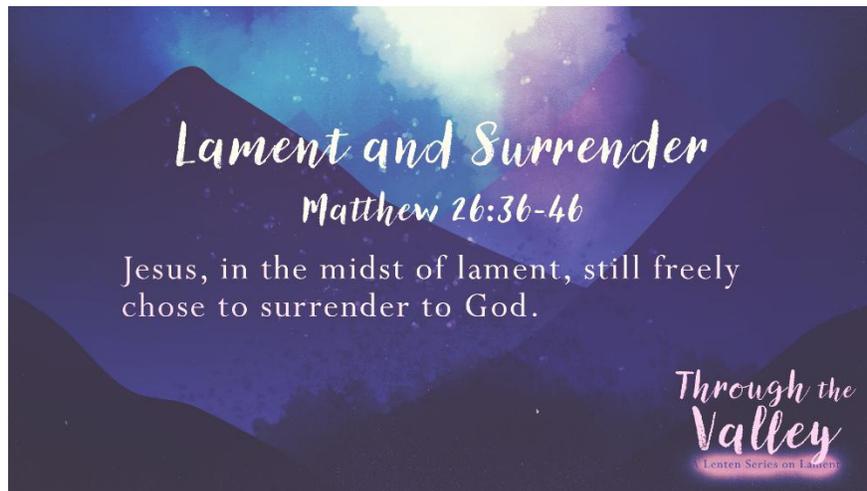


First United Methodist Church

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 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
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)

We Gather Together

Prelude

“Wondrous Love”

arr. John A. Behnke © 2000 Concordia Publishing House
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*Hymn #357

“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”

Words and music are in the public domain

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Oh God, you call us to surrender and follow you in all ways.

At times, surrendering seems impossible and scary.

Oh, Mighty Guide, show us how to surrender, follow, and be brave in this world.

Create a path for us to let go of our desires and simply rest in you.

Oh, Sovereign God, you never fail to be present with us and yet we may not always believe it.

Instill your strength in our minds and bodies to walk this life with you. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Unison Prayer

Sovereign and loving God, we come to you with open hearts, ready to surrender to your will. Although surrender is hard, still, we desire to emulate Jesus’ example of obedience by acknowledging the weight of our burdens and laying them before you, just as he did. May our surrendering to you be an act of worship that brings glory to your name. Empower us to live lives that reflect your love, grace, and mercy. Amen.

We Enter the Valley

Children’s Time

Anthem

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

arr. Mark Hayes © 1999 Alfred Publishing Co.
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The Lament

Matthew 26:36-46

Bob Bensen
Nancy Bondurant-Couch

Sermon

“Lament and Surrender”

Rev. Casey Bradley

*Hymn #382

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

Words and music are in the public domain

We Are Sustained by Faith

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Author of salvation, you hold every beginning and every ending in your hands. We confess that we often do not want to face the reality of what is. We run from painful truths and do not wish to confront hard realities. Forgive and heal us, Lord. Give us courage to see and name the difficult things in our lives, so that, having fully seen them, we might fully surrender them to you. Through Christ our Lord, 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

March Jingle – Caring Connections

Offertory

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski © 1989 Jan-Lee Music
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Buckingham Bell Ringers

*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

Announcements

*Hymn 2129

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”
Words and music are in the public domain

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 Day of Peace”
arr. Charles Callahan © 2003 Birnamwood Publications
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*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.**

Burdick Family Evelyn L. Mary Lynn B.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: *Orrin Barnhart* on March 8; *Casey Bradley* on March 12, and *Julia Rissberger* on March 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 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

MON. 3/9 10:00 am Book Group (Embury Room)

TUES. 3/10 11:00 am Staff Meeting (Coke Room)
 2:30 pm Selah Circle (Coke Room)
 6:30 pm SPRC (Coke Room)

WED. 3/11 9:15 am Buckingham Bell Ringers
 11:00 am UWF (Embury Room)
 12:00 pm Spiritual Study Group (Dauley Room)
 1:00 pm Trustees (Art Room)
 6:00 pm Beginner Bell Choir
 7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir

THUR. 3/12 10:00 am UWF Book Group
 12:00 pm Lectio (Embury Room)
 5:30 pm Oneonta Hooks & Needles (Embury Room)

FRI. 3/13 10:00 am Worship Team (Coke Room)

SAT. 3/14 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday's Bread (Fellowship Hall)

SUN. 3/15 **Reporter Deadline**
 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

Reporter Deadline – March 15

Submissions for the April issue of the Reporter are due on March 15. Please send content to Amy at communications@firstumc-oneonta.org.

