



# Faith Connections – March 2024

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

## **From Our Pastor's Desk:**

Dear Ones,

I am humbled and grateful to be on this spiritual journey with all of you in 2024 and especially this time during Lent. Our awareness of the need to intentionally *care for God's creation* has become a focus of learning to notice where we have slipped into harm towards creation. As we repent, we learn.

On week three of last month's newsletter inviting us to fast plastic during Lent, we were asked to inventory the kitchen for plastic. I admit to being shocked at how much plastic I have used over the years and tossed into the landfills or recycling bins. For starters, the plastic bags garbage goes in! Those bags do not break down and I am stunned at the ease with which we use them. All very practical of course as we gather the garbage, bag it into the garbage bins for the collectors to pick up once a week, or, a trip to the landfill/dump and voila! No more garbage! Except, there is an enormous amount of garbage that will never breakdown. It feels like a sin, as though we have been seduced into a "way of life" for our convenience that leaves an eternal stain on the Earth, the air, and the water both fresh and salt. Say this out loud: *I repent, Lord, please forgive me. I hope to do better for your beautiful creation, guide me, I humbly ask, amen.*

Part of my personal repentance is to seek alternatives to landfill use whenever possible – reusing plastic containers, seeking non-plastic containers for things like juice or milk, that are packaged in cardboard rather than plastic, bringing my own bags to buy fresh vegetables or fruit so that when they reach the kitchen, I don't have to fret about more plastic for the landfill.

I also searched online for something to bag garbage in that *will* breakdown, and found a

variety of products that say the bag itself will biodegrade. I have a variety of them in church on display for you to look over, maybe even give them a try. It could be the one thing you change in the kitchen to honor God by generating less plastic for the landfill. Let me know what you come up with in prayer and practice.

We have shared detergent sheets, bars of soap, biodegradable garbage bags, and last week more presents were shared: Bamboo toothbrushes with handles that are 100% compostable vs. about 83.3 million plastic toothbrushes are thrown away every month (according to National Geographic) that never degrade.

I pray we can all make subtle and not so subtle changes to our consumer habits and then tell everyone why: It is because we love God and God's creation. We want to show future generations that we did not carelessly cause harm, but we helped to love God through creation care.

*Humans are commanded to care for God's creation. Genesis 2:15*

*Guide us, Lord. We seek to honor you.*

With love and shalom, Pastor Robin





### Joys in our church

A Confirmation Class is being held during Lent!

The Reception after Mary Dunne's funeral, to celebrate Mary's life!

Evie Addison was born to Meaghan & Adam Ambielli, Dorothy Strapp's newest great-granddaughter!



Mary Dunne's family

Pat & Ron, Kay, Doris, Shirley, Elaine, Jan, Lola, Mary Ann, & Cliff who is in the hospital, All our home-bound members

A parishioner's son & his parents

Our former District Superintendent Ted Anderson as he serves as Asbury UMC's interim pastor

Our nation & the world & all countries engaged in war

Our military men & women

All those battling cancer, COVID, & chronic diseases



**We will return to worship in the Sanctuary on Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**



### **Birthday Sunday**

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



Tuesdays during Lent 5-7pm



Easter Altar Plants



Flowers will be placed on the altar. See the article in this newsletter



Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>



Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, service, The sanctuary will be open noon- 6pm



Easter, March 31<sup>st</sup>  
Easter Worship: 9:30 am  
Baptism & Confirmation  
Reception 10:30 am



Our Easter offering envelopes will be placed in the mailed March newsletter and in the church Narthex



### **Easter Altar Plants**

Let's flood the altar area! Many of you have ordered other spring flowers in the past, so these options are also listed. Options & prices: 5 blossom Easter lily \$9.50; Calla lily \$15.15; Tulips \$7.00; Azaleas \$17.50. Flowers are in 6" pots with green pot covers. The order deadline is Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call Jacquie Shellman 585-755-3825. Payment by cash or checks made payable to Ionia UMC. The Worship Committee has decided to purchase mini daffodil plants for the stained glass window sills. Questions or to order, give her a call.

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



**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 the donations!**



**For our Lenten Creation Care: Recycle your soft plastic bags!**

bread bags, zip-lock bags, etc (NO bags from frozen foods, salad mix, candy, mesh, chip, pet food, trash bogs) Bring them to church & put them in a wood box in Fellowship Hall or take them to a store who recycles them! Do not put them in your recycling tote to be picked up by your trash collector as they do not accept them



**Our church will be again collecting printer ink cartridges!**

Staples has changed their program so that we will again be collecting the cartridges in a box in Fellowship Hall. We will receive Staples coupons that we can use to purchase office supplies! So, just drop them off in the box in Fellowship Hall or even drop them off in the plastic tote on the back porch. Please put them in a plastic bag so any leftover ink cannot leak out.

