

First United Methodist Church, Oneonta, New York

Update for February 19, 2021

The church building is locked at all times.

The following announcement was sent in a special update on Wednesday the 17th: FUMC is opening for in-person worship beginning Sunday, February 21st for the 10am service only. People who wish to attend must make a reservation. Reservations may be made by leaving a message at the church office: by phone, 607-432-4102 or by email, secretary@firstumc-oneonta.org, or by signing up at our website, www.firstumc-oneonta.org. Please include the number of worshippers in your party and your phone number. Your message will be recorded onto the reservation list up until Saturday evening.

Please wear a mask and enter through the Church Street door. The COVID questions will be asked and temperatures will be checked. Once inside, ushers will lead you to seating that will be at least 6 feet from any other household. There will be no singing, no child care, and no coffee hour. Thank you for respecting these restrictions for the health and safety of our community.

How to Worship: The 8:15 a.m. service on Sundays is by Facebook Live. The bulletin is attached along with this weekly update, or you can find it in the “Files” section of our Facebook page. You need to be a member of FUMC’s Facebook Group in order to participate in the service. Just open Facebook and search: First UMC Oneonta. Once you see our page, ask to “join” and one of our administrators will admit you.

The 10:00 a.m. service is over ZOOM, a live streaming platform that may be accessed either through a computer, or by phone (see below). To access the 10:00 a.m. service via computer, highlight, copy and paste the following link into your browser:

<https://zoom.us/j/195736049?pwd=Y2ZuL1pJSiswMnA2V2pRS1Y5T2NwZz09>

To listen to the 10:00 a.m. service on your phone (any kind of phone — land line, flip phone, or smart phone) — call 1 646 558-8656 at 10:00 a.m. or a few minutes before. You will be asked for a Meeting ID; key in 195 736 049 into the keypad of your phone. Then you may announce yourself. When it seems like everyone who wants to has joined, Pastor Marti will welcome all and you will hear the organ prelude beginning. **To mute yourself, press *6.**

After the 10:00 a.m. service, we’ll join in a Virtual Coffee Hour, to which all are invited, no matter which service you’ve worshipped in. Just connect to Zoom at around 11:00 a.m. using the above methods.

You can now watch our Sunday Service on our YouTube channel (go to YouTube and search “FUMC Oneonta”). It will be ready to watch at about 11:30 am each Sunday. After you watch, please hit the subscribe button!

Lent started with on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. Beginning that week, we also started two opportunities to participate in experiences that will go along with our worship series, “Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Recovery.”

- **Healing Physically:** Meet together to exercise (online or socially- distanced, of course), getting the blood and joy flowing. Pastor Marti will be “walking” the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage through a program that allows groups of people to do a challenge together; or, you may participate individually if you already have your own exercise routine. Text or call Pastor Marti at 315-569-9156 to join a walking group. Cut and paste this link into your browser to find out more:
<https://www.theconqueror.events/camino/>
- **Integrated Healing:** “Mindfulness” has been around for a long time in history, but is becoming more of a common phenomenon in recently in mainstream culture. Professor of Church History and Spirituality, Amy Oden, describes it this way in her highly-acclaimed book, *Right Here, Right Now*: “Many Christians practice mindfulness outside of church and believe it does not belong to our faith tradition. This book reveals the Christian roots of mindfulness and the actual practices that, when reclaimed,

deepen the life of faith and the power of our mission of love in the world.” Margaret Parish and Pastor Marti will be leading a discussion of this book, 2 -3:30 pm Tuesdays over Zoom, starting on February 23rd. *Participants will need access to the book. Please order it on Amazon, or from Cokesbury.com. Or, if you would prefer, you may call or text Margaret Parish at 607-435-4001 or email her at margparish@yahoo.com, and she will order your copy of the book and deliver it to you (if you live in town.)*

Otsego County has just partnered with “Discover Books” for recycling of encyclopedias, text books, and damaged books that can’t be sold by FUMC’s RMN book sales, or shared by other local free book services. There are now bins at both the Cooperstown and Oneonta transfer stations, so please share the news with friends, colleagues, and family who live in the northern part of the county.



