



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church

Faith Connections –February 2016

Ionia United Methodist Church

2120 Elton Road, Ionia, New York 14475

585-657-6984 www.ioniaumc.org

From Our Pastor:

Dear Ionia UMC Family & Friends,

We knew it would happen eventually and we just didn't know when. We have had the first real snow fall of this season and it just happened. I am grateful for the delay and yet have wondered what that means for the rest of the season. Other parts of the country have had unusual weather patterns. Actually other parts of the world have had it too.

This reminds me that we just don't know what tomorrow will bring. I know some people who watch the weather channel all day so that they can be prepared should bad weather come. A family member recently told me that I really should be tuning in and paying closer attention to the weather. This person is always watching for bad weather and where that weather might occur (and who it might impact). I can't control the weather so I choose not to let the weather channel control me. With easy access to the weather on our smart phones, this can be a challenge.

This got me thinking about how our worries can consume us and steal our joy. We have tendencies to be thinking, seeing, complaining and worrying about things that are not of God. This is not what God wants us to be doing.

Jesus said in John 10:10 "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*"

Let's remember that God so loved the world that He sent His son so that we may have life and have it abundantly. Through Jesus, God has promised us new and abundant life now, into the future, and even beyond time.

Lent gives us time to reflect on that promise, and to prepare ourselves for it. Lent also is great time to uplift and transform our thinking by following Philippians 4:8 scripture:

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

For this Lent, at the beginning of each day I am selecting a different scripture that is uplifting to me and meditate upon it throughout the day. A daily practice I do at bedtime is to think about my day and what I am grateful for. I thank God and then slip off to sleep with gratitude to God being my last thoughts of the day. Join me in starting and ending each day in gratitude with God as your source.

May the Lenten season refresh us and bring us closer to God.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Juls

Pastor Juls Foos

Phone: 723-9503; Cell & Text: 748-2458

Email: julsfoos@rochester.rr.com

Pastor Juls' substitutes:

You may be seeing some familiar faces during February & March while our pastor is out for surgery. Pastor Juls is scheduled to have surgery on February 10 & is expected to be back for Easter services.

While she is out, John McNeil will be filling in on Feb 14, 21 & 28; Rev. Buzz Grimm will be filling in on March 6; Rev. Bonnie Nolen will be filling in on March 13 & 20th. Rev. Buzz Grimm has offered to do hospital visits while Pastor Juls is out. He can be reached at chapgrimm@aol.com or phone 585-889-2215

Sunday Worship Schedule

10:30 AM Sunday Worship

10:45 AM Sunday School

11:30 AM "Coffee Time"

Nursery Care during the service



Judy Baldwin	Mary G Bennett
Betty Chapple	Doris Daniels
Mary & Jim Dunne	Shirley Kelly
Mel & Shorty Inglesby	Roy Parrish
Helen & Bob McCombs	Wilma O'Brien
MaryAnn & Cliff Pimm	Cathy Weld
Those battling disease	Our home-bound
Our military men and women in all places	



to Wayne Parrish for updating and administering our church website!

to our Sunday readers & fellowship providers

Joys!

Our New District Superintendant assignment: **The Rev. Vonda Fossitt**, presently pastor at the High Street UMC in Binghamton, will be superintendent of the Genesee Valley District as of July 1st. Rev Ted Anderson has faithfully served as our DS for the past 8 years.



www.ioniaumc.org

News, events, photos, etc
Our website has been updated – check it out!

Church Women United: Friday, March 6th, at noon at St Peter's Episcopal Church in Bloomfield. Our church will in charge of the program.

Our Charge Conference: Sunday Feb 7^h after our church service. Our District Superintendent Ted Anderson will lead the conference to transact our annual business meeting.



Sunday, Feb. 7, 11:45 AM: Valentine Pot-Luck Brunch with our church family after Church!

Just bring a dish to pass & join in on the fellowship!
We have a pot-luck brunch on the 1st Sunday of every month this year.
Come for some fellowship with our church family!



