



Faith Connections – February 2023

Ionia United Methodist Church
2120 Elton Rd., Ionia, NY 14475
585-657-6984 www.ioniaumc.org

From Our Pastor's Desk:

Dear Ones,

We have moved past our season of celebration of the birth of the Savior, the new calendar year, and the reflection on all the hopes and dreams for the year to come! We have prayed to the Lord and thought about how we, as a congregation, can move in the world with the presence of God in our hearts and minds in this new year of our lives, 2023! And we are now ready to dig down deep for a Lenten experience that will bring us closer to Christ and not only that; closer in trust, truth, and love, to one another.

Lent is a bi-directional season. Or at least it could be. That is not how we usually experience the season, however. Too often, we see the Lenten journey simply see the journey as inward. While that is a great start of an important component to a powerful Lenten experience, it can't be the whole story for people of the faith. Examining and reflecting on the soul is more than looking inward; it is also considering the state of your soul as it walks about in the world. This is not new.

Historically, the church has talked about the spiritual disciplines in two directions. Like the Great Commandment, these two sides of the same coin cannot ultimately be separated, that is: Love God with all you are, and then, love your neighbor as yourself (Matt 22:37-40).¹ One could wonder – how much of me is there? Am I able to give that much to prayer, to think that much, to consider all this means in daily living? With the help of God, yes, one can! Remember: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* (Phil 4:13) And we will be the church who helps one another through Christ!

That is why the sermon series this Lenten season is about both looking inward and moving outward. I know we continually get involved in matters of racial, religious, creation, gender, and socio-economic, and creation justice. I recognize it can be confusing on one level, and yet liberating and faith strengthening on another level to get involved when the Lord calls us to action. We are learning to *live inside out*.

Let us hold hands on the journey, and be strengthened by the God who loved the world so much, that Jesus came to life among us and took our sins to the grave that we might know everlasting mercy, and life, by His grace. Praise be to God!

With love, Pastor Robin



Kevin, Pastor Robin's nephew
Louise Childs, Pastor Robin's mother-in-law
Dorothy Strapp & Norene Adams have fractured hips
Alice Wells has had a hip replacement
A parishioner's son
The people of Ukraine and Russia
Our nation & the world
Pat & Ron Bennett
Mary Dunne
Shirley Kelly
Leona Parrish
Dorothy Strapp
All youth in today's world
All those battling COVID 19, cancer, & diseases

Norene Adams
Doris Daniels
Jean Frelier
Elaine Parrish
MaryAnn & Cliff Pimm
Our home-bound
Our military men & women



For those of you who like to read

ahead on the scriptures for Lent, let these passages be your daily devotions as readiness for worship on Sunday morning (and Wednesday evening for Ash Wednesday)

Lent 2023 Sermon Series: Learning to Live Inside Out

Ash Wednesday Feb 22, Sanctuary Service 7pm
Psalms 51:1-17 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Isaiah 58:1-12
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday is an inside-out act of worship. We come and confess and are reminded of both our sinfulness and our mortality. And yet we are given a visible mark in the imposition of ashes, a way of letting the world know that we are people of faith. Our hope is that such a symbol is a welcome sign, a sign of acceptance and hospitality. Indeed, our pledge to God is that we will live in such a way that we bring honor to the name of God and glory to Jesus the Christ. We live outwardly the inner beliefs that we hold.

First Sunday in Lent Feb. 26 If You Fall Down

Psalms 32, Matthew 4:1-11

If we endeavor to work in the world around us, we will fall down. From time to time, we will fail; our efforts will not be received in the spirit intended; the fruit will be slow in coming. So, if we must fall, let us fall down in worship of the one who redeems us.

Second Sunday in Lent March 5, Holy Communion Sunday Go From Your Country

Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 John 3:1-17

This is the week that the "moving out" part of our theme is most obvious. Whether we are talking about the call to go to a new place, like Abram in Genesis 12, or to move to a new understanding, like Nicodemus in John 3, movement is required. Movement means change, which is always difficult and scary. So this is a week about faith and about trust and the willingness to commit to the discipleship path.

Third Sunday in Lent March 12, Give Me Water

Exodus 17:1-7 John 4:5-42 Psalm 95
We're thirsty this week. That's the point. Thirsting for the living waters that Jesus spoke about to the woman at the well. And not simply a one time or easy but unsatisfying spiritual refreshment, but a recognition of the deepest thirsts that we have and how we seem to always be thirsty, no matter how often we drink.

