

First United Methodist Church

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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)

Standing on the Shoreline

Prelude

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram © 1997 Belwin-Mills Publishing Group

*Hymn #88

“Maker in Whom We Live”

Words and music are in the public domain

*Call to Worship

When God began creating...

God held purpose, possibility, and intention...

for all Creation to belong and flourish together.

As God continued creating...

Jesus Christ brought to light God’s love in tender flesh...

that we may trust the light when we’ve lost our way.

As God restores and redeems toward New Creation...

God’s Spirit continues to breathe across the waters.

And in this season, the lantern shines beauty from inside the stone.

In this season, salt connects oceans teeming with life

with tears shed in grief.

May God’s beautiful Creation inspire our worship.

May God’s love inspire our song.

Let us praise God – Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit – for the gift of life abundant.

*Sung Response

“Bring Forth the Kingdom”

(#2190, verse 1)

Marty Haugen © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

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Welcoming

Opening Prayer

May we as people of God’s household join in this prayer based on Psalm 104:24:

Compassionate, merciful God, Companion with all Creation, we gather today in celebration, giving thanks for the diversity of relatives and the abundance of fertile soils and salty seas. With the ancients we rejoice, “In wisdom you have made them all.” May we open our hearts to feel the threats to Creation. May we hear anew the Spirit’s call for wise keepers of Earth’s resilience. May we learn again to love what you have loved from the beginning. In the name 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.

Passing the Peace

Time with God's Children

Special Music

“Barcarolle”

arr. Beth Davidson © 2014 STEP

Margaret Parish & Randall Wilson

Collect

Ever-creating God, in you the oceans swell and rivers replenish the soil. All of Creation reflects your desire for the shalom, the peace, the salaam of life. Jesus has prayed that all may be One, in the diversity and unity of the Holy Spirit. As we follow his light, we learn to honor and tend Creation so that in life and in death we are encircled with your holy Communion. Bless us, heal us, as we hope for the healing of Creation. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Rooted in Good Soils

1st Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

Mary Allen
Flora Beth Cunningham

*Hymn #2046

“Womb of Life”

Words by Ruth Duck © 1992 GIA Publications
Music by Skinner Chávez-Melo © 1985
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*Gospel Reading

John 1:1-5

NRSVUE

Sermon

“Look to Jesus”

Rev. Casey Bradley

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

One: God of seedtime and harvest, fisheries, and markets,

All: Have mercy on us and hear our prayers:

One: For children who go to bed hungry at night, and for parents who cannot find food for them.

All: God, hear our prayers.

One: For communities hungry because of flood, fire, hurricane, or drought, and for governments who struggle to provide for them,

All: Lord, hear our prayers.

One: For farmers sowing seed and raising animals, for fisherfolk tending boats and nets, as they care for the lands and seas that provide their livelihoods,

All: Holy One, hear our prayer.

One: For agriculturalists in urban and rural communities, vulnerable to climate change and resource scarcity; for coastal and remote food providers vulnerable to price variations,

All: God, hear our prayers.

One: For those committed to sustainable fishing, farming, and ranching practices,

All: Lord, hear our prayers.

One: For the wellbeing and ethical treatment of land animals and marine creatures.

All: Holy One, hear our prayers.

One: For soup kitchens, food banks, and aid agencies, and for the volunteers, donors, and staff who help sustain the hungry,

All: God, hear our prayers.

One: For people living in communities where fresh food is expensive and in short supply,

All: Lord, hear our prayers.

One: For policymakers, planners, and government workers; for community educators in diet and nutrition,
All: Holy One, hear our prayers.
One: Gracious God, gather us into your holy feast where all who hunger and thirst for justice will be satisfied.
May we now share our thanks and praise.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Creator, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of compassion and love, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God. Hosanna in the highest.

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as holy and living offerings, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ is with us yet.

...Through your Beloved Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Creator God, now and forever. Amen.

Formed as Salt for the Earth

Prayers of the People

Offering

September Jingle – SPCA (Sparky's Pantry)

Offertory

"Voluntary"

Music is in the public domain

*Doxology #94

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Words and music are in the public domain

Prayer of Dedication

Announcements

*Hymn #92

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

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

"In Thee is Gladness"

J.S. Bach. Music is in the public domain

Worship elements from United Methodist Creation Justice Movement. Used by permission.

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.**

Sue S. Ryan S. & family

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: *Lynda Benz* on September 8; and *Sharry Strait-Carey & Philip Wade* on September 9.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: *David & Brenda Wilkinson* on September 6; *Evelyn & Ned Lintern* on September 8; and *Aaron Miller & Sarah Lewis* on September 9.

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 10:30 am
10:30 am Worship in person, via Zoom & on YouTube

MON. 9/7 **Labor Day – Office Closed**
6:30 pm Stewardship Team (Coke Room)

TUES. 9/8 **Power Outage – Office Closed**
6:30 pm SPRC (meeting off site)

WED. 9/9 **Power Outage – Office Closed**
11:00 am UWF (Embury Room)
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

THUR. 9/10 10:00 am Bell Duet Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:00 am UWF Book Group (Embury Room)
11:00 am Thrift Shop Board (Fellowship Hall)
11:30 am Grey Matters Project (Art Room)
12:00 pm Lectio (Embury Room)
5:30 pm Oneonta Hooks & Needles (Embury Room)

FRI. 9/11 10:00 am Committee on Lay Leadership (Coke Room)

SAT. 9/12 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday's Bread (Fellowship Hall)

SUN. 9/13 **Welcome Back Sunday**
8:15 am Worship in person & on Facebook
9:25 am Children's Sunday School
10:30 am Worship in person, via Zoom & on YouTube
11:30 am Ice Cream Social (Courtyard)
11:30 am Postcard Writing (Art & Coke Rooms)
12:00 pm Rummage Setup

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Back Sunday – September 13

Worship

8:15 am (Embury Room)

10:30 am (Sanctuary)

Children's Sunday School

9:25 am (Lower Level)

“Littles” (up to 6 years old)

“Olders” (ages 7-12)

Ice Cream Social

11:30 am (Courtyard)

Postcard Writing for Reclaim Our Vote

9:15 & 11:30 am (Art Room)

Reporter Deadline – September 15

Articles for the October Reporter are due on Tuesday, September 15. Please send them to Amy at communications@firstumc-oneonta.org.

