



# Faith Connections – November 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 worship a gracious and loving God. The Lord is mighty and while it seems impossible to imagine, God never leaves us behind when the chips are down. And far too often, the chips feel like they are down! We think to ourselves "I'll pray about it, sure, but, why me, Lord? I am unworthy; you must have more important things to do than to listen to me and my stuff! How could you ever pay attention to me, hear my prayers, or speak any of your truth for me to follow – I am simply a person".

Scripture is filled with prophets who thought the same and yet God spoke. We do not have records of what certain prophets prayed just before God spoke, but God spoke! Remember Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel? Isaiah was called by angels with burning coals to his lips and God asked, "whom shall I send?". Jeremiah who was only a child and told God knew him as he was in the womb; God will give him the words needed. Or Ezekiel who was in the midst of despair with his people in the captivity of Babylon when called to see God in person, in the field, to be told he was needed to speak for God. These were regular folks, faithful in life but not high priests or rulers of the land. God needed God's people to share God's message of hope, faith, and love. And we read they were grateful.

God speaks, we listen. And we too, can be grateful to be pulled from despair, a life of little purpose, or a life that needs a bit of courage.

It is the month where we highlight gratefulness, and giving thanks. I am grateful for as many moments in my humble life as you are; so I am asking that we share them. Let's remember some of the good stuff! What right now, are you grateful for in this life we share in our faith community? Is there a comfort you enjoy? Are there people for whom you are so grateful you

cannot imagine a life they are not or were not a part of? Is there a job you are grateful is over because it was not a place you were thrilled to be? What service to the Lord are you grateful to be able to provide as you give God the glory? What does God's love mean to you?

To share some of this, I am inviting us to make a banner for the church that speaks to our gratitude to the Lord in our faith, and we can play with it week by week during November. I will bring the supplies (paint, brushes and long banner fabric), you bring the ideas of how you want to speak to the gratefulness you have for the Lord for what God's love means to you.

I know I am grateful for you and as a result, I give thanks to God for this body of Christ. I am also grateful for the source of love in my life that Jesus has shown me is possible beyond my expectations. It brings a sense of peace, or as many say, "a way where there was no way"!

I also ask you to bear in mind: To be grateful is a blessing, because it means you have been touched, anointed by the Holy One, and put on a path that is shimmering with light and love. Remember: 1 Thessalonians "*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*"

With love, thankfulness, and grace,  
Pastor Robin



## All Saints Day is November 5<sup>th</sup>

We will celebrate and honor those saints who have gone before us in worship with a candle lighting service. We will light candles and name loved ones who have passed into heaven's arms. We will also serve Holy Communion in worship.





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

A parishioner's son & his parents

Our nation & the world & all countries engaged in war

Our military men & women

All those battling cancer, COVID, & chronic diseases

**Joys**

We welcome Scott & Michelle Batterson into our church family

Thank you to all who helped out as well as attended the Fall Festival to make it the fun & successful event that it was.



**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!



**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:

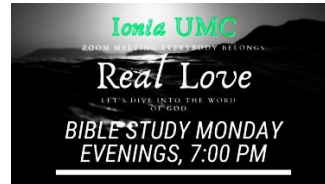
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1940809>



**Ray Van Der Laan & Max Lucado DVD**

**Studies** will resume after

our worship service & fellowship time



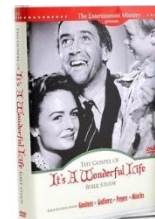
**Monday night**

**lectionary bible study, 7:00PM.** Online Zoom, HFUMC & IUMC are both invited.



**"Experiencing God",** by Henry

T. Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, Mike Blackaby, and Claude V. King, with Honeoye Falls UMC Pastor Christ Mitchell, Wednesday evenings, 7PM, 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 experiencing God to awaken believers to a radically God-centered way of life.



**The Gospel of It's a Wonderful Life**

**Bible Study** follows the story of George Bailey as we study the biblical principles of Goodness, Godliness, Prayers, and Miracles. In the Study Guide, author Stephen Skelton writes about the parables & principles contained within the movie the DVD. Each lesson contains parable questions, reflection questions, & action questions for all of the parables. You are invited to participate in this fun bible study during our season of Advent: Wednesday mornings, 10 am 11/29. 12/6. 12/13, 12/20.

