

First United Methodist Church

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

8:15 & 10:30 a.m.



Mission Statement

“First United Methodist Church (FUMC) of Oneonta, NY is a congregation of faith and doubt. We commit ourselves to pursue justice, and pledge to stand with all our neighbors who are marginalized and oppressed, as Jesus did.” – Adopted by the Church Council on September 1, 2021



Pastor, Rev. Casey Bradley
Organist, Leslie Bauer
Choir Director, Carolyn McMaster
Worship Technology, Randall Wilson

First United Methodist Church
66 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY
secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org | 607-432-4102
www.firstumc-oneonta.org | <https://linktr.ee/firstumconeonta>

ORDER OF WORSHIP

** Indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.
Bold text invites the congregation to speak in unison.*

On the Road to Bethlehem

(As the prelude begins, please prepare your hearts for worship)

Prelude

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Johann Pachelbel. Music is in the public domain

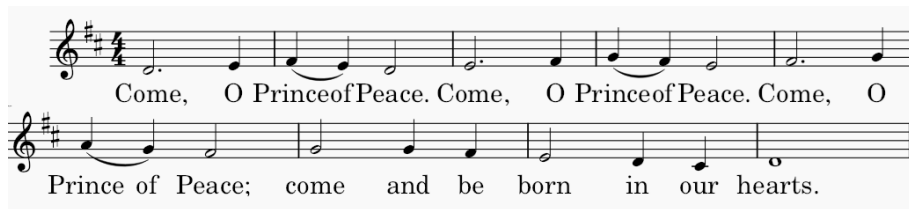
*Hymn #202

“People, Look East”

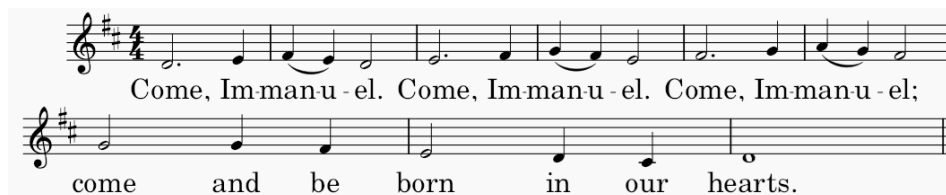
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Harm. by Martin Shaw © 1928 Oxford University Press
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Invitation to Worship

We come to that season once again, the season of waiting, of hopeful anticipation, of yearning for that which we still struggle to name and know. This is Advent. Come into this sacred space, this space that is still being prepared to welcome the birth of the Christ Child. Come into this space, a space where you will hear that there is room enough for all.



The hope of the night is shattered at the words: “There is no room here for you.” We’ve heard those words ringing down from ancient Bethlehem, they have taken root in the hearts and lives of too many in our world today. Yet we know that in this age of plenty, there really is room enough for all. There is room for me and for you and for all those we are called to be neighbors to: the immigrant, the addicted, the struggling, the lost. Let our cry be “room enough for all” as we embark on this Advent journey.



Welcoming

Passing the Peace

Lighting the Advent Candles

Charles King & Wendy Slicer
The Luo Family

Voice 1: We begin this Advent journey with hearts longing for hope.

Voice 2: Yet hope is not always easy to find. The world often tells us there is no room for new beginnings.

Voice 1: But God whispers into the waiting: *“I am doing a new thing – do you not perceive it?”*

Voice 2: In the midst of shadow, God’s light finds a way.

Voice 1: We light this candle as a sign of our hope in the God who makes room for all things new.

All: Come, Lord Jesus. Make room in us for hope.

Offering

November Jingle – Warming Station

Special Offering – United Methodist Student Day

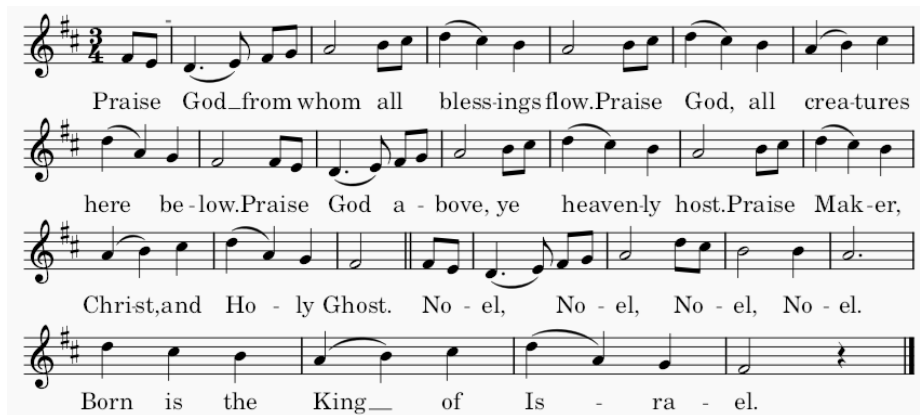
Offertory

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Johann Pachelbel. Music is in the public domain

*Doxology

(sung to the tune of The First Noel)



Prayer of Dedication

The Word, Illumined By A Star

Children’s Message

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Charles King
Alan Franks

One: God is still speaking through these ancient voices.