Power Outage on September 8 & 9

The power will be turned off for the entire church building on Tuesday, September 8 and Wednesday, September 9 to accommodate work on our new HVAC system. The office will be closed, and access to the building will be limited. If you have any questions, please contact Kieran at secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org.

Rummage Donations This Week

This is the last week to bring rummage, and we still need more! Due to the holiday and the power outage, the best times to do so are Wednesday morning, and Thursday and Friday 9 am – 3:30 pm. If you need to bring rummage at another time, please contact Joyce Miller (607-434-4963). [see last page of bulletin for list of things to bring and volunteer opportunities].

September Jingle – Sparky's Pantry

The September Jingle goes to the Susquehanna SPCA to support Sparky's Pet Food Pantry. The pantry is in their Admissions Lobby and is available to the public any time Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The pantry is stocked with any surplus pet-related supplies (food, litter, toys, etc.) that are donated to the animals in their care. Sparky's Pet Food Pantry supports folks in our community who are experiencing difficulties. It helps keep animals with their families where they are happy and comfortable. To learn more about the Susquehanna SPCA, visit their website at <https://www.sqspca.org/>.

United Methodist Student Sunday Next Week

Next week we will be taking a denomination-wide offering to invest in the future by supporting students' education and their journey of faith. The special offering supports scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students. By supporting our students now, we contribute to community transformation and leadership empowerment, building future leaders. Your gift is a practical expression of care, equipping students to shape a hopeful future.

Postcard Writing for Reclaim Our Vote on September 13

Next Sunday, Grey Matters invites everyone to join us in the Art Rooms after each worship service to participate in a Reclaim Our Vote (ROV) action. An arm of Center for Common Ground, ROV sponsors "non-partisan campaigns that focus on getting out the vote in states or districts with large numbers of Black voters for important state-wide and federal races. The goal is to mobilize voters to make their voices heard in elections."

Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe of UMC's General Board of Church and Society reminds us that "Voting is a matter of faith, citizenship and democracy. It is a kind of prayer and faithful testament to the belief that every citizen bears a responsibility and equal right to determine the future of governance in society."

Please take a few minutes after worship on September 13 to write one or two messages of encouragement to prospective voters who may be facing attempts at voter suppression. Grey Matters will supply all materials and ROV scripts.

Be Green, Be Just

Reduce food waste is a climate action that's accessible to us all. Choosing appropriate portions or planning for leftovers, monitoring and using what's in the fridge, and composting are each actions that reduce wasted food and therefore methane, which harms the planet. (Creation Justice Ministries)

Transforming Guns into Garden Tools

A presentation & blacksmith demo by

RAWTOOLS



**DISARM HEARTS
FORGE PEACE
CULTIVATE JUSTICE**

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Saturday, September 19, 2026

**"Red Door" Church
(First United Presbyterian)
381 Main St., Oneonta, NY
607-432-7520**

RAWTOOLS.ORG

This event will introduce attendees to the work of RAWtools and its mission of disarming hearts, forging peace, and cultivating justice. RAWtools uses blacksmithing to transform donated, destroyed weapons into garden tools and other artistic pieces while encouraging conversations about nonviolence, conflict transformation, and peacebuilding. It also honors individuals who have lost their lives to violence.

The practice is inspired by the biblical vision found in the books of Isaiah and Micah of people beating their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. RAWtools brings that imagery to life by physically reshaping donated, destroyed weapons into tools that can be returned to communities and put to constructive use.

Church Rummage, Bake & Book Sale

Thursday, September 17, 9 am - 7 pm

Friday, September 18, 9 am – 1 pm

(Bag sales both days)

You may bring your donations to the **front of the stage** in the Fellowship Hall.

Please only bring in clothing and household goods that are usable and in good condition.

Please put donations in a box that closes or a plastic bag to make them easier to pile.

 **YES!**

- **Clean**, usable clothing*
- Household goods
- Books (novels, non-fiction & audio books)
- CDs & DVDs
- Games, Puzzles & Toys

 **NO!**

- Broken /damaged appliances or household goods
- TVs
- Textbooks, Reader's Digest condensed books, worn out books

* If textiles are clean, but ripped, stained, or just worn out, put them in the box in the hallway.

The **Bake Sale is on Thursday only**. We need cookies, brownies/bar cookies, cupcakes, pies, etc. If you can't work the sale, think about making some homemade goodies!

Volunteer Opportunities – Many Hands Make Light Work!

Setup Days	Sale Days
<u>Sunday 9/13</u> 12:00 – 5:00 pm – Come & Go as you can <u>Monday 9/14, Tuesday 9/15</u> <u>& Wednesday 9/16</u> 9:00 am until ?? We appreciate any time that fits into your schedules – one hour or all day. Lunch provided on Monday & Tuesday.	<u>Thursday 9/17</u> Shifts: 9:00 – 11:30 am; 11:30 am – 2:00 pm; 2:00 – 4:30 pm; 4:30 – 7:00 pm <u>Friday 9/18</u> Shifts: 9:00 – 11:00 am; 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Cleanup: 1:00 – 3:30 pm
Contact Joyce Miller (607-434-4963 or millerumw@gmail.com) or say YES when called!	