



# The VINEYARD

Newsletter of The Lockport  
United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

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

---

**AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2023**

---

## *The Longest Season Continues*

The church is currently in the Season of Pentecost, and will continue to be for quite some time. Pentecost is, by far, the longest season of the church. This year, it will last for twenty-six weeks, and will take us right up to the start of Advent. Here are the worship themes we have planned for August and September.

**August 6 – Tenth Sunday  
after Pentecost**

Text: Matthew 14:13-31  
Sermon: Leftovers

**August 13 - Eleventh Sunday  
after Pentecost**

Text: Matthew 14:22-23  
Sermon: In the Same Boat

**August 20 – Twelfth Sunday  
after Pentecost**

Text: Genesis 45:1-15  
Sermon: Reconciliation

**August 27 - Thirteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost**

Text: Romans 12:1-8  
Sermon: Living Sacrifices

**September 3 – Fourteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost.**

Kirk Laubenstein will be  
our Guest Pastor

**September 10 - Fifteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost**

Text: Matthew 18:15-20  
Sermon: When Two or Three are Gathered

**September 17 - Sixteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost**

Worship Theme  
to be announced

**September 24 - Seventeenth Sunday  
after Pentecost**

Text: Matthew 20:1-6  
Sermon: Water From the Rock

# From Pastor Rick

*Hi Everyone,*

*It seems like summer just got started, and now here we are at the mid-point! How can that be?! Last evening I was speaking with a gentleman at our church's Community Dinner and he expressed the same surprise. We were standing in the blazing heat in the parking lot as we spoke. I thought about how that same asphalt surface would soon be covered with colorful fallen leaves – and then ice and snow. As I turn sixty-two in August and officially become a Senior Citizen, I can't help but reflect on how quickly time passes with or without our permission.*



*Speaking of the passing of time, we are in a “waiting” mode at Lockport UCC. We are waiting for a sale contract for our building to be finalized so that we can proceed as planned toward relocation. Right now, things seem a bit slow, but pretty soon the pace will likely accelerate, and we will experience some rapid changes. If only we knew what they all would be! Trusting God with the passing of time and seasons of waiting and change can be a challenge, but thankfully we have one another and the promise that the Divine will never leave us or forsake us.*

*As always, please keep me informed about changes in your life or with your loved ones, especially health concerns and hospitalizations. Now that I have moved from one-third to one-quarter time service at Lockport UCC, my usual pattern is to come into Lockport on the fourth Wednesday of the month to do visitation and then help with the Community Dinner. I am always available to respond to emergencies, so do not hesitate to contact me when there is an urgent situation.*

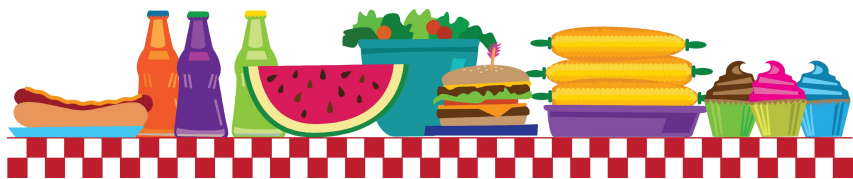


*It has been wonderful to welcome visitors who find their way to LUCC on Sunday mornings, and it is always gratifying when they return and find their way into active involvement. Thank you for all the ways you help guests feel welcome and wanted at our church!*

*Peace and blessings,*

*Pastor Rick*

## Community Picnic



On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will expand our monthly free community dinner to a Community Picnic. The time will be expanded as well to 3:00 to 6:00 PM. We will have a tent with tables and chairs set up in the parking lot for the event.

Prior to the meal, there will be activities for children and adults. Plans are still being made, but we expect to have a bounce house for kids, music, a bubble machine, and other games for both kids and adults.

At 5:00 the meal will be served. Our menu will include hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill, macaroni salad, baked beans, chef salad, and an assortment of desserts. Everything will be free, as always.

We will need church members to make desserts – you can make any type of dessert you like. We will also need volunteers to help serve food and supervise games. If you can come help out at the event, or prepare a dessert, please let Edna Stubbs or Donna Dye-Sholk know.

It promises to be a very fun event, as well as a needed outreach to feed those in our community!



On September 27<sup>th</sup>, we will return to our regular format of free take-out dinners for the community. These will be available from 5:00 to 5:30 PM.



## Bible Study Groups

Our **Tuesday group** continues to meet through the summer at 10:00 am in the Mayflower Room. See Nancy Sy if you would like to join them or need more information.

Our **Disciple group** is taking a break for the summer. We will resume classes in the Fall.

## Help Us Keep In Touch

E-mails are a great way for us to get in touch with members when there is a need – Snow cancellations, a meeting change, etc. If we don't have yours, please take a moment to send an e-mail note to Cyndy, then we'll have yours on file when we need to be in touch quickly.



## THE VINEYARD

A publication of The Lockport  
United Church of Christ  
98 East Avenue  
Lockport, New York 14094  
(716) 433-2545

*The Vineyard is published  
bi-monthly to keep members  
and friends informed about  
programs of the church  
and news of its people.*

Submissions Welcome  
**Deadline for Next Issue:  
September 17, 2023**

### *CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE*

Our complete newsletter and lots of other information is available on our website at:

lockportucc.com

### *RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL*

If you would like to receive your newsletter via e-mail, just send your e-mail address to Cyndy. It's a quick and easy way to get your newsletter, and it will save the church money.



