



THE VINEYARD

JUNE 2026

LOCKPORT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Season of Pentecost

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind,
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting . . .
All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 2:1-2,4a*

Pentecost Sunday, on May 24, began the longest season of the church year. It is sometimes referred to as “Ordinary Time”, but there’s really nothing ordinary about it. It’s a time to be Faithful and Vital.

The season after Pentecost constitutes roughly half of the liturgical year and focuses less on the pivotal moments in the life of Christ that shape the other seasons, such as Advent and Easter. Rather, this season is bound together by threads of discipleship: what is expected, what has been demonstrated, and what will be our response to the costly call of discipleship. This time has been identified as ordinary time. Yet faith, alive, active, and embodied in the world has proved to be extraordinary. As we journey through this season, we delve into our collective call to be faithful to the gospel-informed life in Christ, through Christ, and because of Christ.

In the United Church of Christ Constitution, the preamble declares, “The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior.” (Also in our own Lucc Constitution.) As followers of the Still Speaking God, we acknowledge the continuing testimony that the Holy One works through people, individually and especially gathered in community. The church is that institution, inspired and called by God to ministry in the name and way of Jesus. Therefore, for this season after Pentecost, we are invited to remember who we are in order to nurture who we *could be* through the framework of the Gospel and the example of Jesus the Christ. *Be Faithful and Vital this Pentecost Season!*





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:

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716-433-2545

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Mailing Address:

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Summer Fellowship Dinner

Feeding the Community

Worship Walks on the Water

Round Table Church

Bible Study at LUCC

Instruments of Peace

Summer Sermon Series

Church at the Drive-In

Celebrating Our
Open and Affirming Covenant

A Trip Down Memory Lane
Make Way for Ducklings

Thank You New York Conference

Just Peace Word Cloud

Hidden History of the UCC

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:

June 21, 2026

The BROOK

RESTAURANT AT WILLOWBROOK

4200 Lake Ave, Lockport

Summer Fellowship Dinner

We are planning an evening out for fellowship and dinner on **Wednesday June 10, 5:00pm**, at the Willowbrook Restaurant on Lake Ave.

We need to finalize our reservation soon, so if you'd like to join us (we hope everyone will !!) and haven't signed up yet, please contact Cyndy ASAP to add your name.

Feeding the Community

Food insecurity is an all-too-common reality for many folks in our community. We try to alleviate some of that with our free monthly dinner.

Our next Neighborhood Dinner will be on **June 24**. It will be served 5:00 to 6:00 pm at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, and is now available as take-out or eat-in.

The menu has not been decided yet, but it's always something good! Edna will be needing helpers to prepare and serve, so if you can volunteer to help please speak to Edna.

No Church Service

June 28

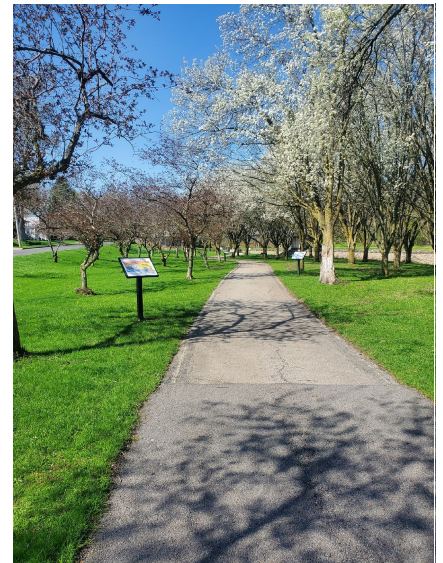
On this weekend, the downtown Lockport craft show will be held. We are cancelling service that morning because, due to the vendor and visitor parking, our folks will probably be unable to park anywhere around the church.

Worship Walks on the Water

Our Worship Walks continue on **Wednesdays, 10-11:30am**, starting at Wide Waters.

Together we walk and talk, pray and play, and be on the lookout for God to show up around us.

(see Pastor Hope if you have any questions)



Melody Zuercher
passed on to her
eternal rest on May 11

We express our deepest
condolences to Melody's Family.
We will continue to hold
this family in our prayers.

