**The “Red Door” Church**

**First United Presbyterian Church**

**381 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820**

[www.reddoorchurch.info](http://www.reddoorchurch.info)

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**10 AM - Sunday, September 14, 2025**

Emma Kirsch, Liturgist

Jean Giuda, Director of Music/Musician

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Walton-Leavitt,Pastor

**THE LITURGY**

Order of Worship

***\* - You are invited to stand.*** *OneLicense.net #A-724947*

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**SENTENCES OF MEDITATION**

Jesus gets in trouble with the religious authorities for the types of people He is hanging out with. Here’s the thing – everyone is welcome at the table with Jesus. Everyone. *– Mindy Clemons (Pastor, Global Methodist Church)*

**PRELUDE** (G442) *Just as I Am William B. Bradley*

**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-mjg](http://meet.google.com/viu-hpxa-mjg)

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

For Joys & Concerns: Please put a note in the CHAT -- OR alert the Social Media Usher that you would like to share something before the 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**  (G688) *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart Frederic Atkinson*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive reading from Luke 15)* Liturgist

Leader: Rejoice with me, people of God.

**People: God has gathered us in from the wilderness.**

Leader: Rejoice with me, people of God.

**People: God has swept away the darkness of the night.**

Leader: Rejoice with me, people of God.

**People: Today, there is joy in the presence of the angels.**

**OPENING PRAYER** Liturgist

Let us pray.

Gracious God, when our spirits lift at the beauty of the day,

you are Lord;

and when chaos threatens to overwhelm -- and we dread the next news cycle --

still, you are Lord.

Always you are creating, redeeming, sustaining.

Speak then your mercy into this place

until we discover the courage to open our eyes -- unclench our hands,

and move toward our neighbor in need,

until all the world rises and moves with the rhythm of your grace;

for we long to honor the name of Jesus, by whose breath we pray.

And let all the people say: **Amen.**

**All are invited to sing Hymn No. 620 *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven – vs. 1 & 2***

**\* GTG No. 620 *(vs. 1 & 2) Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*** *Lyte/Goss*

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring;**

**ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress;**

**praise him still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness.**

**WORD**

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

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** *(in unison)* Liturgist

**Holy God, by the gift of your Spirit show us the truth that you desire and teach us wisdom in our hearts.**

**Let us hear with joy and gladness the Word that you speak today; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**EPISTLE READING:**  1 Timothy 1:12-17 *(page 208/NT in pew Bibles)* Liturgist

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

**CONVERSATION with ALL GOD’s CHILDREN**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** based Luke 15:1-10 *(page 78/NT in pew Bibles)*

**\*AFFIRMATION of FAITH** *Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief (PCC)*

Leader: God has given us the law to show us how to live.

Yet we are unable to keep the Ten Commandments, and

we do not love God without reserve, nor our neighbor as ourselves.

Above all, our sin is exposed by the perfect life of Christ.

**People: Jesus was truly human. Jesus understands us.**

**He felt the joy of friendship -- the pain of rejection…**

**Neither temptation nor threat prevented him from loving God**

**and his neighbor as himself.**

**He showed us what it means to be a child of God.**

**\* 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.**

**THANKSGIVING**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

***Expecting Births:*** Kimmy & Ryan Alsheimer *(Pastor of ORPC)* twins due in November.

***Health & wholeness:*** Laura Hansel; John Brooks; Russ Rowlands *(Deb Fleming’s brother);* Mike *(Jo Ann’s husband);* Harold *(Nadine’s brother);* Teresa *(Morell’s friend);* Tracy *(Elaine B’s friend);* Alysa/Loretta *(Larry’s friends);* Antoinette *(Barb’s friend);* Stuart/Allen *(Brandie’s relatives)*; Emma *(Jan’s friend);* Linda/ Timothy/Bobby/Alfred/Billy & Son/ Meno/Shirley/Michael *(Paul R’s friends/ relatives);* Tim/ Grady/Joe/ Peg/Tina/Paul *(Jones' friends/ relatives);* Grace *(Goble’s grand-child)*

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

***Grieving:***  West Delhi UP church family and friends of Elder Randy Sherwood – and all those who are missing loved ones.

