



# That Message Spread

*Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."*

– Acts 10:34-38

If the liturgical year takes us on a journey in which the first part of the year (Advent through the Day of Pentecost) emphasizes the work of Christ and the second part emphasizes the work of discipleship, then the season of Easter may be considered equal parts culmination, celebration, and commission. The incarnational and enfleshed ministry of Jesus concludes. The joy, relief, and wonder at the resurrection consumes the first disciples. The time of preparation and mentorship transitions to the establishment of the church, embodied in the people who commit to The Way and endowed with the power of Spirit.

During the season of Easter, the theological and biblical focus centers on the intentional instrumentality of the disciples in spreading the good news. For contemporary followers of Jesus, the traditional texts invite us to consider our role as ambassadors, agents, and advocates of the kingdom of God as we heed the call to Spread the Good News.

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### *Holy Week Worship Schedule*

- April 2 – Maundy Thursday Worship, 6:00 pm service
- April 3 – Good Friday Worship at Epiphany UCC  
5:30 pm Fish Fry - 7:00 pm service
- April 5 – Easter Sunday Worship, 11:00 am service





## Our Mission Statement

*Open to God's Spirit,  
we reach out in Love to the World  
and invite All to journey with us*

An Open and Affirming Congregation



## HOW TO REACH US

### **Our Website:**

lockportucc.com

### **Church Office:**

80 Main St. - Suite H  
716-433-2545

lockportunited@roadrunner.com

### **Mailing Address:**

PO Box 427  
Lockport, NY 14095

A Funny Thing Happened  
on the Way to the Tomb

*Worship Walks on Water*

Neighborhood Dinner

*Watering the Garden  
of Our Faith*

Just Peace Church Update

*Hidden History of the  
United Church of Christ*



## THE VINEYARD

Newsletter of The Lockport  
United Church of Christ

*The Vineyard is published  
ten times a year to keep  
members and friends  
informed about  
programs of the church  
and news of its people.*

Submissions Welcome

**Deadline for Next Issue:**

**April 19, 2026**

## *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Tomb*

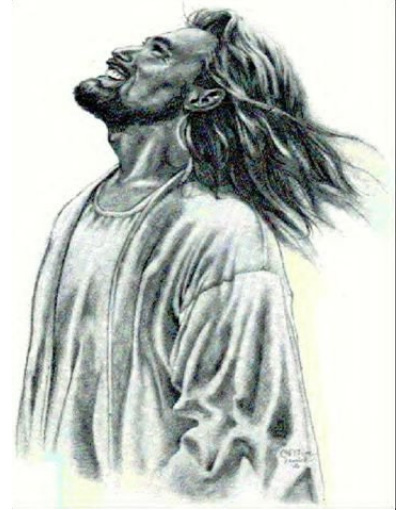
On the Sunday after Easter, **April 12**, we will celebrate **Holy Humor Sunday** in our morning worship. This is our chance to laugh together, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus – God’s great joke on death!

Holy Humor Sunday, is celebrated by many churches on this first Sunday after Easter. It actually has ancient roots in early Christian churches, when it was called the “Easter Laugh”.

It was observed for centuries in Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant countries, where the week following Easter was a time for joy, dancing, and jokes to celebrate Jesus’s resurrection.

Early theologians believed God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. Then it was outlawed in the 17th century by Pope Clement X, before its revival in the late 20th century.

So join us on April 12, and let’s share as a community  
the joy we have received in the new life of Christ!



## *Worship Walks on the Water – Start Date Change*

God shows up in the world around us. God shows up in the wind and in the dirt and in the grass and in the waters and in the animals around us. If you want to find God in the world around you, Pastor Hope would like to invite you to join her in a weekly worship walk on the canal.

Worship Walks is an exploratory worship experience where we become attuned to the ways in which God shows up in the world around us. Because this is an outdoor opportunity, we will be subject to unpredictable weather. But we will walk together, if it is safe for us to do so (not in thunderstorms or extreme heat or extreme cold)!



Together we will walk and talk, pray and play, and be on the lookout for God to show up all around us. The weekly Walks will begin on **April 22** – quite fitting, since that is Earth Day! On that day, and the weeks to follow, walks will take place on **Wednesdays** from **10-11:30am** at a casual conversational pace, beginning at **Wide Waters** and walking wherever God leads. Join me at the waters!

*Abundant Blessings,  
Pastor Hope*

## *Feeding Our Neighbors*

This is a time of food insecurity for many of our neighbors. Our effort to help alleviate some of that is why we offer a monthly free dinner for the community.

Our next Neighborhood Dinner will be on **April 22**. It will be served 5:00 to 5:30 pm at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, and is now available as take-out or eat-in.

The menu will include Ham and Scalloped Potatoes. Edna will be needing helpers to prepare and serve, so if you can volunteer to help please speak to Edna.



*Happy  
Easter  
to Our  
Shut-in  
Members*

**Lucinda Hohle**  
Absolut Care  
4540 Lincoln Dr.  
Gasport, NY 14067

**Linda Layer and Kevin O'Connor**  
Mt. View Assisted Living  
5465 Upper Mountain Rd.  
Lockport, NY 14094

**David Payne**  
Lockport Rehab & Health Care Center  
909 Lincoln Avenue  
Lockport, NY 14094



*Watering  
the Garden  
of  
Our Faith*

**Bible Study at LUCC**

### *Tuesday Study Group*

Our Tuesday Bible Study group meets each week at **1:00 pm**. They are a lay-led group that discusses the lectionary scripture readings for the week. Please see Nancy Sy if you would like to join them or need more information.

