



Faith Connections – April 2025

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

From Our Pastor's Desk:

Dear Ones,

Our Lenten journey reminds us of our planet's preciousness in our faith-filled lives. We cannot stand idle as creation is depleted, impacting all life. We need living water, green trees, healthy soil, and the wilderness we visit but where we "do not remain", as quoted on the Wildlife Act by Congress in 1964 (<https://bit.ly/4lOb7H6>). We are not powerless to the destruction of the planet, as we are learning! These acts of faith (composting food waste, using few single-use-disposable items, recycling plastic etc..) actually do matter - and I believe they matter to God as demonstrates our discipleship.

It is our privilege to steward this planet and its resources. We continue to explore how stewardship adds meaning to our faith lives. Caring for creation reflects our gratitude for God's care, essential to our response to the grace of Christ we did not earn and yet, receive. During Lent, we fast and add, setting aside old habits of destruction for new habits of resurrection!

Recently, while swapping winter clothes for spring, I found holey jeans and wondered what to do with them. Have you ever found similar items in your closet? Researching online about textiles, I discovered insights into recycling, down-cycling, and up-cycling. The stats were alarming—most of us don't consider the clothing industry's impact on the planet unless we're directly involved. I used to sew in high school, but it's no longer part of my busy life. I admire those who sew!



(Repurposed
neckties into
a small
handbag)

Consider where our slacks, neck ties, dresses, & socks end up—landfills? A study highlighted fashion's environmental impacts: water use, pollution, CO2 emissions, and waste. The industry generates over 92 million tons of waste and uses 79 trillion liters of water yearly, with developing countries often bearing the burden. Check out this study: bit.ly/41XoxLc. Awakened to these opportunities create new habits, we say to the Lord, "we give thanks." More information is available in the link: <https://bit.ly/4bYpvLO>.

As we approach Good Friday and Easter, may we remember that eternal life begins today. We live in a world provided by God, and we can ensure it remains healthy for future generations - even through the clothes we wear and re-up-or down- cycle!. Creation care is living the grace we have received. Praise be to God!

With love and peace, Pastor Robin



**Christ
the Lord
is Risen
Today!**

Holy Week at Ionia UMC

The Language of Scripture

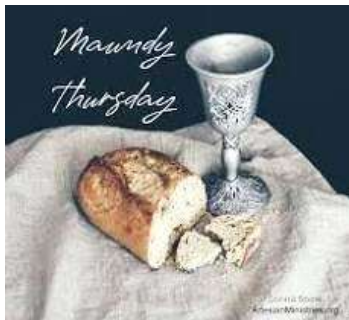
Why do we call it **Maundy Thursday**? It sure is a church-language word, right? Well, here is the answer! The word "Maundy" originated from the Latin word called "mandatum," which means "commandment." Maundy Thursday demonstrates the importance of humility and service by remembering Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. And the word that initiates the honoring, is that Jesus gave the disciples the commandment to *"love one another as I have loved you"* John 13.

Why is it called, Good Friday, when Jesus suffered so? **Good Friday** is an appropriate use of language because the suffering and death of Jesus, as terrible as it was, marked the dramatic culmination of God's plan to save the people from their sin. It's called **Good Friday** because, by Jesus' death, he became the final, complete sacrifice for our sins. He did not have to die for our sins, but because he did, Jesus broke the bonds of death & sin! He is the ultimate love. God is good.



Palm Sunday April 13 Sanctuary Worship 10:00am

We will wave our Palm fronds and sing the songs of blessing and joy as we honor the entrance of Jesus to the city of Jerusalem.



Maundy Thursday, a holy day during Holy Week, commemorates Jesus's Last Supper with his closest disciples before he was led to the

cross. Jesus washed the feet of his friends, emphasized humility and service, and shared the new commandment to love one another. **Come to the sanctuary for this worship service on April 17, 2025 at 7pm.** We will be joined by our sisters and brothers in Christ from Honeoye Falls UMC. Service will be led by Rev Blair and Rev. Natalie Bowerman.



Good Friday

This year on **April 18, 2025**, in observance of **Good Friday**, we are invited to join our siblings in faith from Honeoye Falls UMC for a **CrossWalk**. We will gather at 6:00pm, (at HFUMC), a cross will be carried and we will walk through the village stopping for scripture and declarations of faith as we honor the sacrifice of Jesus' journey to the cross.



