



# Faith Connections – September 2023

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

## From Our Pastor's Desk:

Dear ones,

Our United Methodist tradition has a history of inviting people to a relationship with Christ. The brothers Wesley preached sermons delivered in the sanctuary or on the street corner filled with a faith that came from a heart for God and an invitation to know the grace and forgiveness Jesus offers to all people. Additionally, Charles' hymn lyrics strengthened the soul to remember who and whose God's people were and how their lives could honor the Lord. What would Christmas worship sound like without, *Come thou Long Expected Jesus*, and *Hark the Herald Angles* sing? Or Easter morning without, *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*? Our faith is shaped by our worship that includes prayer, preaching on scripture, and singing. I do love our music in worship (and the scripture, prayer, and gathering!).

Charles Wesley leaves a legacy of songs that speak to us with faith. When it is hard to describe our faith to some, we sing it for all.

Our worship of God as gathered people of faith, honors God with our presence, our hungry hearts for God's mercy and love, and our commitment to the scripture that commands to "keep the Sabbath holy" (Ez.20:19-20). Our tradition asks us to also honor the scripture in Matthew that where Jesus offers, "make disciples of every nation and baptize them in my name and teach them to obey everything I have commanded and surely I am with you always to the end of the age", (Matt 28:19-20).

Making disciples – seeking God, recognizing the hunger and thirst for the peace that comes with the connection of the grace of Christ in your real and sacred lives, means a regular practice and discipline of prayer, scripture, and worship in your life. And, it means sharing the God of all creation with others. Many do not know what forgiveness is about; many do not know the freedom and maturity that comes because we can be living a life free from shame, guilt, and condemnation. Our spiritual truth is that we can be forgiven for our sins by the Incarnate Lord, Jesus, who lived, loved, died on the cross, and rose again that we might know mercy, grace, and everlasting life (heaven) when we respond to Jesus' great love for all God's people. By the power of the

Holy Spirit, we can all share in the joy of the Lord!  
Praise be to God!

This season I will share in a sermon series that calls us to remember how loved we are by the Lord, and that part of that love is not to keep it a secret. We too, can invite people to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

See you in Sunday worship, praise God!  
Love and peace,  
Pastor Robin

## Sermon series for September/October 2023 Remember Your Truth in Faith: A visit to living by the Word

**9.10.23 Do you hear what I hear? (scripture at the center) John 8:47** *"Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."*

**9.17.24 If you love me...(honor what He has said) John 14:15** *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."*

**9.24.23 Let's pray about it! (talking to God through prayer) Philippians 4:6** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

**10.1.23 The spirit is willing! (Oh, how human we are!) Matthew 26:41** *Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

**10.8.23 Lord, give me a sign? (is resting okay?) Ezekiel 20:19-20** *Keep the Sabbath holy, that it may be a sign between us.*

### **On September 10, 2023**

Please join us in worship as we offer a blessing to all those involved in education as schools have begun for a new year of learning, stretching, & growing. We are grateful as a community of faith that people are devoted to learning and caring for those who teach, guide, & learn.

*Blessings of the educators, staff and students who work to help our children, teens, and adults follow the biblical directive to LEARN: "do not conform to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2*



**Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> – all day!**  
**Our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival**

**on our church grounds**  
**Come for a fun fall day in the country to**  
**celebrate our agricultural heritage!**

We are looking forward to our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Ionia Fall Festival – the tractor parade, food, games, raffles, displays, demonstrations, & lots of fun activities. It is much anticipated by people from all over our area!



Think about decorating your yard for fall the week before the festival & show our community spirit!



**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Tractor Parade** - tractors from all over western NY & is one of the largest in western NY! The parade begins at 1 PM, but you can look at the tractor & implement displays behind the church all day long. For info & to volunteer for the tractor parade: contact John Bennett 657-6245

**Coffee & Donuts 7:30 – 9:30 AM**

At the Chow Hut



**Chow Hut: 10 AM-4:30 PM**

Hot Dogs, Burgers, Sausages, Chili, etc



**Chicken BBQ**

11:30 AM til sold out

**Historical Displays**



**Face Painting & Children's Crafts**



**Vendors - For Vendor Booth info:**  
contact Marna Evans 585-624-4993.



**Coin Toss & other Games**

11AM-4PM



**Have extra items for children's games prizes?**

We already have enough glass ware now, but we can use some gently used small beanie sized stuffed animals, small figurines or other small items for children's game prizes!



