

First United Methodist Church

5th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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
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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.*

Text invites the congregation to speak in unison.

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

Planting the Seeds

Prelude

“Procession”

Russell Schulz-Widmar © 1998 Selah Publishing Co.
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*Hymn #327

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

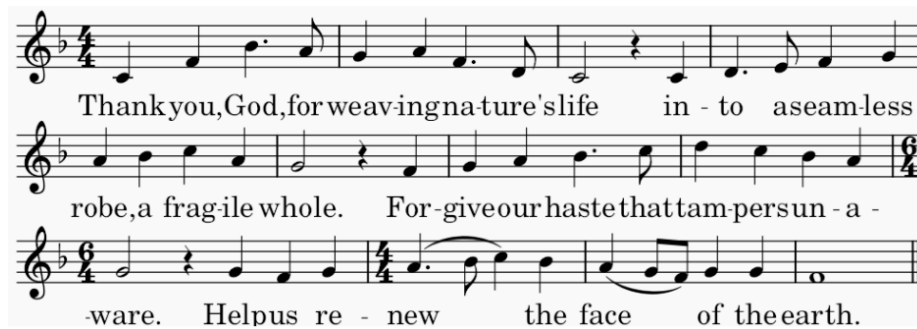
Words and music are in the public domain

Invitation to Worship

Something new is happening!

The risen Christ and the living church have invited us to see the world differently.

We come to God with a craving, that there must be something more than this world has to offer. The world offers so much cruelty; there must be a source of comfort. The world offers so much anger; there must be a source of peace. The world offers so much indifference; there must be a place that cares. The world offers so much hate; there must be a people who are formed in love. The world offers so much ugliness; there must be beauty somewhere. What if this is that place? What if right here we are the living stones of a church where comfort, peace, care, love, and beauty are lived and proclaimed? May our worship be a thanksgiving to the God who answers the longing heart.



Thank you, God, for weaving nature's life in - to a seam-less
robe, a frag-ile whole. For-give our haste that tam-pers un-a -
-ware. Help us re - new the face of the earth.

Passing the Peace

Children's Time

Testimony from the Central Conference Theological Education Fund

Anthem

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

arr. Carlton Young © 1979 Agape
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Sanctuary Choir & Joyful Ringers

Tending the Soils

*Gospel Reading

John 14:1-14

Bob Bensen
Chuck Bongiorno

*Hymn #2158

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”
Words and music are in the public domain

New Testament Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

NRSVUE

Sermon

“Living Stones, Growing Faith”

Rev. Casey Bradley

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Experiencing New Growth

Prayer Moment

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

May Jingle – Helping Hands Needy Fund

The Love Offering goes to the pastor’s discretionary fund.

Offertory

“Rhosymedre”

arr. R. Vaughan Williams. Music is in the public domain.

*Doxology #94

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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Prayer of Dedication

Announcements

*Hymn #2008

“Let All Things Now Living”

Words by Katherine K. Davis © 1938, 1966 E.C. Schirmer
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Good Words for the Journey

Thank you, God, for making plan - et earth a home for us and
a - ges yet un - born. Help us to share, consid - er, save, and
store. Come and re - new the face of the earth

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Postlude

“Psalm XIX”

Benedetto Marcello, ed. E. Power Biggs © 1947 Theodore Presser
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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.**

Priscilla T. Roseanne Wendy The Gardner Family

Our sympathy to the family & friends of Marjorie Rowley following her passing.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: *Allen Caswell & Jan Parsons* on May 4; *Ken Schrider* on May 7; and *Katie Sessions* on May 8.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: *Mary Allen & Mark Kuhlmann* on May 6.