Round Table Church

Conversational Worship
Sunday, June 21

Our next Round Table Church will be on June 21, for our morning worship service that day. (You may remember our first one in March.) Pastor Hope will be leading the conversation.

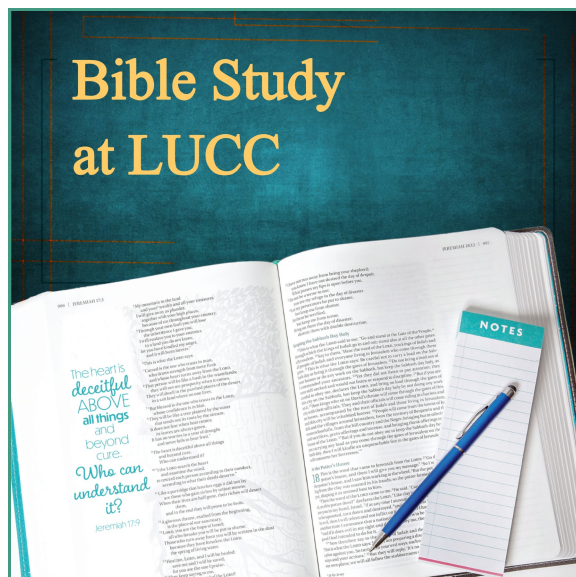
Talk to Me, Church!

I want to hear more from y'all in worship. A lot of times it feels like I am doing all the talking in worship. But I have good news! There is a tradition within the church called Call and Response. This is a tradition that was born in the Black Church where the people and pastor engaged in a conversational style of worship. In the spirit of the call and response tradition, I would like to offer an alternative kind of worship service where we will be more conversational together in worship.



'Round The Table Church is an informal "circle" worship. In this way, there will still be song and scripture and a sermonette, but there will also be guided reflection and conversation. 'Round The Table Church will take place once a quarter (4x/a year). It is my hope that this new worship experience can draw us closer to one another and to God.

Abundant Blessings, Pastor Hope



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

Our Disciple Group will be taking a break for the Summer. We will resume in September, meeting on Thursdays, 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

If you would like to join us then, we would welcome new folks! If you would like more information, please speak to Cyndy.

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.



*Welcome
Summer!*



CAMPFIRE CHURCH 2026

Campfire Church is returning for its FOURTH summer season! All are welcome to come find church around the campfire.



Epiphany UCC
@ 7pm;
Rain or Shine!

June 3 & 17
July 1, 15 & 29 August 12 & 26

CHURCH

AT

THE TRANSIT DRIVE IN

CINEMA

JUNE 5
JULY 17
AUGUST 14

LET US GO TO THE DRIVE-IN TOGETHER CHURCH!! MOVIE CHOICE WILL BE DETERMINED CLOSER TO THE DATE.

CINEMA TICKET

Movie Nights Together Friday, June 5

We are planning 3 summer outings to go to the drive-in together as a church. The first will be on June 5. Pastor Hope will have more details soon about the time and movie we will see.

*Constant Blessings
and Prayers
for 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



- 12 Al Gritzmacher
- 13 Skylar Hoste
- 24 James Babcock
- 24 Nancy Sy
- 26 Bobbi Gritzmacher

Happy Birthday!

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.



Father's Day

June 21st



*Happy Father's Day to all
of the Fathers, Grandfathers,
and men who have been
nurturing figures in our lives.*

Celebrating Our Open and Affirming Covenant

In June the United Church of Christ celebrates Open and Affirming Sunday, and Lockport UCC celebrates the ninth anniversary of becoming an ONA congregation. On June 18, 2017 our congregation voted to become an ONA church and approved the Covenant you see here. We then submitted our application to the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC, which was approved on July 13, 2017.



Lockport United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Covenant

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

(Lockport United Church of Christ Mission Statement)

Organized in 2002 through the consolidation of two local United Church of Christ congregations, Lockport United Church of Christ has had a continuing history of involvement in social issues dating to the abolition of slavery in the first half of the nineteenth century. We honor our ancestors' legacy, and seek to carry on their work with the work we do today.