Ad Board Meeting: Sunday, Feb. 14, 11:45 AM

All officers & chairmen should attend



Sunday Schools News

A class for elementary through middle school students will be meeting downstairs during worship services on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month.
Nursery is available each Sunday during the worship service.



Confirmation Class

Sundays, 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm

See your schedule for dates & journal assignments.



Study Sundays, 9:15AM

A Bible Study will begin Sunday morning, Jan. 31st at 9:15AM. It will focus on a video series by Ray Vander Laan & be led by Dick Twardokus. Each video is about 30 minutes long & each lesson stands alone, therefore if you miss 1 or 2 sessions, you won't miss the meaning of the next one.

Filmed on location in Israel, "Faith Lessons" is a unique video series that brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance. By weaving together the Bible's fascinating historical, cultural, religious, & geographical contexts, teacher & historian Ray Vander Laan reveals keen insights into the Scriptures' significance for modern believers. These illuminating 'faith lessons' afford a new understanding of the Bible that will ground your convictions & transform your life. Attendees will gain vital insights from long-ago times & cultures through this innovative approach to Bible study. The series focuses on God putting his mark on a people & their land, a mark he has extended through ancient Israel to the faithful of today.



Strawberry Social time is coming!!! We have approximately 143 days (as of 1/24/16) left until our Strawberry Social. This year will be a very different event due to the unfortunate loss of our Ionia Fire Hall & we will be hosting the Socials at the Church. At the end of last year's Socials, I asked for comments & suggestions to improve our events. I have taken those suggestions & made a few changes, but am still open to any other suggestions. I would really like to be able to put together gift baskets for raffle & am asking for donations of canned strawberry jam/jelly/sauce as well as hand written recipes of any favorite strawberry creations. As time gets closer, I will be submitting a sign-up list in the newsletter for the salads, eggs & strawberries. Please keep your eyes open for these updates and if you need to contact Bambi Talley, please do so at Bambster7@gmail.com or 585-657-7732. Thank you in advance for any & all help with this community event.



Church "New to You" Sale
May 13 & 14

Keep the date open for the church's annual spring sale. As you're cleaning out those closets, cupboards, garages & barns, please keep us in mind!

We are looking for donations & accepting household items, clothing, toys, furniture & just about anything we can sell! (But please, **no** computers or older TV's, they can be recycled at Regional Computer Recycling and Recovery, 7318 Victor Mendon Rd near Rt 96.)

Look for more details as the date gets closer. Email Lfrelier@aol.com or call 657-4504 with any questions.

Anyone interested in helping Lorraine with this?



"I Can Do That.."
Opportunities In Our Church:



Read scripture or greet at worship –
Sign up in Fellowship Hall



Sign up to fix goodies after church –
Sign up in Fellowship Hall

Teach Sunday School or Babysit the
toddlers in the Nursery – see Heather Kenyon

Make a meal for the Canandaigua Veterans –
Sign up in Fellowship Hall – see article in this newsletter

Help with visitations for our homebound members - see Pastor Juls

Donate pop cans to the youth for missions-
leave them in the crate by the shed

Donate \$ or food to the Food Cupboard –
see Cliff & MaryAnn Pimm

Help with the newsletter mailing –
see Dorothy Strapp



Used Printer ink cartridges - can be redeemed towards copier paper & many office supplies. Leave the ink cartridges in the box in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!



Our Famous Chicken & Biscuit Dinners:
Sat., March 5th & April 16th

We would like to do it a little different this time in order to save time & money for both the organizer & the people who we ask for donations. Let's make life easier. If you would like to donate for the dinner items we need, simply mail a check to the Church (PO Box 8, Ionia 14475) or place it in the collection plate in an envelope labeled "Chicken & Biscuit Dinner." This way we can buy in bulk & save money & telephone calls & will be easier for the donors to not have to bring their donations to church. We will, however, be needing donations of homemade pies for the dessert.

We will also need help for the day of the dinner. Please call to get your name on the list if you would like a special spot to work. Please help us have a dinner of which our Church can be proud.

