



“IN THE MESS . . . GOD’S GREAT LOVE”

Advent 4 ✠ December 19, 2021

FARMINGDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FARMINGDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
welcomes you to our family as we celebrate God's grace!

Distance cannot break the bonds of Christian fellowship.
 The Spirit is faithful and connects us to one another
 even over distance and separation.

Due to Covid-19 orders, we are worshiping God in a new way. God is all around us all the time. We have access to God's power and love if we are worshiping together at our building or if we are worshiping at home. We are just glad you are continuing to center yourself in God's love during this unprecedented time. May our prayers and praise bring Glory to God where we are safe. Your worship puts God's power and love into our world so that we can strengthen our nation and God's world in the fight for preserving life during these days.

Thank you for protecting & loving your neighbor by wearing your mask when at worship in our building as we are following CDC & IDPH guidelines.

If you are looking for a spiritual home, are interested in learning more about Farmingdale Church, or in becoming a member, we encourage you to talk with the Pastor or and Elder about joining.

WORSHIP NOTES

Parents and children, here is the link to a lesson complete with story, Bible passage, discussion questions & activities.
<https://pres-outlook.org/2021/12/love-is-love-is-love-weekly-christian-ed-lesson/>

Offering: An offering box is at the back of in the sanctuary where you can drop your offering. You can also continue to mail your pledges to the church. Thank you for your continued support!!

Joys & Concerns: There is an basket in the center aisle of the sanctuary. Please drop your written prayer card in there by the time of the Doxology so they can be shared during the Joys & Concerns time.

Prayer concerns can be called to Judy Adams at (217) 546-4743 home or texted/called to Pastor Lonna (217)801-7964 mobile during the week. They will pass along these prayer needs to our phone & email prayer chain coordinator Jennifer H. Prayers that come in during the week will be added to the next week's bulletin. We are using first names and last initials to protect people's privacy.

Preaching Text for next week, December 26, 2021—Christmas I

OLD: Psalm 148

GOSPEL: Luke 2:15-21

EPISTLE: Colossians 3:12-17 & Galatians 4:4-7

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Ministers _____ The Farmingdale Congregation
 Pastor _____ Rev. Lonna Chang-Ren Lee
 Liturgist _____ Jennifer Humphrey
 Cameraman Extraordinaire _____ Richard Deal
 Church Musician _____ Allyson Dodd
 Special Music _____ Adelyn Rollins, violin

FARMINGDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2021

SESSION & LEADERSHIP

CLASS OF 2021	CLASS OF 2022	CLASS OF 2023
Ralph Goodwin, Building & Grounds	Emily Spann, Media	Louie Adams, Worship
Kim Hall, Christian Education		Tim Humphrey, Stewardship
Sara Ross, Christian Education		Bill Kinner, Building & Grounds
Wendy Volker, Church Life		Carol Pappas, Mission

STAFF

OFFICERS

Rev. Lonna C. Lee, Pastor & Moderator	
Pat Miller – Interim Office Manager	Bill Kinner, Financial Secretary
Allyson Dodd, John Irwin, & Gino Moriconi – Church Musicians	Scott Morey, Treasurer
Wendy Volker – Custodian	Susie Conner & Sharon Rohrer, Co-Clerks

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY & COMMUNION

Advent 3

December 12, 2021—10:00am

*"We have just enough religion to make us hate,
but not enough to make us love one another."*

— Jonathan Swift

*"God became small for us in Christ; he showed us his heart
so our hearts might be won."*

— Martin Luther

Gathering Around God's Word

Prelude

"Mary Did You Know"
Adelyn Rollins, violin

— Mark Lowry

Welcome

*If you have a joy or concern to share, please fill out
a prayer request card & bring it to the offering plate in the center aisle.*

Rev. Lonna C. Lee

Introit #144

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

(verse 1 only)

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

* Call to Worship & Prayer of Invocation

Jennifer Humphrey

Leader: All through this season of Advent, we have encountered Hope, Peace and Joy.

ALL: TODAY Love is the theme.

Leader: Today we will hear the story of surprising commitment.

ALL: WE WILL LEARN of Mary and God's wonderful love.

Leader: Today we will be challenged to believe in all that God can do.

ALL: OPEN OUR HEARTS, Lord, that we may be ready for your love.

Leader: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

ALL: O COME TO US, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Leader: Let us pray together . . .

**ALL: LORD, BE WITH US this morning as we encounter Mary
and hear of the wondrous news that she received.**

Remind us that like Mary

each one of us is a bearer of your Good News.