All: May we receive these words with awe and respond with faith.

*Hymn

“Child of Wonder”

(insert)

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*Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

NRSVUE

One: Hear the call of these ancient words.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Make Room for Hope”

Rev. Casey Bradley

Anthem

“Prophecy and Annunciation”

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Making Room

Prayers of the People

Our Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Departing By Another Way

*Hymn #2089

“Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice”

Words by Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.
Music by David Ashley White © 1996 Selah Publishing Co.
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Announcements

Benediction

Mission Statement

We are a congregation of faith and doubt. We commit ourselves to pursue justice, and pledge to stand with all our neighbors who are marginalized and oppressed, as Jesus did.

Postlude

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

arr. Wilbur Held © 1970 Concordia Publishing House
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The placement of the votive candle on the altar started the year of our 25th anniversary in 2014 of becoming a Reconciling Congregation. Each month we honored a different person(s) who answered the call to stand for full inclusion of all God's children.

PRAYER LIST

Recovering or in long term care (ask the church office for contact info):

Bhala Jones Harry & Virginia Pence Louise Van Buren

Prayer Requests: Prayer requests will be published for 4 weeks. If you would like to extend a request, please fill out one of the prayer cards located in the pew rack. **Please mark if you want your request to be public.**

Mary B. Zoey A.

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Phil Young following his passing on November 12. Condolences can be sent to Honey Young (Courtney, Caitlyn & Benjamin), 593 West St., Oneonta, NY 13820.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Steve McCarthy & Ian Manchester on December 2.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday services are accessible online. The 8:15 service is on Facebook. The 10:30 service is on YouTube or Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/195736049> or call 1-646-558-8656. Meeting ID: 195 736 049).

TODAY: First Sunday of Advent / UMC Student Day

8:15 am Worship in person & on Facebook

9:25 am Sunday School, Digging Deeper (adult class)
& Parent's Cafe

10:30 am Worship in person, via Zoom & on YouTube

1:00 pm Safe Sanctuaries Training (Embury Room)

MON. 12/1 10:00 am Book Group (Embury Room)
5:00 pm Yoga (Embury Room)

TUES. 12/2 9:00 am Boomerangs (Kitchen)
11:00 am Staff Meeting (Coke Room)
2:30 pm Selah Circle (Coke Room)
7:00 pm Patrick Committee (Art Room)
7:00 pm Gift of the Magi (Sanctuary)

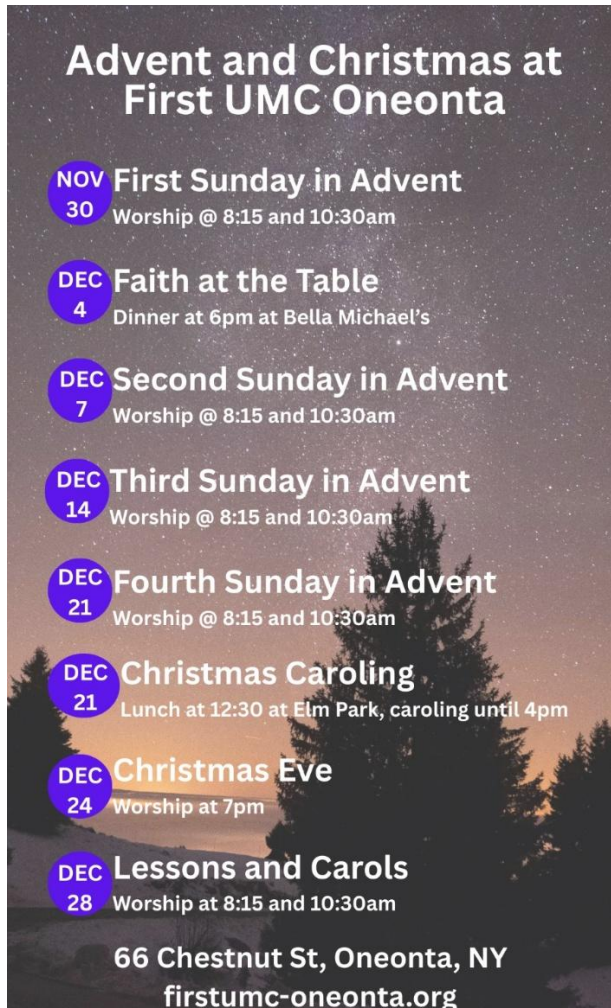
WED. 12/3 7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir

