

First United Methodist Church

7th Sunday of Easter

May 17, 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

“Prelude on Beach Spring”

arr. Joe Utterback © 2011 Jazzmuse, Inc.
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*Hymn #2060

“God the Sculptor of the Mountains”

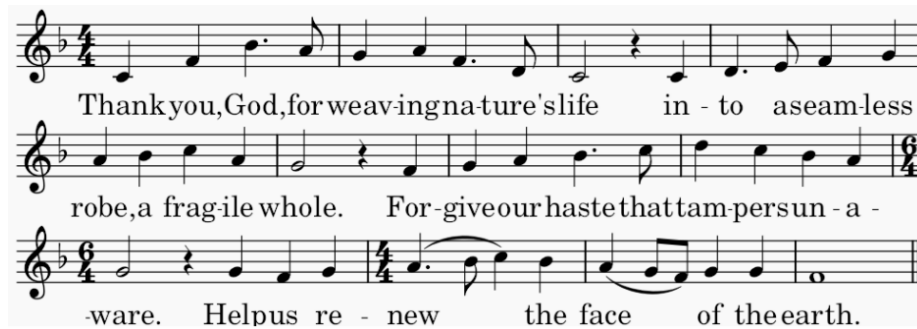
Words by John Thornburg © 1993
Music by Amanda Husberg © 1996 Abingdon Press
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Invitation to Worship

Do you not see it? Do you not perceive it? Something new is taking place! Christ’s ascension is at hand.

We have journeyed from the cold stone tomb, the place of sorrow and loss. We have come into the light, witnesses to the promise of a new future unfolding before us.

We lift our eyes skyward, following Christ’s ascension into the heavens. Our gaze touches on the greatest mysteries of our faith, on the beauty and wonder of God. As our eyes drift downwards again, we see the hard realities of the world. Placed deep within our faith this morning is a hope to mirror the beauty and wonder of God in our world today. Woven into the mission of the church is a desire to build the kin-dom of God in our midst. May our worship be a thanksgiving to God who is always inviting us to do that new thing that anticipates the kin-dom of God in our church, in our families, and in our communities.



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.

Welcoming Words

Passing the Peace

Children’s Time

Testimony from the Central Conference Theological Education Fund

Anthem

“The Heavens Are Telling”

arr. Virgil Thompson © 1925, 1952 E.C. Schirmer Music Co.
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Carolyn McMaster, soloist

Tending the Soils

*Hymn #2137

“Would I Have Answered When You Called”
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*Gospel Reading

John 17:1-11

NRSVUE

Sermon

“Waiting for What Will Grow”
Rev. Casey Bradley

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

Special Offering – Central Conference Theological Education Fund

Offertory

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”
arr. Penny Rodriguez © 2007 Lorenz Publishing Co.
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*Doxology #94

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
Words and music are in the public domain

Prayer of Dedication

Announcements

*Hymn #326

“The Head that Once Was Crowned”
Words and music are in the public domain

Good Words for the Journey

Thank you, God, for making plan - etearth 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

“Flute Solo from Sonata in A”
Thomas Arne © 1976 Lorenz Publishing Co.
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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.**

Rev. LaDana Clark Baby Sal Scott A. Priscilla T.
Graduates & their families and Leslie B. & Joyce M. – Safe Travels

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: *Julianna Walsh* on May 17; *Margaret Parish* on May 20; *Cherilyn Lacy & Madolyn Palmer* on May 21; and *Caden Shaver* on May 22.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: *Leslie & Paul Bauer* and *J. & Joanne Lentner* on May 19; and *Bruce & Adelaide Van Buren* on May 20.

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

MON. 5/18 10:00 am Book Group (Coke Room)
 5:00 pm Yoga (Embury Room)
 6:30 pm Saturday’s Bread Board (Art Room)

TUES. 5/19 11:00 am Staff Meeting (Coke Room)
 2:30 pm Selah Circle (Coke Room)
 7:00 pm Finance Team (Art Room)

WED. 5/20 9:15 am Buckingham Bell Ringers
 3:00 pm Worship at the Plains
 7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir

THUR. 5/21 12:00 pm Lectio (Coke 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. 5/22

SAT. 5/23 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday’s Bread (Fellowship Hall)

SUN. 5/24 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
3:00 pm Marjorie Rowley Memorial Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Miracle Sunday Special Offering

Today's special offering goes to the Central Conference Theological Education Fund, which supports theological education for church leaders outside the United States by investing in schools, courses of study, libraries and contextual resources, scholarships, faculty development, and innovative approaches to training.

Faith at the Table

Faith at the Table is coming to FUMC on June 4 at 6 pm for a pot luck meal. We'll be talking about experiences that have changed how we think about God. Please contact the church office or sign up on our website (<https://firstumc-oneonta.org/events>) by Monday, June 1, and let us know what you're planning to bring.

Rummage Sale Update

The Rummage Sale was a great success! The grand total was \$2,687.05 (Book Sale \$521.40; Bake Sale \$224.90; Rummage \$1,940.75). Many thanks to all who donated items, worked the sale, and assisted with publicity!

Boomerangs & Dog Biscuits

UWF still has a few dozen Boomerangs and a few packs of homemade dog biscuits in our freezer. In case of a Boomerang or dog biscuit "emergency," call Irene Morrissey at 607-432-7932 or Marty Becker at 607-432-4917. Thank you for your support of our mission work!

Third Thursday Dinner – May 21

This month's dinner will be Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 pm (before the Church Council meeting). We will be serving Spanish Rice (using Phyllis's recipe). Please come join us in the Fellowship Hall for good food & conversation!

Memorial Service for Marjorie Rowley

There will be a memorial service for Marjorie Rowley on Sunday, May 24 at 3:00 pm. The service will also be live streamed. See our website for more information (<https://firstumc-oneonta.org/events/marjorie-rowley-memorial-service/2026-05-24>).

Fellowship Time

We need more people to sign up to provide snacks for Fellowship Time! Slots are available for May 24 – June 21. You can find the clipboard in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays and in the church office during the week.

Faith, Doubt, and Good Questions

Every summer Pastor Casey invites the congregation to submit requests for sermon topics. Do you have something you've always wanted to know more about? Do you have that one nagging doubt that you've always wanted to hear a sermon on? Submit your questions to Pastor Casey by May 31 (email pastor@firstumc-oneonta.org, leave them in the box outside of the Pastor's office, or submit them on our website at <https://firstumc-oneonta.org/news/faith-doubt-and-good-questions>).

Celebration Sunday

Celebration Sunday is on June 21. We will be recognizing our graduates that day. If you know of any students who are members or constituents of FUMC who are moving from Elementary to Middle School; Middle School to High School; or graduating from High School, Trade School, or College, we want to know so we can recognize and celebrate their achievement.

Please contact the church office by June 14 (secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org or 607-432-4102) with their names, the school they graduated from, and the degree they are receiving if applicable. You can also share names of graduates with us online at <https://firstumc-oneonta.org/news/celebration-sunday-2026>. Pictures of graduating High School Seniors will be much appreciated so we may celebrate them during worship.

The Great FUMC Cleanup

Church Council is forming a Reimagining Spaces Committee. We want to reduce clutter and transform spaces so that we can imagine new ministries in our beautiful church. We know that there is a lot of sentiment in this building, so if you want to be part of this team, or if you want to make sure that we honor part of our history as we declutter, make sure to talk to Pastor Casey.

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. More info & links to the camps are available on our website at <https://firstumc-oneonta.org/news/summer-camperships-available>. Camp spots are filling up fast so sign up soon!

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.