



**Combined Worship with First Presbyterian
at First United Presbyterian ("Red Door")**
381 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820
www.reddoorchurch.info

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10 AM - Sunday, September 6, 2026**

Rev. Mark Montfort, Liturgist
Jean Giuda, Director of Music/Musician
The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Walton-Leavitt, Pastor

THE LITURGY

Order of Worship

*** - You are invited to stand.**

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SENTENCES OF MEDITATION

Our life of faith is ultimately found in the radical and inclusive love of God.
For Christians we find this radical, inclusive love in Jesus Christ.
His life, death and resurrection models a love that breaks down barriers –
and fulfills the law. ~Joann Haejong Lee

PRELUDE (G267)

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Pepper Choplin

GATHERING

WELCOME, everyone, to this time of worship. We are delighted to have you with us this morning! We are here to praise God and to enjoy one another's fellowship as we serve both God and our neighbor.

In-person worship is in the Sanctuary. Face masks available.

OR, join us online or by phone using Google Meet.

Every Sunday -- Same Link: meet.google.com/viu-hpxa-mjq

By Phone: +1 301-857-2390 // PIN: 931 769 968#

Please note: All virtual attendees (by phone or online) will be muted once service begins.

For Joys & Concerns: Enter in CHAT – OR unmute to share during Prayers of the People.

As always -- all are welcome. Invite a friend to join us!

See Calendar at end of the worship portion of this bulletin.

Let us now prepare our hearts for worship by listening to the Introit.

INTROIT (G472)

Kum ba Yah

African American spiritual

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Responsive reading Psalm 149:1, 4-5; 119:40*)

Liturgist

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: Sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful,
for the Lord takes pleasure in the people.**

Leader: Let the faithful sing for joy.

People: With our whole heart, we will turn to you and live!

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose ways are far beyond our understanding,
 help us to trust your judgments so that we may do your will by loving you
 and one another.

In the name of Jesus we pray. And let all the people say: **Amen.**

All are invited to sing Hymn No. 203 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

* GTG No. 203 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* *Colvin/Ghanaian folk*

Refrain: **Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
 show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

**Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
 Master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain***

**Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race;
 neighbors are near us and far away. *Refrain***

**These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love;
 all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain***

**Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others' feet;
 this is the way we should live like you. *Refrain***

WORD

Please join me in reading our Prayer of Illumination. [PAUSE] *Let us pray...*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *(in unison)*

Liturgist

**Holy Spirit, as your word is read and preached --
 pass among your gathered people -- opening minds to increase
 understanding -- opening hearts to bind us together in your love. Amen.**

CONVERSATION with ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:15-20 *(page 20/NT in pew Bibles)*

Liturgist

This is the Word of the Lord. [PAUSE] ALL: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION based Romans 13:8-14 *(page 162/NT in pew Bibles)*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(Living Faith from Presbyterian Church in Canada)*

Leader: We bow before the mystery of God's love. From it came our creation.

By it we are daily nurtured. Through it we find salvation.

A consuming fire of purity, God's love is yet warm and
 gentle compassion.

People: We respond to the God who is love by loving in return.

Leader: Love means seeking the best for others and is the mark of a Christian.
Love for God leads to love for others.

**People: We cannot claim to love God, whom we do not see,
if we hate those about us, whom we do see.**

ALL: Love of God and of neighbour fulfills the law of God.

* GTG Hymn No. 693

Though I May Speak

Hopson/English folk

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift of all inspire --
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within -- the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

THANKSGIVING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Expecting Birth: Paul Rosa's friend: Sierra Rain Boyce (*Photography Teacher*)

Health & wholeness: Rebecca L; Madeline B; Dick; Evelyn (*Ruth's relative*); Kyden (*Bobbie's relative*); Candace (*Thais/Jan's friend*); Peggy (*Bev's relative*); Enid C (*former SC, lay preacher*); Janet S (*Cynthia's friend*); Sharon (*John B's relative*); Ralph V (*Patty W's relative*); Antoinette (*Barb's friend*); Stuart/Allen (*Brandie's relatives*); Emma (*Jan's friend*); Alfred/ Michael/Bill & son-Billie (*Paul R's friend/ relatives*); Shirley & Bob G and Grace (*Goble's relative*)

Grieving: All those missing loved ones.

Homebound/Rehab/Managed Care: Judy C (*and Dick, her primary caregiver*)

Traveling mercies for all those on the move this season – near and far.

In Presbytery: Presbytery Assembly on Saturday, Sept. 12th and campus ministries we support at Cornell University, Ithaca College, Cortland College, Delhi College, Binghamton University

In our community and country: Military personnel serving in USA and abroad.

Hate Speech: Change hearts of those who promote hate -- and comfort victims of it.

Violence in our country: Pray for victims, perpetrators – and solutions.

In the World: Prayers for *shalom* – peace, justice, and healing in the world.

Lives torn apart by hostilities: Middle East, Sudan, Ukraine, and all places in conflict.

Climate change concerns and disasters, past and pending...

