



# Faith Connections – April 2024

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

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

**"Praise be to the God and our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1Peter 1:3**

*We waved our Palms for a parade. We greeted the young man on a donkey, gently and humbly coming into town. He smiled at the children and all of us, moved we were there to greet him. We were caught up in the excitement because the rumor was he was the long-awaited Messiah! We shouted, risking safety in the community of Roman governance as we cried, "Hosanna!", which translates to, "save us"! He took us to a supper and talked about bread and wine as his body and blood and every time we eat and drink, to remember him.*

*We followed him to the garden at night where he prayed and was arrested. We watched silently as Pilate condemned him to death and too many in the crowd were not shouting "save us", but crucify him. It was awful. Then, he died on the cross and our hearts were broken, because even if he was not the Messiah – he was a really gentle soul and he helped many people. He did not deserve to die like that; it was awful.*

*When the tomb was empty just after the Sabbath, everyone was confused! It was thought someone stole his body – it turned out, he actually rose from that tomb. He was not in there because he was not dead! Was it some sort of magic trick? Was it someone making a fool of the faithful who held onto prayers and hope? No, it was real – Jesus lived. There was no death in Jesus! He had told us he was the fulfillment of scripture. He had told us he and God were one. He had told us he loved us no matter what and that he could forgive our sins forever; it was hard to hear and harder to understand. But now, to see him live beyond human death our faith was deepening to bring a new acceptance in our community. We could not*

*understand, but we could not deny what we saw and felt as he walked by and smiled.*

*He walked and talked and ate with his friends. He told them to tell everyone about him. He said tell them all that love could offer through the grace of his sacrifice; we could not go back to life as it was before. We just couldn't. There was joy and hope we had never felt! It was an energy and we had to talk about it! Some folks starting wandering to tell others the story, some folks stayed in Jerusalem to help people there understand what this was because it was a miracle. A real miracle. God is real and we were told everyone matters. Not just the Romans or the wealthy, but regular folks, too. Everyone matters to God and to life in the present. We invited everyone to believe.....we could not stop talking about, Jesus.*

Today, we still stand in awe of the story and the empty tomb. And we are asked only one question: Do you believe in the God of the cosmos that no tomb or earthly death could hold? If you do, how have you given your life as a living sacrifice to God in response to His amazing grace? If you have not fully embraced the truth of Jesus sacrifice, love, and grace perhaps now is the time. If you believe, now is the time.

In our loving congregation we find we can hear God calling us to tell everybody, too. All people matter to the Lord. All of us are forgiven our sins. All of us can humble down and remember the story that tells us who and why God is the great, "I AM". God is the One whose creative spirit brought forth all there is within our sight, sound, touch, smell, and feeling.

With spring it is the birdsong and daffodils that remind me of "How Great Thou Art". When we gather for worship or events or a visit, I am reminded of the blessing of community in faith where the sacred is noticed and resides. When babies cry in church, I know the blessings and miracles of God are everlasting and when my

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time is done on this earthly realm, I will be assured that with babies in our midst the presence of love resides. And if you know love, you know God (Jn. 4:17)

We will continue loving God with creation care for the full season of Easter which takes us to Pentecost Sunday. Keep recycling, reducing consumption of plastics, and reusing all you can so we can treat God's creation like it matters, too.

With shalom, grace, and love,  
Pastor Robin



**Joys in our church**

Jacob Garling was confirmed on Easter Sunday!

All the beautiful Easter flowers in our sanctuary !



Rev Jeff Child in his recovery  
For the families of Nancy Ficarella's & Laurel Wemett upon their recent passings  
Cliff who is now in rehab in Leroy  
Pat & Ron, Kay, Doris, Shirley, Elaine, Jan, Lola, Mary Ann, & 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.



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



**Drop off your clean "NYS deposit**

**5c" 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! (Please **No** recyclable plastic jugs, etc)  
**Thank you for all the donations for missions!**



**For our Creation Care Mission: Recycle your soft plastic bags!** Please take them to a participating store & place them in their recycling bin.

