

Advent I



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 11:00 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.



Church Address:
Church Office Phone:
Church e-mail:
Church Web Page

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(607) 432-4102
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<http://www.firstumc-oneonta.org>

First United Methodist Church
Oneonta NY

First Sunday in Advent and World AIDS Day

December 1, 2013

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Notes: Headings listed in *italics* are unique to the 11:00 a.m. service of worship.

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.

If you are a visitor or member that would like to leave a message for the office or one of the pastors, please use the "Welcome" card located in the pew racks and at the entrances to our worship areas.

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Pastoral Welcome and Announcements

Invitation to Silent Prayer

Prelude "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Gregory Hamilton

*Call to Worship (congregation response in **bold** type)

In Advent we watch and wait, and prepare to welcome the Christ Child into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

In Advent we prepare for a life of discipleship and watch faithfully for signs of God's light breaking into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

As we wait, dear One, we watch for signs of your action in the world, actions of compassion and grace breaking in.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Holy God, we recognize that we do not know the day or the hour, but we know that the day is near.

Come, Lord Jesus, come! Be born anew in our world and in our lives.

*Hymn #196

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Hyfrydol

*Opening Prayer

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Time With Children and Youth

[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 available at the entrances for children to use during the service.]

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Isaiah 2:1-5

Sung Response #218 (v. 4) "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

*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 soon the angels sing.*

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, Come! Amen!

Epistle Reading: Romans 13:8-14

NRSV

Responsive Psalm 122

"Let Us Go Rejoicing"

Michael Joncas
Cantor: Kathy Chase

Let us go re - joic - ing to the house of the Lord;

Let us go re - joic - ing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to the house of the Lord." and now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**
2. Jerusalem is a city built with unity and strength. It is there, it is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. **R.**
3. For Israel's law is to praise God's name and there to give God thanks. There are set the judgement thrones for all of David's house. **R.**
4. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May those who love you prosper; May peace ever reign within your walls, and wealth within your buildings. **R.**
5. For love of my fam'ly and love of my friends, I pray that peace be yours. **R.**

*Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

The Inclusive New Testament

*Hymn #209

"Blest Be the God of Israel"

Merle's Tune

Sermon

"Be Prepared"

Rev. Teresa Sivers

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Pastor: In your mercy.....**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Call to Give of Our Resources and Ourselves

[The "Jingle" of loose change in the offering plates during December will go to support 1st UMC's Secret Santa Fund.]

Offertory

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Paul Manz

*Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Old 100th

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

May the Lord of Advent be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your waiting hearts.

We lift them up to the One whose heart longs for us.

People of God, give thanks to the One who draws near to us.

Let us go to God's Table to offer our thanks and praise.

It is always good and right to stand in your house of peace with thanksgiving on our lips, Holy God. When chaos threatened to rule, you raised up creation, validating it with your Word. Standing within the gates of Eden, we were bound firmly together with you, your love and grace as close as the breath of the Spirit. If we had known that sin and death would come to steal us away from you, we could have been prepared. But they swept us away in the flood of their temptations, and we didn't know how to resist.

Your prophets were sent forth to teach us your ways, but we clung to the fading shadows of our rebellious lives. Finally, you sent Jesus to remind us that it was time to become your children once again.

Therefore, we come to you, our songs of thanksgiving and our prayers for peace mingling with those of every time and place:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, Peace of Jerusalem. All creation flows toward you.
Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who will teach us to turn our
weapons into instruments of healing and hope. Hosanna in the highest!**

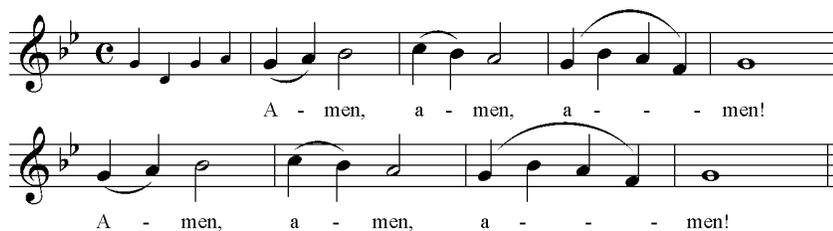
Holy are you, God who comes to us, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Salvation. When we seek evil for those around us, Jesus takes the time to teach us to do good. When we went as far away from you as we could, Jesus came to bring redemption close to our hearts.

As we remember Emmanuel coming to us, we would keep awake, preparing ourselves to live out that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, walking in God's path; Christ is risen, walking in the light of God;
Christ will return for the sake of the house of God.**

In this time of anticipation, send your Spirit upon the gifts of the bread and of the cup, and on those who gather around the Table of Joy. Besides this, send your gifts when we least expect them: the gift of peace, that we might turn Humvees into harvesters of reconciliation; the gift of hope, that we might transform weapons into harps and guitars; the gift of time, that we might be prepared to serve all who come to us in their brokenness and despair.

Then, when that day and hour come, and we are gathered with our family, our enemies, and our friends, around the Feast in Heaven, we will be bound firmly together for all eternity with you, walking in your Light, as we sing forever of God in Community, Holy in One.



