



Faith Connections – May 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 greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Risen Christ!

We had a glorious Easter worship with many new friends and relatives in worship that had never been with us before. We covered the empty cross with flowers to celebrate new life, and had baptism and confirmation rituals with great joy! Praise be to God!

Many thanks to all who taught, participated in bible study, decorated the sanctuary, purchased flowers, prayed, baked, cooked, and attended worship during our Lenten season. Our community is strong in the faith. You demonstrated your discipleship and community in Christ by the power of the Word and our purpose of love at Ionia UMC.

We are now in May which brings more than the flowers from April showers – much more. May brings us to the Pentecost where we celebrate the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This is the “advocate” promised to us by Jesus:

“But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.” John 14:26 NLT

Many of you have asked me about Pentecost, and why is this a celebrated moment in the history of our faith. The word [Pentecost](#) comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus. Many call this the birth of the church because we move from the Incarnate God who died, rose from the dead, and ascended to heaven; to the *Spirit of God ever present, ever true in our midst*. There were flames sent by God, which seemed to float over the heads of the people, the voices were chaotic and prayerful in all different languages, the wind blew and the power was felt as the Holy Spirit made itself known to the people. Jesus said the spirit would be sent, felt, and made known. Scripture outlines this very

truth we know today – the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit.

What makes you feel powerful and true to yourself in faith? Does that mean to you that God is first in all things? Can you sense the presence of God's spirit in your life? The Holy Spirit indeed comes to us each day, for we are God's people and bearers of the truth; our lives as the witness. We are not alone as people of faith, but bonded together, united in love. Praise be to God!

I ask that you come to worship on May 18th to celebrate the Pentecost and the power of the Holy Spirit in your lives and if at all possible – wear something red!

Finally, as of this writing, the General Conference (GC) is underway in Charlotte, NC. There are delegates and UMC church members from all over the globe, for we are a worldwide denomination, united in Christ, devoted to love, and given to unmerited mercy through the grace of Jesus. I believe the best is yet to come for the strength of God is in our faith as the body of Christ. The BIG NEWS is that the harmful language of the Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality was REMOVED by a huge majority vote! Joy upon joy! The doors of love have swung open wide in our denomination. If you want to watch the live stream of GC on your computer: www.resourceumc.org and scroll down till you see, *the live stream*. Let us keep them all in prayer for the God-first purpose they serve.

I pray your days are richly blessed.

with love, shalom, and joy!

Pastor Robin





Joys in our church

Jim & Julie Sullivan welcome their new granddaughter, Kyla Julieanne ! Her parents are Caylie & Kenny Christenson!



The O'Brien family on the passing of Ron O'Brien, brother of Randy, Tom & Gary. Mary Ann who was in the hospital. Cliff , who is now home
Members of the Aloquin UMC which will be closing June 30th.

Jen in her heel/Achilles surgery recovery
Pat & Ron, Kay, Doris, Shirley, Elaine, Jan, 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.



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



Drop off your clean & empty "NYS deposit 5¢" 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 milk jugs, etc)**
Thank you for all the donations to missions!




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

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 bogs) Do not put them in your recycling tote to be picked up by your trash collector as they can not accept them or collect them!

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




Our church is again collecting printer ink cartridges! Staples has changed their program so that we will again be collecting the cartridges in the 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 or in the plastic tote on the back porch. Please put them in a plastic bag so any leftover ink cannot leak out.



Bible STUDY
Join us!

Ray Van Der Laan DVD Studies will be held after our Sunday fellowship time, except on Brunch Sunday.



Topic & time to be determined



If you know of a student in our church family who is graduating from high school or college this year, please call Mary 657-7722 or email mt2152@hotmail.com



Happy May Birthday!

- 2 Kelly Whitmore
- 3 Garrett Erb
Katherine Fraser
Jon Willis
- 5 Forrest Milton
Sarah Price
- 6 Jenny Giessler
- 7 Donna Parrish Johnson
Jeanne Stone
- 9 Donna Feingold
- 10 Bradley Parrish
Martha Inglesby
- 14 Brenda Albert Tyo
- 15 Jennifer Layton
- 18 Laura Parrish Moore
- 19 Ian Mohr
- 20 Devin Jay Albert
- 21 Lisa Parrish
Barbara Price
- 22 John Dunne
- 23 Randy O'Brien
John Schlenker
- 24 Kiel Gilbride
Molly Thompson
- 26 Doug Baylor
Jeff Harloff
Tyler Parrish
- 30 Joanne Baylor
Roger Bennett
Sarah Foley



Strawberry Social

Help is needed to chair or co-chair the Strawberry Social! Contact Pastor Robin if you are able to help!



God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers



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, Chow Hut, Chicken BBQ, games, displays, demonstrations, & more!



Holiday Fair Craft Show: in November

9:00AM – 3:00 PM

Bloomfield High School

Applications available after July 1st on our church website: www.ioniaumc.org



Our Fall Festival!