We strive to be a fully hospitable church that welcomes people of every race, gender, age, ethnicity, social status, family structure, mental or physical health status, and most importantly, those who have often been excluded from faith communities. In declaring ourselves to be an Open and Affirming Church, we particularly welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions into the full life and fellowship of the church, including membership, sacraments, leadership and employment by the congregation.

We do so in response to the declaration of our Savior Jesus Christ who, when asked which was the greatest commandment of all, answered "The first is ... 'you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31 NRSV)

We embrace our denomination's promise: "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here" at Lockport United Church of Christ.

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.



Worship & Picnic in the Park

Sunday, August 9

11:00 AM

More details in the next newsletter!

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$

General Fund Financial Summary

April 27 thru May 17

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Income from | |
| Pledges & Offerings | 2,830.00 |
| Mortgage Payments | 5,222.88 |
| Other Income | 10.00 |
| Total Income | 8,062.88 |
| Total Expenses | 5,312.83 |

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$

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. Just sharing some of your change can make all the difference, because this organization is able to buy \$100 worth of debt for every dollar donated.

So far this year, we have collected \$166
That equals \$16,600 worth of debt paid off!!!

A Trip Down Memory Lane . . .

For those who didn't know Don & Lois Turner, they were faithful members of Plymouth and Lucc for many years until they passed. They spent many hours in the summer keeping the church grounds looking nice with mowing and flower tending. This is a cute story that's worth sharing again, about an incident that happened in May of 2004, as recounted in the June newsletter article written by Pastor Steve Hall.

Make Way for Ducklings

Don and Lois Turner and Pastor Steve had some unexpected excitement at the church on a sunny afternoon in May. They discovered a momma duck and her three ducklings circling the southwest corner of the building.

Don became concerned that some of the little guys might have fallen into the window wells of the church. He and Pastor Steve checked it out, and sure enough, not only was there one in a window well, but there were also several that had fallen through the grate to the storm sewer in the alley.

After phone calls to Bill Tolhurst, the Cornell Extension Office, and the City Streets Department, several extrications of ducklings from window wells, and multiple herding circuits around the building, six little fuzz balls were finally reunited with their mother.

At the time, it was a little frustrating trying to get this frazzled duck together with her confused ducklings. But all's well that ends well. Looking back, it's just a story that can quack you up. (Ok, the groans are probably well-deserved, but I couldn't pass up the opportunity for the pun.)

By the way, we owe the Streets employee a big debt of gratitude. You couldn't find a nicer person anywhere.



THANK YOU, NY CONFERENCE!

A young pastor, I have great appreciation for the NY Conference of the UCC!! The staff of the NY Conference includes our Conference Minister, Associate Conference Ministers (ACMs), Registrar, Administrative Assistant, and Finance Manager. Without the NY Conference, I would not be where I am today . . . and neither would our churches.

Church, did you know that the NY Conference does so much for our churches and association? It's true, y'all!!! While at the UCCNY Annual Meeting in Silver Bay, the Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams reminded us of all that the NY Conference does for us. Let me share it with y'all:



- (1) Cast Vision for Us – Without the NY Conference, our churches would be without a common vision. This would jeopardize the future of the church. Vision is a picture of what our churches look like when living into our local and wider church mission and ministry. Casting vision is essential to the life and work of ministry.
- (2) Gather the Church Together – Without the NY Conference, we would have no Annual Meeting. Without gathering at the Annual Meeting, all our churches would exist in silos. In gathering, the wider church can share celebrations of church milestones, learn together in continuing education, recommit to our covenantal relationships, reconnect with one another, and just have fun together!
- (3) Pulpit Preaching – Without the NY Conference, our churches would feel disconnected. Because our Conference staff share their gift of preaching in our pulpits. In preaching to us, our churches are inspired by the words and witness and work of our Conference staff.
- (4) Clergy Support – Without support from the NY Conference, the clergy in our churches would not have their own pastor. Our Conference staff function as "a pastor for pastors." The NY Conference staff provide clergy with Boundary Awareness Trainings, Culturally Responsive Ministry Trainings, Anti-racism Training, and a wealth of other trainings and resources.
- (5) Congregational Support – Without the NY Conference, our churches would not have support in the Search and Call Process, in conflict resolution and mediation, and would be without training for pastor relations committees, clergy taxes, new church starts and church closings.
- (6) Supports COMs (Committees on Ministry) – Without the NY Conference, our Committees on Ministry would have little resources to know best practices in the preparation of members in discernment for ordination, guidance in clergy fitness reviews, clergy standing supports, and support in the adherence to the Manual on Ministry.
- (7) Representatives to General Synod – Without the NY Conference, our churches would not be represented at General Synod. Without representation, our churches would have no voice or vote in the national setting of the UCC.

