



Faith Connections – Summer 2024

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

From Our Pastor's Desk:

Dear beloved congregation,

Summer! Fully here, fully hot, fully kids out of school, fully family gathering time! Fully faithful as you pray your way, day by day for how to serve God as God calls you in this season of wonderful days and nights. There is a time for every season (Ecc 3:1). We give God the glory in living our lives during all the seasons of our lives, amen!

This summer I am going to help us focus on the power of the holy spirit to harness visions of hope and joy so giving God the glory for all things becomes as central as breathing to us. Please join me in using the garden as a metaphor to visit the images (and realities) of dirt, rain, sun, seed and growth to take us to, hope and joy with fruit!

My garden has been surprising thus far this season. The early warmth we experienced in May allowed me to prepare the garden bed by pulling winter's weeds and then tilling in some enriched soil. I decided to move the regular things I plant around from their historic places to new places. Tomatoes went to the west end from the east end, peppers and green beans in switched places. Everything moved except the mint which seems to have a mind of its own and does not take direction well at all (anybody else have mint like that?). So, God had me getting the old stuff out of the way (weedy distractions from God's purpose), refreshing the foundation with some new enrichment (like bible study) examining my routines (open to new ideas), and revisiting the basis for new growth through hope seeking joy!

These efforts of "doing a new thing" (Is. 43:19) have both surprised me and produced some food. Lots of greens have pushed up from seeds to food through the Earth, and the surprise part is the greens are not what I thought I planted! I thought the seeds were going to be mixed salad greens, spinach, kale, chard, and spicy leaves like arugula. The majority take-over is arugula and a little bit of the others. I have found, through God's blessing, that my plan only came through in part and as a result I am freezing greens like crazy to have for soups all winter long (and salads now, too). So, God is at work taking care of me even though I had planned something else (make plans and listen for God's chuckle J).

The green beans and peas were just not happening and aphids were getting fat on the leaves that did pop up. Now, finally, the vines on the beans have flown up to the sky imposing on my time to figure a makeshift trellis situation because I thought they were a fail and as a result, did not plan well. God is inviting me to laugh at my impatience. I planted potatoes (sweet and white) to test my patience and while that is still real, the beans and peas are popping and healthy however slowly they were to get their stride! I have a few small zukes too, and one cuke which is rather comical. God shows me everyday that there can be joy in this life if we hang on to hope and faith through Jesus! I hope your gardens are faring well, and food will be on your table as a result. Have you been praying for a fruitful harvest, too?

Humble as my garden is, the blessing is partnering with the Lord to see how each pepper, pea pod or potato that comes forth is a story all its own. Preparation, leaning on God's blessing of sun and rain, tending to what needs nurturing, and to relish the joy of a result means I am fed both spiritually and physically. It demonstrates the perseverance of staying in tune with God's purpose which brings surprise and joy!

What shall we do this summer to dig deep and notice where hope keeps you moving with the Lord, to find that joy is real and can be experienced in a world that would like to distract us from the presence in the truth of God?. We give God the glory in living our lives during all the seasons of our lives, amen! Prep, planting, and harvest. (Ecc 3:1)

This summer I am going to invite our focus on the power of the holy spirit to harness visions of hope and joy so giving God the glory for all things becomes as central as breathing to us, even if the vines are slow to grow. Please join me in using the garden as a metaphor once again as we visit the images (and realities) of dirt, rain, sun, seed and growth to take us to, hope, joy, and fruitfulness!

With love, thanks, and grace,

Pastor Robin





Joys in our church

Strawberry Social! Thanks to the many donations and workers it was a success! Thank you all!!!!

Jacob Garling went to Aldersgate Camp in June!



Members of the Aloquin UMC which will be closing June 30th, 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.



Worship is now at 10am!



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** 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.




We need someone to help print & copy the bulletin occasionally or for Sunday in every other month. Time needed: about one hour each week. Should be familiar with the program "Word." Contact Pastor Robin if you can help with this task.





Sunday Ray Van Der Laan DVD Studies will resume in the fall.