Stores where you can take them are: Wegmans, Tops, Target, Best Buy & more!

Acceptable are: bread bags, zip-lock bags, bags paper products come in, cereal bags, etc (**NO** bags from frozen foods, salad mix, candy, mesh, chip, pet food, trash bags) Do not put them in your recycling tote to be picked up by your trash collector as they will not accept them.

A link to a video about Wegmans recycling is: <https://www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark-video-wegmans>



**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 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 your recycling contributions!**



**Ray Van Der Laan DVD**

**Studies** will be held after our Sunday fellowship time, except for on Brunch Sunday.



Topic & time to be determined



### **In Our Area:**

April 4th -6th & 11th-13th, Spring Clearance - clothing will be offered FREE Thurs. & Fri. 9am-3pm, Sat. 9am-2pm UMC of Livonia Thrift Shop, Corner of Spring & Church Streets, Livonia, 585-346-3511.

Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 4pm Grace Choir Concert at West Bloomfield Church A concert of Classic Songs of Praise & Worship!

Sat., April 13, 4-7pm, Family Promise Bowl-A-Thon. Roseland Bowl, Canandaigua. 2 games of bowling, dinner, raffles, prizes, fun, & more! \$40 /single player, \$200/ team of 5. 943-0205



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

May 18, 6-10pm Victor Walking for Hope, Victor Parks & Recreation, Lehigh Crossing to raise money to assist area families that have a family member battling a serious illness to help with related expenses. Money raised will stay in Victor, Farmington, & Bloomfield. Call Renee Bates 721-0300 or email walkingforhopevictor@gmail.com

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.

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 April Birthday!**

- 1 Judy Baldwin
- 2 Marla Bennett Jabbour
- 5 Marlese Hawkins
- 6 Heather Kenyon
- 7 Don Frelier  
Roxanne Price  
Cindi Thomas  
David Wells
- 8Kim Baylor  
Mark Gilbride
- 9Cynthia Fraser  
Eva Garling
- 11 Don Semmler
- 12Scott Garling  
Sue Milton  
Rebecca Smith
- 14 Linda Brown  
Philip White
- 15 Aryn Rapp
- 17 Colden Thomas DuBois
- 22 Meghan Giessler  
Bethany Milton
- 23Rebecca Gilbride Pezzimenti  
Jeff Price
- 24Mackenzie Kenyon  
Emilio Tolomay  
William Washburn
- 26 Ryan Baldwin
- 28Sam Fryer
- 29 Jane Wagorn



### Our Upcoming Dates:

#### **Strawberry Social – June 20**

4:30 – 6:30 PM

Hot dogs, hamburgers, salads & delicious strawberry desserts! Items- priced separately



#### **Fall Festival – Sept. 21**

on the church grounds

Tractor parade, pancake breakfast, BBQ, games, displays, demonstrations, & more!

#### **Holiday Fair Craft Show: in November**



9:00AM – 3:00 PM

Bloomfield High

Applications available after July 1<sup>st</sup> on our church website: [www.ioniaumc.org](http://www.ioniaumc.org)



### Needs for our Fall Festival!

As we begin planning for this year's Fall Festival on Sept 21<sup>st</sup>, we find that our vendor & non-profit coordinator, Marna Evans, is stepping down after many years of coordinating this activity. Thank you Marna for all of your hard work & dedication to this event!

**Anyone interested in helping to organize our vendor** and non-profit booths please contact: Mary Tolomay at 924-7778 or 978-5889 or by email: [mtolomay@gmail.com](mailto:mtolomay@gmail.com).

**Seeking donations of glassware and dishes** suitable for our fall festival dish pitch. The dish pitch is such a fun game for all ages & has been a fan favorite at FF for a number of years! The coffers are bare so think of us as you clean out your cupboards this spring! They may be dropped off in fellowship hall & we will get them stored away until fall.