We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name.

Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy

the love that you have for us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

* Hymn #144

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

(verses 2, 3, & 4)

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.
3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

Communion is TODAY!!!

BYOE (Bring Your Own Elements if you are watching from home)

Please have your communion elements for TODAY'S service

(cracker/bread/cake/cookie & a cup) .



4. What can I give him,
 If I were a shepherd,
 if I were a wise man,
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

poor as I am?
 I would bring a lamb;
 I would do my part;

Call to & Prayer of Confession

One: *Every notion we have about power, success, wealth, and achievement, God takes and tosses out the window. More importantly, God comes to us, to upset our idea that we must save ourselves. In Jesus, God comes to us, removing our sin, our failures, our expectations, so we might have life. Please join me as we pray together, confessing, . . .*

ALL: **LOVING GOD, even in the midst of this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. In spite of holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists, and trying to get the shopping done. We fail to think about your reordered world – a world where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are filled with good things. Forgive us, Loving God and hear us now as we confess our sins . . .**

(Silent personal prayers of confession)

Leader: *Forgive us, Loving God,*

ALL: **Help us adjust our Christmas priorities, that we might join with you, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the one who brings us peace and love, Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: *The ancient promises of God are fulfilled. God does not forget us. God's mercy extends from generation to generation. Let our souls rejoice in God!*

ALL: **IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, our sins are forgiven & we are loved beyond measure. Thanks be to God. Alleluia and Amen!**

* Gloria #113

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

(verse 1 only)

1. Angels we have heard on high,
 and the mountains in reply
 Gloria in excelsis Deo!

sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 echoing their joyous strains.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo!



Proclaiming God's Word

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

1st Reading

Luke 1:39-56 (NRSV)

Jennifer Humphrey

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Mary's Song of Praise

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ *and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*

⁴⁸ *for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.*

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ *for the Mighty One has done great things for me,*

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ *His mercy is for those who fear him*

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ *He has shown strength with his arm;*

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² *He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,*

*and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."*

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

2nd Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (NRSV)

Rev. Lonna C. Lee

The Good News of Deliverance

¹ The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

Sermon

"In the Mess . . . God's Great Love"

Rev. Lonna Chang-Ren Lee

Responding to God's Word

* Hymn #110

"Love Has Come"

(verse 1 only)

<p>1. Love has come, a light in the darkness! See, all heaven has come to proclaim it. Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!</p>	<p>Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies. Hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Glory to God on high!</p>
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Communion

Invitation and Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Christ be with you!

ALL: AND ALSO WITH YOU

One: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE GOD THANKS AND PRAISE.

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise . . .

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

page 35 (GtG)

Words of Institution & Communion of God's People

Prayer of Thanksgiving

* Hymn #110

"Love Has Come"

(verses 2 & 3)

<p>2. Love is born! Come share in the wonder. See the glow in the eyes of His mother. Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.</p>	<p>Love is God now asleep in the hay. What is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.</p>
<p>3. Love has come, He never will leave us! Love is Jesus within and among us. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.</p>	<p>Love is life everlasting and free. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!</p>

Opportunities for Ministry

Call for the Offering

Jennifer Humphrey

* Doxology #606

"Praise God from whom . . . "

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication

Leader: Let us dedicate our gifts to God's work, praying together . . .

**ALL: GOD OF LIFE AND LOVE, receive our gifts this day
as tokens of our love for you and signs of our willingness
to share that love in the world around us.**

**Bless our lives as well as our gifts,
so that we may be a blessing to others
for the sake of the Christ Child, our Savior and our friend, Amen.**

Joys & Concerns

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer (unison)

page 35 (GtG)

Sent Out With God's Word

* Hymn #104

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

(verses 1 & 2)

**1. O Lord, how shall I meet you,
Your people long to greet you,
O kindle, Lord most holy,
to do in spirit lowly
2. Love caused your incarnation;
your thirst for my salvation
O love beyond all telling,
in love, all loves excelling,**

**how welcome you aright?
my hope, my heart's delight!
a lamp within my breast,
all that may please you best.
love brought you down to me;
procured my liberty.
that led you to embrace
our lost and fallen race.**

* Charge & Benediction

* Extroit #104

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

(verse 3 only)

**3. You come, O Lord, with gladness,
to bring an end to sadness
In patient expectation
when your renewed creation**

**in mercy and goodwill,
and bid our fears be still.
we live for that great day
your glory shall display.**

* Peace of Christ

* Postlude

"O Holy Night"

— Francesco Parrino



**Those who are able please stand.*

All sung music can be found in Glory to God hymnal.

