



Faith Connections – January 2025

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

From Our Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends in Christ,
Beloved, Happy New Year in the name of
our Savior and Friend, the Lord, Jesus
Christ!

Together, we are on a great adventure for
the coming year, 2025.

What are your plans for the coming new
year? Is there a new beginning, a new
friendship, a new plan of action in your
commitment to Christ? Will you decide to not
only get closer to God through intentional
prayer, but knowing you are gifted in God's
grace and mercy, will you study the
scriptures more often so that you can keep
learning and let the Holy Spirit make some
deep dives into your heart of hearts?

I have been in prayer with the Lord to ask
what is it that we might journey with in our
congregational life of faith in this new
calendar year? How shall we find ways to
get closer to God and engage in acts of
kindness, compassion, and mercy? Bible
Study? Check. Worship? Check. Mission
purpose? Check. Seek the lost and the least
with hope and compassion for the justice
Jesus represents? Check. Recognize we
too, are the lost and the least....check!

I believe we will keep steady on with the
above, and add one more lens to find a way
to seek God at work in our hearts, our
community, and our faith. God is speaking
that we can enact our faith by looking more
deeply at Creation Care and Creation
Justice.

We have started to pay attention to Creation
Care by adding on some new habits (and
remember former ones!), like using our
dishes in church rather than paper/plastic
plates that are single use, only. We no

longer sell bottled water (in single use
plastic bottles) at our events. We reuse and
repurpose everything we can so it does not
end up in the landfills of our community and
never biodegrade into healthy, rich soil in
which to grow something. These are a few
examples of how we are treating the Earth,
God's creation, as something we know has
been blessed by the Creator and we shall
not abuse that blessing. We are learning
and eager to learn more about how to care
for that which God cared enough to create.

The adventure will be faithful, intentional,
and loving. We will find ways to express our
thanks to God in our respect for the Earth
and how this enables us to love God, love
neighbor as self. I pray we will find ways to
honor God in our respect for the planet and
thus, respect one another. [SEP] I am hearing
God say, start with something we can all
relate to: Food.

How does our food honor God, neighbor,
and self? How does our food help us get
closer to the Lord and what do our food
choices mean regarding justice and health
for the planet? Let's journey with these
questions and hear what God is speaking to
us! Thank you for joining hands on the
journey!

Finally, I pray that you have a wonder-filled,
blessed, and prosperous new year. I pray
that God would strengthen you in health,
and inspire you for passionate faith in every
good work that God leads you to do as
bearers of the Gospel of love.

Remember always holding to the Great
Commandment (Matt 22:37-40) through the
Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20), makes
for a sacred church and Great Community!

(Continued on next page)

From Our Pastor's Desk - continued:

May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all this and every moment of your living. Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14

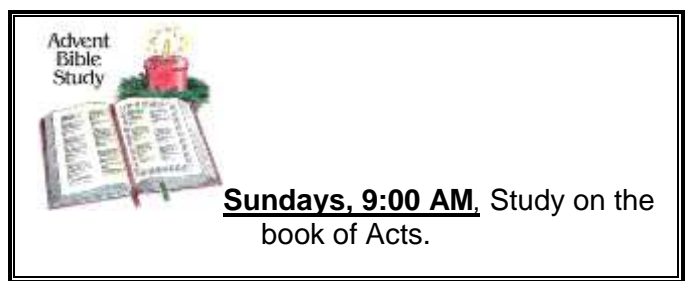
Love, peace, grace, and joy,

Pastor Robin



From SPR Committee:

In consultation with PPR, Pastor is taking off 1 Sunday a month: Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 16, Apr 27, May 4, May 11, Jun 15, Jul 6, Aug 17, Sep 7, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 14.



Joys in our church

All the beautiful Advent & Christmas decorations inside & outside our church!

All the donations for our Mitten Tree for Open Door Mission and gifts for Family Promise!

Don, David, & Nick for work installing our new propane tank!

Carol & Jim who delivered our Christmas gifts, donations & food baskets!

Wayne Parrish & Pastor Robin are planning a new design for the IUMC website.



Prayers for the family & friends of Shirley Madaffer Kelly who passed on Dec. 6th

Prayers for Vivian, daughter of Tara & Matt, grand-daughter of Lori & John Stein, great-grand-daughter of Marna & Larry She has been diagnosed with juvenile arthritis.

Prayers for Rev. Richelle Duchano-Goff who is our new District Superintendent for Genesee Valley

Sue, Pat, Ron, Kay, Gary, Doris, 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.



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!



Happy January Birthday!

Sheila ; Mary ; Luke ; Gwendolyn ; Mel
Rodney; Sue; Scott ; Hannah ;
Sam ; James ; Gary; Samantha ; Mary
Alex ; James; Donald; Sue; Melissa ; Susan;
Sandra; Jim ; Hal ; Vicki ; Lydia; Wayne
(last names have been omitted due to privacy issues!)