Call to volunteer & for questions:

Kitchen: Kay Bennett at 657-7483 or Pat Talley at 703-8961

Dining Room: Dorothy Strapp 657-7598



In Our Area:

Sunday, January 31, 4-5pm, Free Community Meal 1st Presbyterian Church, Honeoye Falls, in Guild Hall

Weds., Feb. 3, 5-7pm, Spaghetti Dinner,
Honeoye UCC (the 1st Weds. of each month)

Thurs., Feb. 18, 11:30am -1pm Community Friendship Luncheon E. Bloomfield UMC

All are welcome for lunch & fellowship. Free will offering accepted. handicapped accessible. Bloomfield snow day = no lunch. Please call the church at 585/657-7220 for more information.

Feb. 27, 3:30 - 4:30 Free Community Meal,
St. Catherine's Schnacky Center, soup, salad & desserts. All are welcome!



Sunday, March 6 The Mendon

Gospel Choir is looking for singers from the Bloomfield/Honeoye Falls/ Lima/ Mendon/ Pittsford areas to participate in their annual Christian Choral Festival - singing a program of classic hymns & contemporary Christian songs beautifully blended together! Rehearsal site: Mendon Church, 936 Cheese Factory Road, Thursdays, 7-8:45PM. For more info, contact Mendongospelchoir.org & MendonGospelChoir@hotmail.com

Friday, March 11, 5-7PM Fish Supper ,
St. John's Lutheran Church, 153 Church Ave, Farmington

Hands of Hope Kitchen free noon meal every Wednesday at the East Bloomfield Firehouse.



Church Newsletter

The deadline for the February newsletter will be **Sunday, Feb. 21st** . Submit news to Mary Twardokus at 657-7722 or email mt2152@hotmail.com

If you wish to be added to our "email church news" list, give Mary your email address. Emails are sent "blind-copy."

If your name & birthday are not on our church family list, please contact Mary

If you are able to help assemble the newsletter on the 4th Weds. of the month, contact Dorothy Strapp to help out! It usually takes about 2 hours.





Veterans' Dinner Mission

Some years ago, we as a congregation took on a commitment to prepare & deliver a dinner to the Veterans' Club house on Foster St. in Canandaigua at 4:30PM on the 2nd Monday of each month - a 12-times-a-year outreach by our congregation.

Realizing how many are unable to meet this timetable, several of us have offered to deliver the dinners for you & return the dishes & leftovers back to you.

Below is a list of different ways you can assist in our mission endeavor:

- 1) Prepare a dinner & coordinate with one of the volunteers for delivery: Pat Talley 657-7226, Dorothy Strapp 657-7598, or Norene Adams 624-5463.
- 2) Offer to help make a portion of the dinner with another parishioner to share the cost & involvement.
- 3) Offer to support another person or persons with the entire expenses
- 4) If interested in this endeavor, call one of the volunteers to sign up for a dinner.

We feel this mission is so very worthy of our effort!

Feb 8: Dorothy Strapp & _____?

March 14: _____? & _____?



Ministry Directory

Ad/Board Chairman: Bambi Talley
Christian Education Heather Kenyon 314-2326
Cuddle Friends: Terri Graham 657-9292
Finance Chairman: Scott Layton 465-2039
Financial Sec.: Norene Adams 624-5463
Food Pantry: MaryAnn & Cliff Pimm 657-7338
Lay Leader: Russ Kenyon 314-2327
Missions/Outreach/Nurture Chairmen: Amy Mohr & Maureen Thompson
Newsletter Editor: Mary Twardokus 657-7722
Staff/Pastor Relations: Dick Belding
Treasurer: Sue Vary 315-939-4406
Trustees Chairman: Don Frelier 657-4504
 Vice Chair: Ken Garling 657-6530
Sanctuary Chair: Jennifer Layton 455-7602
Youth Groups: Pastor Juls Foes



Happy February Birthday!!!

