

# First United Methodist Church

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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

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First United Methodist Church  
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[www.firstumc-oneonta.org](http://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)*

### Refreshing Waters of Praise and Prayer

Prelude

“Gavotte”

Music is in the public domain

\*Hymn #77

“How Great Thou Art”

Stuart K. Hine © 1953, 1981 Manna Music, Inc.

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\*Call to Worship

Praise God from the sun and the moon!

**Praise God, all who are God’s messengers!**

Praise God, in the highest heavens and to the depths of the sea!

**Praise God and be strengthened as God’s faithful ones!**

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.**

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

### Drinking Waters of Wisdom

Time with God’s Children

Anthem

“For the Music of Creation”

Words by Shirley Erena Murray © 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

Music by Sally Ann Morris © 1998 GIA Publications

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Chris Brashear, Joyce Miller & Randall Wilson, handbells

*For the music of creation, for the song your Spirit sings, for your sound’s divine expression, burst of joy in living things: God, our God, the world’s composer, hear us, echoes of your voice – music is your art, your glory, let the human heart rejoice!*

*Psalms and symphonies exalt you, drum and trumpet, string and reed, simple melodies acclaim you, tunes that rise from deepest need, hymns of longing and belonging, carols from a cheerful throat, lilt of lullaby and love song catching heaven in a note.*

*All the voices of the ages in transcendent chorus meet, worship lifting up the senses, hands that praise, and dancing feet; over discord and division music speaks your joy and peace, harmony of earth and heaven, song of God that cannot cease!*

Collect

**O Source of creation, whose rain refreshes and nourishes all life on Earth whose breath stirs the stars and whispers through the ancient cedars, whose hands shape the mountains and cradle the depths of the seas, you who dance in the shimmering light of dawn and the quiet hush of twilight, draw us into the sacred rhythm of your Creation's praise. Inspire our hearts to join the song of the heavens and the earth, where galaxies swirl in harmony, and the smallest creatures lift their voices. May we see ourselves not as separate islands but as kin woven into your vast web, called to nurture, to honor, and to protect this fragile garden you have entrusted to us. Grant us the courage to live as faithful stewards, watering the world with justice, compassion, and hope, reflecting your boundless love that embraces all people, all creatures, and all places in your tender care. As we lift our voices in this cosmic chorus, may your Spirit move within us and among us, uniting us in praise and purpose, now and forever, in the harmony of your eternal dance. Amen**

1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:10-15

Tiffany Gardner

\*Hymn #723

"Shall We Gather at the River"

Words and music are in the public domain

\*Gospel Reading

John 4: 7-14

NIV

Sermon

"Our Waterways and Our Water Ways"

Karen Palmer

### **Flowing Waters of Action**

Prayers of the People

Offering

September Jingle – SPCA (Sparky's Pantry)

Offertory

"Andante"

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 #451

"Be Thou My Vision"

harm. by Carlton R. Young © 1963 Abingdon Press

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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.**



*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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.**

Robert (Bobby) W.      Lee      Sue S.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** *Carli Ficano & Henry Wolff* on September 20; and *Cathy Bussy, Alan Franks, Randall Wilson & Russ Wilson* on September 22.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** None this week.

### 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 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)

**MON. 9/21**      10:00 am Book Group (Embury Room)  
                 4:30 pm Yoga (Embury Room)  
                 6:30 pm Saturday's Bread Board (Art Room)

**TUES. 9/22**      11:00 am Staff Meeting (Coke Room)  
                 6:00 pm Joyful Ringers  
                 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

**WED. 9/23**      9:15 am Buckingham Bell Ringers

**THUR. 9/24**      10:00 am UWF Book Group (Embury Room)  
                 12:00 pm Lectio (Embury Room)  
                 5:30 pm Oneonta Hooks & Needles (Embury Room)

**FRI. 9/25**

**SAT. 9/26**      11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday's Bread (Fellowship Hall)

**SUN. 9/27**      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

### Special Fellowship Hour Today

The Creation Care team is hosting a special fellowship time after the 10:30 am service today. Come join us for food and fun – and you might learn something too!

### Thanks to the Creation Care Team & Worship Participants

We are grateful to have the Creation Care Team leading us in worship and providing Fellowship Time today. Contributors include Karen Palmer, Dave Edwards, Sharry Strait-Carey, and Irene Morrissey.

Thanks also to our musicians – Flora Beth Cunningham (substitute organist), Carolyn McMaster and the choir, and our bell ringers.

### Digging Deeper

Digging Deeper, an adult Sunday school class, starts today! 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.

### Faith at the Table

On the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month we gather around a different table to discuss big topics of faith. On October 1 at 6 pm we'll be at Alfresco's discussing how we handle seasons when God feels silent or absent. RSVP to the church office by Friday, September 25.

### 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.

### Taco Buffet Next Sunday

On Sunday, September 27, the Fellowship Time after the second service will be a taco buffet. There will be gluten-free and vegan options available.

### Boomerangs

Fall greetings, Boomers! Believe it or not, it's time to think about making Boomerangs for the Holiday Bazaar, Thanksgiving, and Christmas!

We work on these delicious chocolate and peanut butter confections in the church kitchen on Tuesdays from 9:00 am until approximately 12:00 pm. Our first fall meeting will be October 6. No experience needed! All women & men are welcome.

Please pencil in the following dates: October 6, 13, 20 & 27; November 3 & 17; and December 1 & 15.

Profits from the sale of Boomerangs go to local, regional, national, and global programs that are designed to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. Thank you for supporting this very worthwhile UWF mission project!

**Be Green, Be Just**

Work together. Join or create a local effort, perhaps to clean up a waterway or to help plant a pollinator garden. Or donate to a large-scale organization that can use your support to make a greater difference. (Creation Justice Ministries)