### *Disciple Discussion Group*

The Disciple Group meets on **Thursdays, 5:30 to 7:00 pm**. On April 23, we will be starting a new 6-week series – “Voices of Resistance.” This series explores how the music, songs, and poetry in scriptures proclaim God’s justice and love. We’ll look at how they were used by our ancient ancestors, and how they speak to us today.

New folks are welcome any time! If you’d like to join us, please let Cyndy Corrieri know in advance so that we can have study materials prepared for you.

### *Bible 101 Class*

Pastor Hope leads a Bible 101 class **Twice a month on Sundays**, following the morning worship service. This is a basics of the Bible course for anyone who is new to the Bible or wants a refresher. If you are interested in joining, please see Pastor Hope to get homework/study materials.



4 Edna Stubbs  
 25 Tom Zuercher

*If we don't have your birthday, please give it to Cyndy. We want to include everyone in the birthday wishes!*



### *Just Peace Process*

The planning committee has begun meetings to facilitate our journey to explore the process of becoming a Just Peace church. More of their plans and information will be shared soon.

To get us all thinking about the scriptural basis for this process, they will be creating prayer calendars each month. Each day of the month has a short scripture reading about Peace. We invite you to pick one up and read the daily passage along with us!

Calendars for April are available on the entrance table at church. If you can't pick one up in person, and would like to follow along, just contact Cyndy and we'll send you one.

## General Fund Financial Summary February 23 thru March 22

Income from Pledges & Offerings	1,618.00
Other Income	173.34
Total Income	1,791.34
Total Expenses	4,731.62

### *New Envelopes for Sunday Offerings*

You may notice a new addition to our entrance table. Next to the offering plate, there is a stack of offering envelopes – dollar-bill size, with green ivy decorating them. These are available to use for your gifts to the church at any worship service – should you like to use them.

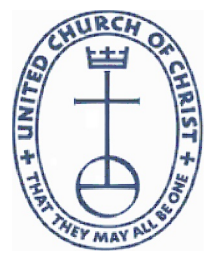


*Special Offering Envelopes* are in the three-section display case on the smaller table next to the entrance table. These envelopes change throughout the year, depending on what special offerings are currently being accepted.

*Please use any of these envelopes when you wish, for your convenience.*

### *Our Church Cemetery*

Plots in St. Peter's Cemetery are available for \$800 each. If you would like to purchase plots, just call Dan Holler and he will be happy to help you with that.



## Hidden History of the United Church of Christ

*Our church here in Lockport is part of the Protestant denomination, the United Church of Christ - but how much do you know about the UCC? Let's look at some UCC history, starting at the beginning.*

### **The Early Church**

*Excerpted from "A History of the United Church of Christ" by Margaret Rowland Post*

All Christians are faith descendants of the first apostles of Jesus who roamed the world with the good news of God's love. Within five centuries, Christianity dominated the Roman Empire. Until A.D. 1054 when the church split, it remained essentially one. At that point, the Eastern Orthodox Church established its center at Constantinople (Istanbul), the Roman Catholic Church at Rome. During the 16th century, when Christians found the church corrupt and hopelessly involved in economic and political interests, leaders arose to bring about reform from within. The unintended by-product of their efforts at reform was schism in the Roman Church. Their differences over the authority and practices of Rome became irreconcilable.

Protestant reformers such as Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, and John Calvin held that the Bible, not the Pope, was sufficient authority as the word of God. Paramount was the message of Paul that persons are justified by the grace of God through faith alone. Protestantism spread throughout Europe. Lutheran churches were planted in Germany and throughout Scandinavia; the Reformed churches, originating in Switzerland, spread into Germany, France, Transylvania, Hungary, Holland, England, and Scotland.

The United Church of Christ traces its roots back to those movements to proclaim the good news based on biblical truths led by the Spirit of God. It presently binds in covenant nearly 4,800 congregations with over 773,000 members. One of the youngest American denominations, its background also makes it one of the oldest in Protestantism.

The United Church of Christ, a united and uniting church, was born on June 25, 1957 out of a combination of four groups. Two of these were the Congregational Churches of the English Reformation with Puritan New England roots in America, and the Christian Church with American frontier beginnings. These two denominations were concerned for freedom of religious expression and local autonomy and united on June 17, 1931 to become the Congregational Christian Churches.

The other two denominations were the Evangelical Synod of North America, a 19th-century German-American church of the frontier Mississippi Valley, and the Reformed Church in the United States, initially composed of early 18th-century churches in Pennsylvania and neighboring colonies, unified in 1793. The Reformed and Lutheran traditions of the Reformation united to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church on June 26, 1934.

The Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches shared a strong commitment under Christ to the freedom of religious expression. They combined strong European ties, early colonial roots, and the vitality of the American frontier church. Both denominations found their authority in the Bible and were more concerned with what unites Christians than with what divides them.

In their marriage, a church that valued the free congregational tradition was strengthened by one that remained faithful to the liturgical tradition of Reformed church worship and to catechetical teaching. A tradition that maintained important aspects of European Protestantism was broadened by one that, in mutual covenant with Christ, embraced diversity and freedom.

*To Be Continued . . .*