

First United Methodist Church  
Oneonta, New York

“A Place at the Table (Peace)”  
Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021  
8:15 & 10:30 a.m.



Order of Worship

Greetings and Announcements

Silent Prayer

Prelude

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Keith Chapman

We Open the Door

*(Threshold Moment)*

*“Hope Waits for Us at Advent”*

*Leader:* Like the childhood game of “musical chairs,” we are convinced that there are not enough places at the table. And so we shrink the guest list just in case there is not enough, and we scramble to occupy the chairs first. And yet our sacred texts invite us to imagine and make real the gathering of all people to the table, robed in the garments of a Peace that comes with justice. This is what really matters—this is the fruit of what is right and good.

**Peace waits for us at Advent  
Peace waits for us to rest.  
Peace waits for our acceptance  
of the truth that we are blessed.  
In this time of preparation  
for the work of co-creation,  
for the birthing of a world**

**of gentleness and play.  
Peace is born in us each day!**

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle: Peace  
8:15 — Scott Fielder & Mary Breuninger  
10:30 — the Pudlewski family,  
Joe, Chalya, Elisette & Emma

*Reader:* Today we offer the Light of Peace to illumine the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Peace awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There IS room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

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*The Peace*

The Peace of Christ be with you!  
**And also with you!**

*Leader:* As we rise in body or spirit for our opening hymn, I invite you to pass a “wave” of peace to the people around you (and the people worshipping at home)!

\*Hymn #202

“People, Look East”

Besançon

1. People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

4. Angels announce with shouts of mirth  
him who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Children’s Time

First Reading

Baruch 5: 1-5

CEB

Take off your mourning clothes  
and oppression, Jerusalem!

Dress yourself in the dignity  
of God's glory forever.  
Wrap the justice that comes from God around yourself like a robe.  
Place the eternal one's glory  
on your head like a crown.  
God will show your brilliance everywhere under heaven.  
God will give you this name  
by which to be called forever:  
The Peace That Comes from Justice,  
The Honor That Comes  
from Reverence for God!  
Get up, Jerusalem!  
Stand on the high place,  
and look around to the east!  
See your children gathered  
from the west to the east  
by the holy one's word,  
as they rejoice that God has remembered them.

Musical Offering "Huron Carol" W.G. Alcock  
8:15 a.m.

Musical Offering. "Hark, a Thrilling Voice" Ian Higginson  
10:30 a.m.

*Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding; "Christ is nigh," it seems to say, "Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day."*

*Wakened by the solemn warning Let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.*

*Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from Heav'n; Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all to be forgiven.*

*That when next He comes in glory, And the world is wrapped in fear, With His mercy He may shield us, And with words of love draw near.*

*Honor, glory, might, and blessing Be to God: the Father, Son And the everlasting Spirit, While eternal ages run.*

Second Reading Philippians 1:3-11 CEB

I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. I'm glad because of the way you have been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first believed it until now. I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus. I have good reason to think this way about all of you because I keep you in my heart. You are all my partners in God's grace, both during my time in prison and in the defense and support of the gospel. God is my witness that I feel affection for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and

blameless on the day of Christ. I pray that you will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God.

Sermon

“Finding Peace in the Preparation”

Trenea Halstead

Prayers of the People

*“Make of My Heart a Stable”*

**Make of my heart a stable,  
a house for the holy,  
a warm and sturdy place  
for peace to live and grow.**

*Leader:* In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to honesty before God about what we’ve done and left undone that created less peace in a hurting world. Let us breathe out this regret...and breathe in the life-giving, for-giving Spirit of God...and out again with the Peace of Christ...

**Make of my life a stable,  
a house for the holy,  
a warm and sturdy place  
for peace to live and grow.**

*Leader:* In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit, inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine. Let us breathe out our fear...and breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God... and out again, with the Peace of Christ...

**Make of our church a stable,  
a house for the holy,  
a warm and sturdy place  
for peace to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of this church, filling it with the compassion of Christ for all those who are struggling. We remember and pray for...

... those who are suffering economic hardship, and insecurity in basic needs; may abundance be shared.

... those who are suffering mentally, finding it difficult to cope; may paths open and hope return.

... those who are suffering illness or injury; may healing abound.

... those who are suffering loneliness and isolation; may companionship and solace arrive.

... those who are suffering discrimination, fear and violence; may they know respect, respite, and safety.

May the Advent of Compassion be born in us, reside within us, move outward from us, to meet the needs of the world, making a house for the Holy that is each and every child of God.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray: **“Our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, who art in heaven...”**

A Story of Innkeeping: Offering and Offertory Prayer

Closing Carol

*Leader:* For today's closing carol we sing "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," a carol written by Edmund Sears and one of the earliest social gospel hymns written. Sears was writing from Boston in the years just before the Civil War began and this hymn emphasizes the message of the angels, "peace on earth, goodwill to all." You can hear this clearly in a stanza missing from some hymnals:

But with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song, which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing!