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 19, In the Presence

1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 John 9: 1-41
Do you know what it is like to be chosen? Well, you do because you were. Our texts this week are about being chosen by God. Most of us don't think that we were chosen, certainly not to be king like David. But surely, we chose the jobs that we do and the hobbies that we pursue and the service that we perform, didn't we? Well, yes. But God chose too. And not just in the past tense, God is still choosing.

Fifth Sunday in Lent March 26, Who Could Stand

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 John 11:1-45
Here at the end of the Lenten observance (well, almost the end anyway), we have hints of Resurrection. We have "a foretaste of glory divine," as the hymnist Fanny Crosby says. As if the Spirit and the lectionary preparers knew that we would need something to help us through the next couple of weeks. As if they knew that without this reminder, we would find it a very hard road as we made our way stumbling behind the Christ who suffers and dies for us.

Palm Sunday April 2, Holy communion Sunday

Good Friday April 7th Tenebrae Service 12:00 noon

Following the service, the sanctuary will be open for personal prayer and reflection with scripture and slide show till 6:00 pm

Easter Sunday April 9

From: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/learning-to-live-inside-out>



Lenten Devotions Online

For Free: "My Song Is Love Unknown" There will also be some print versions at church on Ash Wednesday.

<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/advent-devotional/>





Tuesdays at 10:00 am.

Bring your bible for a Lectionary bible study that will take us through Lent and pay attention to how God is moving through Christ to bring Him to carry the cross for our sins.

Ray Van Der Laan & Max Lucado DVD Studies – after Sunday Worship



Birthday Sunday

on the 2nd Sunday of each month

celebrating all those people with birthdays that month! To make a cake for this celebration, you may sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Carol 657-7310 or buy one and be reimbursed.



Future Ionia UMC Dates!

- Ash Wednesday Service, Weds., Feb 22nd, 7pm
- Game Night: in March TBA
- Easter Services April 7th - 9th
- Strawberry Social: Thursday, June 15th
- Fall Festival Saturday, September 16th
- Holiday Fair Craft Show: Saturday, November 18th



Your questions, answered.

Do you have questions about The United Methodist Church? "Ask The UMC" can help you find answers or the best contact for your question. Chat live with us, submit your question at umc.org/en/ask-the-umc-form or email directly to asktheumc@umc.org.



Pastor Robin wants to recommend some videos for this Lenten season:

"Inside Out": 2015, animation, Disney, stars Amy Pohler and Bill Hader (voice talent). After a young girl, Riley, is uprooted from her Midwest life and moved to San Francisco with her family, her emotions, joy, fear, anger, disgust, and sadness come into play conflicting with how to navigate a new city, school, and life. Excellent resource on emotional literacy.

"The 1619 Project" Nikole Hannah-Jones. Produced and shown on Hulu. Worth it.

"Hidden Figures" the story of brilliant, black women mathematicians who helped NASA get a man on the moon.



Our Church Joys!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our church in 2022 to fulfill our budget!

Thank you to everyone who supported our 2022 fundraisers by providing food/supplies, &/or by working, &/or for attending!

2 huge boxes of items collected on our Mitten Tree were delivered to the Open Door Mission!

A great turnout of 17 for our Game Night! What fun everyone had!



Church Family Movie Afternoon
(for everyone, families, couples, & singles!)
Sunday, February 26th

A fun afternoon get-together!
We will watch a movie (about noon) after a pot-Luck lunch (about 10:30-11:00am)
Bring a dish-to-pass
Plates, silverware & beverages will be provided.
Bring a friend!



Fellowship Meal



Happy February Birthdays

- 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
- 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
- 21 Madison Baldwin
- 23 Ethan Parrish
- 25 Marna Evans
Paul Inglesby, Jr
Lauren Tiffany
- 26 Gary Smith
Sue Vary
- 27 Brian Bennett
Caitrin Miller

Birthday List Update: If I do not have you or a family member's birthday, please call 657-7722 or email me at mt2152@hotmail.com. Thank you!



UNYAC Social Holiness webpage

<http://www.unyumc.org/ministries/social-holiness>

The intent of The Social Holiness Ministry is to provide, within the bounds of the Upper NY Annual Conference, for certain of the functions described and suggested in *The Book of Discipline*, ¶629, specifically those functions related to ministries of justice, advocacy, mercy, love, and ministries related to the "Social Principles" of The United Methodist Church



LOCAL MISSIONS Our church's mission is to serve our church family & community.

Mission Team: Carol Hinds, Pastor Robin, and of course, the body of Christ!