UMCOR Sunday – March 15

UMCOR Sunday seeks to increase awareness and support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Gifts given on UMCOR Sunday cover UMCOR's administrative costs. This support ensures that 100% of other donations given to UMCOR throughout the year can be directed toward on-the-ground relief and recovery efforts, allowing UMCOR to effectively respond to crises and provide assistance where it's needed most.

Boomerangs for Sale

Delicious chocolate and peanut butter Boomerang confections will be available for Easter. All Boomerangs are Gluten Free and sell for \$9.00 a dozen. You may pay by cash or check made out to UWF. Clipboards are available in the Sanctuary for orders.

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.

“Because We Care Fund” for Scott Burdick & Family

Scott is a Hartwick College student and member of the Sanctuary Choir. Sometime in December, there was a fire at his home in the Albany Area. Because of the fire and a compromised heating system in the house, Scott's family found temporary shelter in another location. While the house was sitting there empty, someone(s) took advantage of the situation and vandalized the house and destroyed or stole all of their belongings. Scott's only possessions are what he has in his college dorm.

Scott and his family are devastated and trying to rebuild their lives. Any donation to support Scott and his Family is greatly appreciated. Make checks out to First UMC with "Burdick Family" in the memo. Cash can also be put in the gold pew envelopes with a note that it is for the Burdick Family. Thanks in advance for caring about Scott and his Family.

GRACE Group – Growing Relationships And Christian Exploration

The goal for this ministry is to build our awareness, gratitude, and ongoing personal growth through the Wesleyan understanding of the grace of God. We seek to deepen our relationships with Christ, others, and ourselves and explore learnings and practices around our Christian values that help us faithfully live according to God's will.

Our next 6-week series will have the theme *One Month to Live* based on the book by Kerry & Chris Shook. We will think about our choices of how we live our daily lives as we consider the question “What if I have only one month to live?” How would we prioritize what we do or don't do, who we engage with, what and how we communicate, and how we prepare for our death if we knew we only had a brief time left to live?

This series will run from **Monday, March 16 to April 20 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm.** It will be a hybrid format – you can join us in person in the Dauley Room at FUMC or online via Zoom. In order to build trusting and meaningful relationships within the group, we ask for a full commitment to the 6 weeks (understanding that sometimes things happen).

Please contact Kieran (secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org or 607-432-4102) to register before our first session on March 16. Kieran can also pass any questions you have on to Lori and Karen, who are leading the group.

YOU'RE INVITED...CALLING WOMEN OF ALL AGES!

Soul Care Retreat

What Did Jesus Do?

Sponsored by
United Women in Faith

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Joyce Allen

When: Saturday, March 21 from 8:30 am – 3 pm
8:30 – 9:00 am – Registration, Breakfast & Getting Acquainted

Where: Elm Park UMC

What's Included:

Worship	Food & Fellowship
Tools for Self-Care	Crafts
Gentle Stretching	Group Singing

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: TUESDAY, MARCH 17

To sign up, email Joyce at millerumw@gmail.com or call the FUMC office at 607-432-4102. Please provide your name, contact info, and any food allergies.

Registration Fee of \$15 can be paid in advance at the FUMC office or at the event. Checks should be made payable to UWF (United Women in Faith). Scholarship available.

Flowers for Easter

We will be ordering flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. You are invited to donate money for this purpose. Any gifts given in honor or memory of someone will be listed in the Easter bulletin. Please fill out the form below and submit it with your gift.

Easter Flower Fund Amount: _____
(At least \$15 recommended.)

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given By: _____

Put your form and payment in the offering plate, bring it to the church office, or mail it to First United Methodist Church (66 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820) and note on the memo space or envelope that it is for Easter Flowers.

Gifts given in honor or memory of someone will be included in the Easter bulletin.

Please return your form and money to the church office by Monday, March 30.

