

First United Methodist Church

## Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026  
7:00 p.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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## 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)*

### We Gather Together

Prelude

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”  
arr. Michael Burkhardt ©1990 MorningStar Music Publishers  
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Welcome

Call to Worship

Oh, Mighty One, we come tonight recognizing how often we turn from you!

**We are astonished that your love never fails.**

Oh, Forgiver, we come here tonight to shout that we need to turn back to you!

**We are grateful that you always accept us back.**

Oh, Cleanser, we are here to have our hearts cleansed by your grace.

**We are ready to have our hearts changed into hearts of love. Amen.**

Meditative Moment

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”

Jacques Berthier © 1982, 1991 Taizé  
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(all sing)

Come and fill our hearts  
with your peace.  
You alone, O Lord,  
are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts  
with your peace,  
Alleluia!

Unison Prayer

**Forgiving God, we come before you with open hearts, seeking your presence in this service. We acknowledge that you understand our humanity and meet us where we are. We recognize our need for your mercy and forgiveness in this world of challenges and distractions. Help us to let go of our mistakes and find strength in your grace as we face our daily struggles, trying to be who you call us to be. Lord, we ask that you cleanse our hearts and renew our spirits. We ask for all this in the name of Jesus, who invites us to come as we are. Amen.**

(all sing)

Come and fill our hearts  
with your peace.  
You alone, O Lord,  
are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts  
with your peace,  
Alleluia!

\*Hymn #357

“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”  
Words and music are in the public domain

## We Enter the Valley

Music

“Return to the Lord”

Karle Erickson © 2005 Birnamwood Publications  
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Sanctuary Choir

Leslie Bauer & Chris Brashear, chimes

The Lament

Psalm 51:1-17

Sermon

“Lament and Repentance”

Rev. Casey Bradley

Music

“Ashes to Ashes”

Dan L. Shutte © 2013 OCP

## We Are Sustained by Faith

Prayer of Confession

**Holy One, we come before you with broken hearts. There is so much outside us that pushes at us, pulls at us, clamors for our attention, or tries to diminish our dignity. There are also things within us. There are inner forces that drive us, hurts that curve us in on ourselves and lead us, in turn, to hurt others. We ask that in this season, you would open our eyes to the places in our hearts that need healing. Grant that we might see the sharks lurking beneath the surface of our souls; then, having seen and named them, help us to surrender them into your loving arms.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord. Forgive us for the places where we know we've come up short and for the sins we can't yet see, so that our hearts might be made clean and our spirits made new. This we ask in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Invitation to Spiritual Disciplines

Imposition of Ashes

(all sing)

Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.

\*Hymn #269

“Lord, Who Throughout these Forty Days”

Music by Annabel Morris Buchanan © 1938  
Harm. by Charles H. Webb © 1988 J. Fischer and Bro., Co.  
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Benediction

(all sing)

Come and fill our hearts  
with your peace.  
You alone, O Lord,  
are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts  
with your peace,  
Alleluia!

Postlude

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Arr. Janet Linker © 1989 Beckenhorst Press

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