



Faith Connections – October 2023

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

From Our Pastor's Desk:

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Autumn is here in all its glory! God's colorful north-eastern part of our country calls for walks in the woods or drives to the mountains and countryside to take in the beauty of growing, green plants bidding farewell till spring and summer comes around again, next year. It is a spiritual and sacred thing to witness God's creation as it changes in the fall, preparing for a winter's rest. For many, the natural world provides a close connection to God's presence in their lives. I must admit, it is part of how I know the Lord, too. I hope you get to experience some of this beauty because God created that we should live with it, care for it; and God called it, good.

The other evening, I wandered down to the water's edge with neighbors. We had a fire of fallen sticks and logs set on the slate rocks that have been formed over centuries. I am blessed with lovely neighbors formed in a few years of living side by side in our homes! We enjoyed the warmth, the gentle breeze lapping at the water, the huge moon reflecting on the water, and the ruffled-looking clouds in the moonlight with good conversation. To me, in the blessing and beauty of the moments, God's presence was as real as kissing one of my grandchildren on the head or like a prayer, submitting to its power. Sometimes you stop everything else and honor the sacred. Can you name some of these moments in your life?

Creation care is heavy on my heart as we enter this season of cooler temperatures and tucked-away garden beds. Summer's produce was plentiful and delicious, I have frozen tomatoes that will land in all my soups this winter! I know many of you can/freeze vegetables and fruits for food in the coming months. Praise God for the fruits of the Earth and our ability to farm, harvest, and care for one another.

We are blessed in the Finger Lakes region that we have water and soil to see green plants grow. We are blessed that we can grow some of our own food, enjoy the shade of the trees, and have clean water to drink and sustain life in the way it was meant to be sustained from the beginning! Our nurture and care for God's creation is part of our role as Christians who have been blessed with the ability to discern what our priorities are as God's speaks to us about caring for creation.

I ask that you join in the prayers of the congregation and all those who want to offer a legacy of fresh air, clean water, and unspoiled soil, to our children and grandchildren and their great grandchildren. As you embrace and embody how each effort we make, each single use plastic item we don't purchase, each time we explain to our families that reusing and fixing something saves it from the landfill (which helps the planet stay healthy), we honor the Lord, our God. We honor what we have been blessed with by God, in creation. Let's gather our creative spirits and be guided by the Holy Spirit, to do our part to honor this gift of the natural world! I praise God for you.

With love and grace, Pastor Robin



From Pastor Robin: More on Creation Care for all God's people:

Here is an example of how the consumer has been duped by big business, the planet harmed, and caused death to humans and animals. We once believed that spraying *Round Up* (owned by Monsanto, now owned by Bayer) on our weeds seems like a small thing, but it is not small and never was. This pesticide has offered God's creation the killing of weeds in your yard, its true. But it also brought us, cancer: As of August 15, 2023, there were 4,222 Roundup lawsuit cases still open in federal multidistrict litigation in California — up from 4,212 in July 2023. And that is just, California.

Roundup lawyers are still accepting claims to go to trial potentially or to negotiate a settlement. Bayer offered \$10.9 billion to settle roughly 100,000 existing Roundup claims, but a judge didn't allow the company to settle all future claims for \$2 billion. <https://www.drugwatch.com/legal/roundup-lawsuit/>

The point I am hoping to make is that every consumer purchase we make can be made with a lens on our faith; is it healthy for our lives and for creation? We have decided to gather plastic laundry containers (soap, bleach etc) to make a point in the community that single use plastics are harmful to God's creation, and recognize there are alternatives to cleanliness other than things delivered in plastic tubs. Remember bars of soap rather than liquid containers next to the faucet? Remember powdered laundry soap rather than liquid in tubs? Now, we have sheets of soap for the laundry, and they work. For more, read on: <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/single-use-plastics-101#why>

Prayerfully, we can honor God by honoring God's God's creation. Let's walk the talk, together!

From the Annual Conference of Upper New York UMC:



Beginning in October 2023, United Methodists of Upper New York are launching Together in Prayer, a call to reconnect with the essence of who we are as people of faith, disciples of Christ, and United Methodists. This is an invitation to unite our hearts and seek a stronger connection with God and one another, deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ, and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives and ministries. For more, including a video by Bishop Burgos: <https://www.unyumc.org/resources/together-in-prayer>



A big thank you to all who worked so hard to make it a success, helped to set up, and attended to make our Fall Festival such a success! A joy!!!