**Dessert Wheel Donations**



We need lots of cakes, desserts, cookies, brownies, breads, etc for the booth. Drop off at church kitchen Friday Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 4-8pm or, Sat. before noon. Set the items on the tall shelves in Fellowship Hall. There are decorative cake & dessert plates in fellowship hall that can be used for your cakes, cookies, etc To help, contact Alice Wells 624-2566



**Door Prize Baskets**

We will be needing some gift baskets to be donated by Sunday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> or to make other arrangements

– Would you or your family be willing to donate a basket filled with theme items or an item to add into one of the baskets we have already started? Questions? Call Lorraine Frelier 657-4504



**to the Observatory**

11 AM -3 PM



**Scout Demonstrations**

**& much, much more!**

More information & posters are on our website: [www.ioniaumc.org](http://www.ioniaumc.org) & facebook [www.facebook.com/IoniaUMCNY](http://www.facebook.com/IoniaUMCNY) Contact Mary Tolomay 585-924-7778 for more details.

**Have a canopy?** that we can borrow for the festival? Bring it to the church.





Our prayers are with the Child family on the passing of Louise, Pastor Robin's mother-in-law.

Some heartbreaking news in July that Pastor Andy Schaefer's youngest has passed from medical complications. Let us keep the family in our prayers! She was born while Pastor Andy Schaefer faithfully served our church from 1998 to 2002. If you would like to send a card, Andy and Rebecca's address is 25 Lambeth Loop, Fairport NY 14450

Our prayers are with the family & friends of Pete Wettergreen who passed on in May.

Kevin, Pastor Robin's nephew

Our prayers are with Jacob Garling's sister who was in an accident.

A parishioner's son & his parents

Lola Harloff is now in Thompson's Continuing Care.

Jan, Pat & Ron, Kay, Doris, Mary, Shirley, Elaine, MaryAnn & Cliff, Lola, & all our home-bound members

Our nation & the world & all countries engaged in war

Our military men & women

All those battling cancer, COVID, & chronic diseases



### **Birthday Sunday**

**on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month** celebrating all those people with birthdays during that month! To make a cake for this celebration, you may sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Carol 657-7310.



**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!

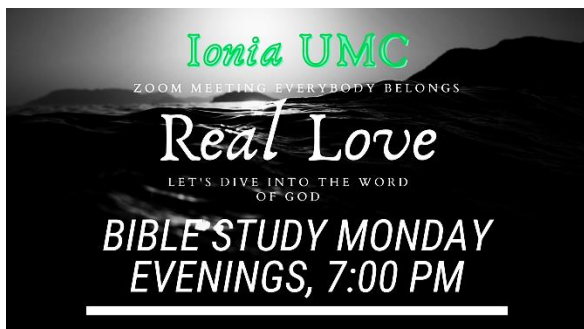


**Our church's mission is to serve our church family & community.**

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



**Ray Van Der Laan & Max Lucado DVD Studies** will resume in mid-September after our worship service & fellowship time



Start date to be announced



We are collecting school supplies & vegetables, beans, & canned meat/fish for the Bloomfield Blessing Room. Place them in the wooden boxes in Fellowship Hall or there is a tote on the back porch for donations.



**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 **over 12,000 can donations** this year so far, netting **over \$800 for missions!!**







**In order to make all this Fall Festival happen, we will need volunteers to help us** man all of our activities on that day! We are asking our whole community if you are willing & able to help out for an hour or two, sign up in the church Fellowship Hall or contact Mary Tolomay 924-7778 with your availability For set up on Friday & all our events on Saturday Shifts: 1 or 2 hours each (10AM until 4:30 PM) Thank you!!



**Our Church Joys:**

Mark Andrew was born to Scott & Michelle Batterson on July 2<sup>nd</sup> & was baptized on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>!

Pat & Ron Bennett celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary August 22<sup>nd</sup>!

All the school supplies & food that were donated for the Blessing Room!



**Our new Genesee Valley District Superintendent** as of July 1<sup>st</sup> is Rev. Suzanne Block (607) 962-8047 SuzanneBlock@unyumc.org

Her Administrative Assistant is Patti Gridley (607) 962-8047 geneseevalleydistrict@unyumc.org

The GV District Mailing Address: P.O. Box 129, Tyrone, NY 14887



**In Our Area:**



United Women in Faith

Sat., Sept. 23 Genesee Valley District UWF Annual Meeting at Dansville UMC. Our guest speaker is Karen Wehn, Geology & Environmental Sciences, SUNY Erie Community College, sharing her insights on "Glaciers, Great Lakes, & the Gulf.& Global Warming" --- Why are Women of Faith concerned & what can we do?

Sat., Sept. 30, Golf to End Family Homelessness Tournament Fundraiser for Family Promise of Ontario County, at the Winged Pheasant Golf Links in

Shortsville. The cost is \$90/person, or \$360/team of 4, includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch at the turn, & a chicken barbecue dinner! There will be games, raffles & prizes! Register at: [Birdease.com/familypromise](http://Birdease.com/familypromise) as an individual or a team, provide a sponsorship, or volunteer .

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays, 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> Weds., 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.

