



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*

JUNE – JULY 2023



Season of Pentecost

Following the celebration of Pentecost Sunday, we enter into the Season of Pentecost. This is, by far, the longest season of the church – it will take us through the rest of the church year, right up to Advent. Here are the worship themes we have planned for June and July.

June 4 – Trinity Sunday – First Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Matthew 28:16-20
Sermon: Famous Last Words

June 11 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Drew Ludwig
will be our guest preacher

June 18 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Kirk Laubenstein
will be our guest preacher

June 25 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Pat Ludwig
will be our guest preacher

July 2 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Lay led service with a sermon
written by Pastor Rick

July 9 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Sermon: Come Away

July 16 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Genesis 25:19-34
Sermon: Birthrights

July 23 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Romans 8:26-39
Sermon: More than Conquerors

July 30 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Sermon: The Kingdom of God is Like....

From Pastor Rick

Hi Everyone,

Happy spring! What a beautiful world God has given us, especially here in Western New York! I'm enjoying an outdoor breeze as I write from my porch. The grass is growing and the flowers are blooming. The leaves are fully out, and the sun is shining. Our winters are the stuff of legends, but the months of cold and gray fade quickly from memory when spring arrives again.



This has been a good year so far at Lockport UCC! It was so great to celebrate Easter together and even share breakfast together again (our first church meal since the start of the pandemic three years ago). It has been wonderful to have new folks worshipping with us, and the weekly study groups and the community dinners are going strong!

Borrowing from the title of a recent sermon, we are living "In the Meantime" as we wait to see if and when our building will be sold. Thank you for waiting prayerfully and participating in the congregational meetings and surveys that are part of getting ready for whatever God has in store for our future.

Please remember that as of July 1, my pastoral position will be reduced to one-quarter time. This change will affect my ability to participate in weekday groups and visitation, however I will do my very best to still provide pastoral care for all in need. More than ever, I need you to let me know when there is a hospitalization or a change in health so that I can respond. Thank you for helping me stay aware of the needs of our congregation! You can always reach me by phone at 585-405-2825 or by email at rickdanielson@gmail.com.

May you experience the greatest, deepest, richest blessings of God today and each day ahead!

Peace,

Pastor Rick



While Pastor's Away

Pastor Rick will be taking some time off
June 5 thru July 2
While he's away, please call the church office
or Cyndy with any pastoral concerns



Upcoming Community Dinners

We continue to offer our free monthly dinners to assist those in our community who struggle with food insecurity.

The dinners are served on the 4th Wednesday of each month, between 5:00 and 5:30 PM, and available as take-out only.

Our next dinner dates are planned for **June 28** and **July 26**. If you can help prepare or serve meals, or make deserts please contact Edna to volunteer.

Offering for UCC Open and Affirming Coalition

The Open and Affirming Coalition is an independent non-profit. Although they work closely with the UCC's national ministries, they receive no regular funding from Our Church's Wider Mission. The national ONA program is funded by contributions.

As an ONA church, we would like to show our support for the coalition, as well as our gratitude for the assistance we received during our Open and Affirming process. Our donations will also help insure that the assistance will be there for other churches seeking to become ONA congregations.

Throughout June, we will be accepting your donations to the ONA Coalition. If you would like to contribute, just drop your donation in the collection plate on any Sunday, or mail your gift to the church. Please note that it is for "ONA", and make checks payable to Lockport UCC.

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.



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.



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:
July 16, 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.



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HOW TO REACH US

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

Happy Summer 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

June Birthdays

1 Lindsay Bechtold
12 Al Gritzmacher
12 Jeff Rongo
13 Skylar Hoste
24 James Babcock
24 Maureen Bechtold
24 Nancy Sy
26 Bobbi Gritzmacher



July Birthdays

4 Richard Dodge III
8 Tina Pike
8 Sam Corrieri
10 Daunt Stenzel
17 Barbara Carlson
19 Kendyl Dodge
24 Marissa Bechtold
27 Helen Boots
30 Barbara Stein
31 Margaret Stenzel



Happy Anniversary

June 18, 1983 – Jeff & Helen Boots
June 24, 1961 – Audrey & Richard Woolson
July 30, 2005 – Scott & Rebecca Mietlowski



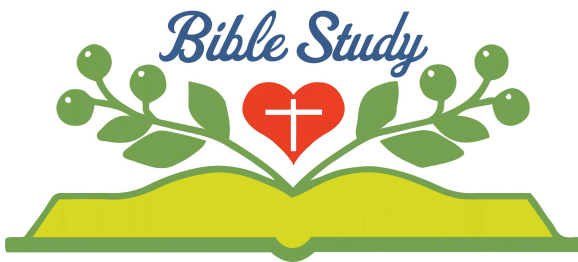
General Fund Summary March 26 thru May 31

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	6,652.74
Other Income	524.00
Total Income	7,176.74
Total Expenses	10,667.45

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

Cyndy Corrieri, Treasurer



Tuesday Morning Group

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

Disciple Discussion Group

Our Disciple group will be 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.





Our Church History Secured

Among the many issues and concerns that have come up as we consider the closing or downsizing of our church, is — “What happens to our church historical records?” In this building are records that date back almost 200 years, and that certainly deserves to be preserved.

Our records include history from several of our ancestor churches: St. Peter’s UCC and it’s predecessor, The German United Protestant Church of Lockport, dating back to the 1850’s; Plymouth Congregational UCC, and it’s predecessors, The First Free Congregational Church and The East Avenue Congregational Church, dating back to 1838; and records from Lockport UCC.

We contacted the Niagara County Historian’s office, located in the old Civil Defense building on Niagara Street, and they were eager to accept our historical records. We recently boxed it all up and delivered it to them. Eleven large bins of record books, photo albums, membership records, minutes of meetings, memorials, and much more were deposited with their office.

The Niagara County Historian is a government agency who must, by law, preserve any history they acquire, so our records will have a safe, and enduring home with them. They will digitalize and preserve this history of our church, which has also been a part of Lockport’s history for so long.



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.

Relief for Ukraine

The situation in Ukraine remains dire. If you wish to contribute to relief efforts there, donations are still accepted at any time.

O Blessings of Summer

by Macrina Wiederkehr

O Breath of Summer,
Come! Come with your warm winds.
Breathe on all within us that resists growth.
Temper our desire to be in control.
Raise up some wildness in us.

O Fireflies of Beautiful Evenings,
Come! Come enchant us with your mystic dance.
Brighten our evening with your little lights.
Lead us away from day's duties.
Lift our spirits into your carefree flight.

O Garden of Plenty,
Come! Come bless us with your abundance.
Sustain us with your abundance.
Reminds us of the world's hunger.
Nudge us to give from our fullness.

O Dazzling Sun,
Come! Come with your golden rays.
Anoint us with your encouraging beams.
Recharge us with your radiant vitality.
Refresh our overworked spirits.

O Long Days of Extended Light,
Come! Come with your wide expansive arms.
Open our eyes to the daily miracle of life.
Slip into our distracted hearts with every dawn.
Expand our ability to see beauty in our world.

O Source of Growth and Light,
Come! Come encourage us to stretch toward light.
Warm us with your abiding presence.
Challenge our lethargic spirits.
Walk with us into the deep, green forests.

O Summer Word of God,
Come! Come with your transforming breath.
Breathe on us until we are ripe with life.
Fire us to be light for the world.
Nourish us with your healing rays.

