

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ONEONTA, NEW YORK



John August Swanson, Peaceable Kingdom

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table —
Yes, I'm gonna sit at the welcome table
One of these days, hallelujah.

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table —
Gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.

Welcome to church! Grace and peace to you.

First United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation affirming all persons without regard to race, age, gender, sexual orientation, handicapping conditions, economics or any of the other divisions separating God's family. We are a Covenant Church of Habitat for Humanity, part of Campus Ministry, a Covenant to Care Church for persons with HIV/AIDS, and a founding church of Saturday's Bread.

In the spirit of Jesus, special care is offered including hearing devices, large print bulletins, seat cushions, an elevator between floors, and a ramp to street level. Simply ask an usher for help. A church pick-up service runs to and from the 10:00 a.m. service. Call the office, weekday or Sunday, to bring it to your home.

The presence of children is appreciated at every gathering of this church. For parents who wish child care, it is available at both services, for children grade 1 and younger.

The lounge on the east side of the sanctuary is a welcome spot for any who would like soft chairs, proximity to a rest room, or space for little ones to move around. "Pew Packs" with crayons, paper & activities for young children are available from one of the ushers

Prayer request cards are in the pews; to have a request mentioned this morning, hand it to an usher before service or during the Children's Message. Pastoral care is offered to everyone. Again, call the office for an appointment.

The words by which we address God are deeply personal, yet never capable of encompassing the Infinite. We make every attempt to use inclusive language while remembering some of the traditional forms. You are encouraged to substitute verbal symbols which are meaningful to you.

May God encompass us today, drawing us closer to each other, and sending us out to the work of Shalom.

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Church Address:
Church Office Phone:
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CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK - August 29, 2010

SUNDAY:	8:30 am 10:00 am	Worship (Embury) Worship (Sanctuary)
MONDAY:	7:00 pm 7:00 pm	- Office Closed - Mission Commission N.A.
TUESDAY:	9am-1pm 6:30 pm	Oneonta District (Parish House, 1 st Fl.) Committee on Lay Leadership
WEDNESDAY:	9am-1pm 5-7:30 pm 7:00 pm	Oneonta District (Parish House, 1 st Fl.) NAMI (Parish House) Springbrook Art Class
THURSDAY:		
FRIDAY:	7:00 pm	N.A.
SATURDAY:	11am-1pm 2-4:30 pm	Saturday's Bread NAMI (Parish House)
Sunday, Sept. 5 Holy Communion	8:30 am 10:00 am	Worship (Embury) Worship (Sanctuary)
Monday, Sept. 6 <i>Labor Day</i>	7:00 pm	— Office Closed — N.A.
Tuesday, Sept. 7	6-8 pm	Oneonta Piecemaker Quilters
Wed. Sept. 8	10:00 am 7:15 pm	LaLeche League (Pre-K room) Sanctuary Choir

Summer Worship Hours: 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Church School resumes September 12

ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 29, 2010

8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

[Prayer request forms are located in the pew racks. If you have a prayer request, please hand it to an usher during the time of the Children's Message.]

[Note: Headings listed in *italics* are unique to the 10:00 a.m. service of worship]

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Pastoral Welcome and Service Introduction

Celebrating the Life of This Community of Faith (Announcements)

Prelude

"Cortege"

Dale Wood

(let us in silence prepare our hearts for worship)

*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 81)

Leader: Sing aloud to God our strength and shout with joy:

ALL: God, our Host, welcomes us.

Leader: God reminds us, "I brought you out of the land of Egypt and fed you along the way."

ALL: When we opened our mouths, God filled us with good things.

Leader: God calls us to walk the path of faithfulness, trusting the promise:

ALL: A feast for all - freshly baked bread, hot from the oven, and sweet honey to satisfy our hunger. Let us worship God!

*Hymn #579

Carey's (Surrey)

"Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here"

*Opening Prayer

Hospitable God, you invite us to a banquet where the last may be first, and the humble and the mighty trade places. Let us share your abundance with no fear of scarcity; let us greet strangers as angels you have sent! Send your Spirit now so that we may find a place at your table and welcome others with radical hospitality. In the name of Jesus, Guest at all our tables, we pray. Amen.

[*The Passing of the Peace will be later in the service.*]

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Children's Message

[Children are welcome, always, to be present and participate in our worship services. Childcare is provided for children grade 1 and younger following the Children's Message. "Pew Packs" with children's activities are also available at the entrances for children to use during the service.]

First Scripture: Hebrews 13:1-8; 15-16

*Gospel Lesson: Luke 14:1, 7-14

*Hymn #339

"Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast"

Hursley

Sermon

Rev. Teresa Sivvers

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Sharing Radical Hospitality With Each Other

You are invited to come circle the table. Greet one another, share in the bounty before us. Let us take time to greet with the love of Christ overflowing from us.

Please print out your prayer requests on the slips of paper in your bulletin and as you come to share hospitality and welcome with one another, place your prayers in the basket.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

"Our Loving Father and Mother, who art in heaven...

The Offering *Please sign and pass the attendance pads at the end of the row, leaving messages for the pastor/staff if you wish*

[The "Jingle" of loose change in the offering plates during August will go to support the Jail Ministry of Otsego County.]