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

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

### Favorite Church Recipes **Ravioli Lasagna - Roger Cullen**

Heat oven to 375 F

Sauté 2 teaspoons olive oil 1 medium onion, finely chopped.

When onions are just translucent add: 1 lb lean ground sirloin & ½ pound ground Italian sausage

When meat is fully cooked: Add 28oz jar of pasta sauce 1t dried basil, 1/4c chopped olives or tapenade, 1/4c marinated artichoke rough chopped, Pinch of ground red pepper, Salt and pepper to taste

While sauce simmers prepare: 1 egg whisked into 1c ricotta cheese, 1/4t ground nutmeg

Collect layering ingredients: 20oz frozen spinach ravioli, 3c shredded mozzarella cheese, 1/2c shredded Parmesan cheese, 1/4c seasoned panko crumbs

Layer everything in oiled 9x13 pan: Thin layer sauce, 1/2 of Ravioli, 1/3 of sauce, 1/2 of ricotta, 1/3 of mozzarella, 1/2 of Ravioli, 1/3 of sauce, 1/2 of Ricotta, Parmesan cheese. Remaining mozzarella, Top with panko

Bake 30 minutes

Cool at least 10 minutes before cutting to allow layers to set



### 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.



## Our Altar and their themes



Dr. Seuss "LORAX" trees are cut down for profit of one guy, last one cut & there are no more trees. The scripture is "*get behind me Satan, you are only thinking of human things not Godly things*": This is in line with the Lenten journey of fasting plastic.



t's "*time for the Son of Man to be glorified*". What are the clues? What is our clue to understand the moments where we need to step it up & honor God? John 12:26 & the listing of our Missions were provided to parishioners. This Sunday the scripture also say that Jesus talked about the grain of wheat that has to die to be more than it is. Therefore the food with seeds, the bread made from wheat.

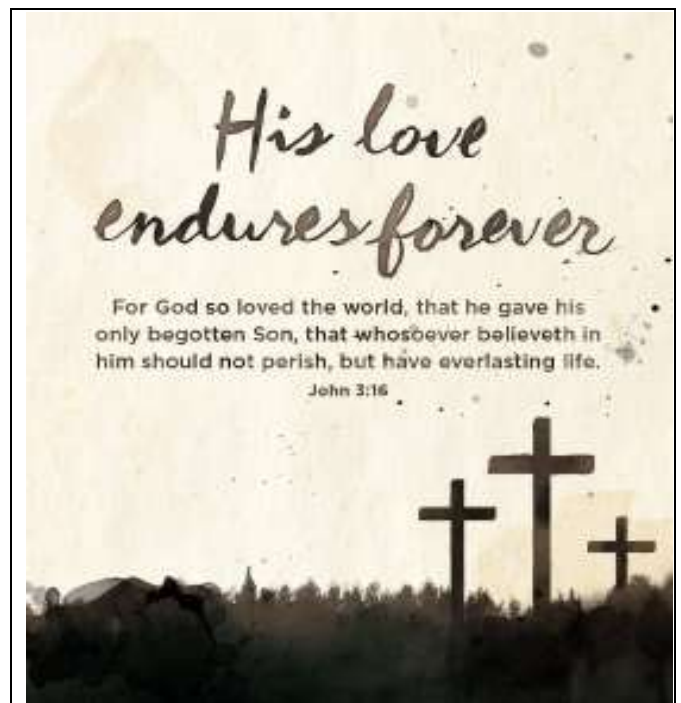


Palms on Palm Sunday



Maundy Thursday preparation commemorating the washing of feet & the last supper.

Spring Cleaning Day  
**Are You Able?**  
will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>  
Come to clean up our yard so we are ready for spring



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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



April 22<sup>nd</sup>



### Calendar

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

Tuesdays: Bible Study TBD

Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> Birthday Sunday

Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> Ad Board meeting

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

Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> Brunch

