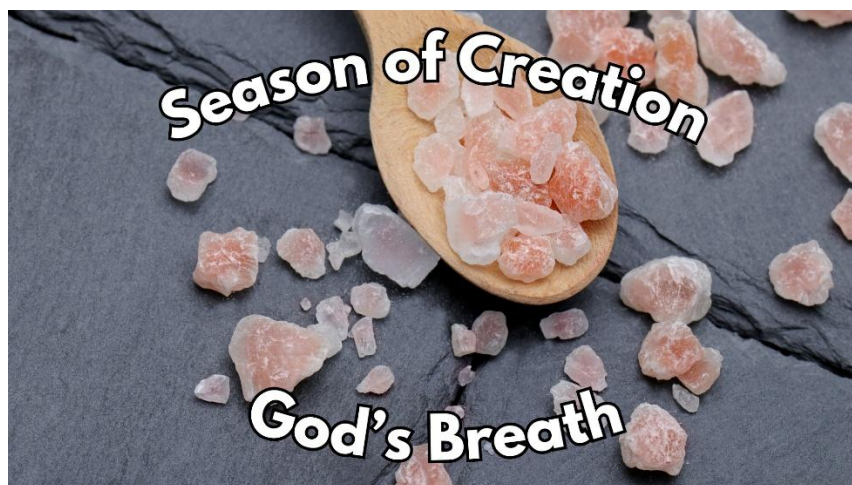


First United Methodist Church

Welcome Back Sunday

September 13, 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

“Someone’s Singing, Lord”

arr. John A. Behnke © 1993 MorningStar Music Publishers

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*Hymn #150

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

Words by Catherine Cameron © 1967 Hope Publishing Co.

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*Call to Worship

God created, from nothing. God created from the dust of the earth.

God created in God’s own image.

God continues to create through Jesus and the Spirit.

God’s creativity knows no end.

In this season, the lantern shines beauty from inside the stone that God created.

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.

*Sung Response

“Bring Forth the Kingdom”

(#2190, verse 1)

Marty Haugen © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

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Welcoming

Opening Prayer

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

Anthem

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

arr. Earl Roland Larson © 1957 Schmitt Publications, Inc.

Collect

Creating God,

Your breath moved over the deep, bringing forth order from chaos. Your breath entered the first human and brought forth life. Through our inhales and exhales, you are present within our very bodies. Make us aware of your presence within and around us. With every breath we take, remind us that we are made in your image and that we are the recipients of your original blessing. With the air that we breathe, remind us also of our reciprocal role within Creation and our dependence and interdependence on the trees, the

algae, the grasses, and the other photosynthesizers who produce what we receive. Keep us aware of your other creatures who share the air with us. As we inhale, allow us to feel kinship with others who inhale, including those who live near us or far from us, whether navigating on land, emerging through oceans, rivers, and streams, or soaring in the skies. Encourage us to live as part of the whole of Creation, not in a false sense of ruling over it. For only you are the Creator, One in Three and Three in One, who has loved and breathed life into your Creation since time immemorial and who will love and sustain it well beyond our earthly lives. All honor and glory are yours, O God of all Creation. Amen.

Rooted in Good Soils

1st Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Margaret Parish
Alan Franks

*Hymn

“Breath of God, Breath of Peace”

(see p.10)

Words by Adam M.L. Tice. Music by Sally Ann Morris.

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Breath of God, Breath of Peace 3145

1. Breath of God, Breath of peace, Breath of love, Breath of life,
2. Word of God, Word of peace, Word of love, Word of life,
3. Voice of God, Voice of peace, Voice of love, Voice of life,
Breath of jus-tice, Breath of pas-sion, Breath cre-at-ing, Breath of heal-ing,
Word of jus-tice, Word of pas-sion, Word cre-at-ing, Word of heal-ing,
Voice of jus-tice, Voice of pas-sion, Voice cre-at-ing, Voice of heal-ing,
Breath of sing-ing, Breath of pray-ing, Come up-on us,
Word of sing-ing, Word of pray-ing, Come up-on us,
Voice of sing-ing, Voice of pray-ing, Come up-on us,
come re-store us, come in-spire us, Breath of God. _____
come re-store us, come in-spire us, Word of God. _____
come re-store us, come in-spire us, Voice of God. _____

WORDS: Adam M. L. Tice
MUSIC: Sally Ann Morris

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PATTERNS
66.88.887

2nd Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:20-2:3

NRSVUE

Sermon

“God’s Breath”

Rev. Casey Bradley

Formed as Salt for the Earth

Prayers of the People

Offering

September Jingle – SPCA (Sparky’s Pantry)

Special Offering – United Methodist Student Day

Offertory

“Oh How He Loves You and Me”

Kurt Kaiser © 1975. arr. Marilyn Arison © 1989 Word Music
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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

“God of the Earth, the Sky, the Sea”

(sing to St. Catherine)

Words and music are in the public domain

God of the earth, the sky, the sea,
maker of all above, below,
creation lives and moves in you;
your present life through all does flow.