Easter Sunday!

Our Service of Resurrection and praise will be **Easter Sunday, April 20, 10:00 am** in the sanctuary. We praise God for the blessings of the resurrection of the Savior and invite everyone to bring friends and relatives to feel the joy of the celebration in our faith. The Lord is Risen!





Sundays, 9:00-9:45 AM.

Our Lenten Book Study is **“Believe Like Jesus” by Rebekah Simon Peter. Find the book at <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/believe-like-jesus-rebekah-simon-peter/1146396196>**
Or just come & join in on the discussion!
See you there!



Sue, Pat, Kay, Gary, Doris, Elaine, Jan, Lola,
Cliff & MaryAnn, & all our home-bound
members
Our nation & the world & all countries in war
Our military men & women
All those battling cancer, COVID, & chronic
diseases.



Creation Care Corner, from Pastor Robin

During this Lenten season, we journey with Jesus to the cross through creation. While the statistics on the health of our planet are concerning, we, as Christians, respond with prayer, action, and grace. We are called to share the Earth's beauty and bounty and to avoid contributing to its destruction.

As spring arrives, we see new life emerging all around us. This spring, let us plant seeds, bulbs, trees, and hope! Plant whatever you feel called to plant and share your experiences with us! You will find seed packets in the fellowship hall.

We praise God for the blessings of community, united in Christ and devoted to the care and stewardship of creation!



Joys in our church

Our Lenten & Easter Services!

Spring is coming!

Pastor Robin will be going to Israel and Palestine May 2-16 with an Upper NY Conference tour!



Easter Flowers for our Altar

Begin thinking about Spring & our beautiful altar decked out with lilies & other colorful spring flowers. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall or call Jacquie Shellman at 585-755-3825. You may take your flower(s) home after Easter Sunday services. Deadline is Sunday, April 6th. Lily: \$9.50; Daffodils: \$7; Tulips \$7; Azalea \$17.15; Calla Lily \$15.50; & Hydrangea \$17.15

\$ Online donations! \$

You now can donate to the Ionia UMC online at: <https://www.ioniaumc.org/donating>

We hope that you will find it simple & useful to use when giving to God through the Ionia UMC even if you cannot make it to worship. Thank you.



Website users!

Visit our website & delight in its new design! www.ioniaumc.org It is still a work in progress, so keep checking in!





Happy April Birthday!

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



Birthday Sunday

Is 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

Sermon Series for Lent: Holy Ground

Each week we will visit scripture to witness how God invites us to recognize the sacred in our lives. There may be walls, chaos, or circumstances that attempt to block our view - but God is present in all moments. We are standing on the Creator's Holy Ground and we can honor it with our faith.



Our Church's Mission Is to serve the Lord our God through Faith, Hope, & Love. To do this we care for our neighbors near & far, as ourselves. Our mission funds serve to support ministries in our local, regional, national and international locations.

Some ministries we support: Blessing Room food pantry, Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes (DV survivors), Water for South Sudan (fresh water), UMC Maternity Hospital in Zimbabwe, Africa, Red Bird Missions, Keeping Our Promise (support for immigrants) & others. We praise God for the blessing of this opportunity. And, we care deeply for one another in the needs of our membership.



Collections for the Blessing

Room Needs are: Canned foods, diapers, paper products, & feminine products are welcome donations that can be placed into the wooden boxes in Fellowship Hall



Our church still collects printer

ink cartridges! Place them in the box in Fellowship Hall or in the plastic tote on the back porch. We get coupons for these cartridges to go for our office supplies!



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

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



**For our Creation Care Mission: Recycle
your soft plastic bags** at participating store



In Our Area:

Volunteers Needed at Hospeace House, , a Naples hospice home, is seeking compassionate & dedicated volunteers to join our team for companionship to residents, assisting with daily operations, or offering your unique skills, your support will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in our care. Contact Kathy Mincer at 585-374-2090 for more details kathymincr@hospeacehouse.org www.hospeacehouse.org/volunteer

Friday, April 4th at First Pres. in Victor & Friday, May. 2nd at Victor UMC First Friday Family Board Game Night at 6pm Join Us as we Build Community through Fun & Games. Open to all!