The Lord's Prayer (hymnal #895)

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

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(Please come forward as the ushers direct to receive the bread and cup. If it is difficult for you to come forward, let an usher know and the elements will be brought to you.)

*Hymn #202

"People Look East"

Besançon

*The Good Word

*Postlude

"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"

Gilbert M. Martin

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The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of Helen Slocum on the anniversary of her birthday, given by her daughter, Ann Slocum.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2014 Giving Envelopes - 2014 Giving Envelopes are available in the sanctuary across from the columbarium. Please be sure to print your name on the sheet that will be with them and indicate if you took weekly (boxed), monthly or quarterly envelopes. Also include your envelope number if you know it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bishop Webb to Visit 1st UMC - Next Sunday, December 8 we will be hosting our Upper New York Conference Bishop, Mark J. Webb, who will speak at our **10:00 a.m. service (one service that day)** followed by a luncheon featuring a Brooks' chicken dinner plus a vegetarian option. If you wish, bring a dessert to share **for** a dessert buffet table (please specify if your dessert has nuts or is gluten-free. Please plan to attend to welcome him. A special pre-worship discussion will take place at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Deadline for lunch reservations is Tuesday, December 3. Cards were mailed early last week with the invitation and the Advent brochure. If you are an email subscriber, you may pick up that information today.

If you have a rainbow stole, be sure to wear it!



Alternate Gifts - If you wish to have a memorial/honor recognition listed in the December 15 bulletin, please make sure you have filled out a form available on the back of the calendar insert in today's bulletin or at the table in Fellowship Hall where the Alternate gifts cards are being offered.

Monday, December 9 is the cut-off date for publication. If you are ordering a poinsettia, that order must be placed by December 9. Alternate gift cards may be purchased through the Sunday before Christmas. All checks should be made out to First UMC with the designated charity in memo.



If you an on-line subscriber to our newsletter, your Advent brochure and invitation to the Bishop's Luncheon next Sunday were not mailed to you and is also not available on-line due to technical difficulties. So, if you are going to join us for the luncheon, please fill in one of the response cards that are located at the entrances to our worship areas. You may choose the Brooks' chicken dinner or a vegetarian or vegan option. Advent brochures are also available if you didn't receive one in the mail.



Advent Devotionals - In addition to our Upper Room devotional guides, we have a variety of Advent daily devotional booklets available for your Advent time of prayer and reflection. There are titles for children, youth and adults. Help yourself! We also offer an on-line devotion that features daily reflections from *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. You can access it through our facebook page (First UMC Oneonta) or firstumconeonta.blog.com.



Advent! - Today is the first Sunday in Advent and our "Jingle" of loose change in the offering plates will be designated for our "Secret Santa" fund that provides gift cards for individuals and families that need a little extra help during the season. If you know of a family that should be considered, please contact one of our pastors.



Head Start "Giving Tree" -First UMC once again has a Giving Tree for the Head Start children in our community. Parents have listed their child's favorite character if you want to buy clothes with characters on them. We have a variety of toys that were donated after the program ended last year if you would like to see if there is something that would match the 'wish list' for your child. They are displayed in the small nursery downstairs.. To put a smile on a child's face on Christmas Day, just take a tag from the Giving Tree, sign your name on the sheet of paper that has a list of the children by name and number code, and return the wrapped gift (with the tag) to the church by Sunday, Dec 15. Thank You.



"Giving Tuesday" December 3 - The General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church invites you to participate in UMC #GivingTuesday, when gifts made online through The Advance will be matched dollar for dollar. UMC #GivingTuesday offers an opportunity to start off the holiday season by giving instead of getting through supporting organizations that are transforming the world. This is a great opportunity to build awareness and maximize support for a project or missionary that is meaningful to you. - See more at www.umcmmission.org/give and choose the site entitled "Giving Tuesday General Board of Global Ministries" where you will find out how to donate and access all of the Advance projects which include UMCOR. Once in the category you are exploring you will find other links to projects.



Boomerangs! - Our UMW candy makers are making batches of boomerangs for Christmas giving. Cost is \$5.00 a dozen - to order call Irene Morrissey (432-7932) or Dottie Lawson (432-0904).



Madrigal Dinner - It's back! The Musical Madrigal Dinner put on by Dr. Jason Leo Curley and the Hartwick College Music will take place in our Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday December 4th** with seating starting at 6:00 pm and dinner/show time beginning at 6:30pm. Ticket prices are Adults \$25, Seniors 65+ and high school students \$20, age 12 and under \$12 and family of four pack for just \$65. Please see Jeff in the main office at FUMC, by email at jeff@firstumc-oneonta.org or by phone at 432-4102. Checks should be payable to Hartwick College with Madrigal Dinner in memo.



United Methodist Women's Holiday Dinner - All women and their friends are invited to attend the U.M.W. Holiday Dinner on **Tuesday, December 10** in Fellowship Hall. Come celebrate the holidays with dinner and entertainment. We encourage you to invite someone who may not have been at the dinner before as your guest. Donation bowls will be available to defray the cost of the meal. The entertainment will feature *Dana Huyge* in a holiday presentation. Special Mission Recognition Awards will be presented.