THUR. 12/4 10:00 am UWF Book Group (Embury Room)
12:00 pm Lectio (Embury Room)
5:30 pm Oneonta Hooks & Needles (Embury Room)
6:00 pm CCS Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:00 pm Faith at the Table (Bella Michael's)

FRI. 12/5 **7:30 pm Catskill Choral Society Concert & Reception**

SAT. 12/6 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday's Bread (Fellowship Hall)
3:00 pm Catskill Choral Society Concert

SUN. 12/7 **Second Sunday of Advent**
8:15 am Worship in person & on Facebook
9:25 am Sunday School, Digging Deeper (adult class)
& Parent's Cafe
10:30 am Worship in person, via Zoom & on YouTube



**Advent and Christmas at
First UMC Oneonta**

NOV 30 First Sunday in Advent
Worship @ 8:15 and 10:30am

DEC 4 Faith at the Table
Dinner at 6pm at Bella Michael's

DEC 7 Second Sunday in Advent
Worship @ 8:15 and 10:30am

DEC 14 Third Sunday in Advent
Worship @ 8:15 and 10:30am

DEC 21 Fourth Sunday in Advent
Worship @ 8:15 and 10:30am

DEC 21 Christmas Caroling
Lunch at 12:30 at Elm Park, caroling until 4pm

DEC 24 Christmas Eve
Worship at 7pm

DEC 28 Lessons and Carols
Worship at 8:15 and 10:30am

66 Chestnut St, Oneonta, NY
firstumc-oneonta.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Offering – United Methodist Student Day

This Special Sunday is a denomination-wide celebration focused on the value of education. The special offering supports scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students. By supporting our students now, we contribute to community transformation and leadership empowerment, building future leaders. Your gift is a practical expression of care, equipping students to shape a hopeful future.

Faith at the Table – Thursday, December 4

The next Faith at the Table dinner and conversation will be on Thursday, December 4 at 6 pm at Bella Michael's. The topic is "What Is Essential for Christmas to be Christmas?"

Please RSVP to the church office (secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org or 607-432-4102) by Monday, December 1.

Items Needed for Thrift Shop

The thrift shop needs disinfectant wipes and 14 or 17 oz. scented candles. If you have either of these items, they would be much appreciated!

Boomerangs

This is the last week to order Boomerangs for Christmas – all orders are due by Sunday, December 7!. Our Boomerangs are gluten free. Boomerangs are still \$8.00 a dozen, and you may pay by cash or check made out to UWF. Clipboards will be available in the Sanctuary for orders. Orders may also be placed with Irene Morrissey or Dottie Lawson.

Be Green, Be Just

Give the past for the future. Ask parents and grandparents to give you an ornament that has been a part of your growing-up Christmas traditions. Pass along its story to your children. Or make your own tree ornaments representing something meaningful to you. Glue family photos to card stock and hang the picture on the tree. Create some new stories to tell each Christmas.

Member Seeking a Car

Tyler E. is looking for relatively inexpensive car. If you have a car that you are looking to sell, or know of someone who has one, please contact Angela (607-434-2435).

Giving Tree for Head Start Children

Christmas is coming and the "Giving Tree" fund for Head Start children will once again be receiving contributions towards a \$50 gift certificate for each of the 41 children at the River Street Building. So our goal is to raise at least \$2,050. Any money given above and beyond that will be used for the "Secret Santa Fund", a fund that covers requests that come in from caring parents in our congregation and beyond. It is administered by Pastor Casey.

The Head Start Parents really appreciate the gift certificate. It gives them more options, particularly if they have more than one child in the family. Please donate what you usually spend by sending a check to the church with "Giving Tree" in the memo, or put money in the offering plate designated for "Giving Tree." We'll gratefully accept your donation, no matter the size.

The deadline for donations is December 15. Questions? Call Joyce Miller at 607-434-4963.