Let us remember that in true peace, all can hear the love-song of the angels. Let us offer our own love-song now.

\*Hymn #218

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Carol

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

Benediction

May God's Door of Welcome swing open in your heart and in your life.

May Christ's humble first dwelling remind you of the plenty you already know.

And may the Spirit lead you into more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine, making room in The Inn for all.

May it be so for you. May it be so for us. May it be so for this church. Amen.

Postlude

"Alles is an Gottes Segen"  
*All is due to God's blessing*

Siegfried Karg-Elert

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*We thank Treena Halstead for leading us in worship today.  
She is a lay speaker from Elm Park UMC and the Manager of the  
Building Healthy Families program at Opportunities for Otsego.*

*Thank you for your continued gifts and tithes to the church!  
The December Jingle goes to the Secret Santa Fund.*

Child care is available during in-person services at both 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. as well as during the Sunday School hour at 9:25 a.m. Our child care worker, Keshia Genzardi, is fully vaccinated and ready to care for our kids; our nurseries have fully sanitized. Children over 2 need to be masked.

### **PRAYER LIST – December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Bill Pharr: Focus Rehab, 1445 Kemble Street, Room 207, Utica NY 13501

Kathryn Roffe: Fox Nursing Home, Room 318, 2 Norton Ave, Oneonta, NY 13820

#### 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.**

- Ramona Leavey asks for prayers for her family & friends
- Jennifer Jump who was in an accident in Florida
- Raphael Sason, friend of Nancy Bondurant-Couch
- Cecil Warren Keirns, friend of Li Luo
- Roberta, friend of Lynda
- The family of John Trustcott, who passed away last week

*Long-time member Evelyn Schaffer passed away on Thanksgiving Day. We grieve with her son Jeff and his wife Theresa. Rev. Marti held a graveside service on November 30.*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** *Therese Garufi on December 5; Ramona Leavey & Keshia Genzardi on December 8; Janet Frankl on December 9; Martha Winsor on December 10; Dan Ouimet & Amy Domina on December 11; Mary Hall, Bryce Talbert, Chad Talbert, Alexandra Henderson & Dakota Buzzy on December 12.*

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** *none this week.*

**Be Green, Be Just:** Ship your packages without single-use plastic tape. Switch to reinforced brown paper tape. Check out this alternative at [netzerocompany.com](http://netzerocompany.com). It comes plain or decorated with garden or marine life artwork, so you can make a statement for creation care too. (From Creation Justice Ministries)

**Boomerangs:** pick-up times are between church services (9:30 – 10:30) today and next Sunday. Today is the last day to order Boomerangs.

### **CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK – December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

SAG = Study Action Group

**TODAY:**  
8:15 am Worship in person, Facebook, or via Zoom  
9:25 am Sunday School  
9:25 am *Digging Deeper* Bible Study-Art Room  
10:30 am Worship in person or via Zoom  
11:30 am Coffee Hour & Fellowship via Zoom

MON. 12/6 10:00 am Book Group-Embury Room  
 10:30 am Otsego County  
 5:30 pm Yoga-Embury Room  
 TUES. 12/7 9:00 am Boomerang Making  
 10:00 am Otsego County  
 10:00 am Staff Meeting-Coke Room  
 2:00 pm *Digging Deeper* Bible Study-Embury Room  
 WED. 12/8 *Pastor Marti's Sabbath all morning*  
 9:15 am Buckingham Ringers-Music Room  
 10:30 am Otsego County  
 10:45 am Paradis Ringers-Music Room  
 12:00 pm Spiritual Study Group-Dauley Room  
 5:00 pm Oneonta Hooks & Needles-Embury Room  
 7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir-Sanctuary  
 THURS. 12/9 10:00 am Book Group-Embury Room  
 12:00 pm Lectio-Embury Room  
 2:30 pm Otsego County  
 7:00 pm Finance Meeting-Art Room  
 FRI. 12/10 10:00 am Otsego County  
 SAT. 12/11 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturday's Bread Hot Meal Program  
 SUN. 12/12 8:15 am Worship in person, Facebook, or via Zoom  
 9:25 am Sunday School  
 9:25 am *Digging Deeper* Bible Study-Art Room  
 10:30 am Worship in person or via Zoom  
 11:30 am Coffee Hour & Fellowship via Zoom

**Social Media:** Please like/share/follow us on:

youtube.com – search for First UMC Oneonta

<https://www.instagram.com/firstumconeonta/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/197839013516>

And join us on Twitter - First UMC Oneonta will use twitter to share current events in the Greater United Methodist denomination as well as current events and issues we as a church community align ourselves with.