To all our Conference staff, our hearts are full of gratitude for all you do for us!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Without all y'all, our clergy and churches would not be the same!

*Abundant Blessings,
Rev. Hope Schwartz*

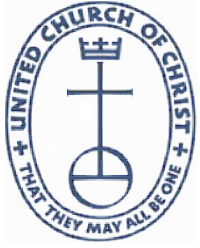


Our Just Peace Church process is continuing.
Here's a Word Cloud to get us thinking about . . .

What does Peace mean to me?



What others would you add?



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 more UCC history.

A Church of Social Action

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

Upon its formation in 1957, the youthful years of the United Church of Christ called the church to ministry in a society barely recovered from a war in Korea, and soon thrust into another war in Vietnam. Burgeoning and expensive technologies in a shrinking world seemed to offer the bright prospect of ever more familiar human relationships, with fleeting promises of time to enjoy them, yet generating ominous clouds of increasing crime, violence and fear of nuclear annihilation. The first years of the church's life began during a period of unprecedented national economic prosperity and hope, when, during the preceding decades, new church buildings had abounded to accommodate worshippers disinclined to consider denomination important.

The constitution had provided for the creation of the many boards and instrumentalities needed to begin their ministry together. Among them were the Board for Homeland Ministries, the Board for World Ministries, the Commission for Racial Justice, Coordinating Center for Women, Historical Council, Council for Ecumenism, Council for Higher Education, and others that are still engaged in ministry today.

Peace, ecumenism, and human rights walked hand in hand in the United Church of Christ during the 1960s and 70s, with a louder and louder voice. At the grassroots, many people worked for social justice on issues such as black

and other minority justice rights, the elevation of women to equal regard and opportunity with men in society, just treatment and consideration of all persons of whatever sexual affectional preference, a more humane criminal justice system, and the enablement of people with handicaps to lead a full life.

During a period of strong protest of America's involvement in the Vietnam War, continuing pressure for minority rights, the initial upheavals of the women's movement, and national outrage and grief over assassinations of public leaders, the church was involved with the social struggles of the day. The church's peace and justice efforts called for withdrawal from Vietnam, and for support of United States policies that would lessen rivalries in the Middle East. As part of the World Council of Churches, the UCC supported its stands against apartheid in South Africa and for world peace.

The UCC has been at the forefront of many battles against social injustice. In 1973, a delegation of 95 flew from St. Louis to the Coachella Valley in California to stand with the United Farm Workers in their struggle against farm owners and a rival union.

The church provided legal and moral support for the "Wilmington 10," a group of eight young black men and one white woman who, involved in a North Carolina racial conflict, were imprisoned with a United Church of Christ worker sent to help.

When issues arose surrounding sexual relationships and the institution of marriage, the UCC began a study of human sexuality. Although a controversial issue, the General Synod in 1975 and 1977 sustained the conviction that sexual and affectional preference should not be a basis for denial of human rights enjoyed by others.

This tradition of social activism was strong in each of the UCC's predecessor denominations before they merged. When they joined together, it became foundational for the United Church as well, and continues today through the many organizations, boards and ministries of today's United Church of Christ.

June 4 – A Fundraiser for Donna Dye-Sholk

They will have hamburgers, hotdogs, salads, and delicious cookies!

A breath of fresh air for a new tomorrow

The Friends Of Donna Dye Sholk Invite You To A

FUNDRAISING PICNIC
TO BENEFIT HER CAMPAIGN FOR
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY



Thursday June 4, 2026

6:00pm - 8:00pm

The Gathering Place

6515 Ridge Road Lockport

Ticket Price Per Guest: \$30.00

Kids under 10 are Free