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** 8:15 am Worship in person & on Facebook
 9:25 am Sunday School, Digging Deeper (adult class)
 10:30 am Worship in person, via Zoom & on YouTube
 11:30 am Fellowship Time
 1:00 pm Rummage Sale Setup
- MON. 5/4** 9:00 am Rummage Sale Setup
 10:00 am Book Group (Coke Room)
- TUES. 5/5** 9:00 am Rummage Sale Setup
 11:00 am Staff Meeting (Coke Room)
 2:30 pm Selah Circle (Coke Room)
 7:00 pm Patrick Committee (Art Room)
- WED. 5/6** 9:00 am Rummage Sale Setup
 9:15 am Buckingham Bell Ringers
 7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir
- THUR. 5/7** **9:00 am – 6:00 pm Rummage, Bake & Book Sale**
 12:00 pm Lectio (Coke Room)
 6:00 pm Faith at the Table (Bella Michael’s)
- FRI. 5/8** **9:00 am – 1:00 pm Rummage & Book Sale**
- SAT. 5/9** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Earth Festival @ SUNY Gymnasium
 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday’s Bread (Fellowship Hall)
- SUN. 5/10** 8:15 am Worship in person & on Facebook
 9:25 am Sunday School, Digging Deeper (adult class)
 10:30 am Worship in person, via Zoom & on YouTube

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boomerangs

There are still some Boomerangs available (last chance until Fall!). Boomerangs cost \$9 per dozen, payable by cash or check to UWF.

You may pick them up after church on May 3 and May 10 (Mother's Day) or at the UWF Rummage Sale bake sale on Thursday May 7. Call Marty Becker (607-432-4917) or Irene Morrissey (607 432 7932) if those times are not good for you.

Earth Festival – May 9

This year's Earth Festival will be on May 9 from 10 am – 3 pm at SUNY Oneonta's Chase Gymnasium. As in previous years there will be workshops, talks, exhibits & vendors. The Drive Through Drop Off recycling event will be from 10 am – 2 pm. Our United Women in Faith (UWF) will be selling natural products. More information is available at <https://www.occainfo.org/earth-festival/>.

Be Green, Be Just

Use your influence at work. At your place of employment – in your office, on your work team – invite others to join you in doing something for the environment. Could they agree to avoid single-use plastics? Recycle paper? Reuse rather than trash? Compost lunch food scraps? Even one action by a group is powerful! Publicize your efforts for more impact.

Summer Camperships

The Upper New York Conference Committee on Camp & Retreat Ministries (UNYCRM) offers four camps across New York State with programs for all ages and abilities – including family weekends, sleepover camps, and options for campers with special needs.

More info & links to the camps are available on our website at <https://firstumc-oneonta.org/news/summer-camperships-available>.

FUMC provides camperships covering 50% of tuition. To apply, please submit a copy of your camp registration form and deposit receipt by Monday, June 8 (secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org or bring a hard copy to the church office).

Have questions or need help? Contact Marty at 607-435-8551 or marty.vlb@gmail.com.

Upcoming Local Concerts

ArmFolk Group from Armenia

Tuesday, May 5 at 7:00 pm (at Foothills PAC)

Suggested donation of \$20 for adults, \$10 for children

The International Youth Cultural Program and Oneonta Rotary present an evening of Armenian dance, music, and heritage by ArmFolk Group, a youth cultural exchange ensemble from Armenia. ArmFolk Group's tour was organized by The International Arts Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to fostering global unity through cultural exchange, building friendships across borders, and sharing peace through creativity.

Oneonta Concert Association – Julieta Eugenio Trio

Friday, May 15 at 7:30 pm (at First UMC)

Adults \$30 | Students \$15. Tickets available online and at the door

Led by Argentinian saxophonist Julieta Eugenio, this internationally acclaimed trio brings a fresh, modern voice to jazz. For more information or to purchase tickets online, go to <https://oneontaconcertassociation.org/>.

RUMMAGE, BAKE & BOOK SALE



THURSDAY, MAY 7,
9 AM - 6 PM
FRIDAY, MAY 8,
9 AM - 1 PM



(\$3 BAG SALE ALL DAY FRIDAY)

First United Methodist Church
66 Chestnut St.
Oneonta, N.Y.

The **Bake Sale** will be on Thursday. If you would like to contribute baked goods, we need cookies, brownies/bar cookies, cupcakes, pies, etc.

Baked goods should be delivered by the afternoon of Wednesday, May 6 or by 8:30 am on Thursday, May 7.