

First United Methodist Church

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

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
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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)

We Gather Together

Prelude

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
arr. Michael Burkhardt ©1990 MorningStar Music Publishers
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*Hymn #474

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”
Thomas A. Dorsey © 1938 Unichappell Music, Inc.
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Welcome

*Call to Worship

God, where are you? Where are you in this world of violence?

In these uncertain times, we rely on our faith to know you are here.

God, why do those who cause harm seem to be comforted and not punished?

We cry out to you, Lord, asking, “Have you forgotten us?”

God, even though we may not understand, we rest on our faith and trust you that you remember us.

We rejoice with songs on our tongues, giving you praise in your care for us. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Unison Prayer

Dear God, we thank you for this day and for bringing us together in the community of faith. In the midst of our joys and praises, we acknowledge the burdens in our hearts. When it feels like the world is against us and our efforts seem in vain, we cry out to you, “God, please answer us!” Help us remember that you are present even in the silence. May this time of worship be a space where we can pour out our hearts to you honestly. Fill our spirits with hope, love, healing, and direction. We pray in the name of Jesus, our source of comfort and strength. Amen.

We Enter the Valley

Children’s Time

Anthem

“The Lord’s Prayer”
Albert Hay Malotte. arr. Carl Weinrich © 1935 G. Schirmer, Inc.
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Larry McMaster

The Lament

Psalm 13

Mary Allen
Lori DePauw

Sermon

“Why Lament?”

Rev. Casey Bradley

*Hymn #700

“Abide with Me”
Words and music are in the public domain

We Are Sustained by Faith

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

How long, O God? How long will we be stuck in destructive patterns?

How long will we continue to do the same foolish things over and over again?

How long will we neglect to do the good thing we want to do, and instead find, to our surprise, that we are doing the evil thing we don't want to do?

How long will we fail to see each other?

How long will we take each other for granted?

How long will we neglect the cause of justice?

How long will we center our comfort and prioritize our security over righteousness?

Have mercy, Lord! Give light to our eyes! Help us to sense your nearness, even when we don't see it.

Grant us trust in your steadfast love and hope that one day we will, indeed, rejoice in your salvation.

Through this hope, strengthen us to be your disciples, who reveal your kingdom in our living and our loving. Amen.

The 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.

Offering

February Jingle – The Hunger Coalition

Offertory

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Arr. Janet Linker © 1989 Beckenhorst Press
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*Doxology

Old 100th

Praise God, the source of breath and birth,
who formed us from the dust of earth,
and made us kin in unity
to love and set each other free.

Prayer of Dedication

We Go in Peace

*Hymn

“Christ, Be Our Light”

Bernadette Farrell ©1994 OCP
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(see last page)

Announcements

Benediction

Mission Statement

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Postlude

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
arr. Wilbur Held © 2001 Birnamwood Publications



Worship elements adapted from Breakthrough Worship Series, Greater New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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.**

Evelyn L. Mary Lynn B. June N. Mary & Holly Ryan M.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: *Brenda Wilkinson* on February 26; and *Landon Philby* on February 28.

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, Digging Deeper (adult class) & Parent's Cafe
 10:30 am Worship in person, via Zoom & on YouTube
 11:30 am Fellowship Time
 3:00 pm Oneonta Community Concert Band (Sanctuary)
- MON. 2/23 10:00 am Book Group (Embury Room)
 5:00 pm Yoga (Embury Room)
 6:30 pm GRACE Group (Embury Room)
- TUES. 2/24 8:30 am Boomerangs (Kitchen)
 11:00 am Staff Meeting (Coke Room)
 2:30 pm Selah Circle (Coke Room)
- WED. 2/25 9:15 am Buckingham Bell Ringers
 6:00 pm Beginner Bell Choir
 7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir
- THUR. 2/26 10:00 am UWF Book Group (Embury Room)
 12:00 pm Lectio (Embury Room)
 5:30 pm Oneonta Hooks & Needles (Embury Room)
- FRI. 2/27
- SAT. 2/28 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday's Bread (Fellowship Hall)

SUN. 3/1 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
11:30 am Fellowship Time

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship Time

In case you haven't noticed, Fellowship Time has resumed after the 10:30 service! Please join us after worship for snacks and conversation.

Volunteers are needed for future weeks. Check out the clipboard on the table in the Fellowship Hall to see available sign-up slots.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross have been hung in the Sanctuary. They will remain there until the conclusion of the 12:10 pm Good Friday Ecumenical Service on April 3.

As we begin our Lenten journey, you are invited to prayerfully walk the stations. The readings for the series of paintings, drawings, and photo credits are available on a table beneath Station #1.

Boomerangs

We will be making boomerangs on Tuesday February 24 and again on 🍀 March 17 & 24 for 🐣 EASTER sales. If you would like to help make them, we will be starting at 9:00 am in the church kitchen. Whatever time you can commit to will be greatly appreciated. Please let Dottie or Irene know.

Faith at the Table – Thursday, March 5

Next month's Faith at the Table dinner and conversation will be on Thursday, March 5 at 6 pm at Jay's Place. The topic is "How do we balance the call to be compassionate with our need for healthy boundaries?" Please RSVP by Monday, March 2. You can either sign up on the website (it's listed under Events) or through the church office (secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org or 607-432-4102).

UWF Tea – Now on March 29!

Women of First UMC Oneonta – You are cordially invited to the annual UWF Tea Party on Sunday, March 29, 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 March 25.

Lay Equalization Members for Annual Conference

The Oneonta District is looking for those interested in being a Lay Equalization Member to represent our district at the upcoming Annual Conference in May 2026.

All lay members of the Annual Conference must be Professing Members of The United Methodist Church for two years preceding their election and shall have been active participants in the UMC for at least four years.

You must attend all of the Annual Conference Session from Thursday, May 28 through Saturday, May 30 in person at the OnCenter in Syracuse NY.

For a link to the application, please contact Pastor Casey or Kieran. The deadline for EQ member applications is Monday, March 2, 2026.

Christ, Be Our Light

Em Am7 D Esus

1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness.
2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled.
3. Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry.
4. Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less.
5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple,

Em Am7 D Esus Em

Long-ing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your
 Long-ing for hope, man - y des - pair. Your word a -
 Long-ing for wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your
 Long-ing for warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your
 man - y the hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be

Am7 D G C

own, your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the
 lone has power to save us. Make us your
 bread, bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til
 build - ing, shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of
 ser - vants to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your

Refrain

Am Dsus D G C

world to see. _____
 liv - ing voice. _____
 all are fed. _____ Christ, be our
 liv - ing stone. _____
 king - dom come. _____

G Em Bm Em Am

light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark -

Dsus D G Dsus D Em Em/D

ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am/G G

church gath - ered to - day. _____