First Church of Chiang Mai (Church of Christ of Thailand): Missionaries sent to Mongolia

World Council of Churches Prayer Cycle: Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts*) (GTG page 35)

[A time of silence may follow each intercession.]

Let us pray ...

God of grace and steadfast love,
we thank you for calling us to live honorably with one another
and pray for your grace as we try to do all that you require of us.

Increase in us the capacity to love you and our neighbors without reserve
and to love even those who harm us with our whole hearts.
We bring before you the cares, the concerns, and the joys that occupy us...

We pray for nations in the midst of internal or external struggles and conflict.
We remember before you those who are at odds with one another –
broken relationships in families, in neighborhoods, offices, schools,
and even in the church.

Teach us, O God, to seek nonviolent ways toward resolution.
Help us to speak the truth –
and to listen with understanding when perspectives are far apart.
We pray for love to bring peace into every troubled heart and place.

We remember before you those who have physical needs today.
People who are hungry and thirsty;
people who are exhausted by the demands of work or caregiving;
people who are sick -- undergoing surgery – recovery – or live with chronic pain.
Bring relief and rest, we pray.

We remember those weighed down with needs of heart and soul.
A worry that keeps them awake at night...
a grief that accompanies them everywhere we go...
depression that clouds them... or an addiction that grips them...

Lift all of these heavy burdens with the light and peace of your presence, we pray.
Sustain us over the long journey toward health –
and give us trust in you – ourselves -- and those who love us.

We remember before you not only our cares, but also our joys --
a birthday celebrated -- an anniversary enjoyed...
new beginnings -- a baby born -- a new school year begun -- a new job --
a new relationship.

We thank you, O God, for the gift of laughter -- for enduring friendships --
and for cherished memories.

We give thanks that with you there is always a new beginning,
a way where it appears there is no way -- hope beyond hope --
and life beyond death.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, we pray:

Our Father 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.



* **GLORY TO GOD** (GTG No. 582, vs. 1)

Vasile

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

MOMENT for MISSION: World Communion Offering

Jan Andrews

Our September mission emphasis is the World Communion Offering which will be dedicated on Sunday, October 3rd – World Communion Sunday.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Paul's counsel to the church in Rome was this:

"Owe no one anything, except to love one another."

So come, let us love one another -- and all in God's world
by sharing what we have been given so that needs are met
and the gospel is proclaimed.

SPECIAL MUSIC (G637)*O Sing to the Lord*

Cartford

Tithe and Offering Options:

Sanctuary: Offering plates (and envelopes) are near the exit doors.

- U.S. Post to FUPC at 2 Walling Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820
- QR Code (Quick Response Code): This is **our unique QR code** →
- Vanco Mobile Faith app can be downloaded on your Smartphone.
Type in "Oneonta" to find our church.
- Computer: **New web address for donation** is the following Vanco link – which can also be found on our website: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZD01>
- Bill Pay: Use your bank's online bill pay system.
- Electronic funds transfer: Set up from your savings or checking account.

**PRAYER of DEDICATION of our GIFTS**

Let us pray.

God of our salvation, we know what time it is –
time to wake from sleep and to turn from selfishness.

We offer now our time -- our talents -- and our resources
to be used for your good purposes and all for love's sake.

Through Jesus the Christ we pray -- and let all the people say: **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with you!

People: And also with you.

Leader: All are invited to exchange signs of Christ's peace and reconciling love.

* **GTG No. 731***Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm*

Leckebusch/Parry

**Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all around seem bleak;
on God's good promise they rely, so while they live and when they die
how forcefully they speak -- the strong who once were weak!**

**Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, beyond mere mortal sight:
who seek the city God has planned, the true, eternal promised land,
and steer on toward that light, a beacon ever bright.**

**Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a sparkling precious stone:
they show by what they say and do an inward beauty, warm and true,
for God's concerns they own: God's love through them is known.**

**Give thanks for saints of ages past and saints alive today:
though often by this world despised, their hearts by God
are richly prized.**

Give thanks that we may say we share their pilgrim way

SENDING

*** BLESSING AND CHARGE**

The love of God pursue you. The grace of Christ overtake you.
And the Holy Spirit flow through you, as love fills all in all.

God's commandments are an invitation to daily faithfulness.
Love God and your neighbor every day,
and you will fulfill all that God intends.

POSTLUDE (G463)

How Firm a Foundation

arr Phillip Keveren

TODAY

Lectionary: Exodus 12:1-14; Ps 149; 119:33-40; Ezekiel 33:7-11; Rom 13:8-14; Matt 18:15-20

10 AM Combined Morning Worship with First Presbyterian Church, Oneonta.

Liturgist: Rev. Mark Montfort

11:00 AM – Hospitality Time in social hall. *(weekly)*

THIS WEEK

Monday – Office Closed in observance of Labor Day.

Wednesday - 10:30 AM – CCAL Class 'Rather Be Reading' with Pat Norton-White in Blue Rm.

6:00 PM - Choir begins rehearsals in Music Room. All are invited to lift to joyful noise!