Today's liturgy is adapted from: Presbyterian Church in Canada Worship Planners

Thank you to Esther T. for loaning us her beautiful manger scene.

My Notes

THIS WEEK at Farmingdale Presbyterian Church December 19—26, 2021

TODAY	Sunday	10am	Worship in-person & on FB Live – Advent 4: Mary & Love Candle & Communion
		noon-2pm	Pastor Lonna's Office Hours
12/20	Monday	3-5pm 5:30pm	Pastor Lonna's Office Hours Leaderwise Meeting with Elders – on Zoom Pioneer Deadline
12/23	Thursday	6-8pm	AYM Meeting in-person & on Zoom – Christmas Activities
12/24	Friday	6pm	Christmas Eve Worship in-person & on FB Live Lessons & Carols & Candlelight
12/26	Sunday	10am	Worship in-person & on FB Live – Christmas 1

Upcoming Events

12/27-1/1			Pastor Lonna on Vacation
12/30	Thursday	6-8pm	AYM Meeting on Zoom – Best Gifts
1/2	Sunday	10am	Worship in-person & on FB Live – Epiphany Celebration
1/5	Wednesday	9am	Abigail Circle – Farmingdale Fellowship Hall
1/6	Thursday		Spring St. Vets Renaissance Center Meal – If you are interested in helping, please contact Pat Meier – (217) 546-6250
		6:30pm	Ruth Circle – Farmingdale Fellowship Hall
		6-7:30pm	AYM Meeting on Zoom – Hang Out

Christmas Giving Opportunities

Local collections of **food & winter items (socks, hats, gloves/mittens, etc.)** continues through the end of the year to support our food pantries & the homeless.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to help those affected by **winter storms and tornadoes**.

Joy Offering which supports PCUSA racial-ethnic schools & colleges & retired missionaries/church servants will be collected on Christmas Eve, 12/26, & 1/2.

We continue to broadcast on Facebook LIVE so that those who need to remain at home can participate in our service as well.

Click this link to begin
<https://www.facebook.com/FarmingdalePresbyterianChurch.org>

You do NOT have to join Facebook to watch our worship service.

WHILE THE FPC WEBSITE IS TEMPORARILY DOWN,
Digital Worship Bulletins can be downloaded at this Direct link—<https://bbqspann.wixsite.com/website>



If you missed Facebook Live, you can still view the service.

Use the Facebook link & look for video in our "Posts".

Let us know you are there by saying "hi," commenting, & hitting the Like or Love buttons.

We love to know you are watching!!

We are striving to include as many of our congregation as possible.

Please join us Live next Sunday at 10 am!



How to reach Pastor Lonna

(217) 801-7964 Cell & text

The most immediate way to reach her is on her mobile by voice or text.

If it goes to voicemail, please leave a message!

E-mail — fpcPastorLonna@yahoo.com

Please send in your joys & concerns by email, text, or phone call. Prayer chain will be updated daily as needed by early evening.

Pat Miller is doing office projects by request. Please contact Pat at the church office email FarmingdalePCoffice@yahoo.com to request her help.

Please see above event listing for Pastor Lonna's Office Hours

Lonna is available by appointment as well. Please call or text her to set up a time and place.

(217) 801-7964

If you are coming by, please observe social distancing & using a face covering.





JOYS & CONCERNS (updated 12/18/2021)



New/Updates

- *IPH—COVID+ staff member
- *Aunt Angie M.—may have lost family in tornadoes in KY (Cheyenne H. & family)
- *Grandma Candy D.—12/11 heart attack; hospitalized (Cheyenne H. & family)
- *Tornadoes in KY, IL, MO, TN, AR, MS, MN, IA, NB, WI
- *Gary's 5 y.o. cousin Eloise—Alpers syndrome, degenerative fatal disease; recovering from pneumonia; prayers she can be home for Christmas (Marialyce H.)
- *Mike S.—12/14 back surgery went well (Ginny S.'s husband)
- *Lois I.—now home, treatment plan needed, requests no visitors
- *Abigail M.—Ruby's roommate recovering from COVID;

Hospice

Bonnie G.—prayers for peace (Chuck, Lonna, & Ruby)

