



Faith Connections – September 2024

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

From Our Pastor's Desk:

Beloved, Happy late summer in God's Creation!

We have been blessed by the Lord as we have journeyed this summer. As the seasons change from gardens and summer's heat and to colorful leaves and autumn's cooler days and night, I notice the transformation. When the seasons change, I try to remember how steadfast our Savior is within the season's change. I know you transfer clothing like shorts and light shirts for slacks and sweaters and it can seem like something more than the air temperature has changed. Have you ever wondered amidst the season's edges, that while God's amazing creation is ever changing, adapting, and is sometimes chaotic, Jesus is steadfast with an always present love and grace that can take on the changes that come in our lives.?

I hope this summer you had some time for reflection and the Holy Spirit touched you with hope-laced-joy! Our summer sermon series that held *Hope* and *Joy* upfront through a variety of scriptures was offered by the Holy Spirit to give us a gift of perspective with the changes and challenges of this life. The idea was that our faith in God offers hope and joy against the harsh news of circumstances in the world because of Christ's grace and mercy. We all recognize there will be worries, there will be trouble, and even heartache in living. We also believe we are able to meet the challenges in our path through Christ who came to overcome the world. We believe the ultimate answer to questions that can give us sleepless nights or disturbed days, is Jesus. "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us" Rom 8:31.?

Through our faith and in this community we are able to strengthen our connection to God and find that which God planted there in the beginning: "I know the plans I have for you...says the Lord. Plans that you should prosper and no harm come to you..." Jer. 29:11 And not to forget the promise of Jesus: "I

will be with you till the end of the age.." Matt 28:20b. In this we may read that though we have plenty of choices in a world full of challenge, we are loved by the Lord who came to Earth, lived our lives, offered healing, grace, and life eternal because he took our sins to the grave. He rose from that grave, free of sin. By his love we have been forgiven, we are healed from harm's intent. Day by day, or season by season, these mercies are moments of transformation!

Jesus said, "you will always have the poor with you but you will not always have me (in Matthew, Mark and John)", to remind people that it is important to hold on to the hope and joy His presence can bring. Let that presence slip away, and gloom goes back on the menu with its bitter taste. We can do better in our daily practice faith journey. Perhaps we can recall hope and joy from the summer sermons to meet the challenges we face with faith in every season. I pray it is so!

Please be mindful that our 9:00 am Sunday morning Christian Education time will have something for all ages. Adults through toddlers will find an offering to encourage a relationship with Jesus and deepen the journey through scripture, prayer, play, and time together.

In faith and with love,
Rev Robin Blair, DMin



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!





Joys in our church

Thank you to all who donated school supplies for the Bloomfield Blessing Room. They so appreciated all the supplies!

Thank you to those who organized our church booth at the West Bloomfield UCC's 225th Anniversary Community Party August 17th!

Pastor Robin is honored that she was invited to preach on Sept 16th at the start of their "God is With Us" virtual Fall Lecture Series Week at Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School from where she graduated!

Jacque Shellman's granddaughter Maeve Ryan Leisenring was born July 13th to Jacque's daughter Rachel & Colin Leisenring!

Jacob Garling attended Aldersgate UMC Camp this summer!



Julie, Jen, Pat & Ron, Kay, Gary, Doris, Shirley, Elaine, Jan, Lola, Cliff & MaryAnn, & 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.



Sundays, 9:00 AM, for all ages!

For information, contact Pastor Robin.

We are looking for someone to help with the children. If you can help out, also contact Pastor Robin.

Common Table Podcast

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

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



Holiday Fair Craft Show:

Saturday, November 16th

9:00AM – 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, too!

Free admission & parking

Lunch will be made by & profited by

Hands of Hope Kitchen

Bring your holiday shopping list!



Green Team!

We will asking any of you who wish to join in a specific Creation Justice ministry to be a part of guiding the congregation in this mission and justice ministry to help keep our body of Christ informed, activated, and alive to the needs of the planet in our beautiful corner of the world.

We have talked a great deal about **water** as a focus for many reasons: we live in the Finger Lakes region of the US, water is used as a constant metaphor for life in scripture (baptized by water and the spirit to be made new), and because we have been blessed with water in our society by simply turning on the tap in various rooms in our homes to quench thirst, cook, and make clean. Can we honor God's creation by listening to God for the ministry we are called to regarding **water**?

contact Roger Cullen cullenroger@gmail.com or call 857-3140 or contact Pastor Robin



Are You Able?

Gardening Crew to spiff up around the church before Fall Festival to make it look a little bit more cared for and loved as it is. **Together we can do this!** We are looking for one more person – doing only a small part of the beds around the church, whenever you have time - at your convenience! Call Mary 657-7722 or email mt2152@hotmail.com



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 place them in plastic bags! **(Please NO RECYCLABLE items like plastic milk jugs, etc)**



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



Our church is again collecting printer ink cartridges! Place them in the box in Fellowship Hall or in the plastic tote on the back porch. **Staples is also now also collecting used school supplies & batteries!** Used back packs, lunch bags, binders, crayons, colored pencils, pens, markers, rulers, & drafting tools. Bring them to our collection box in Fellowship Hall so we can get coupons for our office supplies!



Birthday Sunday on the 2nd 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.



In order to make all of Fall Festival to happen, we will need volunteers to help us man all of our activities on that day! We are asking our whole community if you are willing & able to help out for an hour or two, sign up in the church Fellowship Hall or contact Mary 924-7778 with your availability Thank you!!

