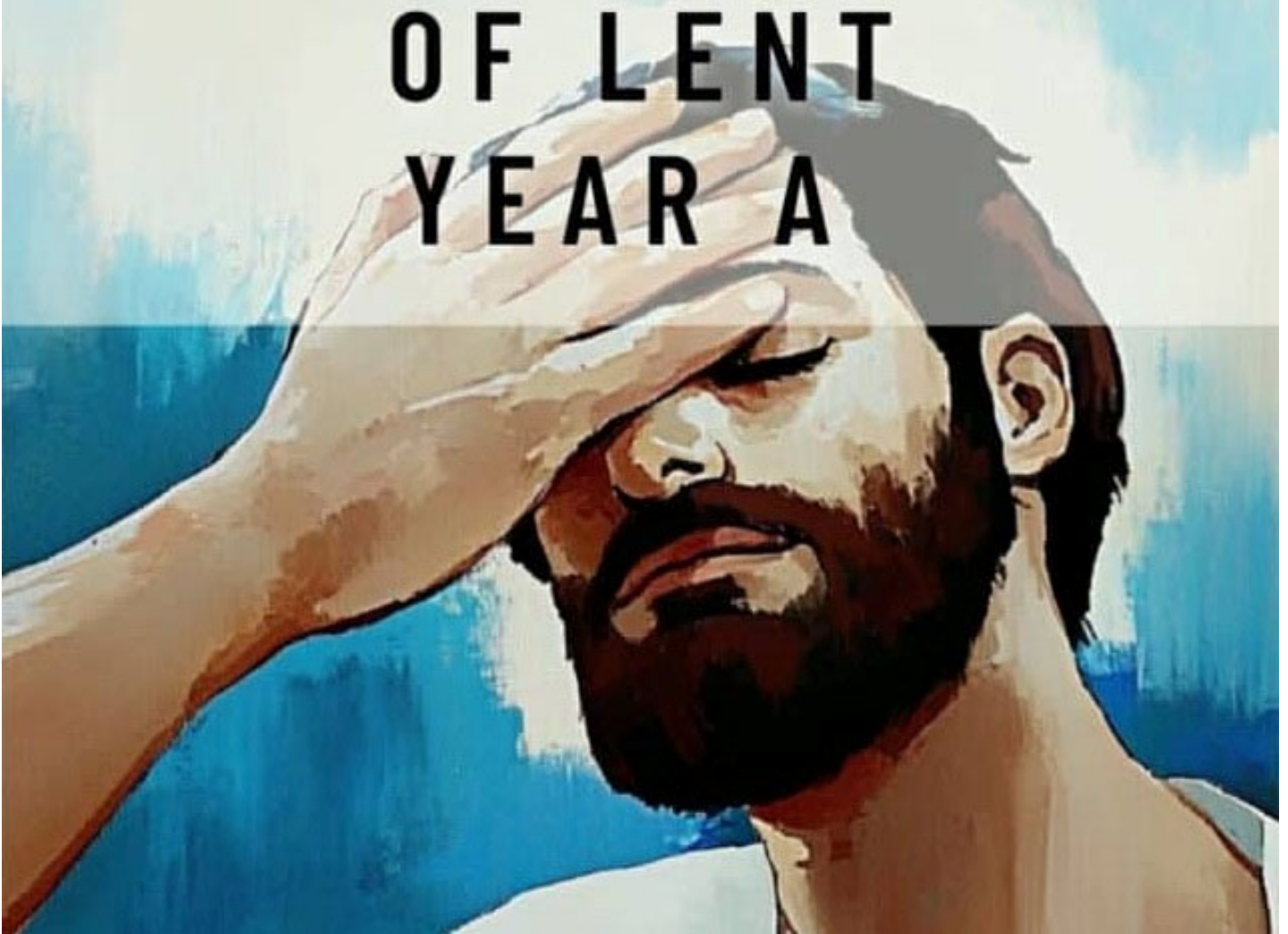


4TH SUNDAY

OF LENT YEAR A



WELCOME TO THE FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
March 15, 2026

WELCOME TO FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026



Rev. Catherine Schuyler, Pastor
David Majoros, D.M.A., Director of Music
Larry Bing, Liturgist

GATHERING

We Sing to You, O God, Darwall

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The light of the Lord shines into our lives.

Our eyes shine with awe at the presence of the Living God.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

The light of Jesus shines brightly in our lives, guiding our way.

The Lord Jesus Christ calls us to be light in a world of shadows.

Shine, people of God!

We have come to worship that we might be transformed into instruments of God's light and love. Let us worship the Lord of all!