At some point for one of our lessons, It might be fun to meet in Seneca Falls, (served as the inspiration for Bedford Falls in the film! We could lunch, and visit the "Wonderful Life" museum on Main Street! To be discussed during the first class. See you there!



**Holiday Fair Craft Show:**

**Saturday, Nov. 18, 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.

Bring your holiday shopping list!



Friday evening for 2-3 hours to tape spaces & Saturday for 1- 2 hour shifts for various jobs– see sign-up sheets at church or call Mary 657-7722 or Judy 738-7552

**If you have a dolly/hand cart/hand truck we can use, please contact us!**



We will again have our **Candy Booth** at the show! Get your candy & confection recipes out! You can drop off your candy at church by Friday evening – the doors will be open. Sign-up sheets for booth workers will be in Fellowship Hall



We will be collecting items for the Open Door Mission in Rochester this Christmas on a **“Mitten Tree”** for men, women & children: new socks, new hats, new gloves & mittens, & new underwear.

Also collected will be new or gently used winter clothes: coats, boots, sweatshirts, sweaters, & sweatpants. A tree will be placed in Fellowship Hall for these items & there will also be a collection box at the church back door. The deadline is Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>



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



**The mission team has decided to donate much needed funds instead of Christmas shoeboxes this year so have launched a fund-raising campaign: “Double Your Impact by Thanksgiving”**

The Mission Team pledges to match dollar for dollar up to \$1,000 to Red Bird Mission! From now until November 23<sup>rd</sup>, giving to Red Bird Mission through Ionia UMC means your gift will be doubled! Give \$1, Red Bird receives \$2. Give \$10, Red Bird receives \$20. The Mission Team's Red Bird campaign goal is to match \$1,000 of giving.

**What:** Red Bird Mission Giving Campaign

**When:** November 1-23, 2023

**How:** Cash donations should be in an envelope marked with Red Bird Mission. Write checks to Ionia UMC with Red Bird Mission on the Memo Line. Place in the collection plate or mail to: Ionia UMC PO Box 8, 2120 Elton Road, Ionia NY 14475

Red Bird Mission is a United Methodist mission site in the South east corner of Kentucky. The mission's programs include a K-12 Christian school, senior center, test kitchens, education for new mothers, no to low-cost access to clothing, food, health care, dental care, home repair, & more. The poverty rate in the area, Clay County, ranks it as one of the poorest counties in the United States. 35.4% of families & 39.7% of the population live below the poverty line, including 47.6% of those under the age of 18 and 31.3% of those age 65 or over. For comparison, in Ontario County 4.90% of families & 7.30% of the population live below the poverty line, including 9.1% of those under age 18 & 6.4% of those age 65 or over.

For those also interested in donating shoeboxes, a Red Bird shoebox and other donations collection site is at Aloquin-Flint located in Stanley on 5&20 between Canandaigua & Geneva, about 30 minutes' drive from Ionia UMC. For more information: (585) 526-5875 [aloquin-flint-umc@hotmail.com](mailto:aloquin-flint-umc@hotmail.com)

Questions about the mission can be directed to Roger or Donna Cullen.

**November Food Shelf:** a call for diapers and feminine hygiene products (these items are not covered by EBT cards) & canned/boxed food items Place them in the wooden boxes for the Blessing Room in Fellowship Hall or there is a tote on the back porch to drop off 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 15,000 can donations** this year so far, **netting over \$900 for missions!!**



**In Our Area:**

Tues., Nov 7, 4 til gone Election Day Turkey Dinner  
UCC Church in Honeoye, 8758 Main St, free will offering, buffet eat-in or take-out

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

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

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



**Advent Poinsettias for our Altar**

We will again take orders for Christmas poinsettias etc. The order form & selections will be in the December newsletter & in the Fellowship Hall. The order-by-deadline has been set for Sunday, Dec. 10th.