Community Christmas Carol - Our annual gift of music to the community will be on **Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 p.m.** Come enjoy the offerings of our handbell choirs, vocalists, the Pathfinder Village Ringers, and more. This year we will not be requiring tickets. Following the concert, you are invited to join in a pot-luck supper before heading home or attending the 5:30 praise service.



Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candlelighting - On **Sunday, December 8, 2013** the Compassionate Friends of the Oneonta Region will join with chapters around the world to observe the Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting. **The ceremony will be held at 2:30 PM in the Embury Room** at First United Methodist Church. Anyone, who has lost a child of any age, is invited to attend. The service will include candle lighting and sharing memories of our children. Please bring a small picture of your son or daughter to display as you light a candle in their memory. Grandparents, siblings and other close relatives and friends are also welcome. For more information call Paula at 433-2492 or visit our website at <http://external.oneonta.edu/tcfoneonta/SERVICE11.html>



Youth Café - Mark your calendars! Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to a Cookie Decorating Party on **Friday, December 13**; and then to a Christmas Party on **Friday, December 20**. Activities run from 7-10 p.m. and are open to all youth grades 6-12.



Craft Sales: On **Saturday, Dec. 7**, two of our neighboring faith communities are having craft & bazaar sales: The Unitarian Universalist Society's sale (16 Ford Ave.) will be from 10 am -4 pm and the 1st Presbyterian church (296 Main St.) will hold its bazaar also from 10am-4pm.

SCRIPTURE READING — December 1, 2013

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. God shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

NRSV, adapted

Matthew 24:36-44

No one knows that day and that hour—not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten—only Abba God. The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming.

Reader: Thanks be to God....**People: Amen.**

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK - December 1, 2013

SUNDAY:	8:30 & 11am	Worship
<i>1st Sunday in Advent</i>	9:30 am	Church School
<i>World AIDS Day</i>	4:00 pm	Church School
	4:45 pm	Fellowship Meal (by donation)
	5:30 pm	“The Gathering” Worship
	6:30 pm	Credo Class and Adult Study Class
	6:30 pm	JMOC Men’s Support Group
MONDAY:	4:30 pm	Bhala’s Dance Class
	5:00 pm	Friends of Christmas
	6:00 pm	Girl Scout Troop #132
	7:00 pm	N.A. (Parish House)
TUESDAY:	12 noon	Trustees Luncheon
	5:00 pm	Catskill Choral Society Rehearsal
	6:00 pm	Oneonta Piecemaker Quilters
	7:00 pm	Klipnocky Klangerd
	7:00 pm	Reconciling Ministries Team
WEDNESDAY:	9:00 am	Buckingham Ringers
	10:00 am	Art Class
	11:00 am	Paradis Ensemble
	3:30 pm	Asbury Ringers
	5:00 pm	La Leche League
	5:30 pm	FSA Parenting Class (Parish House)
	6:00 pm	Hartwick College Madrigal Dinner
	7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir
THURSDAY:	9:00 am	FSA Parenting Class (Parish House)
	4:00 pm	Oneonta Concert Association
	6:00 pm	Catskill Choral Society Board
	7:00 pm	Mission and Outreach Team
	7:00 pm	Syncopation
FRIDAY:	7:30 pm	Catskill Choral Society Concert
	7:00 pm	Credo Class visit to Temple Beth El
	7:00 pm	N.A. (Parish House)
SATURDAY:	10:00 am	Ms. Bhala’s Flyingdancers
	11am-1pm	Saturday’s Bread
	12:30 pm	Change Ringers Practice
	3:00 pm	Catskill Choral Society Concert
Sunday, Dec. 8:	10:00 am	One Service followed by luncheon
<i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i>	6:30 pm	JMOC Men’s Support Group



POINSETTIAS & GIFTS

Christmas plants may be ordered through the church office. Poinsettias may be ordered through **Sunday, Dec. 8th**. Wreaths have been ordered for the doors from the Oneonta Schools "Dollars for Scholars" program and will be paid for with donations to the sanctuary decorating fund (below). You may also provide your own plant, or choose an alternative giving fund.

			Red	White
Poinsettias:	6½" pot	\$10.00 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	8" pot	\$20.00 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	10" pot	\$25.00 _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I will provide my own poinsettia		<input type="checkbox"/>	

(must be at church by noon, **Fri. December 13.**)

Alternate Gifts

Church World Service Blankets	\$ _____
Jamaica School Project	\$ _____
1 st UMC Energy Assistance Fund	\$ _____
Heifer Project International	\$ _____
Other: _____	\$ _____

I am donating \$ _____ to be used as needed to decorate.

All memorial/honor information (below) needs to be given to the church secretary no later than Monday, December 9 for publication.

GIVEN BY _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

_____ I will pick up my plant after the 10 pm Dec. 24 Service.

_____ I will arrange to have someone take my plant to

_____ I will leave my plant at the church.