

First United Methodist Church

2nd Sunday After Epiphany Human Relations Day

January 18, 2026
8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

*“Before I had crossed the
threshold of my church I
was made to realize that
I was shepherd of a
divided flock”*

-Anna Howard Shaw

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.*

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

On The Streets of Bristol

Prelude

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”
arr. Michael Burkhardt © 1999 MorningStar Music Publishers
Used by permission. One License #A-730784

Welcome

Call to Worship

Come, all you who are weary of pretending, tired of polishing faith until it shines but says nothing.

We come longing for a faith that is honest and alive.

The world teaches us to be careful, composed, and respectable.

But Jesus teaches us to be courageous, compassionate, and free.

Here, we lay down our fear of judgement, our desire for approval, and our love of appearances.

We open ourselves to a grace that disrupts and transforms.

Come, let us worship the God who is not impressed by appearances, but who looks upon the heart.

We come to worship with truth, humility, and hope.

*Hymn #2130

“The Summons”
Words by John Bell © 1987 WGRG The Iona Community
Used by permission. One License #A-730784

Passing the Peace

The Vile Word

Children’s Time

1st Scripture Reading

Galatians 1:6-10

Cherilyn Lacy
Gavin Wilson

Anthem

“Be Calm and Peaceful”
By J.S. Bach. arr. George W. Kemmer © 1944 H.W. Gray Co.

*Gospel Reading

Luke 7:36-39, 44-50

NRSVUE

Sermon

“Respectability: The Enemy of a Vile Church”
Rev. Casey Bradley

*Hymn

“Draw a Wider Circle”
Words by Adam M. L. Tice © 2013 GIA Publications
Used by permission. One License #A-730784

(end of bulletin)

Responding with Vile-tality

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.

The Offering

January Jingle – Cold Remedies

Special Offering – Human Relations Day

Offertory

“Amazing Grace”

arr. John A. Behnke © 2007 Concordia Publishing House
Used by permission. One License #A-730784

*Doxology #94

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Words and music are in the public domain

Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #2171

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Words (adapted) & Music by Sebastian Temple © 1967
OCP Publications. 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

“Praise to the Lord”

arr. John A. Behnke © 1992 Concordia Publishing House
Used by permission. One License #A-730784



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.**

Andi S. Rich B. Joe B. Margaret P. Burdick Family Bonnie B.
Nancy F. Alysa 18 mo. old family member

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: *Aaron Miller* on January 18; *Isabella Barreto* on January 21; *Kayden Barron* on January 23; and *Jerry Osterhoudt* on January 24.

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 8:15 am Worship in person & on Facebook
 9:25 am Sunday School & Parent's Cafe
 10:30 am Worship in person, via Zoom & on YouTube
- MON. 1/19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 10:00 am Book Group (Embury Room)
 5:00 pm Yoga (Embury Room)
 6:30 pm GRACE Group (Embury Room)
 6:30 pm Saturday's Bread Board (Art Room)
- TUES. 1/20 11:00 am Staff Meeting (Coke Room)
 2:30 pm Selah Circle (Coke Room)
- WED. 1/21 9:15 am Buckingham Bell Ringers
 10:45 am Soul Care Planning (Art Room)
 3:00 pm Worship at the Plains
 6:00 pm Beginner Bell Choir
 7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir
- THUR. 1/22 10:00 am UWF Book Group (Embury Room)
 12:00 pm Lectio (Embury Room)
 5:30 pm Oneonta Hooks & Needles (Embury Room)
- FRI. 1/23
- SAT. 1/24 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday's Bread (Fellowship Hall)
- SUN. 1/25 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

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
TODAY at 2:00 pm**

Elm Park United Methodist Church
401 Chestnut St., Oneonta

*Mission Possible 2:
Building Community, Uniting a Nation the Nonviolent Way*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Illness Prevention & Precautions – Caring for Our Church Family

There is a severe flu spreading right now. Please do not come to church if you are sick with any contagious illness or if you have tested positive for Flu or COVID. If you have any symptoms, please wear a well-fitting mask. Thank you for caring for our community by taking precautions.

Human Relations Day Special Offering

Today we are collecting a special offering for Human Relations Sunday. This denomination-wide special offering is used to build MLK's vision of the "beloved community" by furthering the development of better human relations through community and youth outreach.

Fruit Sale – Order Deadline Tuesday, January 27

Yes, the annual fruit sale is on again! As in the past, citrus fruit (oranges and grapefruit) will be available. Sale proceeds support summer camperships for FUMC children and youth.

Orders are due by January 27. Pickup is on February 12 & 13. Order forms are available in the church office, in the Sanctuary, and by email (secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org). Let your friends and neighbors know!

UWF Tea

Women of First UMC Oneonta – You are cordially invited to the annual UWF Winter Tea Party on Sunday February 1, 2026 at 2:00 PM at the church. Please come enjoy some snacks and laughs, and connect with friends old and new. Feel free to bring guests – the more the merrier!

Please RSVP to the church office at secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org or 607-432-4102 by January 28.

Faith at the Table – Thursday, February 5

Next month's Faith at the Table dinner and conversation will be on Thursday, February 5 at 6 pm at Alfrescos. The topic is "Does God Play Favorites?" Please RSVP with the church office (secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org or 607-432-4102) by Monday, February 2.

Fellowship Time

We need volunteers for fellowship time after church to make coffee and bring a light refreshment. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall (look near the coffee table) along with an instruction sheet. If you need more detailed instructions, please speak with Pastor Casey or Randy.

Church Directory Updates

We will be preparing a new version of the directory for 2026. Please submit updated information if any of your contact information has changed in the last year (e.g. moved, dropped landline, new email).

Forms to update your information are available on the tables at the front of the Sanctuary and in the church office. Please complete and return the form by putting it in the offering plate, dropping it at the church office, or mailing it to us, or email your information to secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org by **January 31**. Thank you!

GRACE Group

Announcing a new Small Group Ministry at First United Methodist Church! The mission of GRACE group is to provide a safe welcoming space for adults ages 18+ for Growing Relationships And Christian Exploration. The ongoing foundational theme of this ministry will be the awareness and practice of receiving God's grace in our lives toward personal transformation. Our first topic will focus on the subject of gratitude using the book "Wake Up Grateful" by Kristi Nelson as a guide. Participants may want to purchase the book but this is not required.

We are asking for a six-week commitment on Mondays from 6:30 - 8 pm beginning January 19 and ending February 23, 2026. The group will meet in the Embury Room at FUMC.

You may sign up with Kieran at secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org. If you have any questions, please direct them to Lori DePauw (607-287-7140) or Karen Palmer (607-267-2354) who will be co-facilitating the GRACE group.

DRAW A WIDER CIRCLE

Adam M. L. Tice

NOËL NOUVELET
French carol



1. Draw a wid - er cir - cle— or, per-haps, e - rase.
2. Plan - ets spin in or - bit, cen - tered on a star;
3. Do we meas - ure mar - gins just to feel se - cure,



Spi - ral toward God's cen - ter, grav - i - ty of grace.
some will cir - cle close - ly, some re - volve a - far.
cast - ing out the dif - f'rent, hop - ing to be pure?



Raze for - mer fenc - es mark - ing out and in—
From an - y dis - tance light il - lu - mines each.
Christ is our cen - ter— boun - d'ry lines must fall.



ho - ly and un - ho - ly, sanc - ti - ty and sin.
Through the void of dark - ness none is out of reach.
God's light flows un - hin - dered; grace a - bounds for all.