Sundays, 9 am, at church

Luke's Gospel We are guided by Adam Hamilton's book: *Luke: Jesus and the Outcasts, Outsiders and the Outlaws*. This book offers a perspective we are exploring for reading Luke and it is interesting every week. If you want to drop in, please do. If you want to read ahead with Hamilton's book, call/email the Pastor. (revrobinblair@gmail.com)
 Dates: July 14, 21, 28, and August 4
 Bible study for September shall be discussed! What would you like to look more deeply at in our scriptures?

Sermon Series for the Summer

July 7th, Ms. Gwen Vary, JD, Guest Preacher

July: Held by Hope (14th, 21st, and 28th)

August: Living in Joy (4th, 11th, 18th, 25th)



Happy July Birthday!

- 3 Samantha Madafferi
- 7 Richard Twardokus
Rev. Dr. Robin Blair
- 9 Robert Bastian
Joshua Dunne
Hannah Wagorn
- 10 Shaune Sullivan
- 12 Neil Washburn
- 15 Debbie O'Brien
- 16 Richard Belding
Casey Sullivan
- 17 Linda Miller
Chance Sullivan
- 18 Anne Stone
Adam Talley
- 19 Wendy Bastian
- 21 Taylor Willis
- 23 Thomas Thompson
- 24 Emma Baldwin
- 28 Matt Schaefer
Patti Willis
- 30 Tessa Milton
- 31 Elaine Parrish

Happy August Birthday!!

- 4 Kay Bennett
- 5 Nicholas Albert
Wayne Parrish
MaryAnn Pimm
- 8 Julie Giessler
- 11 Tim O'Brien
- 13 Adam Brien
Katie Cantie
Jonny Willis
- 14 Chris Cantie
- 16 Carrie Willis
- 18 Jackie Bennett
- 25 Jimmy Stahl
- 26 Andy Stahl
- 27 Abbey Miller
Ed Strapp, Jr
Cooper Thompson
- 28 Jason Bastian
Madison Brien
James Sullivan
- 29 Michelle McMillan
Thomas Thompson, Jr
Gage Wagorn
- 30 Bernice Talley
- 31 Jeffery Frelier
Stephanie Fryer
Cale Gillan



Birthday Sunday on the 3rd 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 church is again collecting printer ink cartridges! Place them 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.

Staples is also now collecting used school supplies! 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!



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>



Our Upcoming Dates:

**Fall Festival–Sept. 21st
at our church**



**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



Fall Festival– Sat., Sept. 21st !

on our church grounds

Tractor parade, Chow Hut, BBQ, games,
displays, demonstrations, & more!

(Poster is at the end of this newsletter!)

**Desserts of many kinds are needed for our
dessert wheel!** Cakes, Cupcakes, hand-held
desserts are always a hit! Drop your donations
off at the church Friday Sept. 20th or before
10AM on Sat. June 21st

Vendor applications now open thru September
4th. Contact Roger Cullen for application.
at cullenroger@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 or in
the tote on the back porch & we will get them
stored away until fall.

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



In Our Area:

Aug 12-16, 9am-noon, HF-L VBS, 1st
Presbyterian Church, 27 N. Main St, Honeoye
Falls , ages 4-6th grade, free, “Camp Firelight”
register at
<https://fpchf.betterworld.org/events/2024vbs>

Sat. Aug. 17th, 9am-4pm, West Bloomfield
Congregational Church is celebrating our 225th
anniversary! a community day with games,
booths, entertainment, food, etc.

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



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Church Website: www.ioniaumc.org

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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: 10AM



Calendar

Sundays, 9:00AM Bible Study
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:00 AM Coffee Hour
Sunday, July 14 ; Birthday Sunday
Tuesday, July 16 Ad Board meeting
Sunday, July 28 , Monthly Brunch



Calendar

10:00 AM Worship Service
11:00 AM Coffee Hour
Sunday, August 11; Birthday Sunday
Tuesday, August 20 Ad Board meeting
Sunday, August 25 , Monthly Brunch

Graduate Sunday



Altar on Graduate Recognition Sunday



Our Graduates

Time for Fellowship



Our Strawberry Social



We're ready! Bring on the people!

Our Strawberry Social - continued



Start of the Serving Line



Enjoying eating inside



End of the Serving Line



Enjoying eating outside!



Our Dish Washing Crew!

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**



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