



## **FARMINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Bulletin for  
First Sunday of Advent, December 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

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023



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

**GATHERING** “Reflection on an Ancient Plainsong” - Ryan

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*PRELUDE** “People, Look East”  
+ Bringing the light of Christ into the sanctuary

UMH #202 (VV 1, 3, 4)

## THE ANGELS’ MESSAGE: HEAR (RESPONSIVE LITANY)

Advent is a time to hear again of God’s redeeming work.

**Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.**

Advent is a time to hear again of God’s reconciling love.

**Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.**

Advent is a time to hear again of God’s unmerited grace.

**Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.**

Advent is a time to hear again of our ultimate hope.

**Give us ears, O Lord, and help us to hear.**

## LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Muller/Flores Family

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

UMH #211 (V 1)

Today we light the **first candle**. The first candle reminds us that as we wait upon the Lord we do so with a sense of heightened awareness. In a world where our attention is easily diverted in many directions, Advent is a time to quiet ourselves and listen for God’s word with expectant ears. This Advent may we hear and receive the message of the One who continues to speak.

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

**Holy Source of life and hope, as we come together this day, open our ears to hear, open our eyes to see, and open our hearts to love, that we may come to know your ways and follow your paths.**

**Help us grow in love for one another, and for all creation, as we prepare for the coming of the one who calls us to turn from our false gods to you, Holy One, the true source of our salvation. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”

FWS #2100 (VV 1, 2, 5)

## SHARING GOD’S BLESSINGS WITH EACH OTHER

### \*INVOCATION

Amid threatening clouds of anger and selfish strife, come, O God, to bring light. Into our days of worry and anxiety, send a confident hope. Enrich us with spiritual gifts that transcend disappointments and spill

out in generous compassion for all your suffering children. Meet us today where we are so we may be equipped for trials yet to come and for joys yet to be revealed. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Awesome God, we confess the sin of our separation from you. We have blamed you for hiding from us, rather than admitting we have failed to see you in the thousands of ways you are revealing yourself every day. We have not called on you, and we have not listened for your call to us. Without you, we have become tiny islands of self-concern. Our links with the rest of your children are stretched and broken. O God, we long for that loving community in which your reign is acknowledged and your purposes are served. Move us to that place, we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God's grace has come to us in Jesus Christ. God restores us to a right relationship with the eternal, that we might rightfully value ourselves and all persons. Spiritual gifts are ours to claim. God is faithful and will strengthen us to face all circumstances. Praise God, the source of all things!

**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.**

**ANTHEM**

**"The Upper Room" – Besig  
The Chancel Choir**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Psalm 137

**\*GOSPEL READING** Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** "There's Something About That Name"

UMH #171

**SERMON**

Pastor Claire Wu

**CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE** "Amen, Amen"

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY SONG** “How Great is Our God”  
The Chancel Choir & Congregation

W&S #3003

**\*DOXOLOGY**

#95

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)**

Gracious God, we give our best to you, not out of guilt or fear, but with gratitude and faith. You have been our support in times of need. Every breath we take is a gift from you. We would be awake and watchful for opportunities to make a difference, to help others be alert for your presence, to value life in all its fullness, and to learn to care. We dedicate these symbols of thankfulness and all the days of our lives to those purposes. Amen.

**\*HYMN** “Soon and Very Soon”

UMH #706 (VV 1, 2, 3)

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** “Soon and Very Soon”

UMH #706 (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:**

December 2023

3<sup>rd</sup> – Betty Gastelua

10<sup>th</sup> – Lois Muller

17<sup>th</sup> – Faustina Geydu

24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve

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

31<sup>st</sup> - TBA

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:**

December 2023

3<sup>rd</sup> – Faustina & Vicki

10<sup>th</sup> – Smith/Muller

17<sup>th</sup> – Jayme & Diane

24<sup>th</sup> – Rita & John

31<sup>st</sup> - 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](mailto:office@farmingdaleumc.org) and visit our website [farmingdaleumc.org](http://farmingdaleumc.org).

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Vision Bearers Meeting – Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at 11 a.m.

Trustees Meeting – Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **Food Outreach Ministry/Cooking Night** – Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **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 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 6<sup>th</sup> Street, West Babylon NY 11704. Thank you for making Christmas merrier for someone in need!

### **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON:**



### **ADVENT BEGINS: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd - 9:30 AM**

In-person and Live Streamed. Our 9:30 a.m. services will include music, carols, and Advent candle lighting.

### **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 17<sup>th</sup> - 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 24<sup>th</sup>:**

- 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](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)**