Your love is in the sunshine’s glow,
your life is in the quick’ning air;
when lightnings flash and storm-winds blow,
there is your power, your law is there.

We feel your calm at evening’s hour,
your grandeur in the march of night;
and when the morning breaks in power,
we hear your word, “Let there be light.”

But higher far, and far more clear,
you in our spirit we behold;
your image and yourself are there —
indwelling God, proclaimed of old.

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

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

arr. Wilbur Held © 1972 Augsburg Publishing House
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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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: *Kathryn King & Jean Segina* on September 13; *Sam Ficano* on September 16; and *Kathryn Finin* on September 18.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: *Sarah & Michael Manchester* on September 17.

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	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 (Fellowship Hall) 11:30 am Postcard Writing (Art & Coke Rooms) 12:00 pm Rummage Setup
MON. 9/14	9:00 am – 4:00 pm Rummage setup 10:00 am Book Group (Coke Room) 4:30 pm Yoga (Embury Room)
TUES. 9/15	Reporter Deadline 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Rummage setup 11:00 am Staff Meeting (Coke Room) 7:00 pm Finance Team (Art Room) 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir
WED. 9/16	9:00 am – 4:00 pm Rummage setup 9:15 am Buckingham Bell Ringers
THUR. 9/17	9:00 am – 7:00 pm Rummage, Bake & Book Sale 12:00 pm Lectio (Coke Room) 7:00 pm Church Council (Art Room)
FRI. 9/18	9:00 am – 1:00 pm Rummage & Book Sale
SAT. 9/19	11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday's Bread (Fellowship Hall)
SUN. 9/20	8:15 am Worship in person & on Facebook 9:25 am Children's Sunday School & Digging Deeper (adult class) 10:30 am Worship in person, via Zoom & on YouTube 11:30 am Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's "Welcome Back Sunday" Events

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 (Fellowship Hall)

Postcard Writing for Reclaim Our Vote

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

United Methodist Student Day Special Offering

Today we are 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.

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.

Postcard Writing for Reclaim Our Vote

Today, 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.

The group will meet in the Dauley Room starting October 4 and continue the following five Sundays, ending November 8. If you have questions or decide to join in, please text Lori DePauw at 607-287-7140 so she can ensure a book is ordered for you.

Be Green, Be Just

Start with something. Choose one or two easy changes to make, perhaps swapping single-use water bottles for a reusable one or refusing plastic bags. Commit to your action and allow it to lead you to another "something" you can do for Earth. (Creation Justice Ministries)

Digging Deeper Starts Next Week

Digging Deeper, an adult Sunday school class, will begin next Sunday, September 20. We will be viewing videos and discussing Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's latest book *Genesis*. The study includes six stories: the creation of humanity; Cain and Abel; Noah and the flood; Abraham's almost-sacrifice of Isaac; Jacob's dream of a stairway to Heaven; and Mrs. Potiphar's sexual harassment of Joseph. We meet at 9:25 am in the Art Room after the first worship service.

Three Simple Questions

Based on Rueben Job's book *Three Simple Questions*, participants will read a roughly 30-minute portion of the book each week. The small group will gather after the first service at 9:30 am and end before the 10:30 service. Prayer, videos, discussions, and spiritual practices, along with liturgy, combine to engage adults as they explore Three Simple Questions: Who is God? Who am I? Who are we together?

The group will meet in the Dauley Room starting October 4 and continue the following five Sundays, ending November 8. If you have questions or decide to join in, please text Lori DePauw at 607-287-7140 so she can ensure a book is ordered for you.

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.

FALL 2026 RUMMAGE, BAKE & BOOK SALE



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
9 AM - 7 PM
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
9 AM - 1 PM

(BAG SALES BOTH DAYS)



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