

*First United Methodist Church
65 Main St.
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
Phone: (716) 694-2456
March 6, 2022
9:30 am Service*

Prelude

Brent Minet

Hymn: "Give Us Clean Hands"

Amanda Taylor, Kristi Crosby, John Jenks and Brent Minet

Hymn: "Days of Elijah"

Amanda Taylor, Kristi Crosby, John Jenks 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 (Inspired by Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13)

Pastor Raquel Alston

L: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

P: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

L: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

P: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

A: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

Written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary

Liturgies, <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/search?q=Luke+4%3A1-13>

Opening Prayer (Romans 10, Psalm 91, Deuteronomy 26, Luke 4)

Pastor Raquel Alston

In the quiet of this moment, in the stillness of this place, draw near to us, O God.

As we seek the shelter of your refuge, as we celebrate the bounty of your provision, hearken to our need, Holy One. Transform this time and place into our land of milk and honey— a land where you are among us, a land where your mighty hand and your outstretched arm protect us, a land where you alone are worthy of our worship and service. We ask this in the saving name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Miriam Hanley

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

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

Selection: "Give Thanks"

Instrumental by Brent Minet

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)

Offertory Prayer

Pastor Raquel Alston

We bring these gifts to you, O God, in recognition and gratitude for your loving provision. We offer you our very lives and bow before you in tribute to your many blessings. Take us and use us, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. This we pray in the name of the One who came in holy love, that we might have abundant life. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Barry Tubbs

Children's Sermon: "The Temptation of Jesus" Luke 4:1-13

Pastor Raquel Alston

Hymn: "On Eagles Wings"

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Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Barry Tubbs

This is the word of God, for the people of God. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Sermon: "Where the Heart Is" (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21)

Pastor Raquel Alston

Hymn: "Sanctuary"

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Holy Communion

Hymn: "It Is Well with My Soul"

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Benediction (Psalm 91:9-12)

Pastor Raquel Alston

L: God will command the angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

P: On their hands they will bear us up.

L: Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High will be your dwelling place.

P: No evil shall befall us.

L: Go in peace, in the provision and protection of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Postlude

Brent Minet

Church News

Birthday Wishes

Bob Blow is celebrating his 88th birthday on Sunday, March 6th. Happy Birthday Bob from all of us here at FUMC.

****Word on Wednesday****

Our Bible Study, **Word on Wednesday (WOW)** will be starting on February 2nd at 7:00 pm and go until June 8th. We are doing this WOW group with the Orchard Park UMC. If you are interested in joining the WOW Zoom group please contact the church office so the link can be sent to you.

Prayers

Please pray for Richard Swanson's family and friends. Richard passed away on February 28th, 2022. His family will be at Wattengel Funeral Home on Meadow Drive on Thursday, March 3rd from 7:00-9:00 and Friday, March 4th from 2:00-4:00 & 7:00-9:00. His funeral service will be here at FUMC on Saturday, March 5th at 11:00 am.

Easter Flowers

We will be selling Easter Flowers!! We are selling them starting this Sunday, February 27th through March 20th.

If you are interested, please contact

Virginia Brown at 693-2653

or

Nancy Young at 694-1942.

Mother and Daughter Tea

We are planning a Mother & Daughter(s) Tea for Saturday, May 14th at 2:00pm and would like to get an idea as to how many will be able to attend. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Drinks and dessert will be served.

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. **Masks are encouraged to be used at all times. Please respect social distancing whenever possible. We are allowed to sing but you must wear your mask at all times.**

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.

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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AV: Lexi Crosby

I would like to invite all North Tonawanda UMC women to this virtual Lenten Study sponsored by the Niagara Frontier UMW. It's only an hour a week and does not require any advance reading. Please enclose this information with the weekly bulletin and include as part of announcements. Beverly Mingle, UMW member at large

UMW Sisters,

I am writing to invite you to participate in a **virtual Lenten bible study on the school-to-prison pipeline**. This study is part of a grant received by the Niagara Frontier District UMW from the national UMW to help support a local organizing campaign to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.

The school-to-prison pipeline is a term describing how children and youth of color are rerouted by systems and institutions and funneled away from educational success towards the criminal justice system. (See attached poster.)

"While for some folks the conversation about the school-to-prison pipeline and school pushout might seem like a new issue, the reality is that it is a continuation of a long-lasting, unfinished struggle for racial justice and educational equity," said Emily Jones, United Methodist Women's Executive for Racial Justice. **"To honor the call of Jesus on our lives and the movement of the Spirit in our midst, women of faith must be actively engaged,** supporting directly impacted communities and people-of-color led groups in the fight for educational equity, racial justice and an end to biased, punitive and exclusionary school policies."

The bible study will take place on **Saturday mornings from 10:30-11:30 am for 5 weeks during Lent: March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2.** The study will culminate the following week at the Niagara Frontier District UMW Communion Breakfast and Memorial Service on April 9th (at Christ UMC in Amherst) with a presentation about strategies for interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

Please **share this opportunity with your unit** and **email me at rev.vivianruth@gmail.com if you are interested in participating in the bible study.** I will send you the links to both the study and the Zoom session.

Any questions, let me know!

In pursuit of God's justice,
Vivian Ruth Waltz