A parishioner's son & his parents

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 2nd 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!



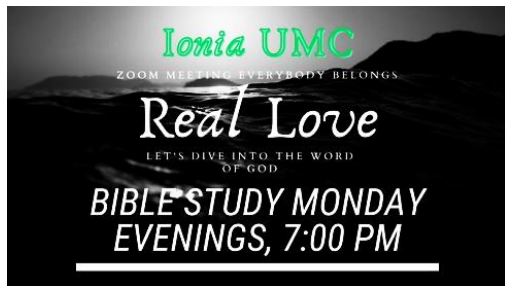
Common Table Podcast
The Social Holiness Team of UNY AC UMC, (Pastor Robin) offers a variety of podcasts for your information regarding matters of social justice and love. Please visit: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1940809>



Ray Van Der Laan & Max Lucado DVD

Studies will resume after our worship service & fellowship time

New Bible Studies: We begin the fall 2023 season with several opportunities of faith learning and spiritual growth for the people of God! Praise be to God! Pastor Robin is going to invite a variety of folks, She hopes you will do the same. Just share the email that comes to you with the link!



1. Monday night lectionary bible study, 7:00PM. Zoom, HFUMC & IUMC are both invited.



2. “Experiencing God”, by Henry T. Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, Mike Blackaby, and Claude V. King,. with Honeoye Falls UMC Pastor Christ Mitchell, Wednesday evenings, 7PM, beginning Sept. 13th, a twelve-week study, Zoom and or in HF church. This is a joint experience between Ionia UMC & HF UMC. “Over the years, God has used the truths of experien-cing God to awaken believers to a radically God-centered way of life.

3 . Tuesday afternoons (time TBD), four weeks in October, with Cathy Garrett who is inviting you to a book study of the book she referred in her sermon a couple weeks ago “Keep the Sabbath Holy (Wholly)!” in our fellowship hall. Would you like to meet in the mornings, afternoons, or evenings? Please let Pastor Robin know. Blessings and thanks to Cathy for offering to lead!



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
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!

Volunteers needed Friday evening for 2-3 hours & Saturday for 2 hour shifts – see sign-up sheets at church
Also needed is 1-2 people to supervise the lunch.



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

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

October Food Shelf: a call for diapers and feminine hygiene products (these items are not covered by EBT cards) 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 13,000 can donations** this year so far, netting **over \$900 for missions!!**



October is National Domestic Violence Prevention Month.



A big thank you to all who worked so hard to make it a success, helped to set up, and attended to make our Fall Festival such a success! A joy!!!



A parishioner's son & his parents

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



Birthdays Sunday

on the 2nd 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!



Common Table Podcast

The Social Holiness Team of UNY AC UMC, (Pastor Robin) offers a variety of podcasts for your information regarding matters of social justice and love. Please visit:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1940809>



In Our Area:

Saturday, October 21st from 4 PM until sold out, a "free" sit-down dinner. Take out will be available. Homemade candy will be available for purchase

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, 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.. 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

Last Friday of the month Community Suppers – free 5:00–6:30pm 1st Congregational Church in Bloomfield

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. . Take-out meals will be available - call the church at 924-2289 during the Community Dinner time & then it will brought to your car.

4th 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, contact Diane Brewer-Hawes at 259-6187 or dbrewerhawes@gmail.com.



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.



October Birthday!

- 1 Ross Belding
- 2 Richard Albert, Sr.
- 4 Dorina Hritz
- 6 Caylie Sullivan
- 7 Alan, Gene & John Tolomay
- 8 Mike Cantie
Kathryne Rapp
- 9 Ed Schlenker
- 12 Nancy Ficarella
- 13 Elaine Bennett
- 14 Cole Twardokus
- 19 Pete Baldwin
- 20 Valerie (Parrish)Phillips
- 22 Jeff Albert
- 27 Sidney Layton
John Tolomay
Erin Weld
- 29 Steven Strapp
Ken Washburn



 **REDBIRD**
a United Methodist Mission in Beverly, KY **We will again be collecting shoeboxes for Red Bird Mission this November**

Photos of Our Altar in September



Sleep in Heavenly Peace - a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling & delivering top-notch beds to children and families in need (Cullens)



.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

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 Study
Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday Bible Study
Sunday, October 8th: Birthday Sunday
Tuesday, October 17: Ad Board meeting
Sunday, September 29" Brunch

