

First United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 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

“At The Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

arr. Michael Bedford © 1989 Harold Flammer, Inc.

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*Hymn #3122

“Christ Has Broken Down the Wall”

Mark A. Miller © 2011 Choristers Guild

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3122 Christ Has Broken Down the Wall



1. Christ has bro - ken down the wall,
2. We're ac - cept - ed as we are,
3. Cast a - side your doubts and fears,
4. We will tear down the walls!



Christ has bro - ken down the wall. Let us join our
we're ac - cept - ed as we are. Through God's love all is
cast a - side your doubts and fears. Peace and love, free-ly
We will tear down ev - ery wall! God has called us,



hearts as one, Christ has bro - ken down the wall.
rec - on - ciled, we're ac - cept - ed as we are.
of - fered here; cast a - side your doubts and fears.
one and all; Christ has bro - ken down the wall!



wall! Christ has bro - ken down the wall!

WORDS: Mark A. Miller

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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BROKEN WALLS

Irr.

Welcome

*Call to Worship

God, there is so much injustice in this world. End the injustice, God!

We trust in your ways, Almighty One.

God, we know you have a vision for humanity, a vision of unity, harmony, and peace. Let this vision become reality.

We need to change our hearts to realize your vision.

God, we need you to change us so we can end injustice.

Work within us so we can be change-agents, championing justice in a world that desperately needs it.

Amen.

Passing the Peace

Unison Prayer

Loving Creator, as a community of faith, we gather before you with open hearts, asking for your guidance and inspiration to show your love in the face of hostility and injustice. We cry out to you for a broken world, seeking your comforting presence to strengthen our bonds as a community. Empower us to be agents of transformative love that breaks down walls and embraces diversity. In moments of injustice, may our collective cry in words and actions bring us closer to your vision for humanity. We trust in your loving kindness, and we ask for your blessings on us as we seek to do your work in the world. Amen.

We Enter the Valley

Children's Time

Anthem

"Create in Me, O God"
from Motet, Op. 29, No. 2 by Johannes Brahms
arr. John Finley Williamson © 1931 G. Schirmer

The Lament

Esther 4:1-5

Charles King
Dick Miller

Sermon

"Lament and Community"

Rev. Casey Bradley

*Hymn #2227

"We Are the Body of Christ"
Scott Wesley Brown & David Hampton © 1996 New Spring Publishing
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(sing 2x)

We Are Sustained by Faith

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

O God who longs for justice, we confess that we so often conform to the world as it is, rather than resist and create hopeful space for you to act and reshape the world as it should be. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to more fully accept the freedom and power you give us – freedom and power to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they are presenting themselves in our lives today. This we ask in the name and power of Jesus. 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

Special Offering – UMCOR Sunday

Offertory

"This is the Day the Lord Hath Made"
arr. Michael Burkhardt © 1995 MorningStar Music Publishers
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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 #2221

“In Unity We Lift Our Song”
Words by Ken Medema © 1994 Brier Patch Music
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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

“Creating God, Your Fingers Trace”
arr. Alfred V. Fedak © 1990 Selah Publishing Co.
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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.**

Sheila B. Burdick Family Evelyn L. Mary Lynn B.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: *Dick Miller & Marti Swords-Horrell* on March 15; *Kathy Wolverson* on March 18, *Danielle DeLuca* on March 19; and *Irene Bourgeois & Martin Winsor* on March 21.

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 (Meeting ID: 844 9992 4538, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84499924538> or call 1-646-558-8656).

TODAY

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
- 3:00 pm Oneonta Concert Association Concert

- MON. 3/16 10:00 am Book Group (Embury Room)
 5:00 pm Yoga (Embury Room)
 6:30 pm GRACE Small Group (Dauley Room, Zoom)
 6:30 pm Saturday's Bread Board (Art Room)
- TUES. 3/17 8:30 am Boomerangs (Kitchen)
 11:00 am Staff Meeting (Coke Room)
 2:30 pm Selah Circle (Coke Room)
- WED. 3/18 9:15 am Buckingham Bell Ringers
 3:00 pm Worship at the Plains
 6:00 pm Beginner Bell Choir
 7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir
- THUR. 3/19 12:00 pm Lectio (Embury Room)
 5:30 pm Oneonta Hooks & Needles (Embury Room)
 6:00 pm Third Thursday Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
 7:00 pm Church Council (Art Room)
- FRI. 3/20
- SAT. 3/21 8:30 am UWF Soul Care Retreat (Elm Park, RSVP Req.)
 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday's Bread (Fellowship Hall)
- SUN. 3/22 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 – Today!

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

Special Offering – UMCOR

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.

March-April Upper Room devotionals are now available. Please recycle your older Upper Room magazines and any other devotional booklets by bringing them to the church and putting them in the basket by the Church St. Door. Rev. David Rockwell distributes them to hospital patients when doing his Hospital Chaplaincy visits.

UWF Soul Care Retreat – March 21

The UWF Soul Care Retreat will take place on Saturday, March 21 at Elm Park UMC from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm.

The deadline to sign up is Tuesday, March 17. Please 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.

The 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.

UWF Tea – 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. Thank you!

GRACE Group

GRACE Group's new series will run from March 16 – April 20. The group will meet from 6:30 – 8:00 pm on Mondays in the Dauley Room and via Zoom. The 6-week series will be based on *One Month to Live* by Kerry & Chris Shook. More details are available on our website at <https://firstumc-oneonta.org/news/grace-group>.

Please contact Kieran (secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org or 607-432-4102) to register before our first session on March 16.

[Easter Flower form on next page]

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.

