



Faith Connections – May 2023

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

From Our Pastor's Desk:

Dear Ones,

Grace and peace to you on the season of Easter and spring in the northeast! Flowers are everywhere, tree leaves are popping with the green that is splendidly spring, and we open the windows to invite God's amazing grace in on the breeze. Spring is part of the assurance of a resurrection life as what was dormant for a time now blossoms once again!

Of course even in the spring of new life, we face the challenges that slow our enthusiasm from time to time and may even pull threads from our blanket of hope. What we learn in our faith, and need to remind ourselves of during the season of resurrection, is that the steadfast love of God is now and forever. It is the hand that lifts you up when you cannot imagine a bright sky; it is the oxygen you need when something comes across your path that is overwhelming to the point of bringing you to a cold stop. And when a cold stop is your only thought, the Holy Spirit intervenes with "*sighs too great for words*" *Romans 8:26*, and you remember you are not alone.

As people of faith we know but often forget, that God goes into the dark corners when we hide; there is no grave but only life. God is a patient source of breath, hope, and energy. God is the empathy we feel for a friend in need, the warmth when the world is cold, and the water to lips of a thirsty soul. We honor the season of the empty cross because we need to be reminded of the truth of God's eternity in the face of something awful, to imagine the possibility of our own eternity in the arms of grace. We are people of faith in a great and mighty God!

Together we have been exploring bible studies and missional purpose along with worship and fellowship to remember and honor all that God brings through the Christ by the power of the

Holy Spirit. I am feeling so blessed about all of it with you; let's keep it going and growing. I want to propose an online bible study that we can try one month at a time to see how we like it; It might be a challenge to start a new thing with the computer – but let's try and get into the Word!

There are also some new ideas circulating for missional purpose for your consideration and loving spiritual growth. Talk to me about the way God is speaking to you, let's explore together the possibilities! The more we stay in touch with God and God's will for our individual and congregational lives, the more love there is to cherish, and as we know, God is love (1 John 4:7-8).

So in this month of May let us continue to care for creation, love one another, and worship the Almighty Creator of all there is!

With grace, peace and love, Pastor Robin



Ray Van Der Laan & Max Lucado DVD Studies – after Sunday Worship on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays of the month

New Online Bible Study!

Pastor Robin proposes an online bible study, for all who are able to get online in the evening. The evening Pastor proposes is Monday evening but she is open to meeting the needs of the group. Please contact Pastor Robin to share your interest. You will be sent a zoom link to attend. Sessions will be approximately one hour in length. You will need your bible and have the scriptures ahead of each session. Looking forward to time together in the Word!



Kevin, Pastor Robin's nephew
 Louise Childs, Pastor Robin's mother-in-law
 A parishioner's son
 The people of the USA, Ukraine, Russia, & Turkey
 Our nation & the world
 Norene Adams
 Jan Bartlett
 Pat & Ron Bennett
 Doris Daniels
 Mary Dunne
 Jean Frelier
 Shirley Kelly
 Elaine Parrish
 Dorothy Strapp
 MaryAnn & Cliff Pimm
 Our home-bound
 All youth in today's world
 Our military men & women
 All those battling COVID 19, cancer, & diseases



Our Church Joys:

Our church decorated for Easter and the large wooden cross!
 The cross then placed out in front of our church!
 On Earth Day our Spring Yard Clean- up Day & all the people who came out to help!
 Don Frelier repaired our water system!
 His son David replaced the water pressure tank for us!
 Nick Faisse cleaned up the broken branches by our driveway!
 7 Easter Dinner baskets were distributed!
 We donated all \$ 350 from our Easter Offering envelopes to the Bloomfield Blessing Room!

The Easter Altar Flowers were given in memory of:

Vera and Valois Baldwin
 Kathryn Belding
 Bennett Family
 Gerald & Vivian Blair
 Hinds Family
 Roger Evans
 Earle and Agatha Lewis
 Ed and Barbara Twardokus
 Mary White
 Harry and Lillian Waterman
 Dale & Mary Lou Williams
 Morse & Shellman Family



We are still collecting used printer ink cartridges

that can be redeemed for coupons toward our church's office supplies at Staples. Leave the ink cartridges in the labeled box in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Mark your calendars:

There will be a **Strawberry Social organizational meeting on Tuesday, May 9th at 7pm** to get started on planning our social, which is always anticipated by our community and beyond!

The social will be held this year on Thursday, June 15th and we will return to offering both inside dining and take-outs!

Details will be discussed during this meeting, which should be only about 1 hour long .