Thursdays - 10:00 AM – CCAL Class *Learn to Play Pinochle* with Paul Griswold / Rm 14

Saturday - 9:00 AM – Presbytery Assembly at our church. Volunteers needed: Outside Greeters (to direct where to park) -- Inside Greeters -- Registration/Lunch Ticket Sellers -- Lunch servers and clean-up.. For more info – contact Brandie or Carol in the office.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS 10:00 AM – FUPC

10:00 AM – ORPC

11:00 AM – Quakers

TUESDAYS 7:00 PM – AA Big Book

WEDNESDAYS 6:00 PM – Choir

FRIDAYS 6:30 PM AA (men's group)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary: Exodus 14:19-31; 15:1b-11, 20-21; Ps 114; 103:(1-7) 8-13; Genesis 50:15-21;
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

10 AM Morning Worship. Liturgist: Thais Burkhalter

Monday, September 14th

6:00 PM – FUP Book Club gathers in Blue Room to discuss Land by Maggie O'Farrell.
All are welcome. For more info, contact Rebecca.

Saturday, September 19th

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM – RAWtools Buffalo, a “guns to garden tools” event, at our church! Mark Stradley, counselor in the Buffalo Public Schools, will do a presentation and blacksmith demonstration. Free. Appropriate for all ages. For more info, contact Pastor Walton-Leavitt or RAWtools see at: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=7bFPu0v-rv4>

Upper Room Devotionals (September/October) are available on small table in front of the sanctuary and outside the church offices. Many find them to be a blessing.

Please notify Pastor Walton-Leavitt at 607-242-8184 (cell) or cynuff@aya.yale.edu
OR Carol Sprague, Office Administrator at 607-432-7520 or reddoorchurch@stny.rr.com
in case of illness or need of pastoral care.

ANNOUCEMENTS from FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

296 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820 // 607 432-4286 // fpco@verizon.net

Calendar: Sunday, September 6 - Sunday, September 13, 2026

Sunday, September 6

10am Worship Service WITH and at RED DOOR CHURCH.

both Rev. Mark and Rev. Dr. Cynthia Walton-Leavitt will be involved in the service.
6:00 pm Kirtan Event in the Social Hall

Monday, September 7	Labor Day – Office Closed
Tuesday, September 8	6:30pm Catskill Choral Society Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 9	7pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 10	5:30pm Body and Soul Dance, in the Social Hall
Saturday, September 12	9am Hybrid Presbytery Meeting, Red Door Church 2pm Oneonta Drum Circle in the Social Hall

Sunday, September 13

10:45am Worship Service with the Choir and Guest Preacher Ron Wood

Kathleen is off on Tuesday
Bill Roberts is on vacation until Thursday, September 17
Rev. Mark is away for continuing education September 8-17

The **Kirtan events**, formerly offered the first Sunday of the month at 6pm in the Sanctuary, will now be offered **twice a month at 6pm in the Social Hall**.
Next dates are: September 20 and October 4.
All are welcome to this Interfaith Devotional Music Meditation.

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship is offering: Protecting Children from Gun Violence Fall Action Circle. (See insert for more details)

This is offered 5 Wednesdays for 1 hour on Zoom (plus 1 hour of preparation)
Wednesday, September 30 – Wednesday, October 28
If interested, go to <https://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence-prevention#protecting-children-action-circles>

Moment for Mission: World Communion Offering

Sunday, September 6, 2026, offered by Jan Andrews

First United Presbyterian (the "Red Door" Church), Oneonta, NY



In 1980 the General Assembly adopted a policy paper called "*Peacemaking: The Believer's Calling*" – along with a special Peacemaking Offering. Our congregation participated in this offering for many years.

In 2014 this became the Peace & Global Witness Offering to broaden its scope and deepen its focus on global and local reconciliation. It was divided 3 ways:

- 50% supported the work for peace and reconciliation across the globe
- 25% went to mid councils to support peacemaking in their regions, and
- 25% of the Offering stayed with local congregations.

Each year Mission & Outreach recommended a local nonprofit or program as the recipient of our portion of the offering, including the Oneonta Teen Center, Jail Ministry of Otsego County, and Oneonta Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

The World Communion Offering is the first of a new schedule of three special PC(USA) offerings each year, which will continue to include the Christmas Joy and One Great Hour of Sharing offerings.

The World Communion Offering supports reconciliation efforts such as racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, ecumenical and interfaith relations. A grant program is now in place to apply for funds to support practical, community-based ministry efforts that reflect these values.'

The commitment to end gun violence is one of the ministries that falls under this umbrella. The PC(USA) urges congregations to take actions of their own to end gun violence, such as promoting secure gun storage, taking part in the Guns to Gardens initiative, or praying for the emotional, mental, and spiritual health of children growing up in an era rife with gun violence.

RAWtools Buffalo, a guns to garden tools event, is our congregation's response to live out our denomination's call to peacemaking by bringing gun violence awareness to our community.

Mark Stradley, a school counselor in the Buffalo Public Schools, trained himself in 2019 to be a blacksmith to address the pain of gun violence. He destroys donated firearms and turns them into garden tools and various artistic pieces.

Mark will do a presentation and a blacksmith demonstration on Saturday, September 19th at our church. It is appropriate for all ages. Hope you can join us!