

First United Methodist Church

World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2026

8:15 & 10:30 a.m.



*Seeing
the
Least*

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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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)

Entering the Courtyards

Prelude

“Adagio”

Cesar Franck © 1948 G. Schirmer

*Hymn #428

“For the Healing of the Nations”

Words by Fred Kaan © 1968 Hope Publishing Co.

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*Call to Worship

Where have you seen the hungry today?

We confess we often walk past.

Christ says, "I was hungry, and you gave me food."

Open our eyes to see you, Lord, in the face of the one who needs us.

Welcoming

Gathering Prayer

When we do it for the least of these, we do it for the Lord.

Open our eyes, that we might see the face of Christ

in the neighbor down the street,

in the hunger we hurry past,

in the thirst we too often overlook.

Let the eyes that meet ours – weary, searching, unseen –

be windows to the face of Christ.

Amen.

Passing the Peace

Encountering the Word

Children's Time

Anthem

“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”

John Newton; arr. Vernon Hoyle © 2019 St. James Music Press

1st Scripture Reading

Isaiah 58:1-8

Cherilyn Lacy

Jason Cash

*Hymn

“Whatever You Do”

(insert)

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette © 2008

Music arr. David Willcocks © 1960 Oxford University Press

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*Gospel Reading

Matthew 25: 31-36

NRSVUE

Sermon

“Seeing the Least”

Rev. Casey Bradley

Responding in Faith

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

- One: From every corner of the earth, Christ calls us to the table.
- Many: We come from many peoples, many places, many traditions.**
- One: We come with the songs of our ancestors and the prayers of those who came before us.
- Many: We come carrying stories of faith, struggle, hope, and joy.**
- One: From the communities of Africa and the islands of the Pacific, from the mountains of Asia and the cities of the Americas, from the churches of Europe and the Middle East —
- Many: We come as one people, gathered in Christ.**
- One: Some come to this table with abundance. Some come longing for daily bread.
- Many: Christ welcomes us all.**
- One: Some come singing. Some come grieving. Some come with questions. Some come with gratitude.
- Many: Christ welcomes us all.**
- One: Today, the walls that divide us do not have the final word. Language does not divide us. Geography does not divide us. Culture does not divide us.
- Many: At Christ's table, there is room for all.**
- One: Come, people of God. Come with open hands and open hearts.
- All: We come to receive. We come to remember. We come to share. We come to be made one.**

Prayers of the People

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

October Jingle – FSA Thanksgiving Baskets

World Communion Sunday Special Offering

Offertory

“Interlude”

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

Departing in Peace

Announcements

*Hymn #620

“One Bread, One Body”

John B. Foley © 1978, 1989 North American Liturgy Resources
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Benediction

Mission Statement

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Postlude

“The Lord is My Rock”
Stephen Otis © 1955 Lorenz Publishing Co.
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Communion liturgy adapted from A Global Table of Grace from Global Ministries of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ

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.**

Mary & Holly L. Annette L. Caregivers
Robert (Bobby) W. Lee

Our sympathy to Leslie Bauer and family following the passing of her mother on September 27.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: *Mark Parmerter* on October 4; *Natalie Segina* on October 6; *Mary Breuninger* on October 7; *Jeffrey Schaffer & Kimberly More-Wick* on October 8; and *Sue Whitney Lawson* on October 10.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: *Marty & Joe Becker* on October 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 Children's Sunday School, Digging Deeper & Three Simple Questions (adult classes) 10:30 am Worship in person, via Zoom & on YouTube 11:30 am Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)
MON. 10/5	10:00 am Book Group (Embury Room) 4:30 pm Yoga (Embury Room)
TUES. 10/6	9:00 am Boomerangs (Kitchen) 11:00 am Staff Meeting (Coke Room) 2:30 pm Selah Circle (Coke Room) 6:00 pm Girl Scouts (Art Room) 6:00 pm Joyful Ringers (Sanctuary) 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00 pm Patrick Committee (Coke Room)
WED. 10/7	9:15 am Buckingham Bell Ringers
THUR. 10/8	10:00 am UWF Book Group (Embury Room) 11:00 am Thrift Shop Board (Fellowship Hall)

12:00 pm Lectio (Embury Room)
 5:30 pm Oneonta Hooks & Needles (Embury Room)
 7:00 pm Finance Team (Art Room)

FRI. 10/9 10:00 am Worship Team (Coke Room)

SAT. 10/10 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday's Bread (Fellowship Hall)
 4:00 pm Wedding

SUN. 10/11 8:15 am Worship in person & on Facebook
 9:25 am Children's Sunday School, Digging Deeper &
 Three Simple Questions (adult classes)
 10:30 am Worship in person, via Zoom & on YouTube
 11:30 am Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Communion Special Offering

World Communion Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays designated to support ministries and causes important to the entire United Methodist Church. The World Communion offering supports scholarships and leadership training for students from underrepresented communities – helping the Church become more inclusive and better equipped to serve. Half of the offering benefits World Communion scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students from the U.S. and other countries. The remainder provides grants to support training and leadership development for worldwide inclusion, diversity, equity, and access.

October Jingle – FSA Thanksgiving Baskets

The October Jingle will go to the Family Service Association's (FSA) collection for Thanksgiving Baskets. The mission of the family service association is to support individual and family strengths and to assist area residents in meeting their own needs. The Association provides a variety of services, including a clothing program and emergency assistance (prescriptions, help with transportation, etc.). For more information, go to <https://fsaoneontany.org/>.

An Important Note re: Email Issues

As you may have noticed, we have been having intermittent issues with our domain email addresses (ending in @firstumc-oneonta.org). For example, some people who have attempted to contact us have gotten a message that their email was blocked. We are working on resolving this situation.

In the meantime, if you send an email to Pastor Casey, Kieran (secretary), Rick/Carol (finance), or Amy (communications) and your message is rejected or blocked, please send it to our backup address at oneontafirstumc@gmail.com.

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 **starting today** and running through November 8. 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?

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.

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.

Wedding Invitation

Dave Edwards and Karen Palmer, members of FUMC, are getting married at our church on October 10 at 4 pm with Pastor Casey presiding! They have invited everyone from the congregation to be able to attend the wedding online via Zoom. See the "Attending Virtually" tab on their wedding website (<https://www.theknot.com/us/david-edwards-and-karen-palmer-2026-10-10/attend-virtually>).

Thank You from United Women in Faith

We want to thank everyone who contributed to our snap August fundraiser for water bottles for unhoused STAP (Southern Tier Aids Program) clients. Thanks to your generosity we have donated 62 bottles to clients in the city of Oneonta and in encampments along the Susquehanna River in both Oneonta and Binghamton. These are quality 20 oz. stainless steel bottles with a ceramic lining and built-in handle. STAP personnel have expressed deep gratitude for this generous gift.