Valentine Card Showers for:

- Norene Adams, 37 Hampshire Lane, Mendon 14506
- Ron & Pat Bennett 1870 Strong Rd, Victor 14564
- Mary Dunne, PO Box 7, Ionia 14475
- Shirley Kelly, 3132 Rt 21S, Canandaigua 14424
- Elaine Parrish Ewing Continuing Care, Room 108D
350 Parrish St, Canandaigua 14424
- Leona Parrish, Meadows Room 81R Ewing
Continuing Care, Parrish St, Canandaigua
- Dorothy Strapp, 8495 Baker Rd. Bloomfield 14469
- Alice Wells, 630 Rt 64, Honeoye Falls 14472



Drop off your clean "NYS deposit" Pop Cans & Bottles for Missions

Place into the crate next to the shed behind the church. Please drain the bottles & cans & place them in plastic bags! Thank you for all your donations! Pop cans and bottles do add up... Already in January, we have collected 3,099 more cans & bottles for \$ 185.94, all to go toward our missions!





UPDATE



We are updating our church directory and then will distribute it to our church family. They would not be on our church website or for public viewing. The form asks: name(s), address, phone number(s) & email(s) We would not print your information in the directory if you so wish. If you know that your information needs to be updated (or want us to confirm), please complete the form at church, or email the church at ioniaumc2120@hotmail.com, or give the information to Judy Baldwin or Mary Twardokus. Thank you!



From The Finance Team

Financially, Ionia UMC ended 2022 with our income being more than our expenses. This is all due to our successful fund raisers, an increase in giving/donations, and Pastor Robin going part-time resulting in us not having to pay certain required conference expenses. If you would like to see a breakdown of the year's finances, there is a report on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Thanks everyone to those who increased their giving and all who helped make our fund raisers a success.!



1 Corinthians 13:13 *“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”*

1 John 4:16 *“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.”*

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.”*

1 Corinthians 16:14 *“Do everything in love”*



In Our Area:

On Sat., Feb. 11, Winter Chautauqua Comes To West Bloomfield

In “the spirit of Chautauqua” the West Bloomfield, Congregational UCC church will honor its longstanding heritage of intellectual discernment & public entertainment by offering a “**Day of Curiosity,**” say event coordinators. the church will host a series of expert presentations on an eclectic range of subjects including sustainable home farming, physically moving better, engaging humor to effectively communicate, defeating racism, dream interpretation, discerning truth, & the birth of the universe. The donation-optional one-day event is open to all. Pre-registration is encouraged at <http://tiny.cc/dayofcuriosity> . The event is accessible. For more information: Laurel Nelson (event manager) 727-1687 lnelson18@stny.rr.com

The Chautauqua tradition, originating locally near Jamestown, goes back to the 1870s according to church pastor Rev. Corey Keyes. “Chautauquas were the rock concerts of their day,” Keyes noted. “All around America Chautauquas sprang up as organizers gathered orators, teachers, musicians, & showmen of all types & invited the broad public. The meetings were social, educational, fun, & usually held outdoors during the summer. Our upcoming Day of Curiosity is designed to help people connect, learn something new, & shake off the winter doldrums,” Keyes added. “It also honors our church tradition of independent thinking & challenging social norms. We aided escaped slaves during the 1850s & hired among the state’s first ordained female pastors in 1892. Two decades ago we became an open & affirming church, recognizing the sacred gifts of everyone, regardless of their gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other artificial means of exclusion.”

The Day of Curiosity event is secular, non-denominational & open to everyone. “The day isn’t about religion, it’s about experiencing new ideas, cracking open your mind, having fun, & maybe making a new friend or two.”

Mon., Feb 13, 7pm Pub Theology at Fanatics in Lima with Honeoye Falls UMC “Beers, Conversations & God” All perspectives are welcome.



If you wish to receive this newsletter by mail or by email, please email ioniaumc2120@hotmail.com or call 657-6984 leaving a message with your address or email. Or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, do the same.

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



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Sunday Worship Service:
9:30AM AM

Church Website: www.ioniaumc.org
Church Email: ioniaumc2120@hotmail.com
Facebook: "IoniaUMCNY"
Church Phone: 585-657-6984
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robin Blair
Pastor's Email: revrobinblair@gmail.com
Pastor's Phone: 315-729-4485
Pastor Robin's Sabbath is Friday.



FEBRUARY Calendar

Sundays, 10:30 AM Coffee Hour & DVD Studies
Tuesday 7th : Trustees meeting
Sunday, 12th: Birthday Sunday
Sunday, 19th: Transfiguration Sunday
Thurs., 21st : Ad Board meeting
Weds., 22nd: Ash Wednesday
Sunday, 26th: First Sunday of Lent, &
Sunday Pot-Luck Brunch, & "Movie in the
Afternoon"