- 1 John Price
- 2 Lynn Parrish
Robin Schwartz
- 5 Norene Adams
Amanda Smith
- 6 Brian Miller
Caroline Burse
- 7 Jeffrey Stahl
- 9 Patricia Bennett
- 10 Ron Bennett
- 11 Heather Brainard
- 12 Corky Schlenker
- 13 Adam Weld
- 14 Renee Kugris
- 16 Michael Madafferi
- 17 Lynnsie Bennett
Connor Green
- 18 Hannah Ritorto
- 19 Jerry Thomas
- 20 Jessica Segar
Ian Talley
- 23 Jim Dunne
Ethan Parrish
- 25 Marna Evans
Paul Inglesby, Jr
Lauren Tiffany
- 26 Gary Smith
- 27 Brian Bennett
Caitrin Miller

If your name & birthday are not on our church family list, call Mary 657-7722 or email mt2152@hotmail.com



Pop cans/bottles for Telica

Drop off your cans & bottles in the crate behind the church (which has a new roof!) – used to fund another house in Telica!



Ionia United Methodist Church
PO Box 8
2120 Elton Rd.
Ionia, NY 14475

PRSR STD
NON-PROFIT ORG



Our 2016 Events

Chicken & Biscuit Dinners 
Saturdays: March 5th & April 16th



Rummage Sale May 13-14

Strawberry Social – June 16



Raspberry Social – July 18

Fall Festival – September 17



Holiday Fair Craft Show: Nov. 19



**Our Famous Chicken
& Biscuit Dinners:**

Sat., March 5th & April 16th

4:30 – 7 PM

Buffet Style

Homemade Pies for Dessert!



What is Lent?

In the seasons of Lent & Easter, the church focuses on remembering, retelling & participating in the story of the suffering, death, & resurrection of Jesus Christ. Lent, the period of 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays), begins on Ash Wednesday & ends at sundown on Holy Saturday, the evening before Easter. During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection & repentance when we seek to literally “turn around” & realign our lives & focus toward God. It is a time to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions & our own selfish desires. By doing so, we seek to live & love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

What is & how long is “Eastertide?”

The Easter Season, also known as Eastertide or the Great Fifty Days, begins on Easter Day, the day of the Resurrection of Christ after his crucifixion & ends on Pentecost, which celebrates the birth of the church. Focusing on Christ's resurrection and ascension & the sending of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost), Eastertide is the most joyous & celebrative season of the Christian year. We celebrate the good news that in Christ's death & resurrection we, & all creation, are continually being made new by God's love & saving grace.

Why do people give up things for Lent?

Many people give something up for Lent like chocolate, social media, shopping, or a bad habit. These are modern-day adaptations of the spiritual discipline of fasting or abstinence. John Wesley encouraged early Methodists to regularly practice abstinence or fasting as an act of piety, like praying or reading the Bible. He also taught that fasting was best when coupled with acts of mercy such as giving to the poor. Rather than giving something up this Lent, you might choose to add a practice during Lent to achieve one or more of the same goals.

What does the term “Lent” mean?

Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring.” The root words mean “long days,” & this combination probably refers to the increasing daylight at this time of year.

Lent's 40 days represent Jesus' time in the wilderness, enduring temptation & preparing to begin his ministry.

How did the early church observe Lent?

In addition to being a time to remember the mercy & forgiveness of Jesus, the early church used Lent to prepare converts for baptism, & to offer opportunities for those who had been separated from the church to be reconciled. Today Lent remains an ideal time to remember our baptism and to reconcile relationships with those we may have harmed. All of this signifies to us our sinfulness & the sacrifice of Jesus which makes our forgiveness possible.

More information can be found at:

www.umc.org/what-we-believe/40-days-of-lent-find-your-own-spiritual-path and at: www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/sharing-easter-with-your-children



A Lenten Offering envelope

is attached to the first page of your newsletter. Please consider giving to this offering & placing the envelope in the offering plate or mail it to P.O. Box 8, Ionia 14475



“For God so loVed the world
thAt he gave his
onLy
begottEn
sonN,
thaT whoever
bellieves
In him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.”