Volunteers Needed for:

- Tractor area -- contact John Bennett 657-6245
- Games - contact Mary Tolomay 924-7778
- Cake Wheel – contact Alice Wells 624-2566
- Door Prizes - contact Lorraine, 657-4504



Donate a Door Prize/Gift Basket:

Community Members,- Want an easy way to support the Ionia Fall Festival? Donate a Basket who doesn't like winning one! You're welcome to be creative...find a theme & work with it. A few ideas-: fruit/produce/flower; Baked goods/homemade mixes/recipe book; Special dinner baskets; homemade items, kids baskets/toys/candy/art materials/games; holiday themed; Buffalo Bills/sport theme; Pet baskets; Have a business? maybe a gift card & business card
Please leave baskets in the box on the back porch or you can call Lorraine, 657-4504 to make other arrangements. Deadline: Thursday, the 19th.



Happy September Birthday!

- Hayden Price
- Nate Talley
- Maureen Thompson
- Jacob Garling
- Brad Bennett
- Dorothy Strapp
- Lynn Brien
- Paul Inglesby
- Hanna Schlenker
- Margaret Tiffany
- Holly Parrish Trickey
- Clifford Pimm

- Yvonne Stone
- Tom O'Brien
- Cheryl O'Brien
- Cathy Parrish
- Ron Stonewell III
- Mary Willis
- Lauren Twardokus
- Dave Dillon
- Karen Strapp
- Jenny O'Brien
- Dale Twardokus



**Saturday, Sept. 21st – all day!
Our 26th Annual Fall Festival**

**on our church grounds
Come for a fun fall day in the country to
celebrate our agricultural heritage!**

We are looking forward to our 26th Annual Ionia Fall Festival – the tractor parade, food, games, raffles, displays, demonstrations, & lots of fun activities. It is much anticipated by people from all over our area!



Think about decorating your yard for fall the week before the festival & show our community spirit!



20th Annual Tractor Parade - tractors from all over western NY & is one of the largest in western NY! The parade begins at 1 PM, but you can look at the tractor & implement displays behind the church all day long. For info & to volunteer for the tractor parade: contact John Bennett 657-6245

Coffee & Donuts 7:30 – 9:30 AM

At the Chow Hut



Chow Hut: 10 AM-4:30 PM

Hot Dogs, Burgers, Sausages, Chili, etc



11:30 AM til sold out

Historical Displays & Scout Demonstrations



Face Painting & Children's Crafts



Vendors - For Vendor Booth info:
contact Roger Cullen at cullenroger@gmail.com for the application or call 857-3140.



Coin Toss & other Games

11AM-4PM



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 donations may be dropped off in fellowship hall or in the tote on the back porch



Dessert Wheel Donations



We need **all kinds** of cakes, desserts, cookies, brownies, breads, etc for the booth. Drop off at church kitchen Friday Sept 20th, or Sat. before noon. Set the items on the tall shelves in Fellowship Hall. To help, contact Alice Wells 624-2566



Door Prize Baskets

We will be needing some gift baskets to be donated by Sunday, Sept. 15th Would you or your family be willing to donate a basket filled with theme items or an item to add into one of the baskets we have already started? (See Newsletter Article!)



to the Observatory

11 AM -3 PM



& much, much more!

More information & posters are on our website: www.ioniaumc.org & facebook www.facebook.com/IoniaUMCNy

Contact Mary Tolomay 585-924-7778 for more details.

We also need everyone who has a facebook account to post our flyer and information!





In Our Area:

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.

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

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

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

New UNY UMC app!

The Upper New York Communications ministry team is excited to announce the launch of our **new** app. The **UNY UMC app** is designed to keep you connected, informed, and spiritually nourished wherever you go. Go to umc.org for the link

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 wings

Altar Photos this summer



“Hope is my anchor!”



joining in the hymn “People Need The Lord”



Jesus compassion and healing – The hem of his robe & voice restored 2 women to life



Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see” Hebrews 11:1

Ask Jesus to lead you, and watch for the ways He guides your path.

Lord, Let your word be to me as daily bread and strengthen me by it as You fill my heart with truth.

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Church Website: www.ioniaumc.org

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

Sunday Bible Study: 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM



September Calendar

Sundays, 9:00AM Bible Study

10:00 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Coffee Hour

Sunday, September 8th ; Birthday Sunday

Saturday, September 21st: Fall Festival

Tuesday, September 17th Ad Board meeting

Sunday, September 29th , Monthly Brunch



BBQ • GAMES • DISPLAYS • HAYRIDES

IONIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
26th ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL
193rd Anniversary of the Church 1831 - 2024

CELEBRATING

20

YEARS

IONIA, NY FALL FESTIVAL

**TRACTOR
PARADE**

Bob Schenk Collection
Bloomfield NY



Photo by: Mary Twardokus

Reverend Dr. Robin Blair

Saturday Sept. 21st 2024

at the Ionia United Methodist Church

**Tractors & Equipment sign up area: County Rd. 14
behind Post Office (Parade starts at 1:00pm from Post Office)**

Parade General Questions: Call John Bennett 585-657-6245

FARM TRACTORS AND EQUIPMENT

SPONSORED BY THE IONIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



★ Sept. 21st, 2024 ★

**Our 26th
Annual Festival**



Children's Games & Crafts

Door Prizes

Artisans, Crafters, Vendors

Scouts' Demonstrations

Historical & Other Displays

& More

celebrating our agricultural heritage

**Antique Tractor Parade
1:00PM**

**Cake Wheel
& Coin Toss**

**Hayrides to the
Wolk Observatory
& Tours**

**Coffee & Donuts
7:30AM 9:30AM**

**Chow Hut
10:00AM - 4:30PM**

**BBQ
11:30AM until sold out**

ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS, 2120 ELTON ROAD