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

***In Presbytery:*** FUPC (“Red Door”), Oneonta; Pastor Cynthia Walton-Leavitt and Session

***In our community and country:***

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

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

Unhoused neighbors: All God’s children both seen and unseen among us…

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

Lives torn apart by hostilities: Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, Sudan and places in conflict.

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

World Council of Churches Prayer Cycle: [Ghana, Nigeria](https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/ghana-nigeria)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER** *(debts)**(Glory pg. 35)*

*[A time of silence may follow each intercession.]*

Let us pray.

God of grace, hear our prayers for your church, your world –

and all those whom we love – and ought to love.

Have mercy, O God, **according to your steadfast love.**

We pray for those who face disaster:

deliver them from evil by your mighty hand.

Have mercy, O God, **according to your steadfast love.**

We pray for those who are lost or lonely:

seek them out and bring them home to safety.

Have mercy, O God, **according to your steadfast love.**

We pray for those who suffer persecution and violence:

help them and heal them.

Have mercy, O God, **according to your steadfast love.**

We pray for those who are poor and hungry:

provide for them by your generous Spirit.

Have mercy, O God, **according to your steadfast love.**

We pray for those who cannot believe:

be their refuge and show them your grace.

Have mercy, O God, **according to your steadfast love.**

According to your abundant mercy –

receive all these prayers and accomplish your purpose in us.

In Jesus’ name and by the power of your Holy Spirit we are bold to pray together:



**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.**

**\* GTG No. 769 *(vs. 1, 4-5)* *For Everyone Born*** *Murray/Mann*

**For everyone born, a place at the table,**

**for everyone born, clean water and bread,**

**a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,**

**for everyone born, a star overhead,**

*Refrain:* **and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,**

**compassion and peace:**

**yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!**

**For just and unjust, a place at the table,**

**abuser, abused, with need to forgive,**

**in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,**

**for just and unjust, a new way to live,** *(Refrain)*

**For everyone born, a place at the table,**

**to live without fear, and simply to be,**

**to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,**

**for everyone born, the right to be free,***(Refrain)*

**MOMENT for MISSION: Being the “Hope Bearers”** Rebecca LaBarr

September’s monthly mission emphasis is Peace & Global Witness (PGW), a PCUSA special offering, which is one of our efforts to share Christ’s peace locally and worldwide and is divided three ways:

25% will be used locally to support the Oneonta Community Thanksgiving Dinner

25% will go to Presbytery to support peacemaking work in our region

50% of this offering supports Presbyterian peace efforts across the globe

Please mark all donations with *Peace & Global Witness* on the memo line.

Checks may be made payable to *First United Presbyterian*.

**OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS**

As a shepherd searches for a lost sheep -- as a woman searches for a lost coin –

God seeks us out to save us.

With gratitude and joy, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

**OFFERTORY**  *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) C Tomlin & L Giglio*

Tithe and Offering Options:

Sanctuary: Offering plates 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 code 🡺
* Vanco Mobile Faith app can be downloaded on your Smartphone. Type in “Oneonta” to find our church.
* Computer:Use this link to access our online giving portal without the Smartphone Vanco app: [FUPC Donation Page](https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMKlg0BDvsSG3VIWQCPJNNxD8upkiY7JlDavDsozUE7KG0nFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbSZg0C9kgjlcE6AX8k9EbkkiYnTg5dP4O6rpX5QvPEWlBhHDN59kLZFffwKfYERpQhx5GGAN6Qp5jisDiqigzpk=&ver=3)
* 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.

We rejoice and give you thanks, O God, for the lost have been found --

sinners have received mercy -- and the dead have been restored to life.

Send us out in your service to tend your sheep and show the riches of your grace;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.  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 Hymn No. 749 *Come! Live in the Light!*** *David Haas*

**Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!**

**We are called to be light for the kingdom,**

**to live in the freedom of the city of God.**

Refrain: **We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;**

**We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.**

**Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!**

**We are called to be hope for the hopeless**

**so hatred and violence will be no more.** *(Refrain)*

**Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!**

**God will reign, and we’ll walk with each other**

**as sisters and brothers united in love.** *(Refrain)*

**SENDING**

**\* BLESSING AND CHARGE**

May the Creator’s holiness burn away our complacency,

may the Living Word expose our foolishness,

may the Spirit of mercy turn us home,

that God’s grace might spill from our lives, giving hope to a perishing world.

