



Faith Connections – December 2024

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

From Our Pastor's Desk:

Dear Ones,

The Season of Advent is one of the highlights of the Christian Year. This season we once again live into the story of Jesus and the church that emerges. We are the bearers of this story that humbles us and leads to the grace we have not earned but received as a blessed gift from the love that is, Jesus. We often think we need to find a new way of telling the story of how God come to Earth, born to a young woman and was raised in a family. The promised Messiah of Scripture learned how God's people worked for their daily bread, suffered under government oppression, and learned to be free, anyway. This story might need a new twist or unique point of view, but I suppose it becomes unique each year anyway; we gain another year of experiences and bring all our living to the daily journey of the meaning of His birth in our lives.

This year let's bring what is new in our lives - new family members, new friends, new travels and folks in the church, to the powerful invitation offered by God, through Christ. Let's share the powerful songs and scripture of the tradition that we love and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ in the period of preparation known as Advent. As we prepare and anticipate the Promise of the Christ who was born to live among us, we will share the love and compassion for all God's people and all of Creation through Hope, Peace Joy and Love.

We gather for worship, we sing our faith, we take in the Word and we take the Word into the world as we are called to do in this most festive and exciting time of year. It is my joy to share

the beauty and depth of the Season of Advent with all of you.

Come, let us adore Him.

With love and blessings, Pastor Robin



Sundays, 9:00 AM study has been postponed until January.

Advent Study, Sunday 9AM: "*An Unlikely Advent*" by Rachel Billups that will begin December 1.

For information, contact Pastor Robin.

Let us journey together to Bethlehem to celebrate the birth of the Messiah and celebrate the Christmas gifts of joy, love and peace!



Prayers for Vivian, daughter of Tara & Matt, grand-daughter of Marna & Larry She has been diagnosed with juvenile arthritis. Sue, Pat, Kay, Gary, Doris, Shirley, Elaine, Jan, Lola, Cliff & MaryAnn, & all our home-bound members

Our nation & the world & all countries engaged in war

Our military men & women

All those battling cancer, COVID, & chronic diseases.





Joys in our church

All the volunteers for their help stepping up above & beyond at Holiday Fair this year!

All the craft vendors & customers who came to our Holiday Fair Craft show!

100% of the lunch profits going to Hands of Hope Kitchen for their providing soup & sandwiches at Holiday Fair

Jacque for the beautiful altar each week!

Don, David, & Nick for work in digging the hole for our new propane tank!

Carol & Jim who delivered our Thanksgiving food baskets!

All those who cooked, decorated, & served our delicious Free Thanksgiving Lunch on Nov. 24th! What a joy the share the delicious meal & fellowship together!



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



We will again have a "Mitten Tree" for the Open Door Mission, collecting new socks, new underwear, new or gently used coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, etc. ! A box will be placed in Fellowship Hall.



The church will be donating toward needed supplies for the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. Everyone is welcome to make an additional monetary donation! Just place a check in the offering with Red Bird on the memo line or mail it to the church. (We will not be collecting filled "shoeboxes for the Mission this year.)

Red Bird Mission was organized in 1921 and has grown over the years to help children, adults, communities, with schools, food, supplies, health facilities and much more.



Drop off your clean & empty "NYS deposit 5¢" Pop Cans & Bottles for Missions

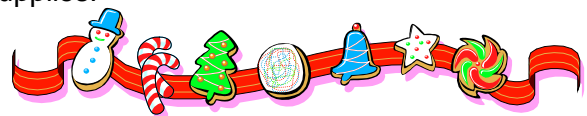
Place into the crate or trash containers next to the shed behind the church. Please place them in plastic bags!



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. We can get coupons for our office supplies!



Happy December Birthday!

Mike; Carlie; Terry ;Anita; Jason ;Sara; Bambi; Carol ; Craig; Abigail; Terry; Shirley; Larry; Kristen; Colleen; Bruce



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.



Our 2024 Advent/Christmas Events

Come Let Us Adore Him Advent and Christmas Eve 2024 Themes:

December 1. Hope. Jeremiah 33:14, Luke 21-25-36

December 8 Peace Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6

December 15. Joy Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 3:7-8

December 22. Love. Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:26-38, 39-45

December 24. Christmas Eve Candle light service. 5:00pm in the sanctuary



Advent Study, Sundays, 9AM

1st Sunday of Advent: Dec. 1st
Hanging of the Greens

decorate the church after our worship & making an ornament!