We are beginning to plan for this year's Fall Festival on Sept 21st. We will need some help to make it another big success! We will have a one-time planning meeting on May 1st at 7pm. Roger Cullen has stepped up to organize our vendor and non-profit booths – a big Thank you to Roger!

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.



Special Days in the Month of May



May 2nd : is observed annually on the first Thursday in May. This day observance, designated by the United States Congress, asks people "to turn to God in prayer and meditation."



May 12th: A day to honor all mothers.



May 12th : Ascension Sunday

Jesus met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. It is believed that on the 40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven.



May 19th Pentecost Sunday

we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3,000 people were baptized, creating the first church.

The Season after Pentecost is the time of the church year to support new disciples & the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus & the power of the Holy Spirit.



Aldersgate

Day May 24th is celebrated to commemorate the day in 1738 when John Wesley experienced assurance of his salvation when he felt his "heart strangely warmed."

May 26th Trinity Sunday celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



Remember -
our fallen heroes.
They are the reason
that we are free.

Memorial Day, May 27th is a day of remembrance for everyone who has died serving in the American armed forces. It was originally known as Decoration Day



In Our Area:

May 11th noon, Free Pickleball Tournament, First Presbyterian Church Honeoye Falls to benefit the Friends of Borgne to educate children & adults in Haiti.

Sat., May 18th, 30m til gone, Free Pulled Pork Meal United Church of Bristol, 7177 Co. Rd 2, Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Carrots, pie, donations accepted

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

Monday, May 20, 9AM til.., Open Door Mission 24th Annual Golf Classic, Midvale Country Club \$225/player. To register: OpenDoorMission.com Garage Sale June 7 & 8 E. Bloomfield UMC

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 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

2nd, 3rd, 4th 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).

"In Our Area" (continued)

Fridays & Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon. Seeds of Love Clothing Closet in Honeoye – A 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 info: Diane Brewer-Hawes at 259-6187 or dbrewerhawes@gmail.com.

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



Favorite Church Recipes

Marna Evan's & Judy Baldwin's The Peanut Line Chili

Brown & drain off grease 1 lb ground beef,
1-28 oz can crushed tomatoes,
1-16 oz jar salsa, (She uses El Paso extra mild, thick & chunky)
2 16 oz cans rinsed red kidney beans,
2 Tbsp chili powder, 1 tsp cumin, 1 tsp minced garlic,
1/3 cup brown sugar mixed with 1 Tbsp French's mustard,
2-3 dashes Worcestershire sauce,
Salt & pepper to taste,
Mix all ingredients together & heat on stove top or in crock pot After chili has been well heated, add more chili powder, cumin, or brown sugar to desired taste.

Please submit your recipes that were/are a favorite at church events/dinners!



Birthday Sunday

on Sunday, May 19th for this month only - 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.



The 2024 Annual Conference for United Methodists of Upper New York

is scheduled for **May 30-June 1** at the SRC Arena, located on the campus of Onondaga Community College in Syracuse.

The term *Annual conference* refers to a regional body, an organizational unit, or a yearly meeting. The Syracuse event is the yearly meeting.

Regional body

The annual conference is described by the church's Book of Discipline as the "basic unit" of the church. In the United States, an annual conference may cover an entire state, part of a state, or two or more states. The United States has 54 annual conferences, supervised by 46 bishops. An additional 75 annual conferences occur in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

Organizational body

US annual conferences have a central office with professional staff that coordinate and conduct ministry and the business of the conference. A director of connectional ministries, treasurer, directors of program areas (such as camping), communications director, and other staff are required by the Book of Discipline. Clergy and laypersons may serve on conference boards, commissions, and committees. Ionia UMC is part of the Upper New York Annual conference (UNYAC.) The UNY conference office is in Liverpool.

Annual Conference sessions

Each year an equal number of clergy members and lay members attend their conference's annual conference session for worship, fellowship, and to conduct the business of the conference over 3-5 days. These sessions include reports of past and ongoing work, adoption of future goals, programs and budgets, ordination of clergy members as deacons and elders. The bishop presides over these meetings.

Be inspired 7 days a week!

Start each day with inspiring tips like these:

- 1 Happy is a decision you can make
- 2 More blessings are on their way
- 3 You are braver than you know
- 4 One smile sparks another
- 5 Fun is still the best stress cure there is
- 6 Hope helps, hope heals
- 7 A prayer is a wish with win

Our Church at Easter and in April



Our Palm Sunday Altar



Easter



Jacob Garling's Baptism & Confirmation
on Easter Sunday



Easter



Festival of God's Creation



Jacob's cake



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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
Tuesdays: Bible Study TBD
Sunday, May 12: Mothers' Day &
Ascension Sunday
Sunday, May 19th Pentecost Sunday &
Birthday Sunday
Tuesday, May 21st Ad Board meeting
Thursday, May 23rd Newsletter Deadline
Sunday, May 26th, Trinity Sunday &
Monthly Brunch
Monday, May 27th Memorial Day