Sisters and brothers, we have a choice.

We can stand on the margins of the feast -- grumbling about the other guests,

or we can join in the dance of seeking -- and saving, feeding -- and being fed.

**POSTLUDE**  (G634) *To God Be the Glory William H. Doane*

**TODAY**

Lectionary: Jer 4:11-12, 22-28 or Ex 32:7-14; Ps 14 or 51:1-10; 1 Tim 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

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| **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**  **SUNDAYS 10:00 AM – FUPC**  **10:00 AM – ORPC**  **11:00 AM – Quakers**  **TUESDAYS 5:30 PM – ORPC Bible**  **7:00 PM – AA Big Book**  **WEDNESDAYS 5:45 PM – Bells**  **6:30 PM – Choir**  **FRIDAYS 6:30 PM AA (men's group)** |

**10 AM – Morning Worship** *(weekly)*

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

**THIS WEEK**

**Monday – Friday - Mohawk Valley Gives Campaign** online at <https://www.givemv.org/info/otsego>

**Mohawk Valley Gives (MVG):**  The Hunger Coalition of Otsego County (HCOC) is part of our church’s community service with Pastor Walton-Leavitt serving as Network Coordinator and on the Grants Committee. Office Administrator Carol Sprague helps maintain the Network list. HCOC food pantries and meal sites serve more than 11,000 individuals annually across our county. More than 150 volunteers donated over 900 hours in the last year.

HCOC is one of more than 80 nonprofits serving Otsego County participating in the 2025 Mohawk Valley Gives campaign from Monday, September 15th until 9:00 PM on Friday, September 19th. The easiest way to support HCOC and other Otsego County nonprofits this week is to go to: [https://www.givemv.org/info/otsego](https://cfotsego.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c1171403a12b9874afeddaac9&id=2fe8aa02e6&e=5eedeb2094)

**Thursday –** Pastor Walton-Leavitt attending 50th Reunion at Elmira College. Returns Monday evening.

**6:00 PM - “American Agitators: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Change”** film screening and Q&A with film producer John Heffernan (Carolyn Palm’s brother-in-law) about how collective action can combat racism, bigotry, and greed. It will be shown at SUNY Oneonta in the Great Room, Lee Hall. Refreshments served. Co-sponsored by Office of Equity & Inclusion and History Department. For more info email – [oei@oneonta.edu](mailto:oei@oneonta.edu)

**Saturday --** **4:00 to 6:30 PM – Harvest Dinner at First PC,** 156 Main St., Unadilla. Menu: Pork tenderloin, gravy, mashed potatoes, dressing, winter squash, home-made applesauce, quick breads and homemade apple or pumpkin pie for dessert. Eat at church or get take-out. Tickets: $14 to benefit church and prevent domestic violence.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Lectionary: Amos 8:4-7 or Jer 8:18-9:1; Ps 113 or 79:1-9; 1 Tim 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

**10 AM – Morning Worship led by Rev. John Monroe.** Liturgist: Rebecca LaBarr

John grew up in the southeastern United States and joined the Presbyterian Church during his college years at Davidson College, NC. John graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1984 and served churches in Ridgewood, NJ; Glendale, AZ; and Rumson, NJ. He and his wife, Rose, retired to the area in Nov 2022, where they seek a life of balance between prayer and work. They have 4 children; 5 grandchildren.

**3:00 PM – Friends of Music Concert** at First PC, 96 Main St, Stamford with Francesca Anderegg, violin and Joy Cline Phinney, piano. By donations / [www.friendsmusic.org](http://www.friendsmusic.org)

**Thursday, September 25th**

**5:00 PM – Session** meets in Room 14.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 – T-Shirt Sunday**

Lectionary: Amos 6:1a, 4-7 or Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 146 or 91:1-6, 14-16;

1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

**10 AM – Morning Worship** - Everyone is encouraged to wear a favorite T-shirt as we kick-off our 2025-2026 Church School year with participants. Liturgist: Emma Kirsch

**11:00 AM – Hospitality Time - Ice Cream Sundaes** in social hall.

**Monday, September 29th**

**6:00 PM – FUP Book Club** meets in Blue Room to discuss *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson. NOTE change of time for this month. All are welcome. For more info., contact Rebecca LaBarr.