Thank you for all your recycling contributions!



**Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>!**



**In Our Area:**

Sat., March 9<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 PM Community Game Night at the Bristol Church, 7177 County Rd #2. Free Family fun night, snacks & drinks provided.



**Eclipse on April 8<sup>th</sup>!** There will be parking offered in our church parking lot

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 January thru April

Fridays & Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon. 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](mailto:dbrewerhawes@gmail.com).

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., Sit-down & take-out meals will be available (call the church at 924-2289 during the Community Dinner time & then it will be brought to your car).

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



## Happy Birthday!

- 4 Mary A. Bennett  
Doris Daniels
- 7 Gary DiGiulio
- 8 Rory Bennett  
Lorraine Frelier
- 9 Ron Stonewell, Jr
- 13 Tara Schaefer  
Mike Brien
- 16 Russ Kenyon  
Carol Ann Pratt  
Ed Price
- 19 Peggy Madafferri
- 21 Kathy Maier  
Kyler Mohr
- 22 Patrice Sullivan
- 23 Kimberly Tiffany  
Joshua Tyo
- 25 David Fraser
- 26 David Frelier  
Ashley & Megan Parrish
- 27 Curt Evans
- 28 Mollee Thomas
- 31 Suzann Fryer



**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>



The church punch bowl is missing. If you borrowed it, please return it to the church kitchen.

Also, there are extra dishes in the kitchen. If you are missing any dishes, check out the kitchen!



### **Favorite Church Recipes** **Dorothy Strapp's Upside Down Apple French**

#### **Toast**

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 stick butter                          | 1 ¼ cup brown sugar   |
| 1 Tbsp water                            | 3 Granny Smith apples |
| Cinnamon to taste                       | ½ cup raisins         |
| 1 loaf French bread (sliced 1 ½" thick) |                       |
| 1 1/2c milk                             | 6 eggs                |
| 1 tsp vanilla                           |                       |

Combine butter brown sugar & water in sauce pan. Heat over medium heat til bubbling, stirring frequently. Transfer to 9x13 pan & allow to cool 20-30 minutes. Peel, core & slice apples & place in rows close together overlapping on top of sauce. Sprinkle with cinnamon & raisins. Place the slices of bread on top of the apples. Mix together milk, eggs, & vanilla & Pour over bread. Sprinkle with nutmeg. Cover & refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350° til golden brown & crispy on top. Serve upside down, spoon sauce in pan over top. Serve with crème topping if desired.



UMCOR Sunday is coming soon! On March 10<sup>th</sup> we celebrate UMCOR's work assisting vulnerable persons affected by crisis or chronic need.

New disasters strike around the world every year, causing new damage and increasing pre-existing damage. Our hopes are that you will consider offering your gifts to help cover UMCOR's administrative costs as they work to help those who are hurting. (100% of all other donations go directly to relief efforts)

Place your donation in one of the envelopes found at church or may also mail your donation to the church, writing "UMCOR" on your check. Thank you

## Our Altar in February



What are your temptations to keep you from walking the holy path? Where do you find calm to think about your faith journey--maybe a routine quiet activity, such as ironing?



Transfiguration Sunday: Mt. Tabor where Jesus' clothes became dazzling white in presence of Moses & Elijah. James, John & Peter waited below.



Trash your sins, repent because Jesus is the light of the world



Jesus didn't need a medical kit, medical words nor tarot cards to heal

### One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village  
The child of a peasant woman  
He grew up in another obscure village  
Where he worked in a carpenter shop  
Until he was thirty

He never wrote a book  
He never held an office  
He never went to college  
He never visited a big city  
He never travelled more than 200 miles  
From the place where he was born  
He did none of the things  
Usually associated with greatness  
He had no credentials but himself

He was only thirty three

His friends ran away  
One of them denied him  
He was turned over to his enemies  
And went through the mockery of a trial  
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves  
While dying, his executioners gambled for his  
clothing

The only property he had on earth

When he was dead  
He was laid in a borrowed grave  
Through the pity of a friend

Nineteen centuries have come and gone  
And today Jesus is the central figure of the human  
race

And the leader of mankind's progress  
All the armies that have ever marched  
All the navies that have ever sailed  
All the parliaments that have ever sat  
All the kings that ever reigned put together  
Have not affected the life of mankind on earth  
As powerfully as that one solitary life

Dr James Allan © 1926.

Ionia United Methodist Church  
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**Christ  
the Lord  
is Risen  
Today!**



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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robin Blair

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

Pastor's Phone: 315-729-4485



### Calendar

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

Tuesdays 5-7 pm: Lenten Study

Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Sunday

Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> Ad Board meeting &

Sat., March 23<sup>rd</sup> Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday

March 29<sup>th</sup> Good Friday

Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday &

Reception

Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> Strawberry Social

Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> Fall Festival,

Holiday Fair in November