Altar Poinsettia Order Deadline Dec 16th
(Details in the separate article)



Christmas Gift Baskets & Giving Tree

Details in their separate articles



Tuesday, Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Service
at 5:00pm



Let us all give at this special time of year. Our church Advent Offering Envelopes are enclosed with this newsletter & also available in the narthex. Please place it in the offering plate or mail it to PO Box 8, Ionia, NY 14475



Christmas Flowers for our Altar

Poinsettias, Christmas Cactus and Cyclamens: Poinsettias in 6 1/2" pot @\$8.50 in colors Red,

Pink, White, Marble;

Christmas Cactus in 6" pot @ \$8.50;

Cyclamen 6" pot \$8.50.

Payment by cash or check made payable to Ionia UMC with "poinsettia" on memo line and place in offering plate. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Jacque Shellman at 585-755-3825.

You may take your flower(s) home after the Christmas Eve service. **Order Deadline:**

Monday, December 16th.



Our Altars in November



All Saints' Day Altar



Creation Care Sunday Altar



In Our Area:

Dec. 2nd, 1:30-6:30 pm Blood Drive: Victor UMC
106 East Main St., Victor, NY 14564

Dec. 6th, 6-8pm First Fridays Family Board
Game Night at 1st Presbyterian in Victor. An
opportunity to join with other families to have fun
and build community. Pizza Dinner Provided.
Also held on Jan.10th, 2025, 6-8pm , at Victor
UMC 106 E. Main St., Victor, NY 14564

Sat., Dec. 7, 9am-3pm: 51st Teazaar at 1st
Presbyterian Church, 21 N. Main St, Honeoye
Falls Christmas Crafts, gifts, decorations, food
& more. Enter red front doors

Friday, Dec 13, 7:30pm at Webster UMC &
Sunday, Dec 15, 4pm at Crossroads Church in
Lima "Holy Night" Concert by Grace Choir, free

Sat., Dec 14, 3pm, Ecumenical Blue Christmas
Service at Pinehurst, 1000 Pine Trail, Honeoye
Falls: Because sometimes the holidays hurt.
When the holidays do not bring you joy or
happiness. When you are feeling overwhelmed
and downhearted. You are not alone.

Saturday, Dec. 14th, Cookies with Mrs. Claus:
Victor UMC, 9am-12pm

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

Our2024 Holiday Fair Craft Show!



Craft Show



Happy Lunch Customers



Our Lunch

Creation Care



Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by the Audubon Society. December 14, 2024 - January 5, 2025

Let's help make our devotional time during Advent, a time of seeing God's presence in nature. Sit over morning coffee staring out the window or on an afternoon walk, looking up! Look for winter bird life and write down what you see. On the lookout for winter birds in our central NY region and emailing them into to Audubon society helps the experts with the whole picture of the health of the populations of our feathered friends. That is the creation care activity part as a gift to the Lord. The discipline of quietly observing the natural world connects us with a specific purpose to God's creation. If you can, take a picture of the birds and send them to me via email so I can post them on our FACEBOOK page and website. This will be fun and purposeful!

Follow this [LINK to the Audubon Society website](#) for more on how to participate in the Christmas Bird Count. We can help in our church wide, Creation Care, ministry (wherever you are in the world as you read this). Keeping alert for the birds in your yard or park is an indicator of the health of the natural world. And fill those bird feeders with the seeds they will need in the winter months!



Create a Bird Feeder from recycled plastic, sticks, and seed.



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 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>



*"God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;
the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ."*

Wilda English



The Meaning of the Candy Cane

Many years ago a candy maker wanted to make a candy that would symbolize the true meaning of Christmas – Jesus. The hard candy was shaped like a “J” to represent that Jesus is our rock of all ages. The candy was made of white to stand for the pureness of Jesus. The red represents the blood that Jesus shed to save us from our sins. So, the next time you see a candy cane take a minute to remember the real meaning of Christmas

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2120 Elton Rd.
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December



*Merry
Christmas*



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2120 Elton Road, P.O. Box 8
Ionia, New York 14475

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



Sundays, 9:00 AM Bible Study

10:00 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Coffee Hour

Dec.16: Altar Flower order Deadline
Tues., Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service



