

# First United Methodist Church

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 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

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First United Methodist Church  
66 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY  
secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org | 607-432-4102  
[www.firstumc-oneonta.org](http://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

#### “Sleepers, Wake”

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#### \*Hymn #211

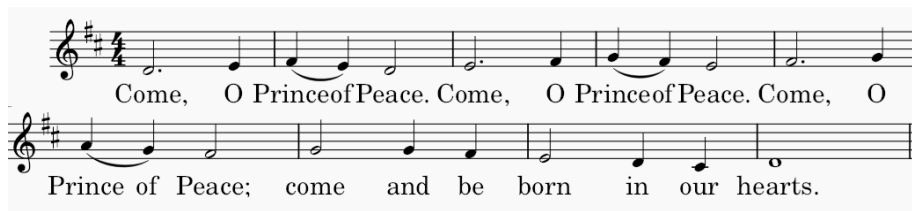
#### “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*(v. 1-4)*

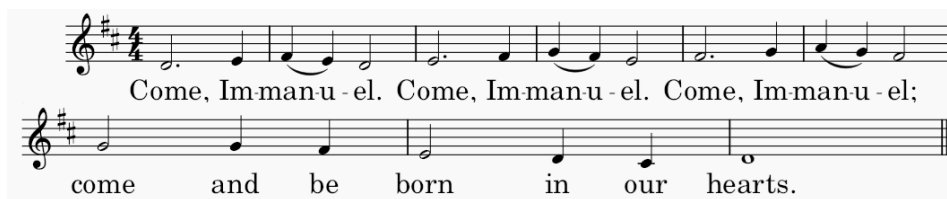
Translated by Laurence Hull Stookey (v. 4-7)  
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#### Invitation to Worship

*We step away from the world for a moment of worship today. The hope of God permeating this space, inviting us into the holiness of Advent. But, intertwined with our hope this morning is the promise of peace. Peace within our lives. Peace within our communities. Peace amongst neighbors, too long separated by violence. Come into this space, a space where you will hear that there is room enough for all.*



*The peace 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 it is our claim that peace is not forsaken, and it is not a distant dream. Peace is a choice that we make each and every day. We lift up our voices, crying out that there is “room enough for all” as we continue our journey this Advent.*



#### Welcoming

#### Passing the Peace

#### Lighting the Advent Candles

Laura Hurley & Peg Sorensen  
The Conklin Family

Voice 1: The world is loud with conflict and fear.

Voice 2: Yet God’s peace is born in quiet places – among friends who bless one another, among hearts that listen.

Voice 1: When we make room for peace, we make room for God.

Voice 2: Let every act of kindness be an inn where peace may rest.

Voice 1: We light this candle as a sign of our desire for peace within and peace among us.

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

Offering

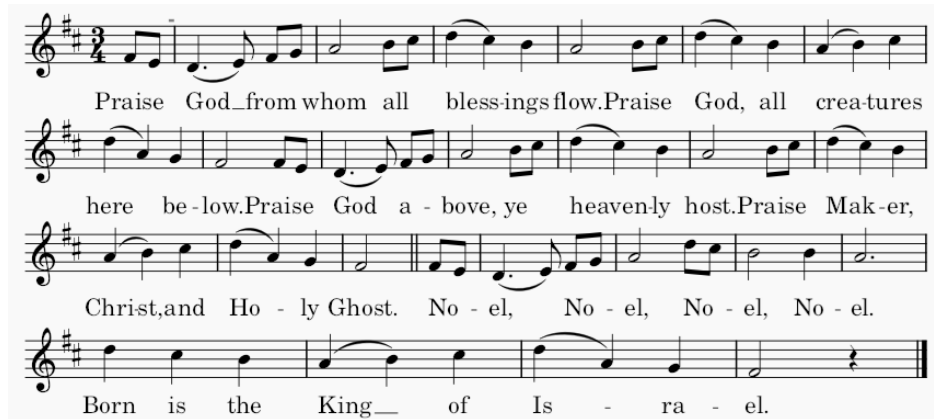
December Jingle – Secret Santa

Offertory

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”  
arr. Michael Bedford © 1992 Harold Flammer Music  
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\*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 11:1-10

Mary Lynn Bensen  
Flora Beth Cunningham

One: God is still speaking through these ancient voices.

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

\*Hymn

“Let Us Join the Angels Song”  
trans. by Per Harling. Harm. by Carlton R. Young  
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\*Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-45

NRSVUE

One: Hear the call of these ancient words.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Make Room for Peace”

Rev. Casey Bradley

Anthem

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”  
trans. by J.M. Neale & H.W. Baker  
Music by John Rodgers © 1956 The H.W. Gray Co.

### Making Room

Prayers of the People

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Musical Response: TFWS #2257

*(sing)* The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

*(sing)* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**  
**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**  
  
**Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**  
**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

...And so, in remembrance of these mighty acts in Christ Jesus, we offer ourselves today as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

*(sing)* **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!**  
**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

...And now, with the confidence of Children of God, let us pray:

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.**

*(sing)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**  
**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer After Communion

**Eternal God, we give thanks for this holy mystery in which you have made room to include us in your movement of grace. Grant that we may go from the table in the strength of your spirit to make room for others, in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Departing By Another Way

\*Hymn #431

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Sy Miller & Jill Jackson © 1955, 1983 Jan-Lee Music.