***HYMN**

Amazing Grace

UMH #378

***INVOCATION (Unison)**

Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see your image in our neighbors, to see your grace in our actions, to see your peace in our city and your justice in our world. Open our eyes, Lord, to all that is around us and within us that keeps us from living in your joy. And guide us on the path that leads to life. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (from Psalm 51:1-12, *The Message*, Eugene Peterson, 1998)

¹Generous in love – God, give grace!

Huge in mercy – wipe out my bad record.

²Scrub away my guilt, soak out my sins in your laundry.

³I know how bad I've been; my sins are staring me down.

⁴You're the One I've violated, and you've seen it all, seen the full extent of my evil.

You have all the facts before you; whatever you decide about me is fair.

⁵I've been out of step with you for a long time, in the wrong since before I was born.

⁶What you're after is truth from the inside out. Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life.

**⁷Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean,
scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life.**

⁸Tune me in to foot-tapping songs,

set these once-broken bones to dancing.

⁹Don't look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health.

¹⁰God, make a fresh start in me,

shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life.

¹¹Don't throw me out with the trash, or fail to breathe holiness in me.

¹²Bring me back from gray exile, put a fresh wind in my sails!

For I am yours, O God. Keep me by your side, today and always. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, we are here by your call. Open our ears again this morning that we may listen for your voice, hear your Word, and follow again in the way that you would lead us. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:8-14

PSALTER

Psalm 23, in unison



¹The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; ³he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

R My shepherd is the Lord; nothing indeed shall I want.

CHANGE THE WORLD

ANTHEM

A Tree Once Stood, J. M. Martin

The Chancel Choir

***GOSPEL READING**

John 9:1-41

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN**

Just a Little Talk with Jesus

W&S #3107

SERMON

From Blame to Belonging

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE

Amen, Ringwald

The Chancel Choir

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Affirmation from John 1

**We believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**We believe that God was in the person of Jesus Christ,
the Word of God.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us;

**we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son,
full of grace and truth.**

Jesus came to bring life and light to all people.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the presence of Jesus among us still.**

**The Spirit calls us to be the church,
to feed the hungry,
to welcome the stranger,
to offer forgiveness and follow the path of peace,
to proclaim the gospel of love in everything we do.**

**Life, love, community, and grace are gifts of God, for which we give thanks and
praise. Amen.**

PRAYER HYMN

Christ Beside Me

FWS #2166

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Deep in the Shadows of the Past

FWS #2246

The Chancel Choir with Congregation

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**Our gift, our hearts, our lives are yours, O God. Consecrate them and use them as
instruments of your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

***HYMN**

Walk in the Light

[insert]

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, v. 1

UMH #206

Our worship has ended; our service begins.

(* Please stand as you are able.

WELCOME, VISITORS!

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. There is a Visitor Center in the room to the right of the sanctuary with church information and a guest book if you'd like to share your name and address.

Please join us for Coffee Hour downstairs after worship.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Finance Committee – Monday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m.
- Cooking Ministry – Wednesday, March 18 at 5:30 p.m.
- Ad Council – Monday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Procession with Palms

We're going to process along Grant St. with palms on Palm Sunday. We'll gather at the Nursery School entrance to the building and process along the sidewalk singing Hosanna and waving palms. We'll come through the front door of the church into the sanctuary for the rest of worship. If you'd prefer not to process, gather in the sanctuary as usual, and the rest of us will join you soon.

- Easter Breakfast, 7 am to 8:30 am

After the Sunrise Service, we'll eat together, with coffee, in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome, any time until 8:30. Let the pastor know if you can help with the breakfast.

BIBLE STUDIES AND PRAYER GROUPS

- Wednesday Bible Study meets at 10:30 am via Zoom
- 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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We'll share our prayer concerns aloud in worship. The ushers have microphones to bring to you to share. If you'd prefer, you may add a written prayer request to the offering plate.

SUPPORTING OUR 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. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Bing. Thank you for helping to share God's love through your generosity and compassion.

Through Lent, we are collecting new and almost new shoes for Soles for Souls. Donations are welcome; let Barbarba Flores know when you bring them. Anything else needs to be announced?

UPCOMING LITURGISTS:

March 2026

15th Larry Bing

22nd Karen Gierie Newman

29th Betty Gastelua

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

15th Kathy V & Amanda

22nd Rita & John

29th UWF

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 speak with her.

**Lent at
Farmingdale UMC**

Sunday, March 29, *9:30 am*
Palm and Passion Sunday

Thursday, April 2, *7:00 pm*
Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 3, *7:00 pm*
Good Friday

Sunday, April 5
Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service, *6:15 am*
Easter Morning Worship, *9:30 am*

Book Study
Lenten Sundays at noon

Mission Project
Soles for Souls
Collecting good used or like-new

Service is In-Person or on Zoom

ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5166943424?pwd=TWtTVElWUHNXbjVncnNMaG9wTVJrZz09>

Meeting ID: 5166943424 Password 11735