**Oliver Wilson’s Eagle Scout Project** is to put new signs on the Walling Ave. side and at the driveway entrance with landscaping around them. This project requires donations to obtain the materials to create and install the signs. Please mark all donations with *Eagle Scout Project*. Make checks payable to *FUPC.* Unused funds remain with our church.

**Redeem bottles and cans to support our church:** Take yours to Northern Eagle Redemption Center on Railroad Ave. (next to The Depot restaurant) – and tell them the money goes to the “Red Door” Church. Hours: 9 AM to 4 PM Tuesday thru Saturday. Phone: 607-432-0400

**Upper Room devotional** offers daily scriptures, ponderings, and prayers submitted by ordinary people from around the world. September/October issues are available.

To have one sent to you, contact Carol at 607-432-7520 or [reddoorchurch@stny.rr.com](mailto:reddoorchurch@stny.rr.com)

Please notify Pastor Walton-Leavitt at 607-242-8184 (cell) or [cynuff@aya.yale.edu](mailto:cynuff@aya.yale.edu)

OR Carol Sprague, Office Administrator, at 607-432-7520 or [reddoorchurch@stny.rr.com](mailto:reddoorchurch@stny.rr.com)

in case of illness or need of pastoral care.

**A close-up of a logo

Description automatically generatedMoment for Mission: Being the “Hope-Bringers”**

*Sunday, September 14, 2025 by Rebecca LaBarr*

Adriana Soto Acevedo (AH SAY-VAY-DOE) hungrily soaked up every experience at the 69th session of the United Nations [Commission on the Status of Women](https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women), an intergovernmental body promoting women’s and girls' rights throughout the world. “I went there to absorb and learn,” she shares. And learn she did.

Adriana attended the conference as a delegate affiliated with [Iglesia Presbiteriana en Arecibo](https://www.facebook.com/presbyarecibo" \t "_blank) in Puerto Rico, [the Presbytery of Philadelphia](https://presbyphl.org/2024/09/06/meet-our-2024-2025-seminary-students/) and [Princeton Theological Seminary](https://ptsem.edu/) — where she will complete a dual degree program next year.

By attending the U.N.’s largest annual gathering on gender equality and women’s empowerment -- with sessions on improving access to feminine hygiene products, clean water and sanitation facilities -- Adriana received an exhaustive education in only 10 days’ time. She says she now sees herself as a “hope-bringer.”

“Because peace is hard to grasp at the moment, I think that hope is more what we need, because hope is found in the relationships that we make with one another,” she said. “It’s more tangible for me. My goal is to connect with people and find the hope and the humanity in each person that I encounter.”

Bringing hope through acts of solidarity and advocacy is just what the [Peace & Global Witness Offering](https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/peace-global-witness-offering) has sought to achieve for more than 40 years. The annual Offering enables Presbyterians of all ages to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in their communities and across the world.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is unique in that half the offering is directed to efforts at the national church level for peacemaking and global witness work around the world, while 25% is retained by congregations for local peace and reconciliation work. The remaining 25% goes to presbyteries for similar ministries on the regional level.

Our church is using 25% the Peace & Global Witness offering this year to support the Oneonta Community Thanksgiving Dinner…

Adriana, and other young leaders like her, are certain to change the world through a combination of compassion, commitment and optimism.

“In this often-hopeless world, our job is to crack little rays of hope by connecting with one another, by learning of the struggles we each go through, and by being there for each other,” she said. “I want to continue to discover the ways I can bring more care to our overworked pastors and our dwindling congregations. By bringing hope, I want to pursue what makes for peace.”

Together we can all help pursue what makes for peace. Together we are the “hope-bringers.” Please give what you can — for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

***Let us pray:*** *Holy God, we thank you for the witness of people around the world who are bringers of hope, bringers of joy and bringers of peace. Walk with us as we bring peace to our community and around the world. And let all the people say:* **Amen***.*