**Happy November Birthday!**

- 4 Amy Mohr  
Kaitlyn Tiffany
- 5 Hannah Gilbride  
Meaghan Gilbride
- 8 Carrie Twardokus
- 9 Richard Albert, Jr.
- 10 Jorden Strapp  
Gabi Thomas
- 11 Hank Stone
- 12 Marjorie Albert  
Hannah Vary
- 13 Julie Sullivan
- 14 Sophia Tiffany
- 16 Lydia Bennett
- 17 Lee Belding
- 19 Jerry Baylor  
Lacey Cantie  
Adam Chapple  
Jenny Twardokus
- 21 Ronald Parrish
- 23 Jan Mibaum  
Gary O’Brien
- 28 Thomas Chapple  
Pat Talley
- 29 John Tyo





## **End of year budget thoughts to share from Pastor Robin....**

Each year IUMC's administrative council looks at the financial costs of keeping the ministry running. We call it, a budget! Like any not-for-profit, we have some fixed expenses that need attention each month. We also have long terms goals and dreams that require attention and plenty of discussion. All of this is bathed in prayer both while we are all together and when we are at home in prayer about the faith community in which we gather for spiritual growth, strength, service, and worship. That is part of the leadership we all share. I know you pray for the church, too.

We offer a narrative budget in addition to the columns and numbers that total something at the bottom of the page. It will be written out for you in the near future, but for now, think of it this way:

- Our Pastor's ¼ time salary and reimbursable expenses are the single largest line items in our budget. This allows us to have a pastor with experience and an education that keeps her learning and growing to lead us in our spiritual journey as a community of faith. Pastor has a certain number of Sunday's out of the pulpit each year and we reimburse substitutes, or, some of our members lead us in worship who donate their time.
- We pay our organist/pianist for the worship experience because we love having live music in our worship service! We have been blessed with Barb Bennett and Sue Belcher this past year!
- We like the sanctuary and fellowship hall clean when we arrive, so we pay Linda Miller to make sure we honor the Lord with a clean "house"!
- We have electricity and fuel bills even if we don't use the church daily, we like it warm this time of year – amen?
- And praise God for volunteer trustees who fix things that breakdown, or call the appropriate experts to fix things that breakdown. We keep going in our well-maintained building!
- Even with the enormous amount of volunteer services from the congregation, there are expenses for the fundraisers through the year and we meet those expenses while gathering for God's good purposes in fellowship, sharing, and feeding one another!
- Our mission purposes have deep meaning for us all. That we could purchase an entire Ark for Heifer International to distribute this year was awesome. Some of the other contributions we make for Jesus to be served include resisting matters of injustice and where needs arise:

- Blessing Room (food, school supplies) and Holiday Baskets
- Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes (spiritual care and ending violence)
- Rochester Refugee Resettlement Center (welcoming new Citizens)
- UMCOR (and the 6 Special Sundays in the UMC, where needs arise globally)
- Red Bird Mission (a missional Annual Conference in our connection)
- Rochester Open Door Mission for the Homeless and Mitten Tree (homelessness hurts)
- Family Promise of Ontario County (homeless families are helped)
- And others..... we give where we can in the name of the Christ!

I also know you give for the church in the name of Christ to other groups, other missions, other ways to love and it all matters! I praise God for you!

As we visit the end of the fiscal year as well as a budget for the new year, I pray you will follow the wisdom of John Wesley who said: "Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can."

We run on the prayers of your hearts; we have the faith to do God's work (whose hand and hearts but ours?) as a community of believers that must serve the Lord to honor God. As we glorify God we find we can delight in the sheer generosity of financial contribution that as we give we can not only "keep the lights on", but be here for the community that has needs. We serve God together for the peace of Christ in the world, and God willing, we will invite people to a relationship with Jesus Christ. This Jesus, whose grace in this life offers a freedom from sin that allows our hearts and minds to be open to all God reveals to us, is everything. We are forever learning to love God better, and because you give your time and talents, we are able to keep faithfully seeking God's will in our faith community of Ionia UMC.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world... He gave his only son...." What shall we give in return?

Thank you for the financial contributions you make to the church. Let's keep it going, together, in the name of Christ and for HIS sake!  
Amen and praise be to God!



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



*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
His love endures forever."*  
1 Chronicles 16:34



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



## november calendar

Sundays, 9:30 AM Worship Service  
10:30 AM Coffee Hour & DVD Study  
Monday, & Wednesday Bible Studies  
Sunday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>: All Saints' Day  
Sat., Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>: Veterans' Day  
Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>: Birthday Sunday  
Sunday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Open Door donations  
Sat., November 18<sup>th</sup> Holiday Fair Craft Show  
Our Craft Show & Our Candy Booth,  
Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> : Ad Board meeting  
November 23<sup>rd</sup> : Red Bird Mission deadline  
Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> Brunch  
Weds., Nov 29, Advent Bible Study begins