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

Our Administrative Board voted to donations as follows: Red Bird Missions \$1,000; Old Mutare Zimbabwe Hospital \$1,000; Mutare prenatal care (Florence Mefor) \$1,000; and Open Door Mission \$500 Also: Christmas baskets, gifts, and gift cards were distributed.



Last Call for donations to the "Mitten Tree" for the Open Door Mission, collecting new socks, new underwear, new or gently used coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, etc. ! All the donations will be delivered to the Open Door Mission by mid-January!



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!

In 2024, we collected 19,688 cans & bottles to realize \$934.70 for those redeemables!

A Big Thank You to Dick Twardokus, the Tolomays & Jim Marionacci for taking them all to be redeemed!



For our Creation Care Misson: 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!

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>



Furnace replacement project news:

Perhaps you've noticed the dirt pile on the north side near the kitchen entrance to the fellowship hall? We had some degradation in the fellowship hall furnace firebox last year and after speaking with several HVAC companies we opted to replace both furnaces with propane fired units based on efficiency and operating cost. We've purchased and installed a new 1000 gallon propane tank in preparation for replacing both oil furnaces in early 2025 (after we exhaust our existing oil supply). The Church would welcome your donations to offset the financial burden of the replacement project and thank you in advance for your support.

Don Frelie, Board of Trustees



Christmas Altar Flowers were given this year in memory of

of these people:
Mary and Bud Dewey, For Love and Grace thru Christ, Maeve, Kathryn A. Belding, Bob Price, Baldwin Parents, Lewis Parents



In Our Area:

First Friday Jan. 10th 6-8pm, Family Board Game Night Victor UMC An opportunity to join with other families to have fun and build community, Pizza Dinner Provided

Feb. 8, 9am-4pm Annual Day of Curiosity at West Bloomfield United Church of Christ will be welcoming the greater Rochester community for info: www.wbccucc.org

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

January 2025 Martin L King Series at United Church of Pittsford, 123 S. Main

Jan. 8th, 15th, 22th, 29th & Feb. 2nd

Free Parking in the lot off Sunset. For More Information pittsfordcommunity.org

Email pittsfordcommunitygroup@gmail.com f or requests or questions.

Weds., Jan. 8, 7 pm Herb Smith Jazz Trio

Weds., Jan. 15, at 7pm Being Black in America Film screening and panel discussion presented by Our Voices Project

Weds., Jan. 22, 7 pm Spoken Word Performance & Community Poetry Slam

Weds., Jan. 29, 7 pm Rashaad Parker Film Screening and Discussion

Sunday, Feb. 2, 3 pm Interfaith Family Service (Final MLK Series event)

Interfaith Family Service:



Christmas-tide marks the season celebrating the birth of Jesus, Dec. 25th, through Jan. 5th. You might have thought about this as the 12 Days of Christmas! The last day of Christmas-tide is called Epiphany which celebrates the revelation that Jesus is the Son of God, the Word made flesh, God Incarnate. Epiphany focuses primarily on this revelation through the Three Magi, but also in His baptism in the river Jordan and at the wedding at Cana.



Church Family Game Night

(for everyone, families, couples, & singles!)

Watch for details!

Several in the coming months!

Photos of our Altar at Advent



New Year Prayer for My Family

*Our Father God,
parent of all children, father to all parents,
Be with us, and in particular with our families.
You know our needs
for health, happiness, wholeness,
for shelter, safety, solace,
for the overworked and unemployed among us.
Mend the rifts between us,
restore the lost ones to us.
And let nothing come between us and You,
Creator of our universal family of humankind.*

Rick Hamlin

For All Women:

UNY AC UMC
INVITING ALL WOMEN OF FAITH
FOR A VIRTUAL EVENT!

**CATCH YOUR BREATH:
IN FROM THE WILDERNESS**

UMC Bishop Peggy Johnson
Keynote Speaker and Author of
"THE EVER EXPANDING SPIRIT OF GOD"

Telling the story of her family and personal transformations through faith in Christ, including the "big secret" she and her spouse loved their way through.

Let us gather, listen to one another and in faith, seek belonging.

Jan 24&25, 2025
6:30-8:30pm

Register Here:
Cost \$15.00

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland..." Isaiah 43:19b

Hosted by COSROW



M. L. King's Birthday Jan. 20

"Love is the greatest force in the universe.

**It is the heartbeat of the moral cosmos.
He who loves is a participant in the being of God."**

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–68)

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Email: ioniaumc2120@hotmail.com

Facebook: "IoníaUMCNY"

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



Epiphany Sunday is January 5th



Calendar

Sundays, 9:00 AM Bible Study

10:00 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Coffee Hour

Wednesday, Jan 1st Happy New Year

Saturday, January 5th Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 12th Jesus' Baptism

Sunday, January 14th: Birthday Sunday

Monday, Jan. 20th Martin Luther King's birthday

Tuesday, January 21st Ad Board meeting

Sunday, January 26th Monthly Brunch