Please Pick Up your Sea Glass for Lent!

Our Lenten worship series from Dr. Marcia McFee of Worship Design Studio is “Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Recovery,” beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 17th. As many of you know who have enjoyed Marcia’s liturgical designs in the past, she often invites participants to hold sacred objects in their hands, to enable a more tactile, interactive worship experience.

This season, the theme image is sea glass. Maybe some of you have enjoyed walking on a beach sometime in the past, picking up glass that has been tumbled around by the waves and the sand, its sharp edges worn away to become smooth and beautiful. In order for you to experience our Lenten series completely, we invite you to have a few pieces of sea glass to hold. If you will be worshipping at home, please help yourselves to a small bag of sea glass from the bin on Rev. Marti’s porch, 41 Ford Avenue. (Please do not park in the driveway and pay attention to alternate side of the street parking signs.) We hope to open for in-person worship starting at 10 am on February 21st, and if we do, you will be able to pick up your sea glass then. But if you know you will be worshipping from home regardless, please stop by 41 Ford and pick up your sea glass.

Yours for a holy, healing Lent,
FUMC Worship Team

**The Jingle for the rest of February is for the Hunger Coalition.
But if you still want to donate to the Warming Station you can!
Put Warming Station on the memo line of your check.**

The FUMC COVID Team wants to remind you that symptoms of COVID can be very mild, such as congestion, headache, or runny nose. If you develop any of these symptoms, please isolate yourself. Attend church via Facebook Live or Zoom. If symptoms persist and you need to be tested, contact your healthcare provider. The New York State Health Department's informational hotline to locate Covid -19 testing sites is 1-888-364-3065. Bassett Hospital's Covid-19 information hotline is 607-547-5555.

A message from the COVID Team: We know that acquiring a COVID vaccine is not easy and are hoping it will become easier as more vaccine become available.

Suggestions if you do not wish or don't have access to a computer are

1. Call the NYS COVID vaccine hotline at 1-833-697-4829 and someone will assist you to schedule a vaccine appointment at one of the large state sites, Binghamton, Albany, Syracuse, etc. Continue to call back if you don't like the appointment times. New appointments open up frequently.
2. Call 211 and United Way will assist you to find an appointment.
3. Call 1-866-924-9377 for Walgreen Drug stores to find an appointment.
4. Call the Rite Aid Drug store at 400 Chestnut St., Oneonta, 432-3200 and ask for the pharmacy and to be put on a list for the vaccine.
5. Call the Office of Aging if you are 60+ years old at 432-9041. They can offer some information and limited transportation assistance.
6. Call Get There at 1-855-373-4040. This government-funded organization can offer transportation to vaccine sites.

If you are able to use a computer

1. Check the local Bassett Hospital sites on this web page.
2. <https://www.bassett.org/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine>.
3. Check Otsego County health Department site for links to state clinics and pharmacy clinics.
4. https://www.otsegocounty.com/departments/d-m/health_department/covid-19_vaccination_clinics.php
5. Sign up for an account at Walgreens to schedule a vaccine appointment (if available).
6. https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19?ban=covid_vaccine_landing_schedule

We can all agree on how frustrating this process can be and if we can help please contact any one of us. We will try to assist if we can and help find transportation to the vaccine sites.

Karen Anderson 437-1757 or anderson.karen@gmail.com

Adelaide and Bruce Van Buren 435-8575 or vanburen.bruce@gmail.com

Sharry Strait-Carey 434-5234 or sharrysc9@hotmail.com

Marty Becker 432-4917 or marty.vlb@gmail.com

Do you need help doing your taxes? Attached to this email is a flyer about free tax preparation through Hartwick College. If you are interested, send an email to: vita@hartwick.edu to make a reservation rather than calling Hartwick directly. There is not enough staff to handle the calls. Unfortunately, Hartwick cannot provide any in-person service this year due to COVID restrictions. Participants must have access to email and the internet.