Like us on  
facebook

### **Church Office**

98 East Ave. 433-2545

lockportunited@roadrunner.com

---

***If you are Hospitalized  
or in need of Pastoral Care***  
please contact Pastor Rick  
or the Church Office

## *Church-Wide Sale*



Saturday,  
August 19  
9 am to 3 pm

In August we will be holding a church-wide sale. In preparation for selling the building and moving to a smaller location, there are many items in the building that must be sold or disposed of. Certain things have been earmarked to take with us to our new worship space, but much of what we have in the building will need to be sold.

We have been working to find interested buyers for many "specialty" items – things that may not be appealing to the general public. We have been in touch with people who buy antiques and unique items. We have contacted other churches to see if they can use items such as hymnals, Bibles, choir robes, Christian Education curriculum, etc. We are trying to find buyers for items such as pianos, pews and a pipe organ. These can be difficult to sell, but we are trying to connect with people who might be interested.

Whatever is not sold, will be available on the day of the sale. Some items will be marked with asking prices, but most things will be sold on a "name your price" basis. We hope that this may serve a dual purpose by allowing those in the community who can't afford high prices to be able to get some things they can use for a price that fits their budget.

### ***We Will Need Your Help***

We will need people to be at the church on that day to assist shoppers, collect money, answer questions, etc. If you can help out, please let Cyndy, Bobbi or Suzanne know. It will be a busy day so we need as many people as possible to lend a hand!

### ***Members Get First Chance***

Prior to the sale, we would like to give our members the first opportunity to purchase church items. There is furniture, lamps, books, flowers, desks, filing cabinets, dishes, pots & pans, craft items, pews, pianos, tables & chairs, and much more.

If there are any items in the church that you are interested in, please let us know. You may speak to Cyndy, Bobbi or Suzanne. If it's an item we'll be taking on our move, we'll let you know it's not available, but otherwise, we'll arrange a fair price with you.

*Blessings  
to Our  
Shut-in Members*

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

**Linda Layer**  
**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



20 Sue Cruickshank  
22 Daniel Holler

*August Birthdays*

3 Easton Rongo  
5 Ashley Zuercher  
6 Bryan Gritmacher  
7 David Payne  
7 Linda Rongo  
14 Charles Roberts  
23 Cyndy Corrieri  
31 Luca Pelligrina

*September Birthdays*

1 Caiden Paul  
5 Ann Dodge  
6 Xavier Haseley  
10 Rebecca Mietlowski  
14 Suzanne Wilson  
16 Enzo Rongo  
18 Kathryn Petrie  
20 Arlene Gebo



15 Kathleen Paszkiewicz  
17 Tina Zuba  
20 Karen Henn  
20 Trever Mietlowski

*Anniversaries*

Aug. 8, 1981 - James & Linda Rongo  
Aug. 18, 1962 - George & Susan Cruickshank  
Aug. 27, 1977 - Larry & Karen Henn  
Sept. 3, 2001 - Chuck & Tina Pike  
Sept. 10, 2016 - Kathleen & David Paszkiewicz  
Sept. 29, 1990 - Dan & Beth Holler

*Weekly Vine*

In the Weekly Vine, we share the full sermon from that week, some highlights from our service, and also any prayer concerns or news that comes up. **If we don't have your e-mail, however, you will not receive it unless you contact us.**

If you would like to receive the Weekly Vine, just contact Cyndy and provide your e-mail address. If you are receiving it and would rather not, let Cyndy know that, too.



*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.



### *Little Food Pantry*

Please continue your generous support of our little food pantry in the front yard of the church. The need is great, and thanks to you, we are doing a lot to help needy families in our own community.

### *Little Library*

Our little library is also very popular. Please refrain from bringing any adult books at the present time because we have a large supply on hand. We continue to need children's books, however, so if you have an opportunity to donate those, they would be most appreciated.

### *RIP Medical Debt Relief*

Please don't forget our ongoing mission to help alleviate medical debt for people who are living with the burden of crushing debt from medical bills. This organization is able to buy \$100 worth of debt for every dollar donated.

Change and small donations are welcome, so please keep adding to our little collection box in the narthex.

## *Building Sale Update*

We told you over a month ago that we have received an offer from the Challenger Learning Center of Lockport to purchase our church building, contingent upon them receiving the financing through a grant they have applied for. The Church Council accepted the offer, and began the process of writing up a contract for the sale.

We expected to have that done and signed by now, but there have been some details to work out. We are still working with our realtor and Challenger to accomplish that. Hopefully, things will be worked out very soon and we will have a signed contract. If all goes well, we expect a closing date sometime in October or early November.

## *General Fund Summary June 1 thru July 23*

In the interest of keeping the congregation informed, the Church Council has opted to publish a thumbnail sketch of our church finances in each newsletter.



Income from	
Pledges & Offerings	5,984.00
Other Income	2,825.00
Total Income	8,809.00
From Investments	5,000.00
Total Expenses	13,318.87

*If you have questions about our finances, please feel free to contact me. I am always happy to speak with you.*

Cyndy Corrieri, Treasurer

## *Have a Safe and Happy Labor Day September 4*

# Crossing Over

## - A Prayer for Transitions

by Joyce Rupp

*Crossing over into the unknown,  
crossing over from a secure land,  
to one whose roads we have never walked.*

*Companion and Guide,  
you are our transition coach.*

*You say to us,  
"Cross over the bridge.  
Go ahead, come on over.  
It's sturdy enough.*

*Don't look down, though,  
or you might get terrified  
and never walk across.*

*Don't look back too long,  
or you will lose courage  
and want to stay right where you are.*

*Hang on. Keep going.  
That's what bridges are for,  
to get you to the other side.  
Trust me to protect you."*



*For all of us in transition  
who have bridges to cross,  
bless us, God of the journey,  
gift us with the desire to go ahead.*

*Help us to trust  
that the bridge will be strong  
and the risk will be worth it.*