Sat., April 5, 7pm Honeoye Falls Community Concert Band Spring Scholarship Concert at Honeoye Falls District Auditorium, 619 Quaker Meeting House Rd.

Thurs, April 17th, 7pm Maundy Thursday Service at E. Bloomfield UMC

Friday, April 18th, 7pm Good Friday Service at E. Bloomfield Congregational Church

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

Friday, April 25th, 5pm Free Friday Supper

(will be the last one) at 1st E. Bloomfield Congregational Church

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



Fellowship Meal

Senior Lunch program at Ionia UMC!

The Office for Aging & Dept. of Health & Ionia UMC will hold a free lunch on every Tuesday of the month!

You will need to register for the meals: It's easy to register! You can register for meals with the onsite Food Site Aide, or call the. Office for the Aging at 585-396-4040.

Once registered, you may call 585-919-2773 to make reservations, or you can let the Food Site Aide know when you plan to dine.

Register today and then sign up week by week for a great meal, fellowship, greeting good neighbors in your community.

Spread the good news!



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 long, where Rev. Blair interviews a guest about something happening in our beautiful Finger Lakes area that could be of interest to the folks like us who live here!

Common Table Podcast UMC

Sponsored by the Creation Justice Team of the UNY AC UMC, this podcast features interviews that speak to matters of justice & how justice serves God through Creation Care. Find it on Spotify or your favorite podcast platform, or this link: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1940809>

Pastor Robin is traveling to the Holy Land of Palestine/Israel on a Peace with Justice Tour, May 2-16, 2025.

People from across the USA to include clergy and laity, Christians and Jews, are going to meet and pray with Palestinians, Israelis, Muslims, Christians, Jews, and those who service in faith communities, in business, in families with loss of loved one because of war, and museums that preserve the history of people. We won't be allowed in Gaza, but will visit the West Bank, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Ramallah, Mt of Olives, Sea of Galilee, and travel where travel is permitted. This is a time of scholarly, academic, passionate, and faithful wilderness journeying. It is not wilderness in the sense of no civilization or human population, but rather a place of deep spiritual and political conflict where we will be strangers and guests. Pastor will be recording interviews for upcoming podcasts, and stay in touch with all of us on *WhatsApp*. If you would like to be included on WhatsApp texting and updates, please contact Pastor. She covets your prayers in preparation for this journey and while she is in the region. There will be a prayer schedule sent around for everyone to have an opportunity to pray during a specific time of day or night to cover her and the US team on this journey. Her trip is made possible in part from the financial support of IUMC, and the Peace with Justice for Palestine/Israel Conference Advance Special of the UNY AC UMC, and her family; praise be to God for all of you.

Sermon Series for Lent: Holy Ground

Each week we will visit scripture to witness how God invites us to recognize the sacred in our lives. There may be walls, chaos, or circumstances that attempt to block our view - but God is present in all moments. We are standing on the Creator's Holy Ground and we can honor it with our faith.

"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: Who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life."

Mother Teresa



Sundays during Lent 9:00am



Easter Altar Plants



Flowers will be placed on the Easter altar.
(See the article in this newsletter)



Palm Sunday, April 13th,
10am



Maundy Thursday, 7pm



Good Friday CrossWalk,
April 18th, 6pm in Honeoye Falls



Easter, April 20th
Easter Brunch 8:30 AM (see article)
Easter Worship: 10 AM
Easter Fellowship 11AM



Our Easter offering envelopes will be mailed with this newsletter and also placed in the church narthex.



Easter, 8:30AM

We will serve a brunch of casseroles, sausages, sweets, juices, & fruit! Come for a delicious brunch and join in the fellowship before our Easter Worship Service!

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2120 Elton Rd.
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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



Calendar

Sundays, 9:00 AM Lenten Study
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:00 AM Coffee Hour

Sunday, April 13th Palm Sunday &
Birthday Sunday

Tuesday, April 15th Ad Board meeting, 7pm

Weds., April 16th Deadline for ordering
Easter Altar flowers

Thursday, April 17th, Maundy Thursday 7pm

Friday, April 18th Good Friday CrossWalk

Sunday, April 20th Easter Worship & Brunch

Friday, April 25th Arbor Day

Sunday, April 27th Monthly Brunch