The agenda will be: to decide on the menu & plan food solicitation; create worker sign-up sheets; & plan for setting up the kitchen & Fellowship Hall

So come out and share your thoughts and help plan this highlight of our church fundraisers!

Update on the Raspberry Social – On a trial basis, the Administrative Board voted to not hold our Raspberry Social in July this year.



If you know of a student in our church family who is graduating from high school or college this year, please call Mary 657-7722 or email mt2152@hotmail.com



Our church **will not** be having our annual garage sale this summer! So, how about donating to another area church or charity?

Here are some ideas:

- ** East Bloomfield UMC Heavenly Treasures Sale, June 1st & 2nd: 9-2, F, a bag sale: Sat, June 3, 9-noon For drop off times, contact the church office 657-7220 or ebumc1830@gmail.com
- ** The West Bloomfield Historical Society Yard Sale on Sat., July 8th;
- ** West Bloomfield UCC "Junk in your Trunk" is in August .(You can rent a space in their driveway to sell your stuff);
- ** Honeoye Falls UMC's Rummage Sale in October
- ** the Honeoye Falls Presbyterian – dates?

Some other Non-Profits:

- ** Community Support Shoppe in Bloomfield;
- ** Habitat for Humanity's "Restore" store in Canandaigua;
- ** Asbury UMC Storehouse, East Ave, Rochester

Special Days in the Month of May



May 4th: is observed annually on the first Thursday in May. This day observance, designated by the United States Congress, asks people "to turn to God in prayer and meditation."



May 14th: A day to honor all mothers. (See article below.)



May 20th : Armed Forces Day is a chance to show your support for the men and women currently serving in the Armed Forces



May 21st : Ascension Sunday Jesus met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. It is believed that on the 40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven.



Aldersgate Day May 24th is celebrated to commemorate the day in 1738 when John Wesley experienced assurance of his salvation when he felt his "heart strangely warmed."



On May 28th Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3,000 people were baptized, creating the first church.

The Season after Pentecost is the time of the church year to support new disciples & the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus & the power of the Holy Spirit.



Remember -
our fallen heroes.
They are the reason
that we are free.

Memorial Day, May 29th is a day of remembrance for everyone who has died serving in the American armed forces. It was originally known as Decoration Day



Happy Birthdays

- 2 Kelly Whitmore
- 3 Garrett Erb
Katherine Fraser
Jon Willis
- 5 Forrest Milton
Sarah Price
- 6 Jenny Giessler
- 7 Donna Parrish Johnson
Jeanne Stone
- 9 Donna Feingold
- 10 Bradley Parrish
Martha Inglesby
- 14 Brenda Tyo
- 15 Jennifer Layton
- 18 Laura Parrish Moore
- 19 Ian Mohr
- 20 Devin Jay Albert
- 21 Lisa Parrish
Barbara Price
- 22 John Dunne
- 23 Randy O'Brien
John Schlenker
- 24 Kiel Gilbride
Molly Thompson
- 26 Doug Baylor
Jeff Harloff
Tyler Parrish
- 30 Joanne Baylor
Roger Bennett
Sarah Foley



Mother's Day Reflection

I remember my mother's prayers, and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."
Abraham Lincoln



Birthday Sunday

on the 2nd Sunday of each month
celebrating all those people with birthdays in that month! To make a cake for this celebration, you may sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Carol 657-7310 You may buy one and be reimbursed.



In Our Area:

Sat., May 20, 3pm til gone, Pulled Pork Dinner United Church of Bristol, Free, drive-thru, Gale-Wyn's Pulled Pork with bun, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Carrots, Pie

Every Monday & Thurs.4-6pm & Weds. & Sat. 10am-noon Free Community Clothes Closet in Parsonage House, Victor UMC, 106 E. Main St., shop for free clothing, etc. Also - donation items are needed

2nd Mondays, May 8th, 7pm Pub Theology at Fanatics in Lima with Honeoye Falls UMC "Beers, Conversations & God." All perspectives are welcome.

Every Wednesday, 11:30 am free Hands Of Hope Lunch, at St Bridget's Church Hall, Bloomfield.

2nd Weds., May 10, 4:30-6 PM (or until sold out).Take-out Spaghetti Dinner at the UMC of Livonia,21 Summer St, Spaghetti, sauce, meatballs, undressed salad, and garlic bread. Donations accepted.