Invitation to Give Our Gifts

Offertory

"Pavane"

Robert Elmore

*Thanksgiving

**Praise God, that we are called to care;
Praise God, that we have gifts to share;
Praise God, who sends us on our way
In ministry with Christ today.**

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Dear God, you have offered us a place at the table and you have called us to share without expectation of being repaid. You have called us to make a place for the poor, the outcast and the oppressed. So we ask that you bless these resources so that they might support ministries of compassion and justice until all of your children have a place at the table. Amen.

*Hymn #2175 (black hymnal) *"Together We Serve"*

San Anselmo

*The Good Word

Postlude

"Festal March"

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STEWARDSHIP REPORT

This is the last week for the "Jingle" of loose change in the offering plates for Otsego County Jail Ministry. To date, \$\$123.30 has been donated.

*"Generosity is the first step towards peace."
(Buddhist saying)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Pakistan Flood Relief - TODAY, August 29, we will be taking a special offering for UMCOR designated for Pakistan Flood Relief. The monies collected will be taken to the NY Annual Conference Session on Saturday, September 11 and will be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to support its work with those ravaged by the flooding and its aftermath. Widespread flood damage, water-borne diseases and lack of clean water and shelter threaten the lives of millions. Together, we can make a difference. Checks should be made payable to 1st United Methodist Church with "Pakistan Flood Relief" in the memo box.



Request from Phil Young - It is that time of year when I'm asking for flier inserts from any newspapers till the Sunday, Sept. 5. These are the coupon/slick surface additions or Parade, etc. added to your newspapers, advertising foods for humans and pets, porcelain figurines, etc. I will take as many as I can get for an assignment for one of my classes. I can pick them up at church. If there's any questions, let me know (433-1169). — *Phil*



Reduce! Recycle! Reuse! - the **Annual Fall Rummage, Book & Bake Sale** will be held on **September 23 & 24**. The stage in Fellowship Hall is ready and waiting for all of your donations. Please, no broken items, non-working electrical items or clothes that are ripped or stained or in poor condition. The **Book Sale** will be the same days - so sort through your bookshelves [You may even find some that need to be returned to the church library!] No encyclopedias or text books, please.



The Bible in 90 Days coming to 1st UMC - *The Bible in 90 Days* is a Bible READING curriculum. It helps people read *attentively* the entire Bible -- from cover to cover -- in 90 days. Churches across denominations, prisons, drug rehab missions, corporate Bible studies and neighborhood small groups have all used the curriculum successfully to help people read the entire Bible. Recently, small towns have begun inviting their citizens to do this curriculum. To date, groups have ranged from 2 people to 1000 people. (No kidding). They span 47 states and several foreign countries. A local ministerium is encouraging the Oneonta community to engage in such an endeavor across denominations and in secular groups. The purpose is not to convert or push a certain understanding, but to encourage people to read a book that is quoted and alluded to over and over again in everyday life, but rarely read through in its entirety. *The Bible in 90 Days* is NOT a speed-read through the Bible. Rather, it's akin to reading the Bible like a novel. Each participant reads on his or her own, then gathers once a week with other participants. The weekly meetings include guided small group discussion, activities, and a video lesson. For most people, the fellowship, accountability and material shared during the weekly meetings is CRUCIAL to their successfully reading the entire Bible. **First United Methodist Church will offer the Whole Church Challenge to read the bible in 90 days. Two information sessions will be held so that you can learn more before deciding if this is for you. Our first sessions will be Tuesday, September 14 at 6:30 pm at Capresso's Coffee House (215 Main Street - back lounge) and Sunday, September 19 at 9:30 am in the Thomas Coke Room.** Choose either date and come and find out if this is a small group experience for you. Please sign up at the Church office so we have an idea of the number attending.

SCRIPTURE — August 29, 2010

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Nathan Nettleton, Laughingbird Resources

See to it that love continues to run both ways in all your dealings with one another. Don't limit your hospitality to your friends. Some people who have welcomed strangers into their homes were actually opening their doors to God's messengers without realizing it. Keep standing up for those who are in detention, just as you would if you were locked up with them. Imagine yourselves in the shoes of those who are being harshly mistreated and work for them accordingly. Don't let out of sight mean out of mind!

..... See to it that the vowed life of marriage is treated with the respect it deserves. Protect the sacredness of the sexual intimacy within vowed relationships. God will sort out those who drag sex into the mire of selfishness, dishonesty and betrayal. Keep the lust for money right out of your lives. Be satisfied with what you have, trusting in God's promise to never let you down or abandon you. We can say with confidence: *"The Lord looks after me; I've got nothing to fear. What harm can anyone do me?"*

..... Remember your leaders through whom you heard God's message. Watch the way they live and note what comes of it. Model yourselves on their example of faith. Such examples don't go out of date, because Jesus Christ is the same now as he always was and always will be. Let us continue to offer the gift of praise to God through Christ. Keeping God's name on our lips is a real gift, but it is not the only gift that matters. Don't overlook the importance of sharing what you have and working for the good of others, because these too are gifts that delight God. **Leader: Thanks be to God..... People: Amen**

Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely....When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

Leader: Thanks be to God..... People: Amen