First United Methodist Church

65 Main St.

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Phone: (716) 694-2456

January 2, 2022

9:30am Service

Epiphany Sunday

*Prelude* Brent Minet

*Hymn:* “Be Thou My Vision” Amanda Taylor, 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: May your love and mercy be upon us today, O Lord.  
**P: Cleanse and refresh us from every transgression.**

L: Let your joy and gladness dawn in our spirits,  
**P: and the recreating power of your Spirit make us new.**

L: Have mercy upon us O God,  
**P: and let your Spirit lead us in truth and righteousness. Amen.**

*Opening Prayer* Pastor Raquel Alston

**Merciful God, Have mercy on our souls, according to your unwavering love; according to your abundant mercy wipe away our sins and the guilt we have carried for so long. Instead write on our hearts your love Your boundaries for our lives Your salvation that sets us free from our sins. To live the abundant life you have for each of us. Lord we would see Jesus, We would love Jesus, We would follow Jesus We would serve Jesus. Lord, Create in us clean hearts, Renew your spirit within us. Do not turn us away from your presence, do not take your holy spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit. Write on our hearts, your love O God. 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., and Richard S.,

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

*Selection:* “Give Thanks” Instrumental by Brent Minet

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)*

*Offertory Prayer* Pastor Raquel Alston

*Scripture Reading*: Psalm 51 Millie Palombaro

*Children’s Moment: “Fueled by Happy Thoughts*” (Philippians 4:8) Pastor Raquel Alston

*Hymn:* ”O Come, All Ye Faithful” Page 234

*Gospel Reading:* Philippians 4:4-9Millie Palombaro

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

*Sermon*: “Soul Detox “(Psalm 51) Pastor Raquel Alston

*Hymn: “Sanctuary”* Page 2164

*Holy Communion*

*Hymn:* “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Page 240 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.”

**Community Corner Café**

The next CCC will be January 22, 2022.  We will be serving sloppy joes, a vegetable, and cookies for dessert.  Serving time is 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.  We will be serving inside and there will also be take out.  Free will offering.

**Bulletins**

There are bulletins on the podium in the Narthex if you would like one. Also Bibles and hymnals are on the table behind the Welcome Center. 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.

**Pray Box**

We have a prayer box in the Narthex, please put any prayer concerns in the box so we can pray for you.

**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. **YOU MUST WEAR MASKS IN THE BUILDING AT ALL TIMES,** 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 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.** 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 you 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 Stsarkey

Ushers: Brandie & Mike Brown and Amanda Taylor