Joys

- *Pastor Lonna—kidney stone passed; thanks for the prayers!
- *PP 8th grade girl's Basketball State runner-ups, only lost by 2 points; great job, Lady Cardinals!!
- *Ruby G. tested negative!!; thanks for the prayers

Healing

- Pat M.—12/6 renal stint
- Julia H.—fluid around heart & lungs, now home (Kim H.)
- Joy Y.—healing for 11/29 successful bone graft surgery for broken arm (Chuck G.'s sister)
- Russ H.—rehab in hopes of healing and recovery; several digestive surgeries (Dave J.)
- Anthony S. & family—in rehab (Lonna L.)
- Carrie A.—low hemoglobin; blood count will rise to 14 which is normal (John I.)
- Dennis F.—Bridge Care with multiple illnesses (Ralph G.)
- Bill K.—continued healing for foot
- Judy A.—injured back; more pain than usual
- Forrest S.—oral surgery on 10/26 (Wendy V.'s g-son)
- Patricia S.—knee pain & esophagus follow-up
- Tyler S.—hornets nest attack (Bud W.'s g-son)
- Jeff—10/19 leg amputation; rehab (Esther T.'s friend)
- David V.—multiple health issues (Wendy V.'s husband)
- Bill—Parkinson's worsening (Louie A.'s BIL)
- Charisse—eye problems (Ce N.'s daughter)
- Sherry W.—8/17 fell & broke her right foot & ankle; continued healing for broken femur from early summer
- Esther B.—healing for 8/2 knee replacement surgery. & right eye that has lost partial vision due to a blood clot.
- Dave—successful heart transplant on 8/15 (Esther T.'s cousin)
- Nancy G.—2 stents in heart (Mary Ann R.)
- Velma F.—still getting PT for her leg; rUTIs
- Ashley H.—more medical tests (Kim H.)
- Charlotte W.—tests & adjustments (Sharon W.' g-daughter)
- Kye—Dravet Syndrome (severe epilepsy) (Ralph G.)

Deaths—Lifting up these families in prayer as they grieve for the loss of . . .

- John H.—died on 11/24 (Kim H.'s daughter's BIL)
- Frank Winters—died on 12/10 (Sherry W.'s ex husband)

Cancer Treatment & New Dx

- Matt C.—colon cancer Dx; 12/14 surgery; prayers for guidance, treatment plan, & family in Alaska & extended (Susie C.'s son)
- Ed W.—had 4th chemo, 2 more treatments; will do another bone scan in January (Maebeth N.)
- Uncle Ray—pancreatic cancer; not doing well (Amy W.)
- Betsy I—Myeloma; 12/21 is 1 yr. ann. of stem cell transplant; return to Chicago for many tests; prayers for good results
- Melinda H.—leukemia; 11/1 emergency surgery home on 11/4; new medication (Jenica H.)
- Mardell N.—lung cancer; not doing well after chemo & radiation (Mary Ann A.)
- Lynn W.—good tumor marker numbers (Rich D.'s HS friend)
- Jennifer H.—her cancer is stable (Cheyenne H.)
- Bob F.—treatable low-grade bladder cancer (Bill K.'s BIL)
- Friend.—cancer dx
- Linda S.—prayer for full remission (Marialyce H.'s cousin)
- Len & wife Sandy—recurrent cancer treatment (Ralph G.)
- Bill—diabetes, Parkinson, recurrent cancer at home (Ralph G.)
- Earl B.—prostate cancer (Jenica H.)
- Brian E.—stage 4 lung cancer (Kim H.)
- Ruth Ann D.—breast cancer (Betty J.'s friend)

Church/Local/National

For love & respect to guide our healing for our conflict in the body of Christ at Farmingdale (Tim H.)
Pray for a miracle for that God makes a way for us as the body of Christ

COVID-19

- DIL's Grandpa Wes—may also have Covid 19 (Betty J.)
- DIL's Grandma Betty—Covid-19 (Betty J.)
- Morella L—29 y.o. struggling with COVID in Anchorage where care is limited (Jenica H.'s family member)

Those serving in our Armed Forces:

All our service people and their families, especially:

- ♦ Samantha C.—IL Air Guard Reserve; now home
- ♦ Christian J.—IL Air Guard Reserve
- ♦ Matt J.—IL Air Guard Reserve; now home
- ♦ Nathan J.—IL Air Guard Reserve
- ♦ Nik C.—IL Air Guard Reserve
- ♦ J.T. M.—IN Air Guard Reserve
- ♦ Ryan B.—Navy, Charleston SC