3rd Thurs. of each month 11:30-1:00, Free Community Lunch at East Bloomfield UMC

2nd, 3rd, 4th Saturdays of each month Free Community Dinner 5:00 – 6:30PM at Victor Presbyterian Church, 70 E. Main St., A sit down family style wholesome dinner with musical entertainment. April 8: Baked Potato Bar; April 16:Chili; April 22: Baked Ziti .Take-out meals will be available - call the church at 924-2289 during the Community Dinner time & then brought out to your car.

4th Saturday of each month Free Breakfast, 9-11AM, at East Bloomfield UMC Pancakes, sausage, fruit, beverages.



Each Sunday morning, 8:30

am, Rev. Dr. Robin Blair hosts the, Finger Lakes Journal, radio show, on WYLF, AM 850. It is about 20 minutes in length where Rev. Blair has interviewed a guest about something that is happening in the beautiful Finger Lakes area that could be of interest to the folks like us who live here! From concert performers to museum curators and Fire Chiefs, it is just interesting to hear from our neighbors who aim to be "good neighbors" to us all. You can listen in on the radio, AM 850, or from your computer: www.wyfl.com for "listen live" at 8:30 on Sunday mornings! It is super fun to hear our pastor on the air! Check it out!



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

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



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

Place into the crate or trash containers 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 this year we have collected 7,159 cans & bottles, and all the proceeds of \$419.52 have been donated toward our various mission projects!

We have received thank yous from non-profits where we sent mission donations:

Bloomfield Blessing Room: "Your Lenten food collection as a real blessing to our pantry. Thank you so much for your faithful support."

Water For South Sudan: "Thank you very much for your recent donation.. It will make an enormous difference by supplying clean water to the people of South Sudan."

Willow Domestic Violence Center: "Your generous donation to Willow is appreciated.Know that you are making a difference...in supporting survivors of domestic violence.."

Red Bird Mission: "I want to thank you for your monetary support and donations to this vital mission."

UMCOR: Thank you for helping "provide disaster response & relief to areas impacted by natural & man-made disasters around the world...."

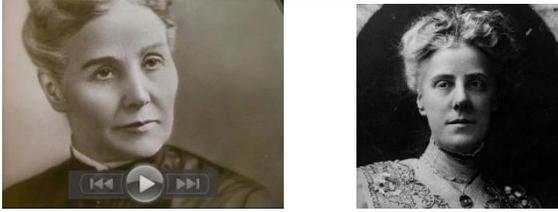


A Spring Poem Prayer

*For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!
For blue of stream and blue of sky;
For pleasant shade of branches high;
For fragrant air and cooling breeze;
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!*

Ralph Waldo Emerson (from "We Thank Thee")

Methodist History: The Founding Mothers of Mother's Day



In the late 1860s, before there was an official Mother's Day holiday in the U.S., a Methodist mom Ann Reeves Jarvis & her daughter Anna organized "Mothers' Friendship Day," at which mothers gathered with former Union & Confederate soldiers to promote reconciliation. Ann Jarvis was convinced that mothers, women, but especially mothers, had to work for peace because they could see the ravages of war in their husbands & in their sons, in a way that was so focused & so clear that their voices would be powerful. In May 1908, Anna Jarvis organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia



Common Table Podcast UMC

The Social Holiness Team of UNY AC UMC, offers a variety of podcasts for your information regarding matters of social justice and love. Please visit: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1940809>



Please share the above link with friends on Facebook or any social media you visit so the blessings of hope and love with peace and justice reach and reach out to all God's people.

The most recent addition to the podcast was a dialogue with Ansley Jemison, cultural liaison at Ganondagan Historic site, located in Victor. A rich treasure in our vicinity to share and inform us all about the traditions and history of the Native People who lived on this land we call home before and after the immigration that flooded the shores of this continent from Europe. Ganondagan State Historic Site is a New York State Historic Site and a National Historic Landmark. Mr. Jemison is a member of the Seneca Nation.

Our Church this Easter!



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



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2120 Elton Road, P. O. Box 8
Ionia, New York 14475

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



Calendar

Sundays, 9:30 AM Worship Service &
10:30 AM Coffee Hour & DVD Studies

Tuesday 2nd : Trustees meeting

4th : National Day of Prayer

14th Mothers' Day

Sunday, 21st Birthday Sunday & Ascension Day

Tues., 16th : Ad Board meeting

Sunday, 28th: Pentecost & Sunday Pot-Luck
Brunch



Future Ionia UMC Dates!

Strawberry Social: Thursday, June 15th

Fall Festival Saturday, September 16th

Holiday Fair Craft Show: Saturday, November 18th