Harm. by Charles H. Web © 1987. Used by permission. One License #A-730784

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

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

arr. Alec Wyton © 1964 Carl Fischer, Inc.  
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*The placement of the votive candle on the altar started the year of our 25<sup>th</sup> 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.**

Amber      Jesse      Robert S.      Mary B.      Zoey A.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: *Keshia Genzardi & Ramona Leavey* on December 8; *Mary Hall & Kirk Johnson* on December 12; and *Leslie Bauer* on December 13.

## 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:      **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

MON. 12/8      10:00 am Book Group (Embury Room)  
10:00 am Boomerangs (Kitchen)  
5:00 pm Yoga (Embury Room)

TUES. 12/9      9:00 am Boomerangs (Kitchen)  
11:00 am Staff Meeting (Coke Room)  
2:30 pm Selah Circle (Coke Room)  
6:30 pm SPRC (Coke Room)  
**7:00 pm Gift of the Magi (Sanctuary)**

WED. 12/10      9:15 am Buckingham Bell Ringers  
11:00 am UWF (Embury Room)  
12:00 pm Spiritual Study Group  
6:00 pm Beginner Bell Choir  
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir

THUR. 12/11      12:00 pm Lectio (Embury Room)  
7:00 pm Finance Team (Art Room)

FRI. 12/12

SAT. 12/13 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday's Bread (Fellowship Hall)

SUN. 12/14 **Third 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

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## **Advent & Christmas at FUMC**

**December 21**

**Christmas Caroling**

Lunch at 12:30 at Elm Park UMC

Caroling until 4:00 pm

**December 24**

**Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 pm**

**December 28**

**Lessons & Carols**

Worship at 8:15 and 10:30 am

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Reporter Deadline – December 15**

The deadline for the January issue of the Reporter is December 15. Please send your content to Amy at [communications@firstumc-oneonta.org](mailto:communications@firstumc-oneonta.org).

### **United Methodist Student Day – Thank You!**

Thanks to your generosity, we collected \$123 last week for United Methodist Student Day. This money will support scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students.

### **Friends of Christmas Benefit – The Gift of the Magi**

New Date: Tuesday, December 9 at 7 pm

Free Admission ~ Donations Gratefully Accepted.

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

### **Literacy Volunteers Needed**

Literacy Volunteers of Otsego and Delaware Counties continues to help the refugees and special immigrant visa holders welcomed by the Coalition learn English as a second language. Now, Literacy Volunteers needs more volunteers. If you are interested in being trained for this truly vital and satisfying task, please email Jeanne Ellsworth at [LVODC607@gmail.com](mailto:LVODC607@gmail.com). More information is available at [LVODC.org](http://LVODC.org)

### **Invitation from the Congregation Creation Care Team**

(formerly the Green Team)

Join the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement Cafe on Wednesday, December 17 at 1:00 pm for Advent Worship. This will be an opportunity to worship together as a community of faith, reflecting on the story of Jesus's birth alongside the question, "What will become of this child?"

Children born today will experience our changing climate and its 2050 and 2100 impacts. What those impacts will be rests on "us," the people and policy makers of our earth. Pray, sing, and worship with the Creation Justice Worship Team seeking hope, light and the Good News that "the Child is Born!"

You can register here – <https://umcreationjustice.org/december-2025-movement-cafe/>

## Be Green, Be Just

Give an awesome experience, perhaps a trip to a nature preserve or state or national park, a local museum, a concert. If you have young sports enthusiasts in your life, take them to a high school or local college basketball game. Give an adventure—an experience that can be shared, talked about, and remembered long after the usual “stuff” has been covered over in the landfill.

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### Friends of Christmas Community Dinner

**Saturday, December 20, 2024**

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

at First United Methodist Church

Call 607-431-8025 or visit [www.friendsofchristmas.org](http://www.friendsofchristmas.org)

to sign up to volunteer or

RSVP for in-person, take-out, or delivery

**RSVP deadline: Wednesday, December 17**

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### 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.

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### 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 form at the end of this bulletin. You can also email [secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org](mailto:secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org).



## 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) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Given By** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory Of** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor Of** \_\_\_\_\_

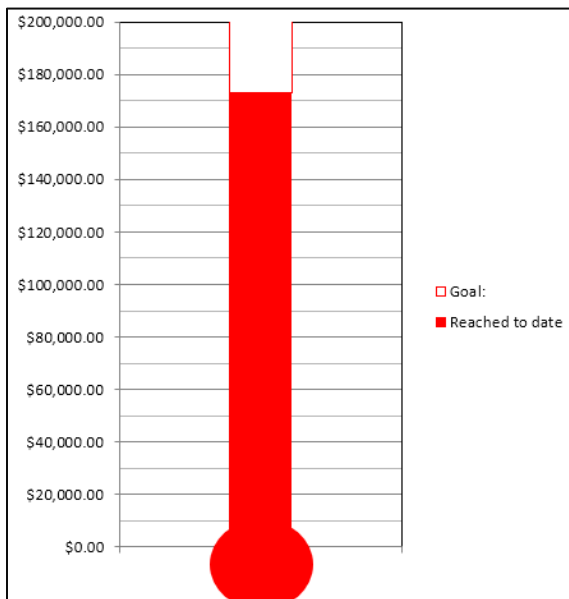
Please check the appropriate box(es) above to indicate which fund you are donating to, and the total amount for each fund.

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.**

### 2026 Pledged Giving Goal

\$192,000



Our pledged giving goal for 2026 is \$192,000 We have received 57 pledges to date totaling \$173,160 (90% of our goal).

If you have not yet submitted your pledge, please do so as soon possible.

You can submit it by mailing it to us, putting it in the offering plate, or emailing [secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org](mailto:secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org).