Alternative Giving for Christmas

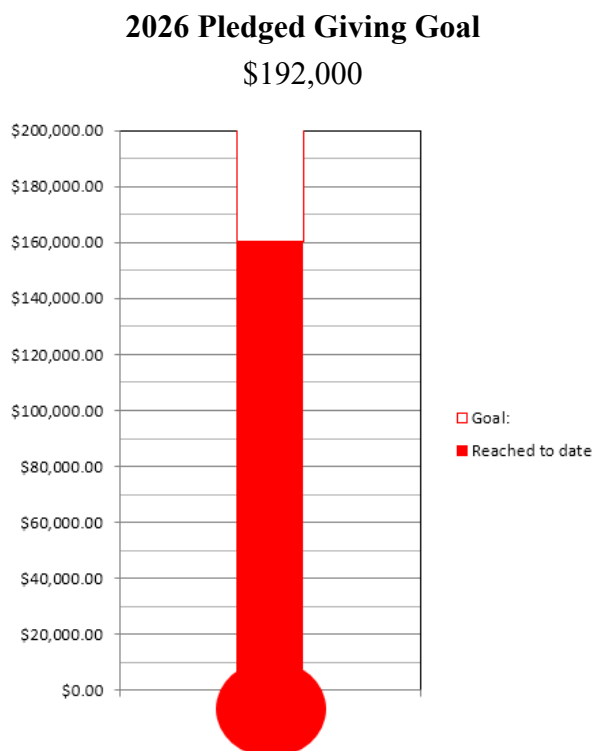
This year the 3 cards we will be highlighting for Alternative Giving are Cindy's Bundle of Love Fund (via the Thrift Shop), Otsego Refugee Resettlement Coalition, and the Warming Station. Additional cards will also be available, including Saturday's bread, Habitat for Humanity, UMCOR, etc.

Cards will be available after each service in the Fellowship Hall starting Sunday, November 30. They can also be obtained in the church office.

In addition to the cards, you may also donate money for poinsettias and door wreaths.

Note: if you wish your gift in honor or memory of someone to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin, please make sure this information is submitted to the office by **Friday, December 19**.

Forms to provide this information are available with the cards, in the church office, and on the last page of this bulletin. You can also email secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org.



Our pledged giving goal for 2026 is \$192,000. We have received 55 pledges to date totaling \$170,520 (88.8% of our goal).

So far, 28 pledgers have increased their pledges from last year, and we have 5 new pledgers. We'd love to have you join them if you can!

If you have not yet submitted your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. Extra pledge slips are available on the tables just inside the sanctuary if you need one.

You can submit your pledge by mailing it to us, putting it in the offering plate, or emailing secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org.

We appreciate your commitment to supporting the ministries of FUMC.

Performances at FUMC

Friends of Christmas Benefit Performance – The Gift of the Magi

Tuesday, December 2 at 7 pm

Free Admission ~ Donations Gratefully Accepted.

Reserve tickets and/or donate at <https://friendsofchristmas.org/magi>.

"The Gift of the Magi," narrated by Christmas carolers, tells the timeless story of Della and Jim, a deeply in love yet economically challenged couple. In their efforts to buy perfect Christmas gifts, they discover the true meaning of love and sacrifice. Directed by Patrick Breen, with local artists and the Magi Carolers.

Let's make this holiday season unforgettable for all. Your attendance, donations, and involvement will ensure that no one feels alone during the holidays.



Catskill Choral Society Concerts – A Journey of Peace and Joy

Friday, December 5 at 7:30 pm & Saturday, December 6 at 3 pm

Adults \$30; Seniors \$25; Children & Students free.

Tickets available from Green Earth, online, at the door.

See <https://www.catskillchoralsociety.org/> for more information.



ALTERNATIVE GIVING & CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



ALTERNATIVE GIVING FUNDS

- ☐ Cindy's Bundle of Love (via Thrift Shop) \$ _____
- ☐ Otsego Refugee Resettlement Coalition \$ _____
- ☐ Warming Station \$ _____
- ☐ Other _____ \$ _____

POINSETTIAS, WREATHS & DECORATIONS

- ☐ Donation for Poinsettias & Decorating \$ _____
(Church will purchase. At least \$15 recommended.)
- ☐ Donation for door wreaths (\$35 each) \$ _____

Given By _____

In Memory Of _____

In Honor Of _____

Please check the appropriate box(es) above to indicate which fund you are donating to, and the total amount for each fund.

Enclose your payment to First United Methodist Church (66 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820) and **note on the memo space** which fund(s) it is for.

All memorial/honor information needs to be given to the church secretary by Friday, December 19.