

*First United Methodist Church  
65 Main St.  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
Phone: (716) 694-2456  
December 12, 2021  
9:30am Service  
3rd Sunday of Advent*

*Prelude*

Brent Minet

*Hymn: "God of Wonders"*

Amanda Taylor, John Jenks, Kristi Crosby and Brent Minet

*Hymn: "Forever"*

Amanda Taylor, John Jenks, Kristi Crosby and Brent Minet

*Welcome and Announcements:*

Amanda Taylor

We're glad you're here! At FIRST UMC IN NORTH TONAWANDA NEW YORK, we value community. None of us are perfect, but together we are changing the world with love, generosity, and service. If you have tried church before and did not like it, please come worship, or serve with us. If you have never been to church or it has been a long time....This is the place to start. GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT FIRST UMC. We would love for you to come and visit us. Dress is always casual, so please come as you are!

*Call to Worship*

Pastor Raquel Alston

L: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

**P: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.**

L: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

**P: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.**

L: Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

**P: Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God. AMEN.**

*Advent Candle Lighting: Week 3: Joy*

Barry Tubbs

*Hymn Advent Song: Verse 3*

Page 2090

*Opening Prayer*

Pastor Raquel Alston

**Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

*Joys and Concerns:*

Miriam Hanley

Diane K., Marge S., Nancy H., Ruth L., Zoe R., Terry & Judy W., Fern S., Joan B., Virginia R., Bev M., Dawn D., Bill W., Bud and Barb K., Jackie F., Cindy Z., our Pastor, our church, and our church family every day.

*Tithes and Offerings*

Pastor Raquel Alston

***What Shall I Render to My God?***

**3 Ways to Give:**

1. **Online:** Firstchurchnt. Com; Click Give
2. **Mail:** 65 Main Street, North Tonawanda, Ny 14120
3. **In Person:** Place Gift in Donation Plate Located in Narthex

<i>Selection: "Give Thanks"</i>	Instrumental by Brent Minet
<i>Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)</i>	
<i>Offertory Prayer</i>	Pastor Raquel Alston
<i>Scripture Reading: Isaiah 12:2-6</i>	Kristi Crosby
<i>Children's Moment</i>	Pastor Raquel Alston
<i>Hymn: "My Life is in You, Lord"</i>	Page 2032
<i>Gospel Reading: Luke 3:7-18</i>	Kristi Crosby
This is the word of God, for the people of God. <b>Thanks be to God. Amen.</b>	
<i>Sermon: "Watch Out" (Luke 3:7-18)</i>	Pastor Raquel Alston
<i>Hymn: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"</i>	Page 196
Benediction	Pastor Raquel Alston
Postlude	Brent Minet

## Church News

### Covid

Our congregation's health and safety are important. If you or a family member are not feeling well, it's okay to stay home. Please wear your mask and practice social distancing to reduce the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Thank You."

### Bulletins

If you would like a bulletin for during the service, they are on the table behind the Welcome Station along with Bibles and hymnals. If you wish to use a Bible or hymnal, please use the hand sanitizer before you take one and after you put it back on the table in the narthex.

### Pray

We are asking our members of the congregations that when you arrive, please come to the altar (kneel, stand, or sit in the front row) and pray (2-5 minutes) before service starts.

Please practice social distancing and we recommend that you wear your mask during this time.

## Christmas Concert

Let's start a new tradition together! Come to the church for short Christmas concert on **Sunday, December 12th at 2pm** (before the Bills game!). We will be presenting traditional and contemporary holiday songs for your enjoyment. Feel free to sing along if you'd like. Cookies and hot cocoa to follow! Free Admission (donations graciously accepted). For more information, please contact Amanda Taylor at 716-622-2747 or [NTFUMCTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:NTFUMCTreasurer@gmail.com).

**Interested in performing! We need you. Please contact Amanda Taylor with your song selection and names of the performers. Sheet music must be provided to the church no later than 12/5/2021 (rehearsal time TBD next week). If you'd prefer to use a backing track, you must bring it on CD. Small groups encouraged. NOTE: Masks or Face Shields are required of both the audience members AND the performers for this event unless social distancing can be observed.**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

We are having services in our sanctuary at 9:30 and online for those who are not able to make it to church for the service. There are still restrictions that must be followed by ALL who choose to attend in person. We are suggesting you wear masks at all times in the building, you will be asked the required questions and we will have hand sanitizer for everyone to use. **We are allowed to sing but you must stay 6 feet apart from non-family members and you must wear your mask while singing. When you are not singing and are sitting in the pew, if you are fully vaccinated you may take your mask off, but please be respectful to the children and adults who have not been vaccinated. Also, for those of you who would like to use one of the Bibles or Hymnals that are in the Narthex please use the hand sanitizer before you take one and after you put it back on the table in the narthex.** Please do not congregate in the building to talk to others. On the first Sunday of every month, we will be having Communion. Please pick up your Communion elements in the Narthex before sitting down.

Please continue to donate to our church using this link or by mailing in your tithes and offerings at: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/fumcnt> or visit our website <https://Firstchurchnt.com> and click on Get Involved and then Giving while on our website check out our previous sermons. If it is more convenient for you, you can mail your offerings to the church:

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Acolyte: Zach Crosby

AV: Abby Starkey

Ushers: Brandie & Mike Brown and Amanda Taylor