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

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> 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. . Take-out meals will be available - call the church at 924-2289 during the Community Dinner time & then it will brought to your car.

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

10 a.m. to noon Fridays & Saturdays. Seeds of Love Clothing Closet in Honeoye – A new clothing closet providing free clothes for community members in need at 8961 Main St., Honeoye, a service of St. Mary & St. Matthew's churches For more information or to volunteer, contact Diane Brewer-Hawes at 259-6187 or dbrewerhawes@gmail.com. .

Momday Volunteers needed for ecumenical services. St John's Home is looking volunteers. Looking for a meaningful opportunity to make a huge difference? Weekly on Mondays, 10:30am – noon. Call Rev. Sarah Culp for more information at 585-760-2634



**Hello fall flower owners and arrangers!** We welcome your floral talents to adorn our Sunday worship services. Feel free to be expressive & use all that God has provided in our beautiful Finger Lakes.



### Holiday Fair Craft Show:

**Saturday, Nov. 19 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

Bloomfield High School, 21 Oakmount Ave.

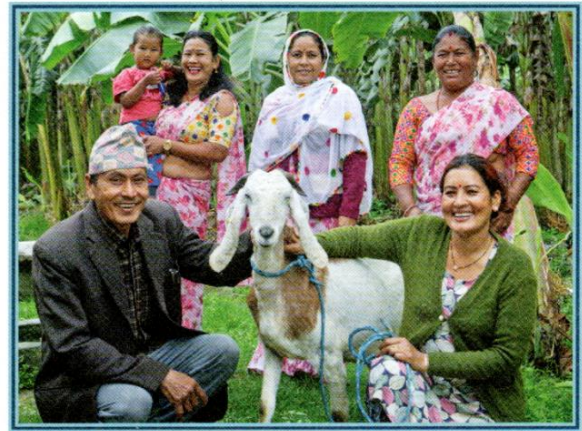
Booth applications are available on our church website: [www.ioniaumc.org](http://www.ioniaumc.org)

120 crafter spaces selling a wide variety of crafts, gifts, & homemade goodies. Our church will have their candy booth!

Free admission & parking.

Lunch is available.

Bring your holiday shopping list!



**HEIFER INTERNATIONAL**  
GRATEFULLY RECOGNIZES

## Ionía UMC

For faithfully serving the Lord in words and actions and for sharing their gifts to end world hunger and poverty. This congregation has richly blessed families in need with gifts of livestock and agricultural training to help families become self-reliant.

*"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward him for what he has done."*

PROVERBS 19:17

*Berit Kimrey*

Berit Kimrey  
Director of Faith Communities

Presented this  
July 2023



### Happy September Birthday!

- 1 Hayden Price  
Yvonne Stone  
Nate Talley
- 7 Tom O'Brien  
Maureen Thompson
- 9 Cheryl O'Brien
- 10 Jacob Garling
- 13 Cathy Parrish
- 14 Brad Bennett
- 15 Ron Stonewell III  
Dorothy Strapp
- 18 Mary Willis
- 21 Lynn Brien  
Lauren Twardokus
- 22 Paul Inglesby
- 23 Dave Dillon  
Hanna Schlenker
- 24 Karen Strapp
- 25 Margaret Tiffany
- 26 Jenny O'Brien
- 27 Holly Parrish Trickey
- 28 Dale Twardokus
- 29 Clifford Pimm



Mark Andrew Batterson's Baptism

### BEAUTIFUL THINGS

*As we hurry along on life's journey today  
With the joy and the sorrow it brings,  
And never a thought what we pass on the way  
Let us look for the beautiful things.  
There is music that's free, that will surely beguile  
'Tis the song of the bird as he sings,  
And the sun-kissed breeze makes us linger awhile.  
Just to look for the beautiful things.  
Let us close our eyes to the faults of a friend  
Drop them deep in oblivion's springs,  
As we travel along to life's golden end  
We can always find beautiful things.*

Lucile B. Ballard

Submitted by Meg Giessler



Our altar in July!

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



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

Sunday Worship Service:  
9:30AM AM

Church Website: [www.ioniaumc.org](http://www.ioniaumc.org)

Church Email: [ioniaumc2120@hotmail.com](mailto:ioniaumc2120@hotmail.com)

Facebook: "IoniaUMCNY"

Church Phone: 585-657-6984

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robin Blair

Pastor's Email: [revrobinblair@gmail.com](mailto:revrobinblair@gmail.com)

Pastor's Phone: 315-729-4485



## September calendar

Sundays, 9:30 AM Worship Service &  
10:30 AM Coffee Hour  
& DVD Study  
Zoom Bible Study

Sunday, September 10: Communion &  
Birthday Sunday

Sat., Sept. 16: Fall Festival

Tuesday, September 19: Ad Board meeting  
Sunday, September 24" Brunch