<https://twitter.com/FirstUMCOneonta>



To Date: 55 Pledges have been received. 32 have increased their pledge as compared to 8 who have decreased their pledge, three of which were to zero. The net increase in pledging is \$11,315.36 so far. There are 5 new pledge units. Thus far, we haven't heard from 23 giving units that pledged in 2021.

What is the Christmas Covenant? The Christmas Covenant is a **set of legislation and constitutional amendments submitted to the** United Methodist Church’s (UMC) General Conference with the goal of establishing regional equity in the structures of the church for missional effectiveness while sustaining connectional unity. There are copies of a flyer about the Christmas Covenant available at the sanctuary entrances.

**2021 Giving Tree for Head Start Children**

This year we WILL again be having the Giving Tree for Head Start children...in its new form...\$50 Gift Certificates. The parents really enjoyed the shopping and flexibility they had for their children last year. Sorry to disappoint all you wonderful shoppers who get great joy from shopping and wrapping presents!! But think of the joy the parents will have as they shop for their children.

Having done shopping for the little people in the past, I know I average about \$50 per child, and many of you must do the same from the packages I have seen donated. There are 42 children, so our goal is to raise at least \$2,100. Any money given above and beyond will be used for the “Secret Santa Fund,” a fund that covers requests that come in from caring parents in our congregation and beyond. SO...Please donate what you usually spend by sending a check to the church with “Giving Tree.” in the memo, or use PayPal if that’s your thing, or put money in the Offering Plate designated for “Giving Tree.” **The deadline is December 14.** If you have never done it before, but want to participate this year, we’ll gratefully accept your donation, no matter what the size. Thank you and God Bless. Call Joyce at 607-432-8751 if you have any questions.

**Possible Worship in the Embury Room:** Thank you to everyone who answered the survey about whether or not to have the 8:15 worship service back in the Embury Room as we used to do. Unfortunately, with COVID cases still rising in Otsego County, it is unlikely that we will be able to worship in a circle in the Embury Room any time soon. We will continue to livestream worship as we have been doing, and having people worship in person in the Sanctuary. You may sit in the Embury Room if you would like to.

**UMW News:** THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all who donated, shopped, or helped with the UMW Bazaar on November 20<sup>th</sup>. What a great day it was!! The UMW can now make its Financial Commitments to Women, Children, and Youth...locally and around the world. Thank you for supporting us.

THANKS also to the persons who supported the SHOEBOX project for Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. We were able to send 20 boxes plus some sheets and towels. Thanks for making someone’s Christmas a little brighter.

Worship Leader .....	Nancy Bondurant-Couch
Lay Readers .....	8:15-Margaret Parish; 10:30-Chalya Pudlewski
Communion Steward .....	Jean Siems
Ministers.....	Every Member of First United Methodist
Upper NY Area Bishop .....	Rev. Mark J. Webb
Oneonta District Superintendent.....	Rev. Nancy Adams
Oneonta District Associate .....	Rev. George Gallandorm
Ordained Minister.....	Rev. Marti Swords-Horrell
Co-Lay Leaders .....	Gail Niles & Peter Paluch
Sunday School Leaders .....	Lisa Smith & Nancy Bondurant-Couch
Adult Sunday School Leader .....	Margaret Parish
Director of Music Ministries .....	John Jurgensen
Business & Facilities Manager.....	Jeff Gardner
Communications Coordinator.....	Amy Burnsworth
Sexton.....	Randall Wilson
Secretary.....	Leslie Bauer
Volunteer Caretaker.....	Christopher Brashear
Tech Intern .....	Willa Ness
Child Care.....	Keshia Genzardi
Church Address .....	66 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, NY 13820
Church Office Phone .....	(607) 432-4102
Church email .....	secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org
Pastor Marti’s email.....	<a href="mailto:pastor@firstumc-oneonta.org">pastor@firstumc-oneonta.org</a>



# Christmas 2021

## The Gift of Returning

### Guest Artists:

Liza DiSavino and A.J. Bodnar

(an acoustic, traditional, Americana, singer-songwriter, multi-instrumental duo)

### featuring:

The Handbell Choirs of First United Methodist Church  
Handbell Choir from Pathfinder Village

**Saturday December 18 at 2pm**

Snow date: Sunday December 19 at 2pm

**First UMC**

**66 Chestnut Street**

**Oneonta, NY 13820**

**607-432-4102**

*A freewill offering will be collected to support the music program of  
FUMC.*



